

The Angus Connection

January 2025

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Association
www.vaangus.com

A Letter From Your President...

Scott Bennett



As farmers and cattlemen, we never have a shortage of things to do- it could be chores on the farm, herd paperwork, managing an upcoming sale, or planning for the future calf crop – one is constantly busy in this occupation. That being said, I hope your 2025 is off to a great start! Many people approach each new year as an opportunity to hit the refresh button, to change what didn't work last year and try to improve for the coming year. While I agree, I find that the New Year's celebrations offers me an opportunity to reflect on what happened the year prior. To me, what's worth accomplishing something if you don't take the time to enjoy or learn from it? We often set forth to accomplish a goal, but then once accomplished, don't take the time to reflect on the meaning of why we hoped to accomplish it in the first place! It's when we find the time to reflect, that we truly receive the reward of our hard work. I hope each of you takes time to reflect on all you accomplished in 2024.

If I were to practice that exercise for Virginia Angus, we would have a lot to celebrate from 2024. We had a successful Breeder's Show last month

that was the ultimate showcase of our youth and enthusiasm for the Angus breed, which is always a breath of fresh air for me. We enjoyed the bounty of a strong cattle market and increased demand for the genetics we produce. As an Association, we received our first grant from the Virginia Cattle Industry Board, and look to execute that in 2025. It is also in this time of reflection that I say thank you to our membership for entrusting me as your President. I would like to thank our Board of Directors for their time and involvement. I look forward to 2025 and the things that it will bring our Association and our breed.

To the future, I look forward to seeing you all next month in Lynchburg for our annual meeting on February 22nd. I'm excited to have our Secretary of Agriculture Matt Lohr; Mario Ferruzzi, the newly appointed Dean of the College of Agriculture from Virginia Tech; and Brandon Reeves, Executive Director of Virginia Cattlemen's Association on a panel to discuss the future of agriculture in Virginia. To each of you and your family, I hope 2025 is a prosperous year!

The Science Behind the Sizzle: CAB Producer Trip - Applications open 1/21!

Join Virginia Angus as they travel to Certified Angus Beef in Wooster, Ohio with 10 Virginia Cattle Producers and 5 Virginia Chefs for an immersive experience. Thanks to a grant funded by the Virginia Cattle Industry Board, this trip offers attendees with a deeper understanding of the beef industry, supply chain, and an understanding behind the marketing tactics at CAB. Attendees will learn about the research

and development involved with growing consumer beef demand, as well as meeting consumer demands surrounding sustainability and animal welfare.

Attendees will travel to Wooster on Sunday May, 18th. Monday the 19th will be a full day at the Culinary Center for a one-of-a-kind experience. Stops along the way will include a local Angus farm, CAB Meat Lab & Test Kitchen, and

ending with a stop to see finished CAB products in stores all the while learning the science and specifications behind what makes this beef the best!

The application link & trip itinerary can be found on our website, vaangus.org under the membership tab or by reaching out to Stefanie at vaangus1933@gmail.com. Applications open on 1/21 and are due by 3/1/2025.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...



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Virginia Angus Association 2025 Membership Form

644 Greenville Ave #220, Staunton, VA 24401

Email: VAAngus1933@Gmail.com

Please check the box next to which type of membership you would like to have:

- Category I Commercial Breeders \$50.00
- Category II Purebred Breeders \$100.00
- Category III Sustaining Membership – No Cattle \$50.00
- Category IV Farm & Ranch Membership* \$250.00
(Joint memberships for up to 3 households)
- Add Virginia Cattlemen’s Association Affiliate Membership +\$30.00
((\$20 savings when joining through VAA))

- If your contact info is the same as last year, check this box, sign and return with payment.**

Otherwise, complete the following, sign and return with payment.

