

MEMBERSHIP TIPS

by Jerry Cassady, director of member services



A Paperless World?

Paperless, email, text messages, postal delivery services? It's up to you!

As I look at stacks of paper on my desk, file drawers full of information and sticky note reminders keeping it all straight, the concept of a paperless world is hard for me to imagine. I've been accused of being "old school" at times, so the transition to less paper is a work in progress. However, the benefits of going paperless are clear and numerous.

Completing, filing, organizing and keeping track of paperwork can strain your schedule. In addition, relying on postal delivery services can cost you time and money, both precious resources on the farm or ranch. Going paperless means less time spent on clerical work and more time doing what matters.

AAA Login

The initial step with the paperless route begins with creating a member login account. Any member or affiliate member can create their own online portal with the American Angus Association, known as AAA Login, by going to www.angusonline.org and submitting the required information. AAA Login is extremely valuable to our membership, as it allows you to submit or view data at any time of the day. Think of it as a one-stop shop. Breeders can view their



registered herd inventory, artificial insemination (AI) certificate inventory and expected progeny differences (EPDs) data. They can also order DNA tests, register or transfer animals, and much more. While the Association Member Services team is eager to help during regular business hours, we realize daylight hours are a premium and most breeders don't sit down to do the paperwork until after sunset. AAA Login is a very convenient resource that can be accessed via a web browser no matter where you are or what time of day it is. This service is provided free of charge and can be a useful recordkeeping tool.

Registration certificate storage

In today's world our members and commercial customers have a choice. Instead of receiving registration certificates for their Angus cattle through postal delivery services, breeders can elect to have the

registration certificates stored electronically at the Association. This is an option that has been in place since 2004 and has been widely used by a growing number of members and affiliate members.

Members and affiliate members can update their current settings online through their AAA Login account. Click on *MY HERD > Registration Certificates > Registration Certificate Storage Preference*. From here you can check the box to set your default to electronically store your registration certificates on any future registrations and transfers into your account. For those paper registration certificates you currently have, simply note you would like to store your certificates electronically and drop them in the mail to us. We can convert them to electronic storage for you, free of charge.

Reports

When you submit data to the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) program, several reports are made available for your review. These reports are set to paperless by default, and can be viewed and printed online using your AAA Login account. Click on the *REPORTS tab > Report Preferences*, and check or uncheck a box to change your report

preferences. This applies to weaning and yearling summaries, ultrasound barn worksheets, etc.

You can choose to have all your invoices and monthly statement of accounts emailed. Invoices emailed are delivered much quicker than they can reach your mailbox, and there is less chance of getting lost. A checked box in the *MY ACCOUNT tab* > *Billing Preferences* screen indicates that all billing correspondence will be emailed. If, at a later date you require a paper invoice, click the "Print Invoice" button on the order details page under the *Account History* > *Association link* from the main menu. The quick turnaround with emailed invoices and online payment means no more lag time waiting for the mail

to arrive or getting payment back to the Association.

Notifications

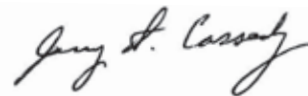
Did you know you can use text message notifications from the Association? Your AAA Login account serves as your communication portal with the Association.

You can select email, text messages, or both. Within AAA Login click on *Message Center* > *Notification Preferences* to set your preferences for Association communication from message center notifications.

Summary

In an effort to further enhance our members' experience, your Association continues to strive

for efficiency and best practices to make reporting information more convenient. Every member can customize their own accounts and notification preferences. Ultimately, it's up to each individual breeder's preference and what works best for their program. **AJ**



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Editor's note: For more information regarding paperless options, contact the Member Services department at 816-383-5100, or email me directly at jcassady@angus.org.

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