

# American Angus Association<sup>®</sup>

## Hair Shedding Scoring Guide

### TRAIT DESCRIPTION GUIDELINES

- Early summer hair shedding is an indicator trait for heat tolerance and tolerance to fescue toxicosis.
- Score between mid-April to mid-June or when hair shedding is in progress.
- 1-5 visual appraisal scale, where 5 is a full winter coat, and 1 is completely slick. While there is some variability in shedding patterns between individuals, cattle tend to shed from front to back and top to bottom.

### SCORING TIPS

- Score cattle when there is the most variability in shed-off, which depends partly upon location (north vs. south).
- Aim to score cattle on the same day or within a few days of each other.
- Cattle should be at least yearlings when hair shedding scores are recorded.
- Ideally, record hair shedding scores every year on the whole herd.



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**Score 5**

0% shed – full winter coat



**Score 4**

25% shed – lost winter coat around head and neck



**Score 3**

50% shed – lost hair along topline and farther down brisket compared to a 4



**Score 2**

75% shed – only holding hair on flanks and around belly



**Score 1**

100% shed out – no remaining winter coat

*\*\*Photographs courtesy of Dr. Trent Smith, Mississippi State University*

Visit AAA Login at [Angus.org](http://Angus.org) to submit scores. Call the American Angus Association® team at 816-383-5100 with questions.

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