Data for Reliable Genetic Selection Decisions

Producers can use interactive elements of AAA Login to provide potential buyers with the most recent EPD updates.

Since fall 2010, the American Angus Association and Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) have offered weekly updates on the selection of genomic-enhanced EPDs for carcass, docility and residual average daily gain (RADG). The updated carcass EPDs are released on more than 2 million animals every Friday, providing the industry's most rapid and current selection tools to help make reliable genetic selection decisions. However, during sale season, how can producers get the most up-to-date EPDs to potential buyers when sale books have to be mailed three or four weeks in advance of the sale?

Don Laughlin, director of member services for the Association, suggests using AAA Login, an interactive tool available on the Association's website (See Fig.1), to create an animal set with sale animals in it, and then download the updated EPDs in an Excel

Table 1: Steps to creating forms to display updated EPDs

- 1. Log in to AAA Login at *www.angus.org*.
- **2.** Access the "Interactive Tools" tab.
- 3. Click "Animal Set."
- 4. Select group of animals by setting parameters as requested.
- 5. Select "Find Animals." Save or modify an animal set.
- 6. Return to "Interactive Tools" on main menu.

Option a:

- 7a. Select "Create Custom Animal Report."
- **8a.** Define animal set by choosing the animal set you just made.
- **9a.** Click the box in front of Excel Spreadsheet.
- **10a.** Choose the performance data to include in the report.
- **11a.** Click "Search" to create the Excel spreadsheet.

Obtion b:

- 7b. Select "Data Sheet."
- 8b. Define your data sheet as instructed.
- **8c.** Click "View Sheet" to create output pages.

by Linda Robbins



spreadsheet or in a data sheet available on the site. The interactive options in Login allow sellers to add their lot numbers to the list of animals to provide the latest weekly EPDs, literally at the last minute, to prospective buyers at the sale.

Whether the animal set will be bulls, open heifers or spring-calving cows, Laughlin says it is easy to choose the animals you want (see Figs. 2 and 3), create a custom animal report by choosing the EPDs you

AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION	- THE BU	SINESS BREE	D	
3291 Frederick Avenue + St. Accept., MO 64506 + (816) 383-5	100 + Fax (816) 233-97	03+E-mel algut@mput.o		
Renu Contact Us More Info Cart Log Out				
elcome to the American Angus Association Login a	rea as of 07/08/2011	1. A.		
AA is disticated to serving the needs of its members. To onvice and make 3 more useful, or what other services y or what he could be a service of the services y or whether the services of the services of the services of the services of the particular services of the ser				
View Interactive Tools DNA Testing Results	Submit Data	Spreadsheet Entry	Edit Profile	(Club the lab to charge subremus)
Animal Set				
Create Custom Animal Report				
Sustom \$Values (\$W, \$F,\$G,\$B)				
Customer Manager				
Data Sheet				
ET Records				
ET Technician Manager				
inbreeding and Relationship Coefficients				
mereoding and relationship Coemcients				

Fig. 2: Dialogue box to create an animal set

Menu Contact Us	More into Cart Log Out Animal Set Home	
nimal Sets as of 01 Animal Set Name:	TIGBI2011, Sale Anmas	
iotes:		
B Birth Data/Bex	Begin Birth Date 01012010 End (12012010 (mm/05/yy) Maxmum 2 year range See: But 1 Must have weight date for: If Wearing: If Wearing: Utreasound	
O Active Dama	Begin Birth Date End (MMN/05/50) Albase Siles date surge greater than 2 years	
Use a comma to s	th (Istooxy/lagis) 2) separate multiple fattoos: ex. A123, B345) Ith the fatlowing registration numbers:	1
Use a comma to a	separate multiple registration numbers: ex. 12121212, 13131313) Find Animals Reset Back	

want (see Fig. 4), download the new EPDs into an Excel spreadsheet, add in your lot numbers and then print the spreadsheet for prospective buyers.

In addition to using an Excel spreadsheet to display the data, sellers can also choose from four styles of data display templates or data sheets built into the interactive menu (See Fig. 5). The output looks similar to a salebook page.

- Style 1 includes a two-generation pedigree with a predetermined list of EPDs available to be updated, and prints information for eight animals per page.
- Style 2 includes a predetermined set of EPDs, along with a sire and maternal grandsire. It prints in a horizontal listing, with 16 animals listed per printed page.
- Style 3 also has two-generation pedigrees, but it permits users to choose whatever updated EPDs they want. The updated EPDs are listed in the same way as on Style 1, but graphs and bar charts are created to give EPD percentiles for each animal.
- Style 4 is similar to Style 1 but doesn't have all of the \$Values in the predetermined list of EPDs.

"While everyone can use this tool, it is truly beneficial for small-scale breeders with just a few head to sell or someone selling private treaty," Laughlin says. "It's the slickest thing in the world, because you can cherrypick whatever information you want on that Excel report or use the data sheets in whatever style you like, and you've got all you need right there."