*Name: _____

Farm: _____ County: _____

*Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

*Farm Address (If different from mailing): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Cell: _____ American Angus Member Code: _____

2025 Sale/Event Dates: _____

Signature: _____

Virginia Angus Annual Meeting & Awards

Saturday, February 22nd 2025

The Virginian Hotel, Lynchburg VA

Agenda

Virginia Angus Membership Business Meeting	2:00 pm
Industry Panel Discussion	3:00 pm
Virginia Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry - Matthew Lohr	
Virginia Tech, Dean College of Agriculture & Life Sciences - Dr. Mario Ferruzzi	
Virginia Cattlemen's Association, Executive Director - Brandon Reeves	
Panel discussion moderated by Virginia Angus President, Scott Bennett	
Cocktail Hour & Social	4:30 pm
Handbook & Semen Auction	6:00 pm
Dinner & Award Banquet	6:30 pm

After dinner drinks available at Skyline Rooftop Bar or William & Henry Steakhouse. Both located within the Virginian Hotel.



Why No EPDs?

By Levi Landers, Director of Field & Member Services

Now is the time to make sure all pertinent information is entered into the system, so when it comes time to promote your sale offering, everything is complete and accurate. The week before your sale date is not the time.

One of the most frequently asked questions to the Member Services team is, "Why does my animal have no expected progeny differences (EPDs)?" There can be a multitude of reasons, but it can usually be solved by looking into the animal further with one of our dedicated Member Services team members.

The obvious first step would be to make sure the animal is registered. EPDs are provided as a service to American Angus Association members and their respective customers for registered animals.

Once registered, a very common reason the EPD boxes remain empty might be that there has been no performance or phenotypic measurement submitted on the animal. For most traditional traits, collecting and submitting phenotypic measurements such as birth and weaning weights on all your animals in proper contemporary groups is the easiest fix to generate

EPDs.

Whether or not the animal's parents have true EPDs will also play a role, as it might be an issue with parent-average EPDs. Parent-average EPDs are also referred to as Interim EPDs, and only require the sire and dam to possess true EPDs. Interim EPDs can be calculated on animals that have registered parents, but may be missing necessary information to provide a true EPD.

Another common reason your animal may not have EPD boxes filled in might be because the calf is alone in a contemporary group. This is common among those producers with a limited number of animals available on their farm or ranch.

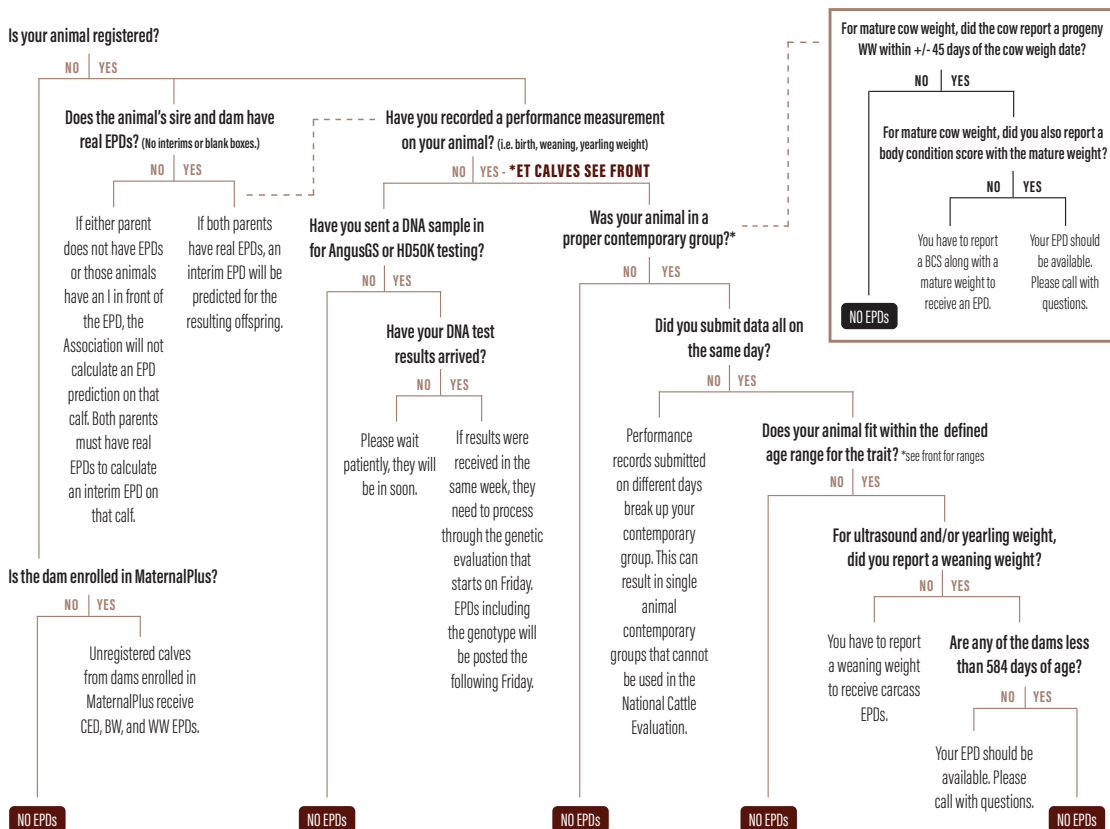
These small groups may fail to meet the requirements of a proper contemporary group simply because only one bull or heifer was born within the required age window. Other contemporary grouping issues could be related to data submission dates, acceptable age ranges for that trait, etc. Embryo transfer (ET) calves receive a random sample of their genes, half from the sire and half from the donor dam. The recipient female that carries and subsequently raises and

