

# Carcass Data Collection Program Explained

**Q:** *How can I get carcass data collected on my cattle?*

**A:** The Certified Angus Beef Program understands the importance of effective marketing for both seedstock and commercial cattle producers. Information provided through the CAB Program will allow cattle producers to more effectively evaluate their cattle in comparison to industry preferences and Certified Angus Beef Program specifications. This information is made available so producers can identify specific, value-determining carcass traits.

The information provided to you allows for:

1. comparison of your cattle with industry averages.
2. credible data to be used as a marketing tool where superior cattle are marketed to your advantage.
3. management decisions to be made based on your operation's goals,

Requirements for participating in this program are listed in the "Putting Black in Your Bottom Line" brochure. In addition, an example of the carcass data report sent back to you is shown in the brochure. Requirements are reiterated in the following statements:

1. The calves must be sired by registered Angus bulls.
2. The producer must identify where the calves are being fed and who owns the cattle once they are on feed in the feedlot.
3. Ear tags will be provided, although the producer's own tags can be used as long as identification is clear and easy to read.
4. If a producer has sold the calves to another feeder, the information will be collected only if the new owner agrees to permit data collection and agrees to notify the Certified Angus Beef Program when the cattle are sold for slaughter.
5. If the calves are fed at a commercial feedlot under ownership of a third person, the feedlot management where the calves are being fed must also agree to allow information to be collected and sent to the original owner.
6. A CAB Program representative will contact the feeder to obtain the slaughter schedule for the cattle. The CAB Program's representative will also coordinate all arrangements with the packing plant to collect information. Although unlikely, a packer may refuse to allow information to be collected.

7. An individual and group report on the calves will be provided. If individual sires are known, a report on each sire will be provided, or a report can be generated on any criteria that can be identified by the tag number (e.g., age of dam, crossbred, etc.)
8. Definitions and explanation of each report will also be provided by the CAB Program.

## Cost of Service

The CAB Program realizes the importance of this information and provides this service for:

- \$2.50/head when cattle can be individually sire identified.
- \$4/head when cattle cannot be individually sire identified.

These charges will pertain only to those carcasses for which information was provided. All other costs will be incurred by the CAB Program,

*For more information, please contact Kelly Elkins, Director, Feedlot and Packing Operations, Certified Angus Beef Program Supply Development Division at: 12191 Ralston Road, Suite 304, Arvada, CO 80004; (303) 420-0936; Fax: (303) 420-3235.*

**Q:** *Can this data be used in obtaining carcass EPD on my sires?*

**A:** Information collected through the CAB Program can be used in the National Angus Evaluation provided the cattle have been enrolled in Designed Sire Evaluation.

This program begins at conception with randomized matings of test sires and previously evaluated reference sires. The complete guidelines follow on page TK.

— **John Crouch, Director of Performance Programs**