

# from the office

## LEAD IN

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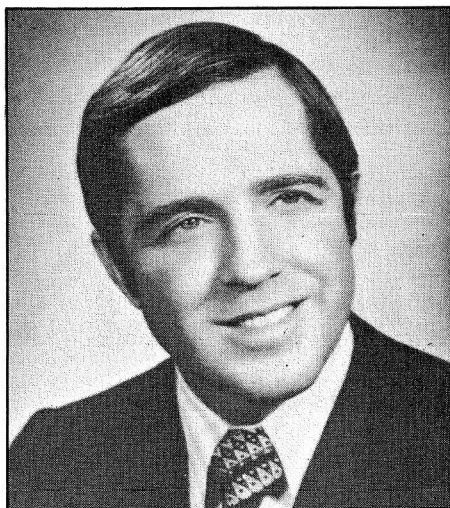
*"Lead In" traditionally comes from the desk of the executive vice president. But when something of special interest originates in a department within the American Angus Assn., that department head will be involved in the column. And that's the case this month with Dick Spader, director of performance programs, who is explaining the first Sire Evaluation Report using AHIR field data. The report will be available in Louisville at the annual meeting, after which copies can be obtained from the American Angus Assn.*  
—The Editor

The first Sire Evaluation Report using AHIR field data as a source of performance information will be available to breeders in late November. The report will rank 564 bulls for three traits of importance to beef cattle producers: Birth weight, weaning weight and yearling weight. Information will be reported in the form of an expected progeny difference (EPD) for each trait. The EPD is an estimate of what a bull will transmit to its progeny for each of the three traits evaluated.

Performance information from the Angus Herd Improvement Records program serves as the base for the first field data report. To date more than 1.4 million birth weights, weaning weights and yearling weights are on permanent file for the Angus breed. This information is tied to animals by the use of registration numbers, which are not duplicated within the Angus breed.

### Evaluation Opportunity

Most important, in the last 10 years, breeders have utilized open A.I. to a great extent, and the widespread use of sires has offered an opportunity to evaluate herds



and individual animals against each other. For example, some of the more popular bulls in the breed have been used in hundreds of herds and have as many as 5,000 head of progeny evaluated through AHIR for weaning weights and more than 4,000 yearling weights. These bulls used extensively throughout the breed serve as Angus Reference Sires to compare other bulls used in herds across the country.

In addition to the widespread use of sires by A.I., Angus breeders have placed a growing interest in keeping records of performance. The results have been substantially more than 100,000 weights processed in 1978 and 1979 and a record 163,769 weights processed in fiscal 1980!

These two factors—widespread use of A.I. and increased involvement in AHIR—have offered the opportunity in 1980 to

start evaluating Angus bulls through the use of field data in the AHIR program. The time is right for the first report of 564 bulls as more breeders look to objective information in evaluating sires to use in their breeding programs. The field data report, like all other performance reports, is another tool breeders can use in helping make objective decisions as they select bulls for their breeding programs.

### Annual Meeting

The 1980 report will be offered at the annual meeting in Louisville. After that, copies of the report will be available from the American Angus Assn. at \$5 each. Included in the report will be the bull's name, breeder, present owner(s), effective progeny number and expected progeny difference for the three traits measured.

The effective progeny number is the number of offspring of a bull processed through AHIR that could be compared or tied to an Angus Reference Sire for evaluation purposes. Each bull in the report has an effective progeny number of at least 20 head. In addition, a maternal breeding value from the Angus performance pedigree will be listed for each bull. The maternal breeding value is an estimate of how daughters of a bull will milk as measured by weaning weight of calves.

All bulls in the report will be listed in alphabetical order by animal name, so it should be easy to locate the bulls, breeders and present owners.

A report elsewhere in this issue by Dr. Richard Willham, advisor to the Performance Programs Dept., gives a more detailed review of the first field data report for the Angus breed. 