

MEMBERSHIP TIPS

by Jerry Cassady, director of member services



Membership Linkages

Make the most of multiple member codes within a single herd.

“We have a large family, representing several different member codes. All the cows within these member codes run together as one herd. Is it possible to ‘link’ these member codes so our data can all be submitted together?”

Various member codes can indeed be “linked” together to allow data submitted to the American Angus Association to flow seamlessly and contribute to subsequent genetic predictions in the form of expected progeny differences (EPDs).

The idea of linking memberships together initiated with members wanting to report performance data to the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) program in the same contemporary group while keeping the ownership of the animals separate. Performance data linkages were the original use of membership linkage, and have since been expanded to include other work such as registrations and transfers.

Authorized agents

To begin understanding membership linkage, one needs to appreciate account authorization. The Association recognizes authorization to accounts through the use of agents. Obviously,

breeders who hold memberships have authority with their own accounts. However, not all farmers and ranchers have sufficient time to submit all the required information to operate a successful seedstock business. Therefore, the Association allows work to be submitted from other providers when authorization is granted by the membership holder (such as an owner or a partner). Recognized as account agents, these information providers can be added to a new membership on the reverse side of the membership application or added to an existing membership through the use of a signed agent form.

Agents differ from owners, and partners and are limited to the power and access of the account they represent. An individual owner or partnership owners have full access and authority to the membership. They have authority to add or remove names from an account; however, agents do not have this authority. In addition, upon the death of an individual owner account, the agent authorization would become null and void. However, agent authorization does give permission to sign work or make requests for the membership.

An agent can nominate and/or vote for delegates to the annual meeting, as well as be nominated as a delegate, if the membership meets the criteria to be considered an “eligible voting member” as defined by Section 3 of American Angus Association Bylaws.

Linkage Authorization

The membership linkage can be set up by an owner, partner or agent representing a membership. Linkage authorization can be found on the reverse side of the membership application (performance data submission section), or can be set up for existing accounts with a simple email to the membership department at aaamemberships@angus.org. Should you decide to cease the linkage authorization, simply notify the Association in writing or email.


The various programs and services within the Association have different protocol when it comes to linkage authorization. For example, the Inventory Reporting program has options for membership linkage. However, to link up this program, a linkage must first exist under “Herd Records.” In other words, members don’t have to enroll all the memberships that they are linked to under “Herd Records,” but they are

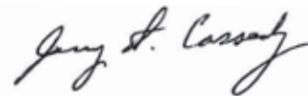
unable to enroll anyone they are not linked to in "Herd Records."

The "Herd Records" Authorizations are viewable in AAA Login under AAA Member Information, listing who you can submit for and who can submit for you.

Linkages are useful to allow others access to your account, but can also be risky as this access includes billing and accounting information. Be sure you are allowing access to only those who will represent your account in your best interest.

Summary

The Association is a member-driven organization with thousands of active members across the United States and abroad, made up of farmers and ranchers who understand the meaning of dedication, hard work and integrity. With an endless list of chores and responsibilities, data submission remains a must on the to-do list. With agent authorization and membership linkages, the Association continues to make reporting information as seamless as possible. 



jcassady@angus.org

Editor's note: For more information regarding membership linkages, please contact the Member Services department at 816-383-5100, or by emailing the membership department at aaamemberships@angus.org.



August 22 & 23, 2023
Lincoln, Nebraska

Premier Cattle Feeders Event

Discover Industry Trends, Navigate Cattle Market Complexities,
Connect with Like-minded Cattlemen

Register at
FeedingQualityForum.com

Early Registration:
\$125 until June 30

Registration:
\$250 until August 4

Student Registration:
\$50 from June 1 to August 4

Sponsored by:

ANGUSLINKSM
VALUE ADDED PROGRAMS



Diamond V
The Trusted Experts In Nutrition & Health



PERFORMANCE
LIVESTOCK ANALYTICS
part of **zoetis**

