



Glossary

Cattle Terms

Accuracy (ACC) – Value indicating how reliable EPDs are for predicting actual progeny differences. Younger animals will have low ACC values. These values may change as progeny data becomes available.

Adjusted weaning weight (WW) – Actual weaning weight adjusted to 205 days of age and to mature dam equivalent.

Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) – A comprehensive program that provides breeders, who enroll and submit performances measures, with decision-support tools from which to make better, more informed breeding decisions.

Artificial Insemination (AI) – Implanting semen into the reproductive tract of a cow, by a means other than natural service by a bull.

Average daily gain (ADG) – Weight gain for a specified period of time divided by the number of days in that period.

Birth weight (BW) – Actual weight of calf within 24 hours of birth. Expressed in pounds.

Blocking chute – A metal or aluminum structure with a headgate used to restrain animal when fitting or clipping.

Blower – An electric unit used to dry an animal or to blow out dirt before fitting.

Body condition score (BCS) – A score on a scale of one to nine, reflecting the amount of fat reserves in a cow's body, where one equals very thin, and nine equals extremely fat.

Calving – The process of giving birth to a calf, also known as parturition.

Certified Angus Beef (CAB) LLC – The American Angus Association's branded-beef program that identifies animals meeting live and carcass specifications from harvest through retail.

Clippers – Metal blades installed on clippers used for shearing animals. There are various brands and sizes for different types of hair.

Commercial – Animals or herds that are not registered.

Crossbred – A breeding program that involves the mating of at least two different breeds.

Curry comb – A type of comb used to remove mud and other dirt from an animal's hair coat.

Expected progeny differences (EPDs) – An estimate of how future progeny are expected to perform in several traits. EPDs are expressed in units of measure for the trait, either plus or minus, and are only comparable within the same breed.

Fill – The appearance of fullness.

Flat-head clippers – Clippers used to shear the head and belly of an animal (closer clipping).

Frame score – A value determined by hip-height and age.

Gestation – pregnancy; the period a cow carries a developing calf in her uterus, usually nine months.

Hair-conditioning polish - A spray-on product used to set hair and resists stains and dust. Sometimes referred as Show Sheen.

Halter – Nylon halter available in a variety of colors. Halters are used on a daily basis when working with show cattle.

Health certificate or health paper – A certificate of health provided by a veterinarian upon the completion of a physical examination of the animal. Required to haul the animal out-of-state.

Heat – Estrus; Regularly occurring period of ovulation (occurs every 18-24 days in cattle) and the best time for breeding.

Lactation – The production of milk by a cow; begins after calving and concludes after weaning.

Neck rope – Nylon ropes used to keep animals evenly spaced in stalls and acts as a second halter to restrain animal if halter becomes untied or slips off.

Parturition – The process of giving birth to a calf, also known as calving.

Polled – Naturally hornless cattle.

Purebred – An animal whose sire and dam are of the same breed.

Quality Grade – Prime, Choice, Select, Standard, Utility, Cutter and Canner are the various USDA Quality Grades; maturity and marbling are the two factors which determine them; the quality grade reflects the eating quality of the beef – tenderness, juiciness and flavor.

Ratio – Expression of an animal's individual performance relative to the contemporary group average for any trait. Ratios are methods of ranking among contemporaries; where 100 is average; 9.9 or less is below average; and 100.1 or greater is above average for a particular trait.

Ration – An allotted amount of food that provides the animals with necessary ingredients for maximum growth and efficiency.

Registered – An animal recorded in the herd book, in its respective breed association.

Registration paper – A certificate proving an animal is registered; contains animal's name, registration number, owner, pedigree, and any available performance information, including EPDs and \$Value indexes.

Rotational crossbreeding – A breeding schematic in which a sire will be used in a two-or-three-breed rotational system where the females are bred to the breed contributing the smallest portion of genes.

Seedstock – Registered or commercial breeding stock.

Scotch comb – Available with wooden or aluminum handles used to comb hair into place.

Sheep-head clippers – A type of clipper used in body clipping an animal.

Showbox – Wooden, aluminum or galvanized boxes used to store show products and other tools needed at a show.

Show halter – A leather halter used only when showing an animal.

Tattoo – An identification method that is placed in the ear, and helps breeders and the American Angus Association maintain accurate parentage and production records of Angus cattle. Tattoos should be the same in each ear, and should match the animal's registration paper.

Terminal crossbreeding – A management scenario in which a sire will be used in a breeding program where no females will be kept for replacements. Emphasis should be placed on growth and carcass traits.

Weaning – Withholding a calf from its mother, and substituting other nourishment for the mother's milk.

Weight per day of age (WDA) – Weight of an individual divided by days of age.

Yearling weight (YW) – Weight taken at 365 days of age to track performance with maternal influence excluded. Expressed in pounds.

Yield Grade – Reflects the percentage of closely trimmed retail cuts from the round, loin, rib and chuck; yield grades are one through five; with one representing the highest percentage of lean cuts, and five representing the lowest.