



Association Highlights

► compiled by **Shelby Mettlen**, assistant editor

Enroll in MaternalPlus today

MaternalPlus® is a voluntary, whole-herd reporting program aiming to collect cow and heifer production data to increase the accuracy of current predictions, including heifer pregnancy (HP) expected progeny

differences (EPDs), and work toward future cow herd selection tools such as longevity. Instead of paying on a per-calf basis, members have an annual \$3-per-cow enrollment fee, which allows her calf's Angus Herd Improvement Records

(AHIR®) data to be processed free of charge.

Breeding, birth, weaning and yearling submissions are recorded in the same manner whether members use AAA Login or Angus Information Management Software (AIMS) for data reporting. By enrolling in MaternalPlus, members can receive calving ease direct (CED), birth weight (BW) and weaning weight (WW) EPDs without having to register individual calves. Additional herd reports, including genetic trend reports benchmarking your herd against the rest of the Angus database, are available for those enrolled. For more information or details, visit www.angus.org/Performance/MaternalPlusInfo.aspx or contact Kelli Retallick at kretallick@angus.org or 816-383-5190.

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 | \$80 |
| Regular annual membership with <i>Angus Journal</i> subscription | \$130 |
| Lifetime membership (optional to pay in three \$500/year installments) | \$1,500 |
| 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. An online version is available through the "Rules and Forms" link at www.angus.org.

BREEDER'S REFERENCE

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

| Symbol | Meaning |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| # | Pathfinder cow or Pathfinder sire |
| + | Embryo transfer calf |
| ^ | Cell clone |
| % | Split-ET |
| @ | Clone-ET |

The American Angus Association currently recognizes the following genetic conditions:

| Code | Meaning |
|------|------------------------------------|
| AM | Arthrogyposis multiplex |
| CA | Contractural arachnodactyly |
| D2 | PRKG2 gene mutation for dwarfism |
| DD | Developmental duplication |
| DM | Double muscling |
| DW | Dwarfism |
| HG | Horn gene |
| HI | Heterochromia irides |
| M1 | nt821 mutation for double muscling |
| NH | Neuropathic hydrocephalus |
| OS | Osteopetrosis |
| RD | Red gene |
| SN | Syndactyly |
| WT | Wild type color gene |

The following single-letter descriptors appearing after a genetic condition code shall have the following meaning:

- P – refers to a "potential" carrier based on an ancestor known to carry that specific mutation.
- F – refers to an animal tested for one or more genetic conditions and determined to be "free" of that specific mutation.
- C – refers to an animal tested for one or more genetic conditions and determined to be a "carrier" of that specific mutation.
- A – refers to an animal tested for one or more genetic conditions and determined to be a carrier of two copies of that specific mutation. It may or may not exhibit the phenotype associated with that genetic condition.

The following letter designations describe cases in which there is more than one genetic condition present:

- XF – Free of more than one genetic condition.
- XC – Carrier of more than one genetic condition.
- XA – Affected of more than one genetic condition.
- RTF – Recessive trait free (produced 35 or more calves from daughters without a genetic defect).

Look for delegate ballots in the mail

Ballots to elect delegates and alternates to the 2017 Annual Convention of Delegates will be mailed July 7, 2017.

Active life and active regular members who qualified as eligible voting members will receive a ballot for their state/district.

Signed ballots must be received in the Association office no later than Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2017, by 4:30 p.m. Central. Ballots received after that date will not be counted.

For more information, see Article III Section 3.8. Election of Delegates in the Association bylaws.

Convention registration now open

Registration for the 2017 Angus Convention, set for Nov. 4-6 at the Fort Worth Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas, opens July 1. Nearly 2,000 cattlemen participated in the 2016 Angus Convention hosted in Indianapolis, Ind., and Fort Worth will host an event you won't want to miss. Offering Angus University educational sessions, Association business meetings, industry-leading speakers, top-notch live entertainment and a Texas-style National Angus Tour, the 2017 Angus Convention will offer something for every progressive cattleman and woman.

The convention is the ideal junction for breeders and industry influencers to exchange ideas and share their vision for better Angus genetics and better beef worldwide.

To register and for more information, visit www.angusconvention.com.

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Coverage of BIF symposium available online

Angus Media was on hand to cover the 2017 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Research Symposium and Convention in Athens, Ga., May 31-June 3. Visit the Newsroom and Awards pages at www.bifconference.com for announcement of the award winners and access to summaries, PowerPoint presentations, proceedings papers, and audio of symposium presentations.

AGI to release upgrades to the weekly genetic evaluation

Beginning July 7, Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) will use an updated genetic evaluation model, Single Step, to calculate EPDs for the American Angus Association's national cattle evaluation (NCE). Single Step will be capable of incorporating all new genotype, pedigree, performance and progeny data into the Association's weekly NCE. This new, more comprehensive methodology will eliminate the need for routine calibration, allowing members to have the most complete and current representation of EPDs possible.

AGI will also incorporate updated economic assumptions into the July 7 evaluation to calculate dollar values (\$Values). These economic assumptions, or economic weights, are assigned to EPD components included in the \$Values and represent both revenue and costs affecting the production system.

The \$Values predict differences in profitability of animals rather than pounds of performance and allow for multi-directional change of several traits included in the index.

Economic assumptions are based on three-year rolling averages. This annual process allows for \$Values to more accurately reflect the market trends of the beef industry.

With both changes being incorporated in July, members can expect some re-ranking of individual animals to take place.

