

# ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

Compiled by Shauna Hermel, Angus Beef Bulletin

## Angus Convention simplified

The American Angus Association has made the difficult decision to reformat the 2020 Angus Convention originally scheduled for Nov. 7-9 in Kansas City, Mo. Considering the current gathering restrictions created by COVID-19, modifications were necessary to balance the health of attendees and the need to conduct the business of the Association.

The event will be a two-day meeting Nov. 8-9 featuring the Annual Convention of Delegates. The tour and trade show have been canceled. The number of educational sessions will be reduced, but virtual options for members and attendees will be offered.

“The health and safety of Association members, guests and staff remains our top priority,” says Mark McCully, Association CEO. “While no technology can replace the value of an in-person gathering, we believe offering virtual attendance options this year is the responsible thing to do.”

### At a glance

#### October 2020

- 15 Talon Internship Program host applications due
- 27 Angus University webinar “Focusing on Fertility”

#### November 2020

- 8-9 137th Angus Annual Meeting
- 11-12 Full Circle Online Auction
- 13 National Western Bull Sale consignment deadline

Socially distanced educational sessions, an awards dinner and fundraiser will be hosted Sunday, Nov. 8. Guests who register online can partake in virtual education sessions throughout the two-day event. Association leadership will provide updates and educational workshops. Each day will be headlined with keynote speakers to inspire attendees to advance their operations.

The candidate forum and state caucuses will proceed as scheduled and will be webcast for those not in attendance. The 137th Convention of Delegates will be convened at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 9. If Association members are unable to attend in person, they can attend virtually, and voting delegates will have a virtual participation option.

For more information regarding the 137th Annual Meeting, visit [www.angusconvention.com](http://www.angusconvention.com), where there is an updated schedule and information about registering or modifying a registration.

## Annual Meeting Awards Dinner

Join us for an evening of awards, appreciation and food at the 137th Angus Annual Meeting Awards Dinner Sunday, Nov. 8. Learn firsthand from past participants how programs and events sponsored by the Angus Foundation have influenced them, and recognize those who have made an impact on the industry.

The Association will recognize Roll-of-Victory Show Program winners, Angus Heritage Foundation inductees, Century Award recipients and American Angus Auxiliary

honorees, and a new Miss American Angus will be crowned.

For \$75 attendees can enjoy dinner and bid on auction items to grow the Angus Fund to support the Angus Foundation’s mission. Sign up with your convention registration. For those participating virtually, an online bidding platform will be available. For more information, visit [www.angusconvention.com](http://www.angusconvention.com).

## October Angus U webinar focuses on fertility

“Focusing on Fertility” will take center stage for an Angus University webinar Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. CDT. Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) staff will describe the release of fertility haplotypes and what they mean for Angus members and others using Angus genetics.

To register for the fertility webinar, visit [bit.ly/focusingonfertility](http://bit.ly/focusingonfertility). To view past Angus University webinars, visit [www.angus.org/Education/AngusEducation.aspx](http://www.angus.org/Education/AngusEducation.aspx).

## NWSS postponed

The Western Stock Show Association board and National Western Stock Show (NWSS) management made the call to postpone the 115th NWSS by one year and to resume the event in January 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic does not allow for the NWSS to host the annual event and comply with the health and safety guidelines. For information, visit [www.nationalwestern.com](http://www.nationalwestern.com).

## Bull Sale will go on, entries due Nov. 13

Angus members are still invited to

consign bulls to the 2021 National Western Angus Bull Sale. Though the NWSS has been postponed, contingencies were in place to shift to a live online sale format or to another venue. Jim Birdwell will serve as the auctioneer.

Upon entry, all bulls must possess a genomic profile, along with a complete set of expected progeny differences (EPDs) and dollar value indexes (\$Values). Any bull that is a potential carrier for a genetic condition recognized by the American Angus Association must be tested free of that condition(s).

