

AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

3201 Frederick Ave.
 Saint Joseph, MO 64506-2997
 phone: (816) 383-5100 • fax: (816) 233-9703
 home page: www.angus.org
 e-mail: angus@angus.org
 Office hours: (M-F) 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Central)

OFFICERS

Ben Eggers, president, 3939 S. Clark, Mexico, MO 65265; eggers@socket.net
 John Crouch, executive vice president, 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506; jcrouch@angus.org
 Jot Hartley, vice president, 1005 W. Canadian, Vinita, OK 74301; jot_hartley@hotmail.com
 Paul Hill, treasurer, 11503 SR 554, Bidwell, OH 45614; champion@zoomnet.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms expiring in 2006—

Al DeClerk, 3914 Engelberg Rd., Pocahontas, AR 72455; ea herd@cox-internet.com
 Joe Hampton, 2600 Back Creek Church Rd., Mount Ulla, NC 28125; rhampton@webkormer.com
 Dave Smith, 1601 N. CR 200 E., Greensburg, IN 47240; dsmith@stewartseeds.com
 Rob Thomas, 42734 Old Trail Rd., Baker City, OR 97814; thomasangus@direcway.com

Terms expiring in 2007—

Jarold Callahan, 2202 N. 11th, Yukon, OK 73099; callahan@expressranches.com
 Norman Garton, RR4, Box 153, Nevada, MO 64772; ngar2@yahoo.com
 Jay King, 28287 Woodside Dr., Rock Falls, IL 61071; svrealty@cin.net
 Richard (Dick) Tokach, 5520 CR 81, Saint Anthony, ND 58566; rctokach@westriv.com
 Phil Trowbridge, 164 Waltermire Rd., Ghent, NY 12075; phil@trowbridgefarms.com

Terms expiring in 2008—

Gregg Blythe, 3207 Old River Rd., Decatur, AL 35603; clydec7@aol.com
 Bill Davis, 34840 CR 106, Sidney, MT 59270; rolnrok@direcway.com
 Robert (Bob) Schlutz, 260 Colonel's Dr., Box 66, Columbus Junction, IA 52738; rwschlutz@aol.com
 John Schurr, 40842 Farnam Rd., Farnam, NE 69029; john@schurrtop.com
 Gordon Stucky, 421 NE 70 Ave., Kingman, KS 67068; circlesangus@direcway.com

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Executive vice president: John Crouch
 Executive administrative assistant: Diane Strahm
 Vice presidents: Finance—Richard Wilson
 Information & Data Programs—Bill Bowman
 Industry Relations—Jim Shirley

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF BY DIVISION

Finance—Milford Jenkins, director of Foundation development; Kenny Miller, assistant director of finance; Richard Wilson, director of finance
Industry Relations—James Fisher, director of activities & junior activities; Ty Groshans, assistant director of commercial programs; Sara Moyer, director of industry & member communications; Jim Shirley, director of commercial programs; Shelia Stannard, director of activity communications and event coordinator

Information & Data Programs—Lou Ann Adams, director of information systems; Bill Bowman, director of performance programs; Scott Johnson, director of Angus Information Management Software; Sally Northcutt, director of genetic research; Bryce Schumann, director of member services & office management; Carol Waller, assistant director of member services & office management

AMERICAN ANGUS AUXILIARY

President—Sharee Sankey, Council Grove, Kan.



The Angus Link

by **JIM SHIRLEY**, director of commercial programs and vice president of industry relations, American Angus Association

More than a pedigree

It's bull sale season for much of cow country, and I love it. That's right — I love bull sales. I enjoy watching different breeders' programs and seeing where they are headed. I enjoy looking at the different sire groups and seeing their progress from year to year. Most of all, I enjoy the opportunity to visit with cattlemen and help them with their bull selections. I have met some of my lifelong friends at bull sales.

However, for us in the cow-calf business, it is also a very important time of year as we make genetic decisions that will affect our businesses for years to come.

Years ago, selection of a bull was quite easy — the only criterion we used was visual appraisal. Genetic progress was very limited, but it was easy. Today it is much more difficult as we try to balance all the different traits for which we have genetic predictions [such as expected progeny differences (EPDs)] and selection tools, like American Angus Association dollar value indexes (\$Values), and then decide where to put our emphasis. The key that unlocks all of this information is the American Angus Association Performance Registration Certificate (PRC).

A Performance Registration Certificate is much more than a pedigree that merely lists ownership of an animal. It is a highly informative document that, in addition to a three-generation ancestral record (pedigree) and ownership information, provides valuable genetic predictions as to how the progeny of the animal are expected to perform — and much more.

