

# ELECTRONIC STORAGE OPTION

Organize registrations through AAA Login for easy access later.

by Jerry Cassidy, American Angus Association

I've often been accused of being somewhat of a neat freak, although you couldn't tell by looking at my desk this month. A place for everything, and everything in its place, I always say. Staying organized is critical for any business-minded manager, and as you are aware, this applies to farming and ranching, as well.

So, where did I put the registration papers on those bulls?

We are all busy with the day-to-day responsibilities of life. Remembering where you filed your registration papers can sometimes be an issue. Hopefully they are in a binder neatly filed in some logical order and stored in your office. However, that is not always the case.

Just when you need information from your registration certificates, maybe to enroll in AngusLink<sup>SM</sup>,

they are nowhere to be found.

In today's world our members and commercial customers (affiliate members) have a choice. Instead of receiving registration certificates for their Angus cattle through the US Postal Service (USPS), breeders can elect to have the registration certificate stored electronically. This is an option that has been in place since 2004 and has been widely used by a growing number of members and affiliate members.

## AAA online portal

Any member or affiliate member can create their own online portal with the American Angus Association by going to [www.angusonline.org](http://www.angusonline.org) and submitting the required information. This service is provided free of charge and can be a very useful recordkeeping tool.

## Current information

Did you know the Association updates the genetic predictions known as expected progeny differences (EPDs) each week? With this weekly update, breeders have the most current information available at their fingertips to make more informed breeding decisions.

It's a huge advantage for those using Angus genetics, but it may cause a printed certificate to be less than current once issued to the buyer. Certificates that are stored electronically are always current and contain the most up-to-date information.

How do you store certificates electronically?

Simply update your current settings online through your AAA Login account.

Click on "My Herd" and hover over "Registration Certificates." Then select "Registration Certificate Storage Preference" from the pop-up menu that appears.

From here you can check the box to set your default to electronically store your registration certificates on any future registrations and transfers into your account (see Fig. 1 on page 42).

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**Fig. 1: Select electronic storage to be your default**

**REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE STORAGE PREFERENCE** HOME \* MENU HELP \*

You can choose to have your Registration Certificates stored electronically at the American Angus Association.

A checked box indicates animals will be registered but **no paper certificates will be printed**. The certificates will be stored at the Association and the animals are then eligible for Electronic Transfer.

Original paper registration certificates are required for check-in at all Angus shows. If your registrations are stored electronically at the Association you will have to get an official original registration certificate issued by the American Angus Association prior to arriving at the show.

If, at a later time, you require a paper Performance Registration Certificate for a registered animal, you may make a request for the document using the 'Request Printed Registration Paper' option.

An unchecked box indicates you will receive a printed Performance Registration Certificate.

When finished, click the Save button to save your changes.

**Electronically Stored Registration Certificates**

Your preference can be overridden in the registration process.

For registration certificates you have in-hand, simply drop them in the mail to us, and we can convert them to electronic storage for you, free of charge.

When members submit registrations, they will be printed or electronically stored according to the member's current settings. If they submit registrations online through AAA Login, each registration application will give the option to "Store Electronically: Yes or No."

### Considerations

Electronically stored certificates are eligible for online transfer and online corrections through the AAA Login portal. Remember, once an animal is transferred to another breeder, the certificate is either printed or electronically stored depending on the buyer's settings.

Also, producers can request electronically stored certificates to be printed and mailed at any time at no additional cost. One note: If a paper certificate is printed, it will be mailed to the seller according to the Association's policy, unless otherwise directed by the seller.

### Summary

Ultimately, it's up to the individual breeder's preference and what works best for your

program. If you want to have 24-hour access to your account, it might be beneficial to store those certificates electronically for access to the most current information and ease of corrections, transfers and AngusLink enrollments.

If you need a hard copy certificate for exhibition, or if you are more comfortable with handling the actual paperwork, then having printed certificates may work best for you. The same fees for registrations, corrections and transfers apply to electronically stored certificates and paper registration certificates. However, the required processing time is more efficient when the certificates are electronically stored.

For more information regarding the electronic storage option, contact the Member Services Department at 816-383-5100, or email me directly at [jcassady@angus.org](mailto:jcassady@angus.org). |

Editor's note: Jerry Cassady is director of member services for the Association. He authors a regular "Membership Tips" column in the *Angus Journal*, for which the original to this article was submitted. There are significant advantages for commercial bull buyers to use this means of storage, especially when enrolling in AngusLink or wanting to benchmark the genetic direction of your herd.