



# Association Highlights

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

## AGI releases upgrades to the Association's weekly genetic evaluation

On July 7, Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI)

implemented several updates to its genetic evaluation. Those updates include using a different methodology, single step, to calculate the Association's expected progeny

differences (EPDs). Single step is capable of incorporating all new genotype, pedigree, performance and progeny data into the Association's genetic evaluation every week. This new, more comprehensive methodology eliminates the need for routine calibration, allowing members to have the most complete and current EPD representation. With that, implementation of more robust growth and carcass models took place, as well as the addition of approximately 250,000 more genotypes to the database.

AGI also incorporated updated economic assumptions to calculate the \$Values. These economic assumptions, or economic weights, are assigned to EPD components included in the \$Values representing both revenue and costs affecting the production system.

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

For more information on single step, refer to the July 2017 "By the Numbers" column in the *Angus Journal* (see page 47), access AGI's information online at [www.angus.org/agi](http://www.angus.org/agi), or contact the AGI team at 816-383-5100.

## Using birth weights prior to weaning weight submission

On Tuesday, Aug. 8, the Association will begin accepting birth weights to be used in the genetic evaluation prior to weaning weight submission. These data points will be used to describe the genetic value of sires and dams in the evaluation, allowing for earlier, more accurate predictions of both birth weight (BW) and calving ease (CE) EPDs. Once the calving season has come to a close, breeders can submit birth weights via AAA Login or Angus Information Management Software (AIMS) to be used in the next evaluation. The \$3 Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) fee normally assessed at weaning will now be applied to calves at birth weight submission — no fees will then be assessed for weaning weights.

No EPDs will be given on individual calves until they are registered, unless members are enrolled in MaternalPlus®. MaternalPlus participants will receive CED, BW and weaning weight (WW) EPDs once birth weights are submitted. For more

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## 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](http://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	Arthrogryposis multiplex
CA	Contractural arachnodycty
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
OH	Oculocutaneous hypopigmentation
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).

information see “By the Numbers” in the June 2017 *Angus Journal* or contact the Association at 816-383-5100.

### **Enroll in the MaternalPlus Program**

MaternalPlus® is a cow herd reporting program aiming to collect cow and heifer production data to increase the accuracy of current predictions, including heifer pregnancy, and work toward future selection tools such as longevity. Participants pay on a per-cow basis, \$3 annually, allowing her calf’s AHIR data to be processed free of charge. By enrolling in MaternalPlus, members receive CED, BW and 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. Stay ahead of the curve and enroll today. For more information or details, visit [www.angus.org/Performance/MaternalPlusInfo.aspx](http://www.angus.org/Performance/MaternalPlusInfo.aspx), or contact Kelli Retallick at [kretallick@angus.org](mailto:kretallick@angus.org) or 816-383-5190.

### **Return delegate ballots for Annual Convention**

It’s time to vote for the members you wish to represent you as state and district delegates to the American Angus Association Annual Convention of Delegates this November. Delegate nominations received by the June 9 deadline were used to prepare state/district ballots with the names of eligible nominees. Ballots were mailed in early July to all eligible voting members.

All ballots must be received in the Association office no later than 4:30 p.m. Central Tuesday, Aug. 8, to be counted. To ensure a valid ballot, vote for no more than the designated number of delegates listed at the top of the ballot and remember to sign the document.

Elected delegates will conduct Association business at the 134th Annual Convention of Delegates during the Angus Convention Nov. 4-6 in Fort Worth, Texas.

### **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.



### **Talon Internship accepting host breeder applications**

The Angus Foundation, in conjunction with the Angus/Talon Youth Education Learning Program Endowment Fund, is currently accepting host breeder applications for the Talon Internship Program. The internship program is designed to pair Angus youth with an Angus breeder to develop a mentor/mentee relationship throughout the course of a summer. This relationship will lead to a successful educational experience and increase the knowledge and understanding for raising registered-Angus cattle and the beef cattle industry for the mentee.

Applications for hosts and interns are due to the Events and Education Department by Sept. 15.

For more information and both the host and intern application, please visit [www.angusfoundation.org/fdn/Events/FdnTalon.html](http://www.angusfoundation.org/fdn/Events/FdnTalon.html) or contact the Events and Education Department.

### **LEAD Conference is Aug. 3-6**

“Navigating North Carolina,” the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference will be Aug. 3-6 in Raleigh, N.C. The National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) has planned leadership and personal skill-building activities for NJAA participants 14-21 years old.

