



The Front Gate

by Allen Moczygema, CEO, American Angus Association

Succotash

In 1980, practicing attorney and former Texas state congressman Maury Maverick began writing a Sunday editorial for the San Antonio Express-News. He often began his columns, when he planned to write about a variety of topics, with a definition of the word succotash (noun) — an American dish of corn and lima beans cooked together. He used the definition to let his readers know that his weekly column would be covering a variety of subjects. In honor of the late south Texas congressman, this month's column will do so, as well.

Single step

Not surprisingly, the release of the single-step genetic evaluation Friday, July 7, created a large amount of interest. *Angus.org* had 91,260 expected progeny difference (EPD) searches compared to 49,515 EPD searches April 8, 2016, the release date for Calibration 5. That's an increase of almost 85%. Likewise, page views increased by 20,023 for single step vs. Calibration 5. However, that's not surprising when it comes to the Association's and our members' focus on our database.

As you know by now, a number of cattle had their EPDs adjusted by the new evaluation and, in some cases, animals' percentile ranks changed, as well. Understandably, this has led to some questions by the membership.

While we all learn to fully comprehend and understand the results from the single-

step evaluation in the weeks ahead, it's important to remember that the new process represents a more accurate, effective way to generate EPDs over time. Single step will provide our breeders with the most current GE-EPDs with the most appropriate emphasis on all sources of information, and it will do so each week.

Registrations

June registrations ended strong with an increase of 2,339 (12.3%) vs. fiscal year (FY) 2016. Year to date, the strong June numbers reduced our shortfall vs. last year to less than 5,000 (1.81%), which projects to exceeding our budgeted registrations for the year. Likewise, transfers were strong, with a plus 26% variance for the month, leaving us slightly ahead (0.4%) of FY 2016.

Angus Convention

Registration opened July 1 for the National Angus Convention & Trade Show with a tremendous response. Through the first seven days of July, 336 folks registered for the Convention, which is more than all of July 2016 registrations. In addition, the trade show will be our biggest to date as exhibitors have contracted 33,200 square feet of trade show space — 5,200 more square feet than we sold in 2016. If you haven't made plans to join us in Fort Worth Nov. 4-6, you'll want to do so, as it will be our best convention yet.

Sale averages

June sales are typically light and this June was no exception, with 111 bulls and 243 females marketed. Year to date, there have been 49,945 bull sales reported, which is only slightly less than last year (50,300). The growth in sale numbers occurred with females, which total 19,154 year-to-date, an increase of 2,272 vs. FY 2016. In terms of prices, the bull average to date for FY 2017 is \$4,711, a decrease of 15.7%, while females have averaged \$4,400, down 8.4% vs. last year.

By the way, Congressman Maverick happened to be the grandson of Samuel Maverick, the south Texas rancher who stubbornly refused to brand his cattle, which ultimately gave us the word maverick in our vernacular.

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