

MEMBERSHIP TIPS

by Jerry Cassady
director of member services



Troubleshooting common issues — lost tags

We are currently weaning our fall-born calves and noticed we have a couple of calves who have lost their tags. We are not sure who the parents are. What can we do?

This is an all-too-common issue for anyone raising livestock and an obvious problem for seedstock producers who cannot afford to assign the parents incorrectly on a registration application. According to the rules of the American Angus Association, we must do our due diligence as members to maintain the purity of the breed and record each animal correctly into the Association registry.

BIR vs. registered testing

When submitting calves with unknown parentage, or if you use multisire pastures, it is recommended testing the calf for parentage prior to registering. When you submit your DNA sample for parentage testing, the calf will be assigned a temporary

number in our system (BIR number).

A BIR number is assigned to any commercial or unregistered animal that enters our system with weight data or DNA submission.

The breeder must then provide all possible parents of the calf to the American Angus Association. This will allow the DNA to direct the system to determine the correct sire/dam and allow us to make the correction on the calf's weight data. Then you can submit the registration application and register the calf correctly.

This procedure will ultimately save you time, money and extra effort.

For more information regarding this process, refer to the educational video titled Adding Alternative Parentage at www.angus.org under the "Member Services" tab then "Angus University."



Why can't you just tell me who the parent is?

DNA testing can confirm parentage and exclude incorrect parents with a high degree of accuracy. However, in a

large database like ours, false

positive matches almost always occur.

Some animals will match dozens of sires. Just because an animal matches on DNA doesn't mean it is the parent. We often have members send in DNA samples for parentage without providing any potential parents and want us to inform them of the qualifying results. Unfortunately, it just cannot work that way.

For us to assign parentage to an animal, we must have a list of potential sires and dams provided by the breeder. It's important we remain consistent with this requirement, and that all possible parents be suggested only by the breeder. Then we can confirm if those potential parents match. Otherwise, we risk incorrectly assigning a parent because of a false positive match when the actual parent may not even have parentage markers on file.

Rule 603: Submission of Accurate Information to the Association

All members who apply for registration or transfer of animals in the American Angus Herd Book and all members participating in any Angus program shall submit only accurate information, based upon properly maintained and verifiable records.


Cost/results

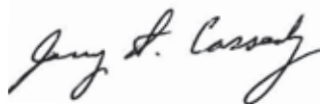
The cost for a stand-alone parentage test is \$18. However, both genomic tests available for Angus producers (Neogen Angus GSSM and Zoetis HD50K Test for Angus) include the parentage test in the price of \$37. Results can be expected within three to four weeks.

Summary

Losing tags is always a concern for serious seedstock breeders who are diligent about accurate records. Parent verification can resolve issues of uncertainty.

The only way we can test an animal for parentage is to have a viable DNA

sample on file. I recommend utilizing this technology for peace of mind, knowing you are providing the best information possible to your customers. 



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Editor's note: For more information regarding parentage testing, please contact the American Angus Association Member Services Department at (816) 383-5100 or email me directly at jcassady@angus.org.



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