

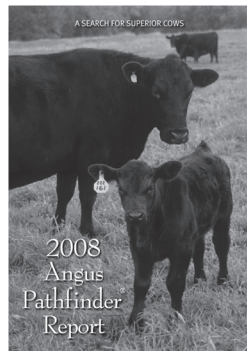


Association Highlights

► by *Shelia Stannard*, director of communications and events

Pathfinder® Report Available

The 2008 *Pathfinder® Report* is in the April issue of the *Angus Journal*. This year's report lists 9,917 individual cows and 273



sires that qualify for Pathfinder status. You can also review and search the Pathfinder Report online at www.angus.org/performance.

The Pathfinder program was started in 1978 and

identifies superior Angus females based upon recorded performance traits that are

economically important to efficient beef production and include early and regular calving, as well as heavy weaning weights. Bulls that have sired a minimum of five or more Pathfinder cows are listed as Pathfinder sires in this report.

Outreach Seminars set for this month

The Association will continue its Outreach Seminars this month. On Saturday, April 12, a seminar will be in Marianna, Fla. The seminar will be in conjunction with the Florida Junior Angus Association Field Day & Show at Southern Cattle Co.

The Outreach Seminar will take place for the adults while the youth are tending to their activities. The seminar will be split and take place from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

and from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. The day's activities begin at 7:30 a.m. Outreach Seminars last about two hours and allow the membership to interact with staff.

Western State Angus breeders to meet in Reno

The 2008 Western National Angus Futurity and 2008 Western Regional Junior Angus Show are set for April 26-28 in Reno, Nev. Activities are planned for both juniors and adults, including shows, a sale and Angus fellowship, so make your travel plans now.

If you can't be in Reno for the Angus events, you can still view show results following the weekend activities at www.angusjournal.com/reno.

Delegate petitions will arrive soon

Preparation for the 2008 Annual Convention of Delegates, set for this November in Louisville, Ky., is already under way. In late March, delegate nomination forms were mailed to all active life and regular members.

The nomination period runs from April 1 through June 30. Each membership is allowed to nominate one eligible member who resides in the same state or district. Active members may nominate any one member from their state, including themselves. The candidate should be actively involved in the Angus business, willing to attend the meeting and able to represent Angus breeders.

Nominations must be received in the Association office no later than June 30, at which time every qualified nominee will be included on a state ballot. State ballots will be mailed to the membership in July to vote for the final slate of state delegates. When you receive the petition, send it in right away.

When the nomination form arrives, don't set it aside and forget it. Fill it out and return it as soon as possible.

Details of the election process can be found in Article III of the Association's *Breeder's Reference Guide*, which was distributed in the mailing box with the March issue of the *Angus Journal*.

Request AngusSource® transfer inserts

During the spring sale season, don't forget to transfer those registrations to

ASSOCIATION FEES

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 weaning weight)	..... \$3
Artificial insemination (AI) service certificate	..... \$10
Regular annual membership	..... \$30
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.

BREEDER'S REFERENCE

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

Symbol	Meaning	Symbol	Meaning
#	Pathfinder cow or Pathfinder sire	HI	Heterochromia irides
+	Embryo transfer calf	HG	Horn gene
^	Cell clone	R	Red
%	Split-ET	X	Multiple defects, check list for kind
@	Clone-ET	F	Tested for defect printed without producing abnormal calves
S	Syndactyly	GDF	Produced 35 or more calves from daughters without a genetic defect or genetic factor
H	Double muscling	WT	Wild Type Color Gene
D	Dwarfism		
D2	Dwarfism by DNA test		
M	Osteopetrosis		

your commercial bull buyers. A properly registered and transferred bull is required for your customers to enroll in the AngusSource program. When it is time to mail the transferred registration papers, be sure to include the AngusSource transfer insert that provides your customers with information about AngusSource, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Process Verified Program (PVP) that documents source, age and 50% Angus genetics. These inserts are available at no cost by calling AngusSource at 816-383-5100.

Report new Association, Auxiliary officers

All local, state and regional Angus associations need to submit their new officer listings to the Communications Department by May 1. This will ensure correct listings are included on the Association web site and in the 2008 *Resource Edition*, published as an insert in the August 2008 *Angus Journal*. Listings will include association name, current officers, addresses, phone numbers and web site, if applicable. If you haven't received a form to update your association's officer listing, contact the Communications Department at 816-383-5100 or send e-mail to lmaudlin@angus.org

This year, state Auxiliary information is also being requested in the same mailing. Please be sure to complete both forms and return them in a timely manner.

Officer updates can be sent throughout the year and will be corrected on the Association's web site listings of local, state and regional Angus associations. This information is accessed by thousands of visitors each month at www.angus.org.

Plan now for summer field days

With warmer days just around the corner, it is time to begin thinking about hosting an Angus field day at your farm or ranch. The Association has field day planners and kits available to help make your event a success.

The field-day planner provides a timeline for organizing your event, from planning the program to handling publicity. The planner offers a checklist of details for you to review a month, a week and a day before your event. There are also some reminders for sale planning.

The field-day kit is a collection of literature, posters and other promotional items available from the Association. The kit is perfect for decorating your facilities and for providing information to junior and regular members, as well as to commercial producers. Contact the Communications Department to request these materials.

2008 National Angus Conference & Tour set

Make plans now to attend the 2008 National Angus Conference & Tour (NAC&T) Oct. 7-9 in Oklahoma City, Okla. The Association is pleased to announce that Purina Mills LLC and Alpharma Animal Health are the major sponsors of this year's event.

The conference will take place at the Clarion Meridian Hotel & Conference Center and will include a program of beef industry speakers that will address current issues facing producers. The Oklahoma Angus Association will host the two-day tour.

