

BY THE NUMBERS

by Esther McCabe, performance programs

Inventory Reporting Enrollment Open

Inventory Reporting option within AHIR offers accurate records of female inventory and insight on economically relevant traits.

Introduced fall 2020, the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) Inventory Reporting option is in its second enrollment period. This enrollment period, May 1 through July 15, is best suited for primarily fall-calving operations to enroll their active cow herd into the program.

The AHIR program now has two options for members to report data: Individual Reporting or Inventory Reporting. Historically, the AHIR program is primarily based on data submitted from individual calves from a calf crop, or Individual Reporting.

A slightly different approach is the Inventory Reporting option, based on reporting information for each cow in your herd. The Inventory Reporting option requires three things to be reported for every cow enrolled each year; including either a calf, reason she did not have a calf, or disposal code for why a female left the herd.

The Inventory Reporting option allows members to keep accurate records of their female inventory, including lifetime production of calves as well as when and why females leave the herd. Inventory Reporting also allows for complete information reported on calves, not only providing validity to the database, but also insight to economically relevant traits more

difficult to characterize, such as fertility and longevity.

In order to have insight for economically relevant traits, completed records on what happens to females each year are necessary. Without knowing complete calving records and why animals leave the herd, characterizing those traits becomes extremely difficult.

Members participating in MaternalPlus® already record information on an inventory basis and gain those advantages. For members interested in the MaternalPlus designation, enrollment in Inventory Reporting is the first step.


By utilizing Inventory Reporting, ultimately you are giving full credit to the best calves because they are truly compared to the poorest calves, not just the calves chosen to be reported. By only reporting the best calves, unintentional bias is introduced into the system resulting in expected progeny differences (EPDs) that do not accurately reflect what is occurring in your herd.

At the close of January enrollment, with Inventory Reporting and MaternalPlus combined, there were 712 members enrolled, representing 90,857 females. Of these, 326 new members enrolled in Inventory Reporting, representing 24,196 females. Overall, there are

386 members who have earned the MaternalPlus designation, representing 66,661 females.

Members who enroll in Inventory Reporting can report data to meet the requirements throughout the year. For example, after calving, females that did not calve can have a reason for no calf recorded. As females are culled from the herd, disposal reasons can be recorded. If records are reported throughout the year, annual reenrollment is simple for members to tie up loose ends on females that have not met requirements vs. reporting all information for the year at time of reenrollment.

For members who enrolled in January, now is a good time to submit spring calving records, and report cows that did not calve and cows culled.

For those enrolled in MaternalPlus, members who want to earn that designation, or members who want to better characterize fertility in their herd, it is also a good time to enter spring heifer breeding records. 

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Editor's note: For more details regarding the AHIR Inventory Reporting program, please see "Membership Tips" on page 54, or contact the member services department at (816) 383-5100.