

from the office

LEAD IN

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The transfer of records and programs to the association's new computer system has been completed, and the association now can offer members some unique new services plus faster and more efficient work processing. The Honeywell Level 64 computer, installed in September 1979 and converted in 1981, offers more speed and efficiency in record handling, instant access to information, larger storage capacity and many more potential uses than the former system.

One of the most exciting new services offered is the Angus performance registration certificate, which combines performance information and ancestral pedigree information on a single certificate. Putting this information together is possible because the new computer is based on an on-line system, and all information is stored in one common data base.

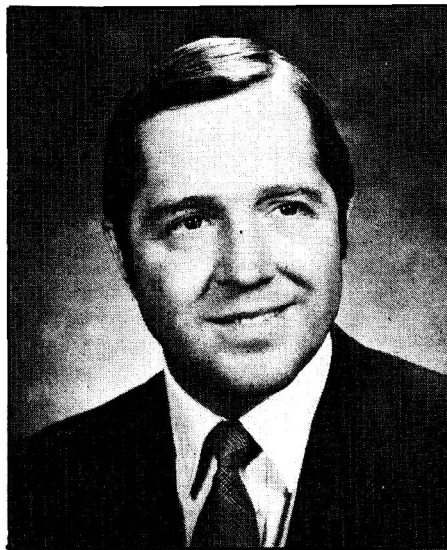
The performance registration certificate should prove to be one of the best promotional and merchandising tools available to Angus breeders, and it is explained in more detail on the following two pages.

Instant Updating

Another new service is continuous updating of performance figures on every animal with performance data available. Complete performance information will be current on the day it's requested.

One more change in the performance program is in calculation of breeding value ratios (BVR). In the past, BVRs for weaning and yearling weights on weaning and yearling selection worksheets were calculated on an in-herd basis, and only the maternal worksheet and Angus performance pedigrees contained BVRs calculated on a breed average basis. Now all BVRs are figured on a breed-wide basis, and records from all herds on AHIR are used in the BVR calculations.

Instant answers to members' questions over the telephone should be a real convenience and time-saver both for members and association employees. When a member calls and provides a registration number for an animal, an association employee can get that animal's complete record and its performance history (if the animal was weighed in the member's herd) flashed on the computer screen within seconds.



Instant Answers

Questions such as whether an animal has been transferred, who owns an animal and how many calves have been registered from a certain dam as well as requests for performance information can be answered immediately—without even a return phone call or letter.

Although the computer can't quite think for itself, it does help the CRT operators (who enter information on the computer

terminals) make some judgments that will eliminate many of the delays caused by discrepancies on application forms. Instead of entering material, waiting two days before the computer indicates there's a problem and then re-entering the application, the new system points out the problem as soon as the information is keyed in to the terminal. The CRT operator can then correct the discrepancy or contact the breeder without the 2-day delay.

More Storage, Less Time

The association's steady growth in recent years has made larger storage capacity for records a necessity. The animal master file (a permanent file of registrations and transfers of nearly 10 million animals) that filled 12 reels of computer tape in 1971 required 22 reels earlier this year. The new system, however, stores this information on disks with large capacity, and the master file now fits on just three disk packs. Updating this file on the new system can be done in just one-tenth of the computer time as in the past.

Also, rapid expansion in collection and use of performance information (number of weaning and yearling weights processed last year was up 35% from 1979) and membership increases in recent years (last year more than 6,000 life and junior memberships were issued) add up to require more computer storage space than ever before.

ANGUS JOURNAL also benefits from the change-over. The JOURNAL's mailing list can be checked and updated faster, and ad billings can be coordinated more efficiently.

And the sophisticated computer offers the potential for many more new advances to keep up with the ever-progressing Angus breed and the need for continued efficiency in all stages of association work. 