Understanding the sections

The following is a brief explanation of an American Angus Association PRC. The information is taken from the *Breeder's Reference Guide* (see the March 2006 *Angus Journal*). The top part of the certificate (see Fig. 1), labeled as Section 1 in the example, deals with information such as the name of the animal and its registration number, sex, tattoo, breeder, and first owner.

The breeder of the animal is the owner of the dam at time the animal was conceived. The first owner is the owner of the dam when the animal was born.

EPDs are printed in the portion designated as Section 2. EPDs are predictions of how future progeny are expected to perform. Each EPD is accompanied with an accuracy value that indicates the reliability of the EPD — the higher the accuracy value, the more reliable the EPD. EPDs are grouped by production EPDs, maternal EPDs, carcass EPDs and ultrasound EPDs.

The bottom portion of Section 2 contains performance data on the individual, its progeny, and its sire and dam. The number of herds and number of progeny in the database for each of the traits are included in the information.

Section 3 shows the three-generation ancestral pedigree. An embryo transfer (ET) animal will show a plus sign (+) before its registration number. A pound sign (#) before the registration number indicates the animal is a Pathfinder — a status given to cows that have excelled

Fig. 1: Example of an American Angus Association Performance Registration Certificate

The image shows a sample of an American Angus Association Performance Registration Certificate (PRC) form. The form is divided into five sections, indicated by brackets on the left side:

- Section 1:** Registration information including the name 'SCOTCH CAP', sire 'HARDY, Douglas H', dam 'HARDY, Douglas H', sex 'Bull', and registration number '14'. It also includes a small globe icon.
- Section 2:** A large table of Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) for various traits such as Birth Weight, Weaning Weight, Yearling Weight, etc., with columns for accuracy and other metrics.
- Section 3:** A pedigree chart showing the three-generation ancestry of the animal, including sire and dam information for each generation.
- Section 4:** Transfer information, including fields for 'TRANSFER TO' and 'TRANSFER FROM'.
- Section 5:** A signature and official stamp area, featuring the signature of John K. Cronin, Executive Vice President.

in production based on Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) and bulls that have sired five or more Pathfinder daughters. Listed below the pedigree in this section is the recorded owner of a transferred animal.

Dollar values, found in Section 4, provide multi-trait comparisons, expressed in dollars per head, used to rank animals by index predictions of how future progeny are expected to perform. Weaning value (\$W) predicts the difference in future progeny for preweaning merit; feedlot value (\$F) compares bulls' progeny for postweaning merit; grid value (\$G) compares sires' offspring for carcass grid merit; and beef value (\$B) is the expected average difference of sires' progeny for postweaning performance and carcass value combined.

Section 5 is space provided for an owner to transfer the animal to a buyer.

Opportunities to add value

All this information is valuable, but there is still more. A properly transferred registration certificate is the key to opening doors to value-added marketing opportunities through the AngusSourceSM program.

AngusSource is a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Process Verified Program (PVP) that documents a minimum of 50% Angus-sired genetics, source and group age. To be eligible to supply cattle to the program, producers must have Angus-sired cattle that originate on their operation, use registered Angus bulls that are properly transferred into their ownership [provisions are made for bulls used for artificial insemination (AI) or for leased bulls], have management practices that allow for the identification of cattle that are Angus-sired, and keep calving records that document the birth date of the oldest calf.

Without the bulls being transferred, a producer cannot document that the cattle are sired by a registered Angus bull and, therefore, cattle are not eligible for the program. The AngusSource program has had to reject countless applications by commercial producers because the sires of their calves were not transferred into their ownership.

In addition to AngusSource, having bulls transferred to an affiliate member (commercial producer) also qualifies the affiliate member to two other opportunities through the Association.

1) The Association will give the affiliate a free three-year subscription to the *Angus Beef Bulletin*. The *Angus Beef Bulletin* is one of, if not *the*, best publications in the country for keeping commercial producers abreast of news in the beef industry. This award-winning publication is published five times per year and is full of informative articles on a range of subjects that affect beef producers.

2) Each year, the Association sends affiliate members updated EPDs

on all of the bulls transferred to their ownership. This allows producers to study the EPD profile of their herd bull battery. Thus, it assists them in making culling and purchasing decisions, and can be used to make complementary matings within their herds.

Many of my friends will be out buying bulls this spring, and I sure will miss not being there to visit with them and

help them with their decisions. But, I do have a word of advice for them and for all of you who will be purchasing new herd bulls: The new bull(s) you put in your herd this year will affect your breeding program for years to come and, now, the marketing of your cattle as well. The American Angus Association Performance Registration Certificate is a highly informative document that

will open value-added marketing opportunities to you.

Until that registration certificate is properly transferred into your ownership and in your possession, you have not received the full value of your bull purchase.

