

# Association Link

## **Sire Evaluation Report available**

Printed copies of the American Angus Association® *Spring 2009 Sire Evaluation Report* are now available. To request a printed report for your personal use or a

quantity to have available at your spring sale, call the Performance Programs Department or e-mail Brenda Gabriel at [bgabriel@angus.org](mailto:bgabriel@angus.org).

If you prefer to search for Angus bulls

online, the *Sire Evaluation Report* can be accessed and searched 24 hours a day, seven days a week at [www.angussiresearch.com](http://www.angussiresearch.com).



## **W designated letter for permanent ID in 2009**

International letters are designated for each year of birth for livestock identification (ID). These designated letters are an easy option to use in conjunction with numbers when permanently identifying animals. For example, W001 and W002 could designate the first two calves born into your herd in the year 2009. For more information about permanent ID and naming animals for registration, refer to the Angus Education Center at [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org).

## **Plan now to attend events in Reno**

The 2009 Western National Angus Futurity and 2009 Western Regional Junior Angus Show are approaching quickly. The events are set for April 25-27 in Reno, Nev. Activities are being planned for both juniors and adults, so make travel arrangements now.

## **Attend the World Angus Forum**

Make plans now to attend the 2009 World Angus Forum, hosted by the Canadian Angus Association. The event is slated for July 13-16 in Calgary. See a full schedule and registration information online at [www.worldangusforum.com](http://www.worldangusforum.com).

## **Scholarship applications due May 1**

Numerous undergraduate and graduate scholarships will be available this year to Angus youth through the Angus Foundation scholarship program. Applications must be postmarked on or before May 1 to be considered eligible.

Applications and instructions are available at [www.angusfoundation.org](http://www.angusfoundation.org). Please closely follow the instructions, as incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Note that there are separate applications for the NJAA/CAB scholarship and the graduate student scholarship program that is also offered through the Angus Foundation.

## **'Owner's manual' updated**

The words "please read this manual carefully before operation" used to be

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reserved for high-tech devices. Angus breeders can now provide that level of advice for bull-buying customers.

On the surface, a bull isn't as complicated as a new GPS system, but you expect the Angus bulls you buy to make you more profitable than other bulls you could have purchased. Genetics may

very well deliver that potential, but do you know how to manage after conception to raise high-quality calves for top value? CAB created the *Best Practices Manual: A Cow-Calf Guide for Targeting the Brand* to help you get the most out of your investment.



The 24-page guide offers practical, easy-to-understand and comprehensive tips on how to get the most out of Angus genetics. Commercial producers can depend on the manual's practical solutions for herd management, genetic selection, health, nutrition and calf marketing. The updated version includes new genetic recommendations using the marbling EPDs (expected progeny differences) from the *Fall 2008 Angus Sire Summary*.

More than 25,000 copies were distributed in 2008. View the online copy, section by section, at [www.cabpartners.com](http://www.cabpartners.com). Free printed copies are available in all quantities by contacting Marilyn Conley at [mconley@certifiedangusbeef.com](mailto:mconley@certifiedangusbeef.com) or 1-800-225-2333, ext. 298.

## Winning combination

Bill Robinson, manager and part owner of Highland Feeders, has specific requirements for his order-buyer. He wants cattle that are of good value, meaning they look like they will have the ability to gain efficiently. He wants cattle that have approximately the same body condition score and are about the same age, and he prefers that they have some Angus influence.

Robinson's order-buyer hit the nail on the head when he purchased a group of 79 Angus steers that qualified for the CAB 30.06 program. To be eligible, the steers had to be at least 30% CAB or Prime and have no more than 6% discount carcasses.

"The pen of steers came from about five different ranches of origin," Robinson says. "Since they were steers and they all had different backgrounding protocols, I didn't expect them to be as exceptional as they were."

The steers achieved 43.04% CAB and 1.3% Prime with nearly a quarter in the lean Yield Grade (YG) 1 or 2 columns.

It helped that the calves met his desired criteria, but Robinson says a large part of the pen's success was

the care they received in the feedyard. It didn't hurt that Mother Nature worked in their favor.

"Of course we had good bunk and pen management and proper implant and feeding schedules, but we also had really good weather during their 150 days at the yard," Robinson says.

The calves were very docile and easy to handle, even during the first few weeks at the yard, which he thinks also contributed to their productivity. And maybe these results say something about today's commercial Angus producers in general.

"I think these steers, which all

came from different ranches, were so successful because producers are making more educated breeding decisions," Robinson says. "Producers are culling more strictly and choosing their matings more carefully, and it shows."