Auxiliary accepting consignments for Full Circle Online Auction

The American Angus Auxiliary will host its second annual Full Circle Online Auction, a national Angus consignment sale.

The Full Circle Online Auction is an innovative web-based consignment market that offers Angus breeders, families and allied industry the opportunity to both sell and buy, while making a substantial contribution to help ensure the sustainability of the Auxiliary's ongoing support of the Angus breed and its youth.

The online auction will be Sept. 27-28 and is hosted by www.anguslive.com. Proceeds will support the Auxiliary's mission, including

breed promotion, beef education and youth development through programs, awards and scholarships.

The Auxiliary is currently seeking a wide variety of items with a fair-market value in excess of \$100. Auction categories include Angus memorabilia/collectibles, games/toys, vacation packages, home décor, cattle services, embryo/semens packages and other useful items.

Consignors can donate 100% to the Auxiliary or can choose to receive 50% of the gross revenue their lots generate, as well as recognition in the sale promotion to be launched at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) and on the online site throughout July, August and September.

For a consignment contract and more information, visit www.angusauxiliary.com/fullcircleonlineauction.html.

Revised entry requirements for 2018 NWSS Angus Bull Sale

The 2018 National Western Angus Bull Sale at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) is set for Wednesday, Jan. 10, in Denver, Colo. Changes in entry requirements this year include:

- ▶ Any bull that is a potential carrier for any genetic condition recognized by the American Angus Association must be tested free of that condition(s) by the late-entry deadline of Oct. 1, 2017.

- ▶ All bulls must rank in the top 50% of the breed for non-parent bulls by the late entry deadline of Oct. 1, 2017, for EPDs and \$Value indexes, including weaning weight (WW), yearling weight (YW), weaned calf value (\$W) and beef value (\$B).

- ▶ A nonrefundable entry fee must accompany the application at time of entry.

Other entry requirements include:

- ▶ All bulls must be calved after Jan. 1, 2015. All bulls born before Jan. 1, 2017, must have passed a complete breeding soundness exam (sometimes referred to as a BSE) within 30 days of the sale.

- ▶ All bulls must be genomic-trait-tested and possess a complete set of EPDs and \$Values when entered.

- ▶ All bulls must be enrolled in AHIR with official weights processed prior to the sale book deadline, Oct. 25, 2017. All bulls must conform to health regulations of the NWSS and American Angus Association.

Judges this year will be Art Butler, Bliss, Idaho; Sam Carter, Arthur, Neb.; and Mike McGuire, Waverly, Ala. The auctioneer will be Joe Goggins, Billings, Mont.

Consignments received on or before Sept. 1, 2017, carry an entry fee of \$400 per head. From Sept. 16 through Oct. 1 the fee is \$500.

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All bulls must be entered in the NWSS.

For more information contact David Gazda, sale manager, at 706-296-7846, a regional manager, or the Events and Education Department at 816-383-5142.

Angus Value Discovery

The Angus Value Discovery Contest began this spring as a means of carcass data collection and friendly competition for commercial Angus producers, nominated by their seedstock or genetics providers. Artificial insemination (AI) companies and registered Angus breeders are nominating customers to enroll groups of at least 30 calves.

Commercial cow-calf operators who use registered Angus bulls and those who feed the high-quality progeny are discussing enrollment with seedstock suppliers or AI company reps. That's according to Kara Lee, production brand manager for the cosponsoring *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) brand.

Customers who buy and use the best bulls, feed the progeny and report results could win a share of nearly \$5,000 in a contest that builds relationships along with better herds, she says. Genetics providers contribute 25%

of prize value in credit if their nominee wins grand or reserve champion pen, and CAB pays the rest.

Qualifying groups of 30 or more must be at least 75% sired by registered Angus bulls, harvested by July 31 at a CAB-licensed packer and closeouts submitted by Aug. 15, or they fit into the next year's contest. Scoring is based on a combination of carcass merit and feedyard performance. Nominators of at least five entries can form a division with winnings noted, and nominators can add their own incentives.

For more details, visit www.CABpartners.com, contact Kara Lee at klee@certifiedangusbeef.com or call 330-345-2333.

Madison, Wis., to host 50th NJAS in 2018

The National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) will celebrate a major milestone in 2018 as it hosts the 50th NJAS in Madison, Wis. The 50th NJAS will take place July 7-13, 2018, at the Alliant Energy Center.

Sponsored by the Illinois and Wisconsin Junior Angus associations, next year's NJAS is themed "Livin' the Dream in 2018!"

Candidate résumés due Aug. 1

Association members who are seeking election to the Board of Directors of the

American Angus Association may send a short biography, along with a photo, to *Angus Journal* Editor Shauna Hermel by Aug. 1. Biographies and photos submitted by the deadline will be published in the October *Angus Journal*, prior to the election at the Annual Convention of Delegates in November. Biographies should be approximately 500-700 words and will be shortened if necessary.

Black Books available

Place your customized Black Book order for the 2018 AngusSource® Black Books before July 31, 2017. The pocket-sized books include a calendar, as well as space to keep management records on your cow herd. Any quantity is available for \$3 each and can be customized — free of charge — with purchase of 100 or more. Customized orders may include your operation's logo and contact information foil-stamped onto the back cover, while standard orders feature the Association's logo. The books make great promotional gifts to commercial customers.

To place orders, contact the AngusSource department at 816-383-5100 or blackbooks@angus.org.

Books will be shipped by Oct. 15.