If an alternative show venue comes to fruition, those with Pen and Carload cattle will be encouraged to participate as well. Participants may designate an individual at time for entry or consign a "Pick of the Pen" or "Pick of the Carload."

A special advertising section will be available for consignors in the January 2021 *Angus Journal*.

For more details or to request an entry packet, contact Jeff Mafi, 816-344-4266 or [jmafi@angus.org](mailto:jmafi@angus.org); Alex Tolbert, 706-338-8733 or [atolbert@angus.org](mailto:atolbert@angus.org); your regional manager; or Jaclyn Upperman, American Angus Association Events and Education Department, at 816-383-5147.

## Angus Foundation Heifer

This year's Angus Foundation Heifer Package is a special offering. Buyers will have the opportunity to bid at the NWSS to purchase a choice of the spring crop of heifers from Benoit Angus, Esbon, Kan. Watch future *Angus Journals* for more information about the Benois and their donation.

## Angus-on-dairy \$Values

AGI launched two new \$Values targeted to select profitable Angus

sires to be utilized in beef-on-dairy breeding programs.

A public index search for the Angus-on-Holstein (\$AxH) and Angus-on-Jersey (\$AxJ) indexes can be found on the AGI website. Members can also download any indexes on owned, active animals in their herd inventory through Custom Animal Reports in AAA Login.

## Talon Internship student applications due Dec. 1

The Angus Foundation, through the Angus/Talon Youth Education Learning Program Endowment Fund, will pair motivated youth with host Angus ranches to give a valuable, hands-on, educational experience for an eight- to 10-week term during summer 2021. Applications are available online and due back to the Angus Foundation by Dec. 1.

College sophomores, juniors, seniors, graduate students and recent college graduates who do not exceed the age of 25 on date of application and who are majoring in an agriculture-related field of study will be eligible to apply for this paid internship position.

The late Cam Cooper of Talon Ranch, Twin Bridges, Mont., who was a supporter of agriculture's youth, set up the Angus/Talon Youth Educational Learning Program Endowment Fund through her estate. The internship partnership will benefit both the ranch and the intern by providing an educational experience and enthusiastic fresh perspective for both.

For more information and to apply, visit [www.angusfoundation.org](http://www.angusfoundation.org).

## Collect mature weights

Mature cow size is a large economic driver in cow-calf production and, therefore, a large

factor in the Association's maternal weaned calf value (\$M) and combined value (\$C) indexes.

Angus producers have used EPDs to break the antagonism between birth weight and growth. Now, mature weights can help producers identify animals that grow well postweaning, but moderate their mature size earlier in life, making them more cost-effective in the cow herd. Cow weights must be submitted  $\pm 45$  days of weaning and must be submitted with a body condition score (BCS).

## Custom cattle tags

Cattle producers looking for affordable ways to identify their herd can visit [www.customcattletags.com](http://www.customcattletags.com), a service provided by the American Angus Association. Custom Cattle Tags provides high-quality, low-cost, customized ear tags, Tissue Sampling Units (TSUs) and 840 radio frequency identification (RFID) tags for cattle producers all across the United States. For producers having a sale, Custom Cattle Tags is your source for sale tags.

## Full Circle Online Auction

The American Angus Auxiliary will host its fifth-annual Full Circle Online Auction Nov. 11-12. Hosted by [www.anguslive.com](http://www.anguslive.com), the auction is an innovative, web-based consignment market offering Angus breeders, families and allied industries the opportunity to both sell and buy, while making a substantial contribution to help ensure the sustainability of the Auxiliary's ongoing support of the Angus breed and its youth.

For more details, see page 165 or visit [www.angusauxiliary.com](http://www.angusauxiliary.com).

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**CURRENT ASSOCIATION FEES**

Following are the correct fees for various American Angus Association services. Be sure to send the correct amount of money with the work being requested, as incorrect payments are the main cause of delays.

