

# MEMBERSHIP TIPS

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## Angus Herd Improvement Records – Part 1

*ac-ro-nym Noun. An abbreviation formed from the initial letters of other words and pronounced as a word.*

An acronym is in short (no pun intended), a group of uppercase letters where each letter signifies a word. Popular examples include FAQ (frequently asked questions) and DIY (do it yourself). Social media platforms utilize a plethora of acronyms, which have become part of our regular narrative, such as LOL (laugh out loud).

The American Angus Association is no exception. We have our own ever-growing list of acronyms. Let's take a closer look at a few of these acronyms, and clear up any confusion regarding their meaning.

### AHIR, NCE, BIR

One of our oldest acronyms is attached to our data collection program — Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®). The AHIR program was initiated in 1957 when the Association began accepting phenotypic data for breed improvement to add a more scientific methodology compared to visual appraisal alone. The phenotypes included in the program represent weights and measures of Angus cattle for the various traits of interest. Today these data points are used in our own National Cattle Evaluation (NCE).

NCE is the process of converting all data submitted on animals into valuable genetic prediction tools for members and their customers. These predictions are known as expected progeny differences (EPDs). EPD is

yet another acronym, but will need to be another topic for another day. We as a breed association are fortunate to have our own in-house NCE, which runs weekly, updating each Friday.

The Beef Improvement Record (BIR) number is a temporary unique identifier — a prefix we assign to unregistered animals to uniquely identify the animals in our system. You may see these in your personal account assigned to your unregistered animals. We need these BIR numbers to distinguish between animals that don't yet have a registration number. For example, we might get several "tag H101" animals submitted this year from various breeders, and a BIR number helps us keep them properly identified. The BIR number is replaced with the registration number once the animal is registered.

### AAA Login, AIMS

AAA login is a web-based, password-secured, free software program our members and affiliates use to view their herd data, artificial insemination (AI) certificate inventory, EPD information and submit data to the Association. Breeders can submit registrations, transfers and AHIR data; order DNA tests; view reports; and more.

You can monitor the progress of DNA test results, compile your own customer lists, create sale sheets for groups of sale animals, and manage your account and election status. AAA

Login has many convenient features as this program allows you access to your account 24/7. Angus University is creating more educational material to assist our members using AAA Login, which will be available soon.

Angus Information Management Software (AIMS) is a Windows-based software program available to our membership. This program is designed to help with registered-Angus cattle records, although it can do much more. AIMS is a desktop application sold to our members to be used on their home computers to organize data. It can even be used without an internet connection.

The same data submitted within AAA Login can be submitted within AIMS such as registrations, transfers, AHIR data, etc. There is a one-time charge for AIMS of \$495. AIMS users represent around 22% of our total submitted registrations and weights.

Next month we will take a closer look at the AHIR program and the benefits of being involved with the program. 

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*Editor's note: For questions regarding acronyms or anything member related, contact the Member Services department at 816-383-5100 or by emailing me directly at [jcassady@angus.org](mailto:jcassady@angus.org).*