weans the ET calf contributes only the environment. Conversely, the donor dam contributes only genetic effects, with no contributions to the maternal environment.

By tracking the contributions of the registered Angus recipient's pedigree, the maternal genetic components of the evaluation models can be accounted for. Therefore, ET calves from registered Angus recipient dams allow the potential for the calf's own performance record to be used in EPD calculations.

An exception to this includes ultrasound information submitted on an individual ET animal from an unregistered/commercial recipient dam submitted in a proper contemporary group alongside other animals with unregistered/commercial recipient dams. To accurately include performance data on ET calves, it is necessary to characterize the effect the recipient female has had on calf performance.

Having animals registered with empty EPD boxes remains one of the most frequent questions within the Member Services department. Your Association staff has created a very useful flow chart to better explain why your animal may not have EPDs.



NATURAL BORN CALVES

Use the flowchart on the back to help you find out why your animal may not have EPDs.

*EMBRYO TRANSFER CALVES

Have you recorded a performance measurement on your animal? (i.e. birth, weaning, yearling weight)?

- Conventional embryo transplant calves from **non-registered recipient dams** are not eligible for their performance measurements (birth, weaning, and yearling weights) to enter the National Cattle Evaluation (NCE) and affect their EPDs.
- Conventional embryo transplant calves from **registered recipient dams** are eligible for their performance measurements to enter the NCE and affect their EPDs.
- Embryo transplant IVF calves are not eligible for their performance measurements (birth, weaning, and yearling weights) to enter the NCE and affect their EPDs.

NOTES

* **Proper Contemporary Groups** | Two or more animals of the same sex born within a 90-day window under the same management conditions. DMI and PAP are exceptions to this rule where a minimum of five animals is required.

* If a contemporary group only includes flush mates, their EPDs will remain as interims until genomic testing is completed on the animal or the calf becomes a parent animal and their progeny has performance data entered that meets NCE requirements or genomic testing is completed.

TRAIT	AGE RANGES
Birth Weight	Born Within 90 Days
Weaning Weight	120-280 Days
Yearling Weight	320-440 Days
Carcass Ultrasound	Bulls: 320-440 Days Heifers: 320-460 Days Steers: 320-480 Days



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Save the Date

Miller Farm, LLC and Friends
Angus Production Sale

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

*Rockingham County Fairgrounds
Harrisonburg, VA at 6:00 p.m.*




Miller Farm, LLC

5510 Rawley Pike
Rockingham, VA 22801
Email: CNKCFARM@COMCAST.NET
Craig Miller: 540-820-9818
Brennan Miller: 540-383-4211

www.MillerGustinAngus.com

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GIFT Sale Nominations Open February 1st!

