



Login Lowdown

► by Kasey Brown, associate editor

MaternalPlus® reports

With this month's theme of reproductive strategies, I would be remiss to leave out the maternal tools available in AAA Login. Maternal characteristics are important. After all, Angus is known as a maternal breed. The American Angus Association is also known for its extensive database, and the recent genomic recalibration has enhanced the accuracy of the heifer pregnancy (HP) expected progeny difference (EPD). Additionally, AAA Login has tools like MaternalPlus® to help gauge maternal reproductive efficiency in other ways.

MaternalPlus data use

MaternalPlus is a voluntary inventory-based program designed to capture reproductive trait data on breeding, calving and pregnancy, and it is being used to develop tools to aid selection for cow productivity and longevity.

Sally Northcutt, American Angus Association director of genetic research, says, "MaternalPlus provides a reference for key EPDs, including calving ease, birth weight and weaning weight, but it will also be a resource for what we need to do to develop additional reproductive EPDs."

For those breeders already enrolled in MaternalPlus, you already know that you can manage your cow and heifer inventory lists, but three new reports let you view data about your cow herd graphically (see Fig. 1), say Lou Ann Adams and Chris Stallo, director and assistant director of American Angus

Association information systems. In addition to the HP EPD, MaternalPlus can be used to make management decisions.

New reports

The **Female Age Distribution Report** provides age categories in bar-graph and pie-chart formats for a quick and easy reference to your cow herd age distribution (see Fig. 2). Herd demographics can be used to plan future production and marketing strategies. The distribution of young females is useful in determining the heifer replacement rate.

To access this report, click on the "MaternalPlus" tab in AAA Login, then the first link under the "Reports" section.

The **Genetic Trends for Enrolled Females** report shows a real-time genetic trend line that tracks the average EPD by cow birth year and plots these averages across the available years associated with the enrolled

females (see Fig. 3). The graphs feature the genetic trend line of the breed as an additional reference point with each trait.

Once you select the second link in the "Reports" section, you can select individual traits or whole suites of traits (production, maternal and carcass — see Fig. 4) for the formation of genetic trend lines. EPD trends can provide an indication of trait emphasis over time, along with drawing attention to breeding program strengths or focus areas.

The **Production Performance Report** gives a customized production summary of your enrolled females. This report is available only after females are re-enrolled. The default report shows all cows and their calving distribution between the first and last reported calving dates, though you can customize the calving window (see Fig. 5). For instance, you can customize the report to characterize spring-calving cows and fall-calving cows separately. Additionally, breeders can specify the report show calving distribution by year of enrollment.

Calves born in the first 21-day period of the calving season have been shown to be more profitable, and it is important to know which cows consistently calve in those first 21 days of the calving season. The calving distribution of the Production Performance Report (see Fig. 6) allows breeders to make decisions based on a historical basis, and even by season.

For additional detail, the calving distribution is broken down by the age of your enrolled females. This includes calf



Fig. 1: How to find each report

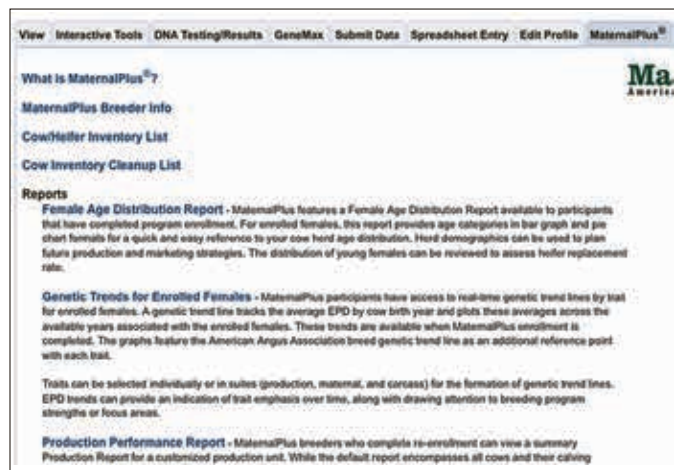
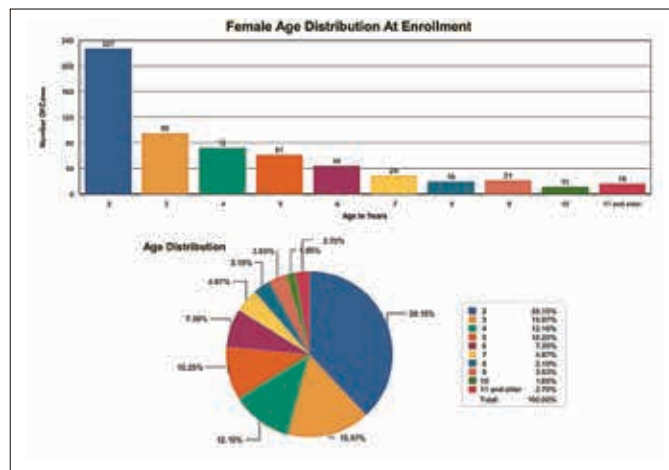


Fig. 2: Female Age Distribution Report



average performance for preweaning weight traits. Calf counts contributing to birth and weaning weight averages are included with average calf age. The production report also includes summary measures by calf gender.