All four styles permit the user to add footnotes or comments, and each column used in the created file is sortable, so if sale customers are looking for a specific EPD range or percentile in ascending or descending order, the information can be sorted and printed for handout at the sale.

Laughlin emphasized that there are many other uses for creating animal sets and custom animal reports, including culling or breeding decisions.

There are currently nine interactive tools on AAA Login, including three that are new: Customer Manager, ET Records and ET Technician Manager.

"The Association has these tools available for everyone, and they can be particularly beneficial for small-scale breeders if they will take some time to study the options and use them," Laughlin says. "There are applications for these tools that haven't been thought about yet, but the breeders who use them now will ask the questions that will help us develop new ones."

Fig. 3: Animal sets can be modified once created

3201 Frederick Avenue + St. Joseph	MD 64505 + (010) 30	3-5100 • Fax (816) 233-1	1703+E-mail any	Int@implit.org		
Aemu Contact Us More Info	Cart Log C	but .					
nimal Sets as of 07/08/2011,							
Create New Sei Active Animal sets Clab hare to set al	Active A Show or Note: (h	teria (f animala.			
							à.
	Set Opt		dd animals.	Click here	to reneme.		
	and the second		add/update notes.	1000	and the second second second	Animala	
			form this set by checkline animals from Sale A			click here to modify th	e adt
	Clux bit		to view AHIR data for a	animal.			to Export to Exce
	Select		Reg No.	Name		Tatt/Brand	Birth Date
	1			and the last		-	01/30/2010

Fig. 4: Members have a variety of options available when creating a custom animal report

3204 Frederick Aveilag + St. J	NAME AND EASOS + (216)	303-5103+Fe= (016) 233-9703+E	dal angei@engel o		
tenu Contact Us More I	nte Cart Log Out				
HIR - Performance Custon eneral Instructions	n Animal Report as o	107/08/2011;			
ANIMALS TO DISPLAY	Maximum 2 yes	r range: If no beginning and and	ing dates are entered	liest 2 years are returned.	
Birth Date Range	wint Begin	End	Ses Al 1		
	le Animals 🗧 🐱	to necessary united over 5,000		0.000	
late to display (Top and Bi			Select All Colum		
Nucl have weight data for E	Weaning Wearing	g 🖸 Ultresound	Show interim ind		
	WEANNE	MATERNAL	C Eros	DIDENTY PROFILE	Press HDSOK
Reg Number	D Ast	Calving Marval	C CCD 0PD+	CEO Serv	COD % Rate
Annual Name	C NON	Ditre. Aug Rate	Daworo.	Die Geers	DBN % Renk
C Bee	C NOT	C Dim Calves	O WN EPDs	WW Berry	WW S Rate
Tateo Grand	C Walges	Ween Avg Rate	U YW CPON	ADD Boore	ADD % Rank
0.00	C AL Weat	Ween Galves	BRADD EPON	VW Baars	UWS Bark
Patriciae	Rate	C Yaar Ang Ratio	UNI 5704	C RFS Baare	C RFI % Rank
Twinfocor	01	C Year Dates	000 EPDs	DM Gere	DIN S. Rett.
Defen Result	C No Faire	Used Stref Aug Rates	000 EPDs	UVH Brow	COV % Rena
AM Distus	Dented One	Used She Calue	CHP SPD.	00 Deare	MAN SCRAM
Cine Balan	Cutor	Used RC Aug Rate	COMEPOs	Due Seen	OW'S Ret
	Cite:	Used RE Calves	Min EPDs	CH# Serv	Stars & Rank
C CA Shifes		and the second second	DWV EPDa	CCM Down	C RC & Raw
CA Status C Generals Fratie	Disus Code	Used Fat Avg Rate			
	Disue Code	Used Fait Calves	MHEPDH	D Mile Story	C fart fam

Fig. 5: Pull animal sets into a data display template using the 'Data Sheet' option

1001	Frederick Av	mue + St	Joseph	MD 64	06+(816)	63-5100	•7=	-	0	0	1	0	1	1								1										•	•	•	1		1	1		•							1																								2											1					2			
lenu	Contact U	a Mor	s info	Cart	Log Out																																																																																					
Data	Sheet as o	1 07/08	2011.																																																																																							
Crea	te a printabi	e Data 1	Sheet f		uble anim	esets.																																																																																				
	edit sheet i view sheet				whiteda																																																																																					
Anim	nal Set 20	09 Cons	:	12	1	Edt She	et		-	-	-	•	-	-	,					1	1	-	-	-	-																	-	,	,	-	-	-	,	-					-	-	-	-											1				-	-]]]											
Use	Tattoo 1	-	Select	tag or t	doo from I	st at left	to u		10	•	•	-		-	,				-	-	-																						,	,	-				-					-	-	-	-										-																							
Shee	et Style S	neet Styl	1 1	Enan	ples																																																																																					
Sort	by Brit D	ne i	BA	. 00	145																																																																																					