

2014 Angus Pathfinder® Report

A search for superior cows.

The Angus Pathfinder® program was started in 1978 in an effort to identify superior cows in the breed based on Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®). In identifying these superior cows, emphasis was placed on early puberty, breeding and early calving, followed by regularity of calving and above-average performance of the offspring.

While outstanding cows can be identified after their first or second calves, the Pathfinder program requires a minimum of three calves from a cow to determine her regularity of calving and ability to produce superior calves for weaning weight year after year. In addition, an important part of the report is the list of bulls that have sired five or more qualifying females.

The 2014 Angus Pathfinder Report identifies a total of 8,842 cows that have excelled in production based on AHIR records of performance. To qualify for the 2014 report, a cow must have produced a calf measured through AHIR in the past 18 months. Examined were 2,133,688 different eligible dams with 7,074,466 weaning weights in order to determine Pathfinder status. There are 1,958 members recognized in the 2014 report as owning a Pathfinder Cow.

In addition, 255 bulls that have sired a minimum of five or more Pathfinder Cows in the current listing are listed as Pathfinder Sires at the end of the report, which is available online under the Performance link at www.angus.org.

Focus on breed advantages

The program identifies Pathfinder Cows in herds actively involved in AHIR. First, the female must produce her first calf near the herd's average age for first calving. More specifically, the maximum age accepted for first calving of a Pathfinder Cow is the within-herd average for first calving plus 30 days. The within-herd average is determined separately for each herd on AHIR.

As a second criteria, the Pathfinder Cow must maintain a regular calving interval. The maximum calving interval is:

$$365 \text{ days} + \left[\frac{30 \text{ days}}{\text{Number of calving intervals}} \right]$$

Next, to qualify initially, her first three calves must post a minimum average progeny weaning weight ratio of 105. Should she fail to do this on her first three calves, she can qualify later by achieving an average progeny weaning weight ratio of 105, provided she meets the other requirements. A minimum of 10 herdmates or contemporaries must be evaluated together each year to determine the weight ratio. Additionally, her calves must be sired by registered-Angus bulls. To continue to qualify each consecutive year, the cow must produce regularly and wean a calf that helps maintain the average weaning ratio of 105 or above. It is pointed out that once a cow is designated a Pathfinder, she is always a Pathfinder, even though she might not qualify for listing each year.



Annual report

The *Pathfinder Report* is issued each spring. Outstanding females and bulls are listed in the report and, more importantly, the breeders who are keeping AHIR records of performance are identified as owners of Pathfinder Cows and Pathfinder Sires.

Studying the *Pathfinder Report* is fairly simple. An effort has been made to list important information about the Pathfinder Cow, her owner and the performance information that has qualified her as a top female. If you wish to review a Pathfinder's extended pedigree or current expected progeny differences (EPDs) and dollar values (\$Values), we invite you to use the EPD/Pedigree Lookup on the Association website (www.angus.org).

Angus breeders who have qualifying cows in the 2014 report are listed in alphabetical order. All cows in a herd that qualify are reported following the owner's name.

The qualifying Pathfinder Cow is listed along with her registration number, the number of calves she has produced and the average weaning weight ratio of her calves.

In some situations, AHIR information from two or more herds is used in determining Pathfinder status. This situation occurs when cows are transferred from one AHIR performance herd to another.

Pathfinder Sires

A significant part of the *Pathfinder Report* is the list of bulls that have sired five or more Pathfinder Cows in the current listing. These bulls excel in ability to sire daughters with early puberty and the genetic potential for milk production and growth. Obviously, some bulls in the breed have been used more extensively than others through the use of artificial insemination. Consequently, the probability of a bull's siring Pathfinder daughters increases as his use in the breed increases.

Pathfinder Sires are listed in order of the number of their qualifying Pathfinder daughters. Listed are the present owner or owners of the bull, the bull's registration number, the number of his daughters eligible for consideration for Pathfinder status, and the number of his daughters qualifying as Pathfinders in the preceding pages of the report.

For more information about the *Pathfinder Report* or AHIR, contact the Performance Programs Department at 816-383-5100.



Pathfinder Report available

The 2014 Angus Pathfinder® Report is now online at www.angus.org. Click on the Performance link. This year's report lists 8,842 individual cows and 255 sires qualifying for Pathfinder status. Search the listing online or request a printed version by calling the American Angus Association at 816-383-5100.