For more information on enrolling your herd in MaternalPlus, check out the “MaternalPlus” tab in AAA Login (see Fig. 7).

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Fig. 3: Genetic Trends Report for enrolled females

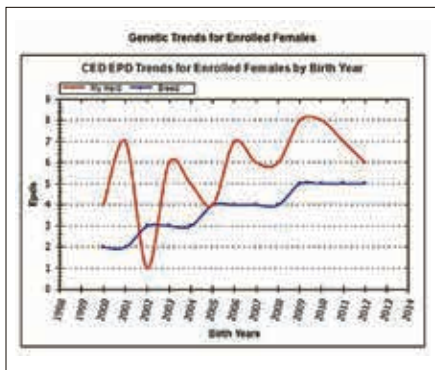


Fig. 4: Select individual or suite of traits for Genetic Trends Report

EPD Trends on Enrolled Females

Select the EPD Trends to display.

<input type="checkbox"/> PRODUCTION	<input type="checkbox"/> MATERNAL	<input type="checkbox"/> CARCASS
<input type="checkbox"/> CED	<input type="checkbox"/> HP	<input type="checkbox"/> CW
<input type="checkbox"/> BW	<input type="checkbox"/> CEM	<input type="checkbox"/> Marb
<input type="checkbox"/> VW	<input type="checkbox"/> MILK	<input type="checkbox"/> RE
<input type="checkbox"/> YW	<input type="checkbox"/> MW	<input type="checkbox"/> FAT
<input type="checkbox"/> RADG	<input type="checkbox"/> MH	
<input type="checkbox"/> YH		
<input type="checkbox"/> SC		
<input type="checkbox"/> DOC		

Search Clear Back

Fig. 5: Select the calving window for Production Performance Report

MaternalPlus® - Production Performance Report

Enroll Year: 2012

Begin Calving Date: 01/20/2012 01/20/2012

End Calving Date: 01/19/2013 01/19/2013

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Fig. 6: The calving distribution of the Production Performance Report

Herd Summary
Production Performance
Calving Date Range 01/20/12 to 01/19/13

Calving Distribution		Percent	
Beginning Calving Date	01/20/12	For Period	Cumulative
1st 21	02/16/12	21.7 %	21.7 %
2nd 21	03/08/12	19.1 %	40.8 %
3rd 21	03/29/12	13.9 %	54.8 %
4th 21	04/19/12	6.9 %	61.7 %
Late		39.5 %	100.0 %
Ending Calving Date	01/19/13		

Age of Dam Summary		Calving Distribution by 21-Day Period					Average Production Records						
Age	Calves	1st 21	2nd 21	3rd 21	4th 21	Late	Avg Calving Date	Num Birth Wts	Avg Birth Wt	Num Wn Wts	Avg Wn Wt	Avg Adj Wn Wt	Avg Adj Wn Wt
2	108	51	13	4		40	04/30/12	107	66	103	198	454	582
3	78	9	17	13	10	29	05/16/12	77	75	77	180	471	561
4	66	3	13	8	10	32	06/04/12	63	76	63	182	493	556
5	39	4	5	14	2	14	05/14/12	39	76	37	183	502	548
6	31	8	4	3	1	15	06/07/12	29	81	27	197	537	556
7	21	3	9	6	1	3	04/05/12	21	83	20	176	507	565
8	26	6	7	1		12	06/06/12	26	79	25	200	551	565
9	6		2	2		2	05/05/12	6	86	6	181	523	593
10	5	1	1	1	1	2	05/24/12	5	78	5	195	490	529
11+	12		4	1	1	6	06/14/12	12	85	12	191	500	546
Total:	392	85	75	51	26	155		385		375			

Production Performance Measures

Average Age at Weaning (days)	189
Actual Weaning Weights (pounds)	
Bulls	504
Steers	
Hollers	493
Average Weaning Weight	499

Fig. 7: Where to enroll in MaternalPlus

