



Login Lowdown

by Kasey Miller, associate editor

EPD sorts accessible through AAA Login

Last month's column promised to keep you informed on the most up-to-date features AAA Login has to offer, and this month's column will certainly deliver. The newest feature, EPD Sorts, became available to breeders Nov. 29, 2011, and offers many exciting opportunities to breeders of all sizes.

How to find EPD Sorts

This new feature stemmed from a popular request by members, says Chris Stallo, assistant director of information systems for

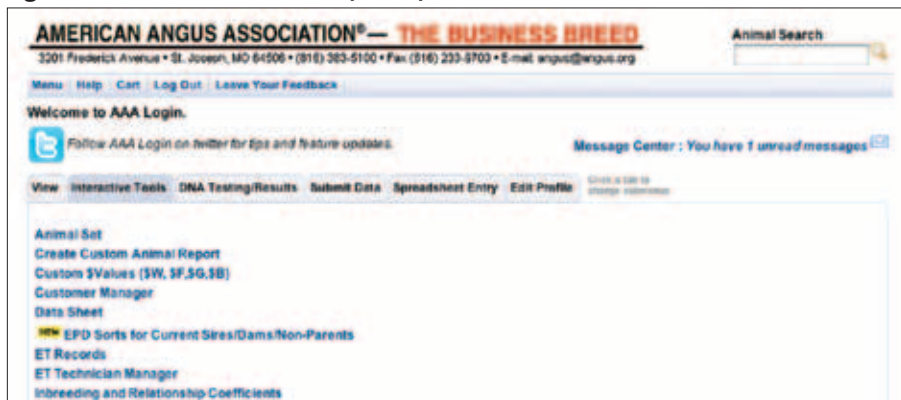
the American Angus Association. After each biannual *Sire Evaluation Report* was issued, he explains, members would call in to request animal sorts by expected progeny difference

(EPD) and/or dollar value index (\$Value) for a cost. Association staff would then process the requested sorts and send them out, meaning producers had to wait for the data.

This feature available online through AAA Login, he says, allows members to access the information instantaneously and at no cost.

The new feature is already popular, and it will continue to be so as more producers become aware of it, says Lou Ann Adams, director of information systems. "We put new EPDs up today, and in three hours the members did 200 sorts."

Fig. 1: EPD Sorts for Current Sires/Dams/Non-Parents



After signing in to AAA Login, EPD Sorts can be found in the "Interactive Tools" tab. "EPD Sorts for Current Sires/Dams/Non-Parents" can be found as the sixth item in the list (see Fig. 1), helpfully offset by the yellow "NEW" indicator (at least for now).

Uses, benefits

Don Laughlin, director of member services, says, "This is the first time sorts have been available to the entire membership for free."

The EPD Sorts feature allows members to sort through the selected groups of animals from the database for specific EPDs and

