

MEMBERSHIP TIPS

by Jerry Cassady
director of member services



Keeping your program on target

Records can help every Angus breeder stay on track.

Keeping complete and accurate records is essential for the success of every seedstock operation. Recording the necessary information required for registration starts when the calf is born with accurately recording the sex, birth date, sire and which cow gave birth to which calf.

Assign the animal a permanent identification (ID) and tag the animal accordingly, including sire and dam ID. Other useful information captured at this time would be the birth weight and whether any assistance was required for delivery.

In addition, let's not forget the cow. This is an ideal time to document those repeated phenotypic measures that assist in identifying strong maternal traits, such as foot scores and udder scores, to characterize the differences and document problems. Although we currently do not have a genetic prediction for udder quality, there are Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) guidelines to assist with this data collection.

All of this can be a daunting task, as time and effort — both precious commodities for farmers and ranchers — are required.

Breeder's responsibility

According to Rule 102 in the *Breeder's Reference Guide*, permanent

ID marks are a requirement for registration of every entry in the Herd Book.

In addition, Rule 105 in the *Breeder's Reference Guide* discusses permanent ID in detail and provides necessary guidelines for members to follow to be in step with the rules of registration. The *Breeder's Reference Guide* can be found on the website at www.angus.org at Member Services > Member Center > *Breeder's Reference Guide*.

Accepted forms and location

The American Angus Association recognizes and accepts three forms of permanent ID — tattoo, freeze brand and hot brand. If a breeder chooses to use a tattoo as a permanent ID mark, the same tattoo needs to be placed in both ears of each individual animal. With branding, either freeze branding or hot branding, the brand can appear on either the left or the right side of the animal.

For more information, review the tutorial modules on our website within the Education Center tab that better explain the proper procedures to these necessary processes. We have updated the "Permanent ID Fact Sheet" also found in the Education Center. These are useful educational tools provided for the benefit of our members and their customers.

Develop a plan

Utilizing a series of numbers, a series of letters or a combination of both, breeders need to select a well-organized ID system that will stand the test of time and identify the animal for life. Permanent ID marks shall be limited to a maximum of five characters per animal. In connection with the arrangement of those five characters, breeders may use only Arabic numbers and capital letters. The use of any other characters, including joined letters, reversed letters, bars, punctuation marks and other types of symbols is not allowed.

In addition, no two animals of the same sex, born in the same calendar year and registered by the same first owner shall be given identical permanent ID marks. For example, you cannot have two bull calves born in 2020 with identical tattoos or brands, regardless of spring vs. fall calving.

Illegible/errors

What happens when you find a tattoo that has faded and become illegible? If this happens to you, the same tattoo marking needs to be placed in a new and separate location from the original permanent identification mark or in a location authorized by the American Angus Association. You should never

attempt to alter or overprint the original permanent ID mark.

What if it is legible but wrong? If you have discovered an error has been made and the tattoo mark does not match the registration certificate, it is much easier to correct a registration paper compared to re-tattooing an animal.


Check-in at shows

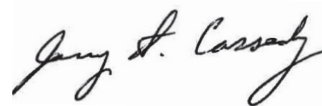
Nothing is more heartbreaking for an employee of the American Angus Association than to have to enforce a rule that disqualifies an exhibitor at a show. Please verify your show cattle

have a legible tattoo that matches the registration paper. If there is an error with the tattoo or the tattoo is missing (slick ear), the employee of the Association is required to disqualify the animal from the show, and a DNA test may be requested to verify the identity of the animal.

Summary

Properly identifying your animals with an accurate ID system provides you and your customers many benefits that can keep your program “on target.” Example methods of ID can be found on the “Permanent ID

Fact Sheet” and in the educational tutorials found at www.angus.org under the Member Services tab > Education Center. 



jcassady@angus.org

Editor's note: For additional information regarding permanent ID, contact the Member Services Department or email me directly at jcassady@angus.org.

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