The 36th Annual Genetic Investment Sale will take place Thursday April 17, 2025 in conjunction with Virginia Beef Expo at Rockingham County Fairgrounds. Again this year, we will be using a formal nomination process to

accept entries into the sale. Nominations will open on February 1st and will be due no later than March 7th. Nomination forms can be obtained at the Annual Membership meeting in February or on the Virginia Angus website, vaangus.org

under the GIFT Sale tab. For specific nomination or entry questions, reach out to Sale Management, Dave Mullins, at 371-503-2798 or dmauctioneer@gmail.com.

Have a consignment?

The deadline to consign in the
2025 GIFT Sale is March 7th!

Sale Date:

Thursday, April 17 2025 . noon

Virginia Beef Expo, Rockingham County Fairgrounds

Formal nomination form required. Visit vaangus.org for more information

Carroll County Cooperative, Inc.

Hillsville Branch
P.O. Box 98, 505 E. Stuart Drive
Hillsville, VA 24343
(276) 728-2912

Wytheville Branch
1055 Industry Road
Wytheville, VA 24382
(276) 228-3401

Galax Branch
201 Meadow Street
Galax, VA 24333
(276) 236-2181

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ANGUS		Retail	30	50	100
29AN2064	IDENTIFIED	\$35	\$32	\$28	\$25
29AN2093	PATRIARCH	\$35	\$32	\$28	\$25
29AN2099	FIREBALL	\$35	\$32	\$28	\$25
29AN2144	TRUE NORTH	\$30	\$25	\$22	\$20
29AN2218	DYNAMIC	\$30	\$25	\$22	\$20
29AN2221	COMSTOCK	\$25	\$22	\$20	\$18
29AN2249	REPUBLIC	\$25	\$22	\$20	\$18
29AN2255	JAMESON	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40
29AN2256	TRUE GRIT	\$25	\$22	\$20	\$18
29AN2267	SURPASS	\$30	\$26	\$24	\$22
29AN2272	WHITWATER	\$35	\$32	\$28	\$25
29AN2275	BLACK BANDOLIER	\$30	\$25	\$22	\$20
29AN2303	GROUND BREAKER	\$40	\$36	\$33	\$30
29AN2312	HALLMARK	\$35	\$32	\$28	\$25
29AN2319	VALIDATION	\$40	\$36	\$33	\$30
29AN2311	PROMOTION	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40
237AN3891	MAJORITY	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40
529AN2218	DYNAMIC ♂	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35
529AN2221	COMSTOCK ♂	\$40	\$36	\$33	\$30
529AN2275	BLACK BANDOLIER ♂	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35
629AN2064	IDENTIFIED ♀	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40
629AN2093	PATRIARCH ♀	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35
629AN2099	FIREBALL ♀	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40
629AN2144	TRUE NORTH ♀	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35
629AN2218	DYNAMIC ♀	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35
629AN2221	COMSTOCK ♀	\$40	\$36	\$33	\$30
629AN2230	KING PIN ♀	\$80	\$70	\$65	\$60
629AN2255	JAMESON ♀	\$100	\$80	\$70	\$60
629AN2311	PROMOTION ♀	\$100	\$80	\$70	\$60
629AN2312	HALLMARK ♀	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35

As the days grow cooler, seize the opportunity to enhance your breeding program with our BEEF FALL SPECIAL! Maximize the potential of next year's calf crop with the industry's best genetics, technology, and expert support!

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Sales Team Lead – Virginia & The Carolinas
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VAA Breeders Show Recap

The 62nd Annual Virginia Angus Breeder Show & 4th Annual RSVP Jackpot were held December 14 & 15th in Harrisonburg Virginia. Since the return to the Rockingham County Fairgrounds in 2022, this event has continued to grow! We were pleased to welcome over 175 exhibitors from Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, Delaware, Pennsylvania & New York. Judges Jacob Wolfrey, MD, Dr. Scott Greiner, VA, and Taylor Harrison, WV sorted 114 Junior Breeder & Open Show entries, 130 heifers, 101 steers and 125 showmanship participants.