Fig. 3: Percentile breakdown of current dams

Top Pct	Production																		Maternal				Carcass				\$Values			
	CED	BW	WW	YW	RADG	YH	SC	Doc	HP	CEM	Milk	MW	MH	SEN	CW	Marb	RE	Fat	LW	SF	SG	SQG	SYG	SB						
1%	-13	-1.8	+61	+109	-24	+1.2	+1.47	+25	+11.8	+14	-34	+99	+1.4	+32.02	+40	+91	+77	-0.48	+37.18	+46.07	+43.61	+35.50	+12.49	+76.99						
2%	-12	-1.3	+59	+104	-22	+1.1	+1.33	+23	+11.4	+13	-32	+89	+1.2	+38.22	+37	+83	+70	-0.41	+35.37	+42.90	+41.73	+34.02	+11.55	+74.17						
3%	-11	-1.0	+57	+102	-21	+1.0	+1.25	+21	+11.2	+13	-31	+83	+1.1	+25.94	+35	+79	+65	-0.37	+34.27	+40.52	+40.40	+32.96	+10.99	+72.20						
4%	-11	-0.7	+56	+100	-20	+1.0	+1.18	+21	+11.0	+12	-31	+79	+1.1	+24.27	+34	+75	+62	-0.33	+33.53	+39.27	+39.38	+32.31	+10.55	+70.70						
5%	-11	-0.5	+55	+99	-20	+0.9	+1.13	+20	+10.8	+12	-30	+75	+1.0	+22.86	+33	+72	+59	-0.31	+32.84	+38.08	+38.56	+31.63	+10.17	+69.43						
10%	+9	+1	+52	+94	-18	+0.8	+0.95	+17	+10.3	+11	-29	+64	+0.9	+18.37	+29	+63	+49	-0.22	+31.04	+33.93	+35.38	+29.99	+9.31	+65.04						
15%	+8	+0.5	+50	+91	-17	+0.7	+0.83	+16	+9.9	+10	-27	+57	+0.8	+15.48	+27	+57	+43	-0.17	+29.81	+31.21	+32.05	+27.22	+8.14	+62.03						
20%	+8	+0.8	+49	+88	-16	+0.7	+0.73	+15	+9.6	+10	-25	+52	+0.7	+13.22	+25	+52	+38	-0.13	+28.85	+28.97	+30.01	+25.69	+7.42	+59.55						
25%	+7	+1.1	+47	+86	-15	+0.6	+0.66	+13	+9.4	+9	-24	+45	+0.6	+11.28	+24	+48	+33	-0.09	+28.02	+27.03	+29.05	+24.37	+6.52	+57.40						
30%	+6	+1.4	+46	+83	-14	+0.6	+0.59	+12	+9.1	+9	-24	+44	+0.6	+9.59	+22	+44	+29	-0.06	+27.27	+25.34	+27.41	+23.33	+6.22	+55.47						
35%	+5	+1.6	+45	+82	-13	+0.5	+0.52	+12	+8.9	+8	-23	+41	+0.5	+8.96	+21	+41	+25	-0.03	+26.57	+23.55	+25.93	+22.17	+5.59	+53.66						
40%	+5	+1.8	+44	+80	-12	+0.5	+0.46	+11	+8.7	+8	-22	+38	+0.5	+6.90	+20	+38	+22	+0	+25.91	+22.13	+24.54	+21.07	+5.12	+51.94						
45%	+5	+2.0	+43	+78	-12	+0.5	+0.41	+10	+8.5	+8	-21	+34	+0.4	+5.22	+19	+35	+19	+0.02	+25.28	+20.59	+23.26	+20.00	+4.63	+50.25						
50%	+4	+2.2	+42	+76	-11	+0.4	+0.35	+9	+8.3	+7	-20	+31	+0.4	+3.92	+18	+32	+16	+0.05	+24.64	+19.12	+21.98	+18.82	+4.17	+48.58						
55%	+4	+2.4	+41	+74	-11	+0.4	+0.30	+8	+8.1	+7	-20	+28	+0.4	+2.55	+17	+30	+13	+0.09	+23.09	+17.56	+20.78	+18.06	+3.54	+46.66						
60%	+3	+2.6	+39	+72	-10	+0.4	+0.24	+7	+8.0	+6	-19	+25	+0.3	+1.26	+16	+27	+10	+0.11	+23.32	+16.02	+18.58	+16.79	+2.86	+45.10						
65%	+3	+2.8	+38	+70	-09	+0.3	+0.18	+6	+7.7	+6	-18	+22	+0.3	+0.14	+14	+24	+07	+0.14	+22.61	+14.37	+18.39	+16.00	+2.37	+43.26						
70%	+2	+3.0	+37	+68	-09	+0.3	+0.12	+5	+7.5	+5	-17	+19	+0.2	-1.52	+13	+22	+04	+0.17	+21.85	+12.67	+17.16	+14.69	+1.71	+41.32						
75%	+1	+3.2	+36	+65	-08	+0.3	+0.06	+3	+7.2	+5	-16	+15	+0.2	-3.96	+12	+19	+01	+0.20	+21.02	+10.80	+15.85	+13.82	+0.93	+39.18						
80%	+1	+3.5	+34	+63	-07	+0.2	-0.01	+2	+6.9	+4	-15	+11	+0.1	-4.84	+11	+16	-03	+0.04	+20.08	+8.68	+14.45	+12.51	+0.96	+36.77						
85%	+0	+3.8	+32	+59	-06	+0.1	-0.10	+0	+6.5	+3	-14	+6	+0	-6.85	+9	+13	-07	+0.23	+18.93	+6.17	+12.79	+11.16	-1.10	+33.94						
90%	-1	+4.1	+30	+55	-05	+0.1	-0.20	-3	+6.0	+2	-12	+1	-1	-9.25	+7	+09	-12	+0.38	+17.45	+2.95	+10.72	+8.24	-2.89	+30.27						
95%	-3	+4.7	+26	+48	-03	+0.0	-0.37	-6	+5.3	+1	-10	-11	-2	-12.86	+3	+03	-19	+0.46	+15.14	-1.39	+7.68	+6.53	-5.48	+24.82						
Total Animals	309,450	311,846	311,846	311,846	24,519	96,179	106,235	61,333	15,529	309,450	311,846	55,930	55,930	312,942	209,068	209,068	209,068	209,068	312,042	312,942	251,796	251,796	251,796	251,796						
Avg	+4	+2.1	+41	+75	-11	+0.4	+0.36	+8	+8.2	+7	+20	+32	+0.4	+4.30	+18	+34	+18	+0.06	+24.42	+18.72	+22.50	+18.90	+3.50	+48.00						

\$Values, even setting acceptable ranges to each characteristic for which they are looking.

