

MEMBERSHIP TIPS

by Jerry Cassady
director of member services



Cow's gone. Now what?

There are a number of reasons for a cow to be removed from a breeding program. Many are sold and transferred to other seedstock or commercial producers for breeding purposes.

Some are culled and go to market to funnel into the beef supply chain. Some, unfortunately, die. Then there are those fortunate enough to be retained in your herd as replacements, but eventually they too find a reason to be culled and sold.

With a variety of reasons for culling ranging from lack of resources to structural issues, we find great variability in the longevity of beef cows.

The American Angus Association has updated and expanded the list of disposal codes to allow the opportunity for members to submit more detailed information about why animals leave the herd. When an animal is canceled from the herd, a “main category” is required. From there, more specific information is optional, but can be useful for your records and Association evaluation.

For example, if the animal was culled for feet issues, producers could select “feet” as the main category and provide that piece of information. Previously, if an animal had been disposed of because of bad feet, that would be the extent of the information provided. Now, members can be more specific and report the issue was long toes or maybe a cracked hoof. This allows

submission of more granular disposal data that may provide useful in future Association evaluations.

Disposal codes/reason designations

With the new Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) inventory reporting program, the information required for every cow in your inventory is a calf, a reason there is no calf or a disposal code. Basically, a calf must be reported for every cow, a reason why a calf was not reported or if the cow is no longer in the herd, then a disposal code must be included.

Breeders wanting to remove animals from their herd inventory should enter the appropriate disposal code and the date the cow was removed in the appropriate field. This provides the “why” and the “when” to the evaluation.

Note — if a female remains in your herd, she should remain on your inventory, even if a calf will not be reported for her this year.

An example would be if she is an embryo transfer (ET) donor dam not being bred for a natural calf. If a female is still active, she needs to remain on inventory.

It is recommended to not remove

a female from your inventory before you have registered the last of her progeny that you plan to register.

What about bulls?

Also new to the AHIR reporting program are bull disposal codes.

Your bulls will now also require a disposal code to be removed from your inventory. Previously, they could just be canceled from the herd.

As with females, the more detailed disposal information is not required, but it is an option for those members who want to use it.

Where is this going?

Using these types of records allows for the genetic prediction of how long a sire's daughters will stay in the herd and be productive.


The Association continues to explore how to best utilize disposal/culling records as well as complete herd information being captured in AHIR records within the Inventory Reporting and MaternalPlus® program to provide this information back to the membership in the form of useful genetic prediction tools.

Summary

The membership of the Association has long recognized

the importance of recording and submitting accurate performance information to characterize the genetic differences between animals for traits of economic importance.

By reporting all the cows in your program and accounting for those who have been removed from the herd, then reporting information from their subsequent calves or providing a reason if there is no resulting calf, you add validity to the database and give insight to those economically relevant traits that are difficult to characterize, such as fertility and longevity.

In the simplest terms, this type of reporting captures the performance differences of your herd through the weaning phase and better characterizes the coveted maternal traits that are hard to capture. 



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Editor's note: For more information regarding disposal codes and reason designations, contact the Member Services department at (816) 383-5100 or email me directly at jcassady@angus.org.

Rule 110: Surrender of Registration Certificate

Whenever a registered animal is lost by death, destruction or other means, or is disposed of for slaughter or as a common grade animal, the holder of the Certificate of Registration should submit the date and reason for disposal to the Association. All hard copy certificates should be returned to the Association for cancellation (as amended Feb. 25, 2022).



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