



# Login Lowdown

► by Kasey Miller, associate editor

## Sire Groups

Many breeders now use multiple sires in groups during the breeding season, and genomic technology lets you find out the actual sire of a particular calf. These genetic parentage tests can be incredibly handy if you use this new trend of multiple-sire pastures. AAA Login can be helpful in keeping track of those sire groups.

### Benefits of use

“Sire Groups really started coming into their own with the DNA parentage testing that is available through AGI (Angus

Genetics Inc.),” says Chris Stallo, assistant director of information systems at the Association.

Multiple-sire pastures can be used to

ensure that more cows get bred when using natural service. Because AGI offers affordable parentage testing (available for \$18), these calves still have the option to be registered, as long as both the sire and dam are registered and the sire has DNA samples submitted. However, these multiple-sire pastures can cause a recordkeeping headache. AAA Login can help with that.

Producers use Sire Groups

because it is an easy way for breeders to submit the calves from multiple-sire pastures vs. manually typing in a lot of numbers repeatedly. Breeders must submit DNA samples for parentage identification for bulls listed in Sire Groups. Most often, breeders sort the groups by location, natural service or artificial insemination (AI).

AAA Login allows you to create, view and modify a sire group. It also lets you enter the pasture date in and the pasture date out.

From the DNA Testing/Results tab on the main menu, click the fourth option, Create Sire Groups (see Fig. 1). This will let you nickname your new group and add sires. Common nicknames for groups include whether the bulls were cleanup bulls, or in which pasture they were turned out.

If you have more than two sires to enter, just click save (see Fig. 2), and then choose Add New.

After you enter all the bulls for the sire group, choose Save to save the sire group to your cart. Know that saving a group to the cart does not submit the group for enrollment to the Association. You have to check out the cart to submit the sire group enrollment to the Association.

Once bulls are enrolled, you can view the sire groups two ways. If you click on the View tab, then it’s at the bottom of the fourth cluster of options. From the DNA Testing/Results tab, it’s the fifth option.

All of your groups will appear by nicknames once you click View Groups, and it will tell you how many bulls are in the group and whether it is active (see Fig. 3). Once you click into that group, you will see each bull’s registration number, tag number and dates when the bull entered and exited the pasture (see Fig. 4)

Fig. 1: Where to find Create Sire Groups

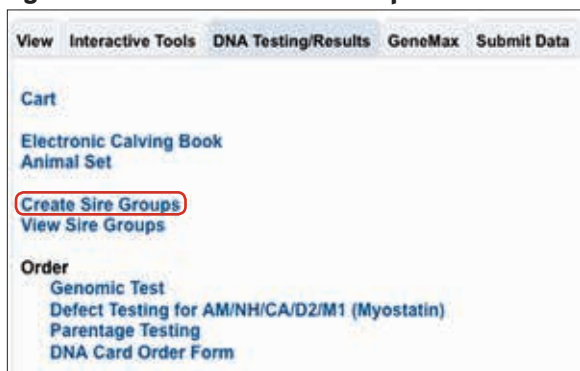


Fig. 2: How to enter bulls into a sire group

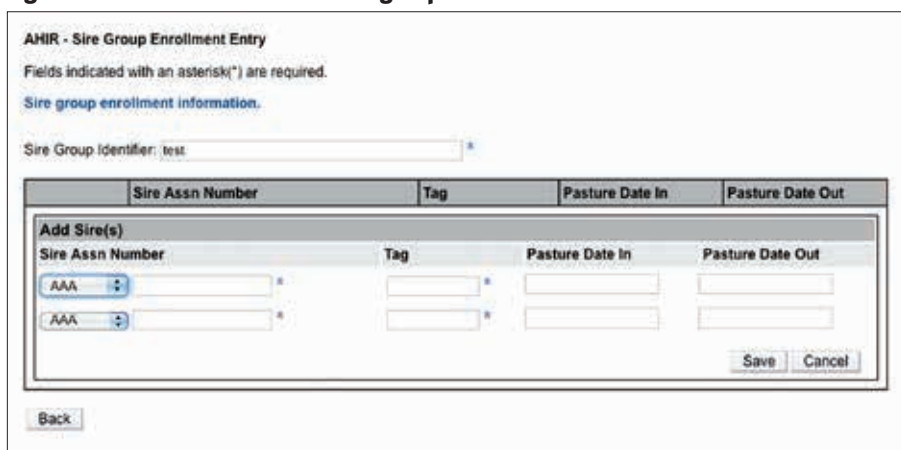
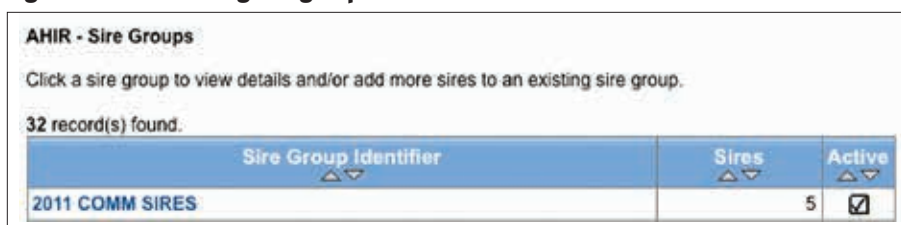


Fig. 3: View all existing sire groups



### Other tools for Sire Groups

To enroll bulls in Sire Groups, they must have DNA samples. DNA samples are collected as blood samples on FTA cards, which are \$1.75 each, or by hair samples. Samples can be taken by a veterinarian or by producers themselves, and can easily be taken while working the bulls or during a breeding soundness exam.

“It is prudent for every registered breeder to parent-verify and get DNA markers on all of their bulls,” says Don Laughlin, director of Association member services.

**Fig. 4: View bulls within a sire group**



He says samples should last for at least 25 years, so it is better to have the sample and store it if needed. When working with your cattle, he recommends taking a blood sample on an FTA card (preferred over hair samples because FTA cards can be archived and used

in more testing). Then you can let it dry and put it in storage. If the bull never goes into a multiple-sire pasture, you still have it to guard against possible parentage or genetic questions later.

You can order the cards online through the

Angus Store at [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org), on AAA Login or by calling the office.

For more information on collecting blood samples, you can view a how-to video at [www.angus.org/agi/videos/videos.aspx?vid=HowToDnaSampleCattle](http://www.angus.org/agi/videos/videos.aspx?vid=HowToDnaSampleCattle), or read more at [www.angus.org/AGI/DNASamplesBrochure.pdf](http://www.angus.org/AGI/DNASamplesBrochure.pdf).

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