



## Electronic Crediting of AI Service Certificates

A new program which allows electronic transmission of Artificial Insemination (AI) Service Certificates to semen buyers without anyone having to handle actual hard copy certificates, was approved by the Association Board of Directors at their June 1994 meeting. Breeders, however, still have the option of receiving and handling AI Service Certificates exactly as they have in the past.

The new electronic method works this way:

1. Breeders (owners of record) of bull or semen services will continue to request AI Service Certificates on an Association form. This request form has been redesigned to give breeders the option of informing the Association not to send the hard copy AI Service Certificate.

2. When a breeder sends in an application for registration on a calf that requires an AI Service Certificate, the computer will check to determine if AI Service Certificates for that particular bull are in their file. If so, the application should clear with the breeder never having been in possession of the AI Service Certificate.

These questions and answers might help clarify this new procedure.

- Q.** How do I inform the Association I want to transmit AI Service Certificates electronically rather than receive the hard copy?
- A.** Fill out the request form for AI Service Certificates. This form gives the breeder the option of transmitting AI Service Certificates to other members or to request hard copies or both.
- Q.** What happens if AI Service Certificates are electronically stored in my file, and I wish to transfer some to other breeders?
- A.** This can be accomplished by notifying the American Angus Association of your intentions in writing. Upon notification, your herd file will be checked to determine if you have enough AI Service Certificates on that particular bull to cover your request. If you do, your request will be completed. As part of this program, the breeder to whom these AI Service Certificates were transferred, will be sent a letter of notification.
- Q.** Can I call the Association and find out the inventory of AI Service Certificates in my file?
- A.** Yes. We will keep a running inventory at all times. Keep in mind that every time a calf is recorded which requires one of these AI Service Certificates, or if some are transferred to another breeder, they will be deleted from your inventory.
- Q.** Is there any charge for transferring AI Service Certificates from one breeders file to another?
- A.** No. There is no charge for this transaction.
- Q.** What if AI Service Certificates are stored in one family's membership inventory, and another family member wishes to register a calf sired by one of these bulls?
- A.** Simply notify the Association in writing of your desire to transfer one or more of these AI Service Certificates to the other family membership and your request will be completed. The AI Service Certificate(s) will be deleted from your inventory and added to the inventory of the individual to whom they are being transferred. Again, there is no charge for this service.
- Q.** Can the above be completed at the same time?
- A.** Yes. When you submit an application for registration which requires an AI Service Certificate that is being held in another family members inventory, inform us of your wish to transfer the AI Service Certificate(s) to the individual registering the calf. Again, the breeder holding the AI Service Certificate(s), must be the one to notify the Association of the request for transfer. This can be accomplished by a letter.

## Beef Cow Herd Management Tips

by Harlan Ritchie, Beef Extension Specialist  
Michigan State University

1. It's fall roundup and processing time for many herds which includes:

- ✓ Weaning the calf crop;
- ✓ Selecting replacement heifer calves;
- ✓ Vaccinating retained heifer and bull calves;
- ✓ Treating the entire herd for internal and external parasites;
- ✓ Pregnancy testing and culling open cows;
- ✓ Culling problem cows and marginal producers.

2. Consult your veterinarian for a replacement heifer calf vaccination program that fits your needs. Here is one that has proven to be applicable to many beef operations:

- ✓ IBR (rednose);
- ✓ PI<sub>3</sub> (Para-influenza)
- ✓ BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhea);
- ✓ BRSV (Syncytial Virus)
- ✓ 7-way clostridial
- ✓ Haemophilus somnus
- ✓ 5-Strain leptospirosis
- ✓ Vibriosis;
- ✓ Brucellosis

3. Except for brucellosis, these same vaccines can be administered to retained bull calves.

4. Ideally, these vaccinations should be given one month prior to weaning. A round of booster shots should be given at weaning or shortly thereafter. For best response, allow 21 days between initial and booster shots.

5. If you vaccinate cattle yourself, be sure you know how to handle vaccines. Modified live virus (MLV) products are easily inactivated by heat, light and contamination with alcohol or water. Use them up in two to three hours.

6. Select weanling replacement heifers based on expected progeny differences (EPDs), individual performance records, and functional traits, such as structural soundness, temperament, fleshing ability and muscle thickness. To maintain herd size, you must retain approximately half the heifer crop at weaning time.

7. Fall is a good time to take soil tests and topdress hay and pasture fields with potassium and phosphorus as needed.