Cow size data

Fall is a good time to work cows. The weather is generally beautiful. It's a good time to vaccinate, deworm, check body condition and provide general maintenance to your cow herd. It's also a good time to actually weigh your cows (not just estimate). The American Angus Association receives a lot of questions about the average weight of a mature Angus cow, and cow weights are used in several different selection tools, such as expected progeny differences (EPDs) and dollar value indexes (\$Values). These reasons are why accurate weights need to be taken. Luckily, you can submit that data online with AAA Login.

Why submit data?

AAA Login gives you an opportunity to submit cow weight, hip height, temperament and condition. These measurements help with your own records, but mature cow weight adjusted for body condition score (and hip height if available) is also incorporated into the mature size EPDs in the National Cattle Evaluation (NCE) and the weaned calf (\$W) value index, says Sally Northcutt, director of genetic research for Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI).

Both cow weight and height are highly

heritable (0.37 and 0.64, respectively), indicating that selection for these traits can be effective. They are also genetically correlated (+0.75), so genes that contribute to

differences in weight also affect height in the same direction. This means that heavier cows tend to be taller, though not in all cases.

With the high

input costs we see today, selecting for moderate-framed females is becoming an important selection consideration for many breeders. Accurate EPDs are helpful in making selection decisions when breeding, so, ultimately, submitting accurate cow data helps you, and the rest of the Angus breed, in the long run.

As a reminder for weaning time, cow weights with a body condition score should be taken within 45 days of a calf's weaning date. Cow hip heights may be captured at this time, also. It is important to collect this information after the cow has weaned her first calf, and then again in subsequent years.

Fig. 2: Where to add/edit a mature cow's data

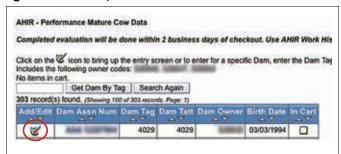


Fig. 1: How to find Mature Cow Data

View	Interactive Tools	DNA Testing/Results	GeneMax	Submit Data
Cart				
Elect		ok - Quick entry for subm	nitting calving	information only.
Anin	nal Set			
Regi	strations			
EZR	egistrations - Quid	k entry for calves with Ca	lving/Weanir	ng Data entered
Regi	strations with Tra	nsfer		
Regi	stration Correction	n - Correct registrations	that are store	d electronically, h
Trans	sfers - For animals v	with electronically stored p	pedigrees. Yo	u cannot transfer
Requ	est Printed Regis	tration Paper - For an	mals with ele	ctronically stored
AHIR	Information			
Calv	ing/Weaning Data	- used for submitting birt	h and weanir	ng weights throug
ET/F	oster Weaning Da	ta		
Year	ing Data			
Scro	tal Data			
Hip H	feight Data			
Carc	ass Data			
Sire	Group Data			
Year	ing Heifer Breedi	ng Data		
Cow	Herd Breeding Da	ata		
Bree	ding Preg Check	Data		
	Add/Edit Heifer/D r Active Dam List.	am Tags - Using this op	tion will allow	you to change o
Matu	re Cow Data			

Fig. 3: Type of information to be submitted

Disposal: 0 - Not Repo	vited	(a) (Xisposal Date:	
Cow Height:		Cow Weight: Condition:	Not Reported	•
Fields indicated with an as Customer:	terisk(*) are required. Dam: Dam Tag:	(AM ±		

Fig. 4: Where to find spreadsheet data entry option

View	Interactive Tools	DNA Testing/Results	GeneMax	Submit Data	Spreadsheet Entry
Look	n Offline Entry: er	nter your data in an E	vrol enros	dsheet while	offlina
200		ok Spreadsheet - guic	Action to the same		
	ng/Weaning data opti		r dinn't los au	Cinning Carring	endeniason only, caron
Regi	stration Spreads	neet			
Tran	sfers Spreadshee	t - For animals with elect	ronically store	ed pedigrees. Yo	u cannot transfer an an
Regi	stration with Tran	sfer Spreadsheet - Yo	u can also u	se this sheet to r	egister only by leaving t
Calv	ing and Weaning	Spreadsheet - used for	submitting b	irth and weaning	weights through AHIR
Year	ling Spreadsheet				
Carc	ass Spreadsheet				
Bree	ding Spreadshee	t			
Cow	Data Spreadshee	t - New			
Scro	tal Spreadsheet				

If you need help understanding body condition scores, there is a multitude of information at www.cowbcs.info. There is also more information on how these data are used in the December 2012 "By the Numbers" column in the Angus Journal (which can be found through a back issue search at www.angusjournal.com).

How to submit

Lou Ann Adams and Chris Stallo, director and assistant director of the Association

information systems (IS), respectively, explain that from the main AAA Login page, click the submit data tab. Mature Cow Data is the last option within the AHIR data section (see Fig. 1). Within Mature Cow Data, you can search for females by all eligible dams or by animal set. (For more information on animal sets, check out the March 2012 "Login Lowdown" column.) Once you get to your cow list, click the Add/ Edit tab in the left column (see Fig. 2). There, you can enter the measure date, cow weight,

cow height, temperament and condition (see Fig. 3).

You can also submit a disposal code to record why a female is no longer in your herd, along with the disposal date. This is useful to the Association so a potential longevity EPD can be developed.

You can also submit your data by spreadsheet if you don't have a fast Internet connection, or just prefer to work offline. Click the Spreadsheet Entry tab, and the Cow Data Spreadsheet is the second from the bottom, also denoted with a red New next to it (see Fig. 4). You can email the completed Excel sheet back to the Association at hostmaster@angus.org.

Additionally, cow data can also be turned in with the calving or weaning data weaning data, check out the June 2013 "Login

submission. The IS department appends all those cow data fields on the weaning entry screen (and spreadsheet) (see Fig. 5). For more information on submitting Lowdown" column.

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Fig. 5: How to submit cow data when also entering Calving/Weaning data

Customer:	* Owner;		wition:
Cairs Dam Info Assn Num: (Bi	R (1)	Tag: 0219 * Birth Date:	62/18/2000
Call's Sire Info Tag:	Assn Num: AAA	Sire Group: : W	
Calf Tag: * Sex	Twin In	ndicator: Single	. 0
	7/4 27/20	Charles and the second	
Birth Weight: Calvin	g Ease: (0 - Not Reported	Blirth:	10
Weaning Weigh Deter	Wearing Weight (b):	MGT:	(10)
	Height (in):	Height Measured C	
Groups			
	Scrotal Measured Date:	Custom	
Scrotal Circumference (cm):	Scrotal Measured Date:	Custom	
Scrotal Circumference (cm):	Scrotal Measured Date: an only accompany weaning weight do	Custom:	
Scrotal Circumference (cm): Any electronic submission of cow data of tweaning has already been submitted, a weight record, height measurement, a	Scretal Measured Date: an only accompany wearing weight de then cow weights may be reported sep- ind body condition score must be includ-	ta. arately on the calving and wearing sprea	
Scrotal Circumference (cm): Any electronic submission of cow data of tweening has already been submitted. A weight record, height nessurement, utilized in the National Cattle Evaluation	Scretal Measured Date: an only accompany wearing weight de then cow weights may be reported sep- ind body condition score must be includ-	Custom: ita. arately on the calving and wearing sprea- sed for the cow data to be	dsheet
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