

MEMBERSHIP TIPS

by Jerry Cassady
director of member services



Can my calf be registered?

We often receive calls regarding the eligibility of an animal to be registered. Sounds like an easy question, right? Well, perhaps not.

Several factors need to be considered. Outlined within the *Breeder's Reference Guide*, we have rules everyone must follow to protect the integrity and purity of the breed. Some rules have been more recently added to protect the commercial customers who have trusted Angus to deliver what they need in a problem-free package.

Let's dive into those specific requirements and subsequent rules set in place for registration.

First, you must be an active member of the Association to register cattle (see Rule 101 in the *Breeder's Reference Guide*). Second, there is a list of required information that must be included with every registration application. They can be found in Rule 102 in the *Breeder's Reference Guide*.

What it takes to be Angus

To summarize, the sire and dam must be registered with the Association and their registration numbers must be provided. Is the animal being registered a twin? Additional information needed would include the animal's birth date, sex, name (not to exceed 28 characters), permanent identification (tattoo, freeze or hot brand), and the name, location and member code of the first owner.

The breeding information of the dam will also play an important

role as to what may be needed. For example, a bull permit is required when a female is bred to a non-owned bull. Additionally, an artificial insemination (AI) certificate would be needed if the calf is the product of AI. Lastly, embryo transfer has specific rules to adhere to and additional fees as well.

Good to go, right? Assuming we have the basic requirements listed above, there are a few additional steps you may need to take prior to submitting the application:

Coat color: Check the animal completely for any illegal white markings. The belly and "arm pits" are the most critical. If you have any questions regarding ineligible white markings, refer to the September 2018 Membership Tips article for more information, or check with your Regional Manager.

Scurs: Although very rare, the presence of scurs will cause immediate disqualification for registration. Usually not visible until later in life, they may not be detectable at the time of application. Since assuming the role as Director of Member Services, I've only had one case reported, and that particular yearling bull ended up not even being Angus. If you believe you might have an issue with scurs, contact your Regional Manager immediately for positive verification.

Uncertain parentage: Whenever

the eligibility for registration of any animal is in doubt because of uncertain or unknown parentage, parent verification would be required for registration. If through the parent verification process the animal is found to have incorrectly listed parentage, the animal will not be eligible for registration unless correct parentage is confirmed.


Genetic conditions: The development and commercial availability of genetic testing to determine whether a particular animal is a carrier of a particular genetic mutation or free of the mutation has allowed the Association greater flexibility in creating policies to deal with certain types of recognized genetic conditions in the Angus breed. The rules that apply to genetic conditions are found in the *Breeder's Reference Guide* under Rules 300-307.

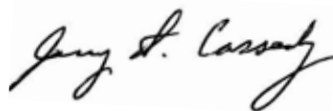
Lethal conditions: The registration eligibility with the lethal conditions are understandably more stringent compared to the non-lethal conditions. With the lethal conditions, all potential carrier offspring must be tested and bulls must be tested free of the monitored lethal conditions to be registered. Females must also be tested, and can ultimately be registered regardless of the test result.

Non-lethal conditions: With non-lethal conditions, the registration

rules are more relaxed. With non-lethal conditions, all animals can be registered with or without testing, regardless of sex. All resulting progeny of currently registered carrier females or carrier bulls of the non-lethal conditions may be registered without submitting to testing, with the exception of PRKG2 Gene Mutation for Dwarfism (“D2”). The D2 condition is treated like the lethal conditions, whereas the females must be tested to be eligible for registration. Bulls also need to be tested but must be free of the D2 condition in order to be eligible for registration with the Association.

Dates: The policy discussed in the *Breeder’s Reference Guide* includes dates when each lethal and non-lethal condition was recognized by the Association and when the commercial test became available to the membership. These dates affect the test requirements and registration eligibility of carriers. These dates are not related to animal age or birth date.

What about steer calves? There are no testing requirements for steer calves for any of the monitored genetic conditions as they are non-breeding animals, incapable of passing on their genetics. I hope this discussion clarifies the different scenarios we face with these real-world examples. 



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For more information regarding data submission, please contact the Member Services Department at (816) 383-5100 or email me directly at jcassady@angus.org.

Common questions

Let’s take a look at some specific examples that we face here in Member Services:

We have a bull calf that is registered, and his sire has recently been identified as a carrier of a lethal condition. Does this bull remain registered? Yes. All such females and bulls with the impacted genetics in their pedigrees shall remain registered. Such registrations shall not be revoked, canceled or suspended.

This same bull calf was not previously registered. Is he eligible for registration? Only if he is tested free of the mutation and he was not the product of artificial insemination (AI) or embryo transfer (ET). In order for any potential bull carriers of AM, NH or CA to be eligible for registration on or after Sept. 13, 2012, and in order for any potential bull carrier of OS to be eligible for registration on or after May 17, 2016, such animal must be tested for the mutation in question at a laboratory approved by the Association and found to be “free” of such mutation.

Can I register AI calves out of this recently identified carrier bull? Or can I use this sire for ET work? This is where the dates come into play. All calves sired artificially by non-owned bulls (calves that would require an AI service certificate) shall be ineligible for registration if conceived after 60 days following the date on which that sire is listed on the Association’s website as a carrier of the mutation. Calves resulting from embryos conceived artificially by non-owned bulls with embryo removal dates after 67 days following the date on which that sire is listed on the Association’s website as a carrier of the mutation shall be ineligible for registration.

My registered bull had never been parent verified, and I requested the parentage test. His sire was excluded, now what? This animal would be ‘canceled for parentage,’ and then the breeder is required to submit alternate parents to resolve the parentage issue. Once resolved, the animal will then be reinstated.

What if the qualifying sire is a carrier of a lethal condition? This would require testing, and if the animal is determined to also be a carrier of the lethal condition, his registration is no longer valid as he would not be eligible for registration based on the dates that apply for that specific condition.