Funded by the Angus Foundation, through both unrestricted funds and the Thomas A. and Catherine Chambers Endowment Fund, the LEAD conference serves several purposes, which include guiding juniors who will, in turn, take part in guiding their respective associations; providing an open line of communication for members of different associations to share ideas, plans and goals; and giving each individual an opportunity to take an active part, encouraging participation by everyone present. Juniors learn about setting goals for themselves and their association, along with methods of accomplishing those goals.

### **Century Award applications due Sept. 1**

The American Angus Association initiated the Century Award to recognize its members and their families who have been in continuous production of registered Angus

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cattle for at least 100 years. Award recipients will be recognized at the Association's Annual Awards Banquet.

Visit [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org) to apply before the Sept. 1 deadline or for more information.

**News from BIF 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](http://www.bifconference.com) for announcement of the award winners and access to summaries, PowerPoint presentations, proceedings papers, and audio of symposium presentations.

**Auxiliary to host online auction**

The American Angus Auxiliary will host its second annual Full Circle Online Auction, a national Angus consignment sale Sept. 27-28. 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 hosted by

[www.anguslive.com](http://www.anguslive.com). Proceeds will support the Auxiliary's mission, including breed promotion, beef education and youth development through programs, awards and scholarships.

Last year's event raised more than \$11,000. The Auxiliary invites you to be a part of this exciting event!

For a consignment contract and more information, visit [www.angusauxiliary.com/fullcircleonlineauction.html](http://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 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.

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

**2017 ARSBC symposium set for Aug. 29-30 in Manhattan, Kan.**

Make plans now to attend the 2017 Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle (ARSBC) symposium Aug. 29-30. Hosted by the Kansas State University (K-State) Animal Sciences and Industry Department and K-State Research and Extension, the event will be headquartered at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center in Manhattan, Kan.

Considered the premier national event in beef cattle reproductive management, the meeting has a long history of providing the latest information on the application of reproductive technologies and includes a range of topics related to cow herd reproduction, such as nutritional interactions, management and male fertility.

The meeting is open to anyone with an interest in beef cattle reproduction, including producers, technicians, veterinarians and professionals in related industries.

Program details are available at [www.appliedreprostrategies.com](http://www.appliedreprostrategies.com). Extensive online coverage of past meetings can be found at the Newsroom Archive of the site. The meeting is organized by the Beef Reproduction Task Force, a multi-state Extension group made up of specialists from K-State, the University of Missouri, Iowa State University, the University of Nebraska, South Dakota State University, the University of Florida, the University of California-Davis, the University of Idaho and Oregon State University.

The Beef Reproduction Task Force hosted the first ARSBC symposium in 2002 at Manhattan, Kan. Since that time, symposia have been conducted at 16 locations across the United States.

"We are looking forward to bringing this meeting back to Kansas," says Sandy Johnson, K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry associate professor and extension beef specialist.

For questions about the event, contact Johnson at [sandyj@ksu.edu](mailto:sandyj@ksu.edu) or 785-462-6281.



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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](http://www.cabpartners.com), contact Kara Lee at [klee@certifiedangusbeef.com](mailto:klee@certifiedangusbeef.com) or call 330-345-2333.

### **Madison, Wis., to host 50th NJAS**

The NJAA will celebrate a major milestone in 2018 as it hosts the 50th NJAS in Madison, Wis. The annual event is a summer highlight for many Angus juniors and their families, and the American Angus Association is proud of the young leaders it

has encouraged over the past five decades.

The 50th NJAS will take place July 7-13, 2018, at the Alliant Energy Center. Participants will notice a change in the schedule, which begins on Saturday and ends on Friday.

More than 1,200 head of cattle are expected to compete in the showring at the 2018 NJAS. The classes offered will provide opportunities for juniors to exhibit their owned heifers, bred-and-owned heifers, cow-calf pairs, steers, and bred-and-owned bulls.

Additional events will include the National Showmanship Contest, NJAS Carcass Steer Contest, Auxiliary-sponsored *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off, and educational

contests that include prepared and extemporaneous public speaking, career development, graphic design, writing, photography, livestock judging, and video and poster competitions.

“Wisconsin will be a fantastic location as we bring together Angus juniors and their families to showcase the best the Angus breed has to offer — fantastic cattle and young leaders,” says Jaclyn Clark, events and education director for the American Angus Association.

Sponsored by the Illinois and Wisconsin junior Angus associations, next year’s NJAS is themed “Livin’ the Dream in 2018!”

