

Angus Herd Improvement Records

DATA COLLECTION GUIDE

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

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

Yearling Weight

- Collect between 320-440 days of age
- Individual weights should be recorded on the entire group on the same day
- Contemporary group: weaning group + additional group codes

Foot Score

- Can be taken at yearling age window or older
- Scores can be collected for foot angle and claw set by scoring the combined worst foot for both traits
- Animals can be scored annually and used in the evaluation
- Score on a 1-9 scale

Ultrasound Data

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

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 national cattle evaluation
- Contemporary group: sex, group code, and harvest date

Mature Cow Weight Data

- Taken within +/- 45 days of calf weaning date
- Body condition score (1-9) must also be recorded
- Must record a calf weaning weight
- Cow hip heights are optional

Disposal Code

- Collect when animal leaves the herd, either culled or death
- Can select a more detailed reason within a main category
- Disposal date is required

Calving Ease Score

- Collect score at birth
- Scores: 1 - no assistance; 2 - some assistance; 3 - mechanical assistance; 4 - cesarean assistance; 5 - abnormal delivery
- Only heifer calving ease scores are used for genetic evaluation
- It is still good to record and track mature cows to ensure no problems occur

Weaning Weight

- Collect between 120-280 days of age
- Individual weights should be recorded on the entire weaned group on the same day
- Contemporary group: birth group + weigh date, management code, and group code (additional codes if calves managed differently)

Yearling Hip Height

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

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 age window

Feed Intake Data

- Collect at 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

Docility Score

- Collect 320-440 days of age
- 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 as the animals exit the chute

Teat & Udder Score

- Collect scores on dam within 24 hours of calving
- Score both traits on combined worst quarter
- Score both teat size and udder suspension on a 1-9 scale

Hair Shedding Score

- Can be collected at yearling age window or older
- Animals can be scored annually and used in the evaluation
- Collect scores when there is variation in the animals, usually late spring
- Score on a 1-5 scale