Producers can search through current sires, current dams, non-parent bulls and non-parent cows by selecting the radio buttons at the top of the search screen. Then specific traits within production, maternal, carcass and \$Value categories can be entered with desired ranges and accuracy (see Fig. 2). Even a sire's registration number can be added to the search. As with all AAA Login features, the information can be exported to Excel for even more personalized sorting.

Once the desired EPD and \$Value ranges are entered, sorting returns the top 100 animals that meet the criteria entered, based on the sort order, which can be specified to ascending or descending order. However, with stricter criteria, fewer than 100 animals may be found.

When you click on the links (sires, dams, non-parent bulls and non-parent cows) next to each radio button at the top, you will be taken to a percentile breakdown of all of that category's animals in the database (see Fig. 3, page 100).

The EPDs and \$Values are updated weekly; however, the current sires, dams and non-parents in the search are selected twice a year when the main and supplemental sires are selected in July (fall evaluation) and December (spring evaluation).

Current sires and dams are selected if they have at least one progeny in the National Cattle Evaluation (NCE) and have had at least one calf recorded in the herd book within the past two years. Non-parents are registered animals born in the last three years.

It is incredibly helpful for selecting

new herd bulls, selecting potential sires for artificial insemination (AI) studs and identifying new replacement females or donor females to bring into the herd, says Laughlin, explaining ways the new feature can be useful to members. He says this feature could open up a brand new world for producers, especially small breeders who are restricted by numbers from advertising much. This feature will give their high-performing cattle plenty of exposure.

"It won't pull up anything that's not registered, though," says Laughlin, "so that's a valid reason to get good calves registered early."



Fig. 2: Producers set their own search criteria to search the Angus database

List to Search		Asc Desc		Excel
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Sires <input type="radio"/> Dams <input type="radio"/> Non-Parent Bulls <input type="radio"/> Non-Parent Cows				
Click the link for more information.				
Select the radio button next to desired epd trait to sort by that trait.	Valid Range	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum Accuracy .00 to .99
Production				
<input type="radio"/> Calving Ease Direct	-27 to 20	-10	10	
<input type="radio"/> Birth Weight	-8.7 to 15.0			
<input type="radio"/> Weaning Weight	-14 to 92			
<input type="radio"/> Yearling Weight	-27 to 162			
<input type="radio"/> Residual Average Daily Gain	-0.13 to 0.41			
<input type="radio"/> Yearling Height	-1.8 to 2.6			
<input type="radio"/> Scrotal Circum.	-2.32 to 3.31			
<input type="radio"/> Docility	-47 to 42			
Maternal				
<input type="radio"/> Heifer Pregnancy	-5.5 to 15.3			
<input type="radio"/> Calving Ease Maternal	-20 to 19			
<input type="radio"/> Milk	-16 to 53			
<input type="radio"/> Mature Weight	-121 to 180			
<input type="radio"/> Mature Height	-2.2 to 2.8			
<input type="radio"/> Cow Energy (\$EN)	-46.13 to 67.55			
Carcass				
<input type="radio"/> Carcass Weight	-39 to 65			
<input type="radio"/> Marbling	-0.46 to 1.60	0.00	1.4	
<input type="radio"/> Ribeye Area	-0.92 to 1.38			
<input type="radio"/> Fat	-0.097 to 0.165			
\$Values				
<input type="radio"/> Wean Value (\$W)	-36.66 to 56.62			
<input type="radio"/> Feedlot Value (\$F)	-44.42 to 98.96			
<input type="radio"/> Grid Value (\$G)	-29.30 to 57.19			
<input type="radio"/> Quality Grade (\$QG)	-19.02 to 45.97			
<input type="radio"/> Yield Grade (\$YG)	-55.31 to 19.36			
<input type="radio"/> Beef Value (\$B)	-46.03 to 97.03			
<input type="radio"/> Birth Year	1953 to 2011			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Name				
Size Reg Num		Returns progeny of sire requested		
<input type="button" value="Search"/> <input type="button" value="Clear"/>				