Look for more information in future issues of the *Angus Journal* and on the Association web site.

Association launches Producer Priority Finder

The American Angus Association has created an online tool to help commercial cow-calf producers identify the most important management priorities for their individual operations. This interactive tool allows producers to assess where they are the strongest and weakest in their management strategies to determine where they should

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place their management priorities in order to increase profitability in their cow herd.

"We realize that there are so many management areas that affect profitability on the ranch," says Ty Groshans, Association director of commercial programs. Some management areas, such as labor and herd health, producers can control; others, such as the climate and the economy, are somewhat out of their reach.

"The Producer Priority Finder allows producers to look at 15 management practices to evaluate where they might need to place more emphasis to make their operation more profitable," Groshans explains.

The Producer Priority Finder is an online tool that allows producers to rank on a scale of 1 to 5 their strongest and weakest areas of 15 management categories, based on the results of a 2006 study conducted by Tom Field, *Priorities First: Identifying Management Priorities in the Commercial Cow-Calf Business*. Once a producer ranks the management strategies, the Priority Finder results reveal the five areas of greatest weakness, where the producer should place more emphasis on his or her operation.

"Cow-calf producers are overwhelmed by their workload along with the massive volumes of available information and advice on individual aspects of their business. We hope producers find this tool useful in staying profitable," Groshans says.

The Producer Priority Finder can be accessed online at www.angus.org. Producers who want more information about the top 15 management priorities can access the online version of *Priorities First* or request a printed copy of the 32-page report by contacting the Association's Communications Department.

Auxiliary Notes

Mother's Day gift ideas

Mother's Day will soon be here. Why not surprise that special woman with a gift from the American Angus Auxiliary Angus Sale Barn? Many unique Angus promotional items and gifts are available through their web site at www.angusauxiliary.com. Just click on Angus Sale Barn and enjoy visiting the store, and checking out the new items as well as the unique Rattey sculptures and the Gift of Taste packages. Selecting that perfect gift has never been easier.

You may also order items by contacting the Angus Sale Barn chairperson, Cathy Miller, at 419-833-7665. Proceeds from the Angus Sale Barn help support the programs and activities sponsored by the American Angus Auxiliary.

Auxiliary information requested

Each year American Angus Auxiliary Historian Lois Foster compiles an outstanding scrapbook that features Auxiliary news and activities from around the country. State auxiliaries and members are encouraged to send any Auxiliary-related photos, programs and newspaper or magazine articles to Lois Foster at 11893 M-140, Niles, MI 49120. The 2008 scrapbook will be presented at the annual meeting in Louisville in November.

Junior deadlines for Atlantic National

The ownership and entry deadline for the Atlantic National Junior Angus Show is April 15. Even though the event is a regional preview show for junior members, the Atlantic National show management accepts the entries.

For information or to request entry forms, send e-mail to Harry Bachman at bachaut@lmf.net or call him at 717-867-1822.

Remember approaching junior deadlines

Juniors should remember May 1 as the deadline for several application forms:

- ▶ Gold Award applications
- ▶ Outstanding Leadership Award applications
- ▶ Ownership and entry deadline for the Northwest Regional Preview Show
- ▶ Angus Foundation scholarship applications
- ▶ Certified Angus Beef LLC/National Junior Angus Association (CAB/NJAA) scholarship applications

May 15 is another important deadline:

- ▶ Ownership and entry deadline for the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show

June 1 deadlines include:

- ▶ Ownership and entry deadline for the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS)
- ▶ Entry deadline for the NJAA writing, photography and graphic design contests
- ▶ Entry and recipe deadline for the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off

For more information contact the Junior Activities Department or go to www.njaa.info.

Texas Challenge II later this month

Klaus and Bonnie Birkel, owners of Camp Cooley Ranch, Franklin, Texas, are encouraging Texas Angus breeders and the Texas Angus Association to raise funds to support Angus education, youth and research efforts through the Angus Foundation. Camp Cooley Ranch will host and underwrite the Texas Challenge II, a celebration at the ranch on Saturday, April 26, at 5:30 p.m. featuring a CAB dinner and live entertainment. All Texas Angus breeders and supporters are invited to attend.

In January 2007, the Birkels pledged \$250,000 toward the Angus Foundation's ambitious Vision of Value: Campaign for Angus goal to raise \$11 million by Dec. 31, 2011, if Texas Angus breeders and the Texas Angus Association raised \$250,000 in matching funds at \$50,000 per year the next five years.

After the overwhelming success of last year's event, the goal has been increased to \$1 million with Texas Angus breeders challenged to raise another \$500,000. By hosting The Texas Challenge II, the Birkels are again showing their dedication and commitment to furthering the success of the Angus breed.

Date set for 2008 Angus Foundation Golf Tournament

In conjunction with the 2008 NJAS, the eighth annual Angus Foundation Golf Tournament will be Tuesday, July 15, at The Legacy Golf Club in Norwalk, Iowa. The tournament is open to both adults and youth. Funds generated through team entry fees and event sponsorships support the Foundation's education, youth and research efforts. Look for more information in upcoming issues and at www.angusfoundation.org.

Undergraduate and graduate scholarship applications due May 1

More than \$100,000 in educational scholarships will be available this year to Angus youth through the Angus Foundation scholarship program. Applications must be postmarked on or before May 1 to be considered eligible.

Applications and instructions are available at www.angusfoundation.org. Please closely follow the instructions, as incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Note that there are separate applications for the NJAA/CAB scholarship and the new graduate student degree scholarship that will be offered through the Angus Foundation this year.

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