

Data Collection Guide

ANGUS HERD IMPROVEMENT RECORDS

At Birth

Birth Weight

- Collect within 24 hours after birth.
- Weigh with a scale in pounds.
- Contemporary group: sex, birth type (ET/non-ET), 90-day birth window and birth management code.

Calving Ease Score

- Collect at birth.
- Scores: 1 - no assistance; 2 - some assistance; 3 - mechanical assistance; 4 - cesarean assistance; 5 - abnormal delivery.
- Contemporary group: Only scores on heifers are used in the genetic evaluation, but it is helpful to track the data on all calves born in the herd for management purposes.

Teat Size & Udder Suspension

- Collect 24 hours before or after birth.
- Evaluate both the teat size and udder suspension on a scale of 1 to 9 on the combined worst quarter for both traits. Females should be given a separate score for both traits.
- Scores for Teat Size:** Consider both length and diameter. 1 - Very Large & Mishapen; 3 - Large; 5 - Intermediate; 7 - Small; 9 - Very Small.
- Scores for Udder Suspension:** 1 - Very Pendulous; 3 - Pendulous; 5 - Intermediate; 7 - Tight; 9 - Very Tight.

At Weaning

Weaning Weight

- Collect between 120-280 days of age.
- Individual weights should be recorded on the entire weaned group on the same day.
- Contemporary groups: management codes, creep vs. non-creep fed and group code (additional codes if calves are managed differently).
- *Other weaning data can be collected at the same time: docility, hip heights, scrotal circumference and pulmonary arterial pressure (PAP).*

Mature Cow Weight Data

- Taken within +/- 45 days of calf weaning date.
- Body condition score (1-9) must be recorded with weight.
- Must also record a calf weaning weight.
- *Foot Scores & Hip Height can also be taken on dams at this time.*

At Yearling

Yearling Weight

- Collect between 320-440 days of age.
- Individual weights should be recorded on the entire group on the same day.
- Contemporary group: management group code can be added. Yearling groups managed differently after weaning should be grouped as such.

Yearling Hip Height

- Measure at the same time as yearling weight is recorded.
- Height should be recorded in inches.
- Contemporary group: Management group codes.

Docility Score

- Collect at time of yearling weight.
- Scores: 1 - docile, mild disposition; 2 - restless, quieter than average; 3 - nervous, typical temperament is manageable; 4 - flighty, wild, jumpy and out of control; 5 - aggressive, added aggressive behavior; 6 - very aggressive and extremely temperamental.
- Scores should be taken while the animal is in the chute, restrained in a headgate, but without having motion restricted by squeeze.

Scrotal Circumference

- Collect between 320-440 days of age.
- Does not need to be collected at same time as yearling weight or hip height, but does need to be recorded within the yearling window. Measured in centimeters.

Ultrasound Data

- Collect on bulls between 320-440 days of age, heifers 320-460 days and steers 320-480 days.
- Must have weaning weight reported.
- Contemporary group: Weaning group plus management group codes.

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At Breeding

Breeding Data

- Collect on heifers and/or cows
- Record all AI service sires and dates, or pasture exposed sires and dates.
- Report pregnancy check data, if available.

More Data, Better Insights

Carcass Data

- Calves can be out of commercial dams but need to be sire identified.
- At least five animals from two different sires need to be in a contemporary group to be eligible for the National Cattle Evaluation.

Feed Intake Data

- Collect between 160-480 days of age with a minimum of five animals in the contemporary group.
- Must be a minimum of 35 days on test, with additional days for warm-up period.
- Weaning and yearling weights must be recorded, along with in and out weights.

Foot Scoring

- Can be taken at yearling age or older.
- Cattle should be scored independently on claw set and foot angle on the combined worst foot. All cattle in a group should be scored by the same person.
- Refer to scoring guide for 1 - 9 score examples for both foot angle and claw set.
- Scores must be submitted with a diet type: 0 - Unknown; 1 - 0% concentrate; 2 - Less than 50% concentrate or 3 - Greater than 50% concentrate.

Hair Shed

- Cattle must be at least 320 days of age and can be scored yearly in April, May or June. Score when there is the most variability in shed-off among the herd.
- Scores: 5 - 0% shed - full winter coat; 4 - 25% shed, lost winter coat around head and neck; 3 - 50% shed, lost hair along top line; 2 - 75% shed, remaining hair on flank and belly; 1 - 100% shed out.

How to Submit

- AHIR® offers two ways to submit data: Individually or through Inventory Reporting
- Data can be submitted using: AAA Login, Association Excel spreadsheets, AIMS, other herd management software or paper forms.
- It is best to submit records once data has been collected on an entire group.

Scoring Guides & More

AHIR® offers both digital and printed scoring guides as well as videos to make collecting and submitting data easier. All resources can be found at angus.org/ahir.

Scan For Resources

