

Herd recordkeeping goes mobile



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Good recordkeeping comes with being organized, and good organization skills usually mean one has a plan in mind. Of course, the recording of accurate information doesn't go far when one can't remember where they last put down their Angus Black Book or when they last updated it.

That's one of the benefits of today's modern, technological world. You don't necessarily need to remember where you left your Black Book, as long as you can remember where you put down your cell phone. I say that to point out that the Angus Black Book is now available as a mobile application or app. Plus, it will work whether one has cell service or not.

The Angus Black Book app was built with commercial cattlemen in mind. The fonts used in the app are large, which makes it easy to read; and the screen was designed to make it easy to read in the daylight.

The new Angus Black Book app is an online recordkeeping toolbox.

Better yet, you can provide access to everyone on your cattle operation to ensure that all pertinent information is collected.

To get your mobile version of the Angus Black Book app, visit the App Store or Google Play to download Angus Black Book. Once you download the Black Book on your phone, take a minute to visit the web portal at www.angusblackbook.com.

This site will give you an overall view of the Black Book's capabilities, including how to upload cattle effortlessly via a spreadsheet for a more in-depth user experience. However, if you just want to download the app (as I did) you have that option, too.

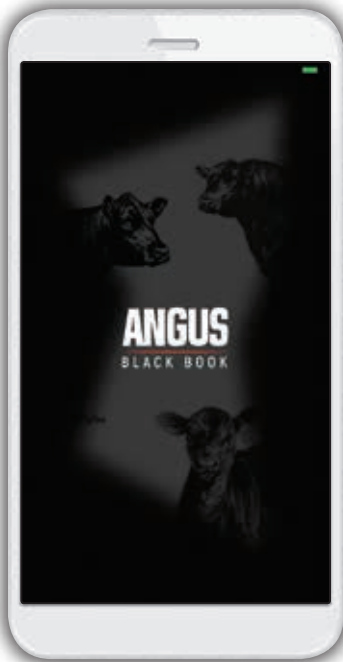
After you've completed the initial sign in, your next step will be to designate the app owner or co-owner. From there it gets personal in that you'll create your own farm or ranch. If you have more than one operation, or manage multiple operations, the Black Book has the ability to handle that, as well. You'll want to add cattle, either via the app or with a spreadsheet on the web portal.

Other features include listing pastures and having the ability to record pasture information such as fertilizer application or forage production. One other key function is that you can add users who will be able to access or input information.

While it's a mobile device, it will work without cell service as it can function offline. Once you get back to the house and have cell service again, you simply hit the Sync Now button at the bottom of your screen to upload the most recent data.

Finally, the Dashboard within the Angus Black Book has a number of important features, including Animal Search. Simply type in a registered Angus sire's name or registration number to view that animal's pedigree, expected progeny differences (EPDs) and other available data from the American Angus Association. The Operations in Progress tab keeps you up-to-date on activities that need to be completed. There's even a Calving Overview section that allows you to track all of your new calves within the Dashboard, while the web portal allows for reports to be printed or shared via email.

Finally, and maybe the most important piece of information, is that the Angus Black Book mobile app is free. This just disproves the old adage that nothing in life is free. You just have to remember where you last laid down your cell phone ... **I**



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