**REGISTRATIONS**

- Applications for animals less than 4 months of age .....\$7
- Applications for animals 4-10 months of age..... \$9
- Applications for animals 10-12 months of age .....\$14
- Applications for animals more than 12 months of age ..... \$27

**TRANSFERS**

- Applications received less than 30 days from sale date ..... \$5
- Applications received 30-60 days from sale date.....\$7
- Applications received more than 60 days from sale date .....\$12

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) fee (per first weight submitted) ..... \$3
- Artificial insemination (AI) service certificate.....\$10
- Regular annual membership .....\$80
- Regular annual membership with Angus Journal subscription..... \$130
- Lifetime membership (optional to pay in three \$500/year installments).....\$1,500
- Junior annual membership (less than 21 years of age).....\$20
- Embryo-transfer (ET) calf..... regular registration fee plus \$10
- Cell-clone transplant calf..... regular registration fee plus \$50

Rules of the American Angus Association are included in the Breeder's Reference Guide. Free copies are available from the Association. An online version is available through the "Rules and Forms" link at [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org).

**BREEDER'S REFERENCE**

Symbols are used with a registration number to denote important information about an animal.

**SYMBOL MEANING**

- # Pathfinder cow or Pathfinder sire
- + Embryo transfer calf
- ^ Cell clone
- % Split-ET
- @ Clone-ET
- \* Parentage qualified to both parents and the mating

The American Angus Association currently recognizes the following genetic conditions:

**CODE MEANING**

- AM Arthrogyrosis multiplex
- CA Contractural arachnodactyly
- D2 PRKG2 gene mutation for dwarfism
- DD Developmental duplication
- DM Double muscling
- DW Dwarfism
- HG Horn gene
- HI Heterochromia irides
- M1 nt821 mutation for double muscling
- NH Neuropathic hydrocephalus
- OH Oculocutaneous hypopigmentation
- OS Osteopetrosis
- RD Red gene
- SN Syndactyly
- WT Wild type color gene

The following single-letter descriptors appearing after a genetic condition code shall have the following meaning:

- P - refers to a "potential" carrier based on an ancestor known to carry that specific mutation.
- F - refers to an animal tested for one or more genetic conditions and determined to be "free" of that specific mutation.
- C - refers to an animal tested for one or more genetic conditions and determined to be a "carrier" of that specific mutation.
- A - refers to an animal tested for one or more genetic conditions and determined to be a carrier of two copies of that specific mutation. It may or may not exhibit the phenotype associated with that genetic condition.

The following letter designations describe cases in which there is more than one genetic condition present:

- XF - Free of more than one genetic condition.
- XC - Carrier of more than one genetic condition.
- XA - Affected of more than one genetic condition.
- RTF - Recessive trait free (produced 35 or more calves from daughters without a genetic defect).

**National Angus Show**

The National Angus Show will be hosted during the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky., this November. Show dates will be shared when confirmed.

A room block is available under "American Angus Association" at the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport Expo Center. Call 502-367-2251 to make a reservation.

**Black Books available**

Order 2021 Angus Black Books now. The pocket-sized books include a calendar and space to keep management records on your cow herd. Any quantity is available for \$3.25 each and can be customized free of charge with purchase of 100 or more.

Customized orders may include your operation's logo and contact information foil-stamped onto the back cover, while standard orders feature the Association's logo.

To order, call 816-383-5100 or email [blackbooks@angus.org](mailto:blackbooks@angus.org).

**Historic Angus Herd award**

Active members who have been in the continuous production of registered Angus cattle for 50 years or more are eligible to apply for the American Angus Association's Historic Angus Herd Award. Awards are presented throughout the year.

The herd must be owned by the original member or their immediate family, and documentation of herd records must be provided. Qualifying herds are presented an official certificate and recognized in the *Angus Journal*. Download a Historic Angus Herd Award application or view a listing of recipients honored since the program was started in 1988 at [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org). 