Congratulations to the winners of the traveling awards:

David Reed Memorial Award | Top Virginia Showman: Carrter Eavers

Robert W “Woody” Thomas Memorial Award | Virginia Junior Breeder with most points: Madison Stratton

The Joseph Smith Memorial Award | Virginia Junior Exhibitor with the most points: Madison Stratton

William “Bill” Hale Memorial Award | Virginia Junior Supreme Champion: Rylee Stratton

Kathryn M. Roberts Challenge Memorial Award | One Bull One Female From Virginia: Madison Stratton

John Pyne Memorial Award | Virginia Grand Champion Bull: Madison Stratton

The Guenter Buse Memorial Award | Virginia Grand Champion Female: Rylee Stratton

The Ellen F. Ruddock Memorial Award | Virginia Supreme Champion: Sarah Craun

2024 Show Dedication: Mark Duffell

This Show and the annual Gun & Cash raffle continue to be thing biggest annual fundraiser for the Association and the Board of Directors would like to extend a sincere thank you to the planning committee for all their work!

Photos from the event can be viewed at purchased at MandyRooker.Smugmug.com.

Lazy Beef Lasagna

RECIPE COURTESY OF: BEEF IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER

Ingredients

- 1-1/2 pounds Ground Beef (93% lean or leaner)
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 jar (26 ounces) prepared pasta or marinara sauce
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 1 package (20 to 25 ounces) refrigerated or frozen cheese ravioli
- 1 cup shredded Italian cheese blend

Preparation Instructions

1. Heat oven to 400°F. Heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Add Ground Beef and garlic; cook 8 to 10 minutes, breaking into 3/4-inch crumbles and stirring occasionally. Remove from skillet with slotted spoon; pour off drippings and return beef to skillet.
2. Stir in salt, nutmeg and pepper; mix well. Stir in pasta sauce and water; bring to a boil. Cook 1 to 2 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Coat 13 x 9-inch glass baking dish with cooking spray. Layer half the ravioli, half the beef mixture and half the cheese. Repeat with remaining ravioli, beef mixture and cheese; cover with aluminum foil. Bake in 400°F oven 15 minutes (20 minutes if using frozen ravioli). Uncover; continue baking 15 to 20 minutes or until sauce is bubbly and pasta is tender.
4. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.



AUDLEY ANGUS

FEATURED DONORS

HPCA Sure Fire S6



*18424079

Sire: GAR Sure Fire

Dam: HPCA Ingenuity A372

Vintage Henrietta Pride 5010



+*18066031

Sire: VAR Discovery 2240

Dam: PF CC&& Henrietta Pride 1044

Riverbend Rita G164



+*19436727

Sire: Bar R Jet Black 5063

Dam: Gabriel 8T05 Discovery 6050

ANNUAL FEMALE SALE • THIRD SATURDAY IN MAY

AUDLEY ANGUS

752 Audley Lane • Berryville, VA 22611

General Manager - Turner Kobayashi

Angus Manager - Matthew Deacon 540-460-6926

deacon@audleyfarm.com • www.audleyfarm.com

Virginia Angus Association

644 Greenville Ave #220
Staunton, VA 24401
vaangus1933@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

February 22	VAA Annual Meeting
March 7-8	MAJAC
March 22	BCIA Southwest Performance Tested Bull Sale
March 28	Miller Farm LLC & Friends Angus Production Sale
April 4	Pratt Cattle Company Spring Turnout Bull Sale
April 5	MC Livestock Spring Bull Sale
April 12	Knoll Crest Spring Bull & Female Sale
April 16-19	VA Beef Expo
April 17	VAA GIFT Sale at the VA Beef Expo
May 3	Whitestone Farm Bull & Female Sale
June 19-22	Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show