



Login Lowdown

► by **Kasey Brown**, associate editor

Spreadsheet entry

The United States is a big place. One of the best parts about it is that there are wide open spaces, and many cattlemen are lucky enough to live in them. However, those wide open spaces don't always lend themselves to fast Internet access, which is often integral to doing business. The American Angus Association has a way to submit data without fast Internet access through spreadsheet entry in AAA Login.

PAP and foot-scoring spreadsheets

Spreadsheet entry does require Internet access, at least at the beginning and end of the data submissions for shorter periods of time. You still log in to AAA Login to download the spreadsheet and to submit the completed spreadsheet, but you don't need Internet access the whole time you enter your numbers when you fill out the Excel spreadsheet.

You can't enter everything by spreadsheet, but there are 16 different sets of data that can be entered this way. These include electronic calving book, registration, transfers,

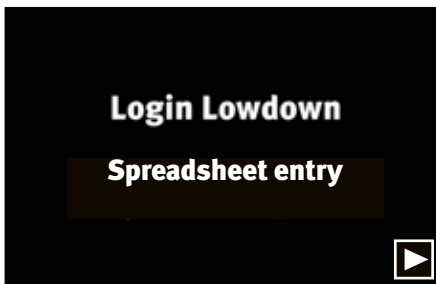
registration with transfer, calving and weaning, yearling, carcass, breeding, cow data, scrotal, feed intake, foot score, embryo transfer (ET) authorization, ET authorization transfer, electronic identification (EID) and pulmonary arterial pressure (PAP). Two of the newer features are PAP scoring and foot scoring.

Tonya Amen, Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) genetic service director, explains that high-altitude disease generally affects cattle at elevations 5,000 feet (ft.) or more above sea level. Cattle in higher elevations often have

higher blood pressure due to lower oxygen concentrations and narrower blood vessels. This increased blood pressure causes the heart to work harder and enlarge. The enlargement causes the heart valve to leak, and fluid collects in the brisket — which is why it's often called brisket disease.

An animal's susceptibility to this disease can be determined through a pulmonary arterial pressure (PAP) score, Amen says. The PAP score is the average of the systolic and diastolic blood pressure in the pulmonary artery, and a higher PAP score means higher susceptibility.

Amen explains that generally cattle with PAP scores of 40 millimeters mercury (mm Hg) and below are considered suited for high-altitude environments. PAP scores should be measured on cattle at least 1 year old that have been at an elevation of 5,000 ft. or more above sea level for at least three weeks. PAP scores can be improved through



►You can view the video about spreadsheet entry at https://youtu.be/o_ytyFFbTPA.

genetic selection. The American Angus Association is working to develop a PAP expected progeny difference (EPD), which is why the Association requests PAP scores submitted from breeders in high altitudes.

Foot scores are another new score the Association is requesting. Foot angle and claw set are two main issues with feet and legs, and breeders are asked to score each on a 9-point system, where 5 is ideal. Looking at foot angle, AGI President Dan Moser explains, the ideal to score a 5 would have a 45° angle to the pastern. Animals that are weak in the pastern, with shallow heels and long toes, would score a 9.

For claw set, the ideal to score 5 would have some space between the toes, and the toes would be straight and symmetrical, Moser notes. Toes that curl in a little would score 7 or 8, and toes that cross over each other would score a 9. Toes that spread out more would score lower on the scale.

View the video to learn how to download and submit a spreadsheet. You can click the box above in the digital replica, or view the video at https://youtu.be/o_ytyFFbTPA. For more information on PAP scores, you can read more in the “By the Numbers” column at www.angusjournal.com/articlepdf/btn%2011.13.pdf.

Foot-scoring information can be found in the “Solid Footing” article in the February issue, www.angusjournal.com/ArticlePDF/Foot-Scoring-02.15.pdf.

Data are important no matter how fast one’s Internet connection is. You can still help advance the Angus breed by submitting data through spreadsheet entry.

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