



Angus Stakes

► by guest author, **Terry Cotton**, general manager

Call a spade a spade

As a seedstock producer, you have to interpret a host of numbers — actual weights, adjusted weights, ratios, expected progeny differences (EPDs) and accuracies, to name a few. The American Angus Association defines and calculates weights and predictions processed through Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) and the National Cattle Evaluation (NCE). These weights and measures are based on Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) guidelines established to provide uniformity in the calculation and interpretation of data used for genetic improvement, as well as the language used to report it. The goal, of course, is for us to all know what we're talking about when, for instance, someone says, "My bull's adjusted yearling weight was 1,240 pounds (lb.)."

Innovation vs. confusion

Different management scenarios lead to different reference points. You've read feature articles in the *Angus Journal* and other beef publications of industry leaders who are keying in on new reference points and why those new measurements have meaning to their bottom lines.

If their value is proven to the industry, these innovative measurements may indeed become industry standards. But today, without the full explanation of what the measurement is, few people would understand what the numbers mean to them.

Keying in on this, the Angus Productions Inc. (API) Board of Directors revised the API policy for reporting EPDs and performance information to specify that API will not publish projected EPDs on an animal.

Any other data and adjusted measurements a breeder desires to advertise and/or publish will require a full explanation of the reference point. So, if a breeder wanted to publish a 319-day yearling weight or a ribeye area per hundredweight, the advertisement would have to explain the measurement. The policy is provided in the highlights of the Board meeting on page 140.

Within *Angus Journal* and *Angus Beef Bulletin* advertising, Angus sale books, Web pages, and other promotional materials, it is the goal of the API Board and staff to provide you, the reader, with the most useful, straightforward and accurate information available.

Welcome, Cara

Join me in welcoming Cara Bieroth, our summer intern, to the API editorial team.

Cara is an Angus member and a true cowgirl from Mountain City, Nev. She is a senior at the University of Nevada—Reno, majoring in journalism with a photography minor.

We'll have a full-blown news release about her in the August issue, but I wanted to give you a sneak preview as you'll have several opportunities to meet her at Angus events this summer.

BIF online

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to check out API's real-time coverage of the 2003 BIF annual conference, visit www.BIFconference.com. You can still "attend" the May 28-31 conference by listening to audios of presenters, downloading symposium papers and reading news releases about the award winners. Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., is again sponsoring the site, allowing us to bring you the information. And *BEEF* magazine provides a link to the site from www.beefcowcalf.com, its Web resource guide for cow-calf producers.

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