Getting the Most from Your Angus Outcross Genetics

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Throughout the history of RAAA, Angus have been described by traits of economic relevance, not by hide color; therefore, black Angus animals can be registered in RAAA. This coupled with the fact that RAAA allows Angus genetics, black and red, originating from outside the United States (e.g. Canada) to be used and registered in RAAA has provided members with a unique opportunity to create outcross genetics through the use of foreign Angus animals.

In the past, the road to developing these outcross genetics has been traveled with blurred vision as the black Angus genetics have not been described with RAAA EPDs. This is no longer the case! Since 2002, RAAA has teamed with Canadian Angus Association (CAA) by combining our datasets to produce EPDs; therefore, EPDs on CAA registered Red Angus animals can be directly compared against RAAA EPDs. Additionally, with the recent increase of producers using black Angus genetics we now have a significant amount of data to calculate RAAA EPDs on those non-RAAA registered black Angus animals. Producers can now implement these EPDs in their mating decisions to more accurately develop cattle that meet their production and marketing goals.

To access EPDs on the non-RAAA registered animals simply use the EPD Parameter Search located on the RAAA website: RedAngus.org or access the EPD Parameter Search directly at search.redangus.org/epd Note: the EPD Parameter Search for Foreign Angus Sires is limited to those sires with at least a 50 WW ACC, and Foreign Angus Dams with at least a 30 WW ACC. Once you have entered your EPD criteria, select Foreign Angus Sires or Foreign Angus Dams in the Animal Type drop down menu (Figure 1). Place your computer mouse pointer on the question mark box next to "Animal Type" to view a definition of the categories within the Animal Type drop down menu. (Figure 2). Once you click Search the animals meeting your EPD parameters will be returned (Figure 3). In the returned list of animals their registration number will be prefixed with either CAN (registered with CAA) or UAN (registered with AAA). To view detailed information on a specific Foreign Angus animal, including their pedigree, click on the animal's registration number.

Figure 1.

Figure 2.

Figure 3.

11 Foreign Angus Sires Returned.

Reg#	Name	Grps	Daug	CED	BW	W
Birthdate		Prog	AProg	Acc	Acc	A
UAN:11356568	G A R SLEEP EASY 1009	39	66	10	-0.9	
08/11/1989		51	3	80	83	
UAN:11520398	G A R PRECISION 1680	1	49	11	1.5	
09/06/1990		1	2	77	78	
UAN:12396365	ROCKN D AMBUSH 1531	42	51	11	0.7	
01/01/1995		52	2	78	81	
UAN:12493607	C A FUTURE DIRECTION 5321	347	268	21	-1.0	
02/16/1995		528	2	90	93	
UAN:13044574	BON VIEW NEW DESIGN 208	31	14	16	-1.7	
02/09/1998		46	1	61	76	
UAN:13514608	STEVENSON EXPEDITION 859K	89	57	13	-2.1	
01/21/2000		314	2	78	86	
CAN:1069003	RED DWAJO GLADIATOR 32L	62	45	8	-3.1	
02/01/2001		163	2	75	84	
CAN:1091663	BRIDGEHAVEN ON THE ROCKS 68M	15	6	8	2.5	
01/13/2002		35	2	44	68	
CAN:1107619	LORENZ FUTURE DIRECTION 19M	16	8	9	5.7	
02/13/2002		78	1	51	74	
CAN:1181371	JUSTAMERE MIDLAND 308N	9	3	8	0.4	
02/13/2003		18	0	40	63	
CAN:1240477	STANDARD HILL PAYOFF 20P	16	0	23	-4.3	
01/20/2004		69	0	47	75	

In addition to the EPD Parameter Search, you can also view EPDs on Foreign Angus animals through pedigrees located on the RAAA web-site. To accomplish this, simply click on the registration number of a Foreign Angus animal within a pedigree (Figure 4). Pedigrees can be accessed through the EPD Parameter Search or Animal Search. Note: In this scenario, EPDs will only be displayed on Foreign Angus Animals with at least a 20 WW ACC.

Figure 4.
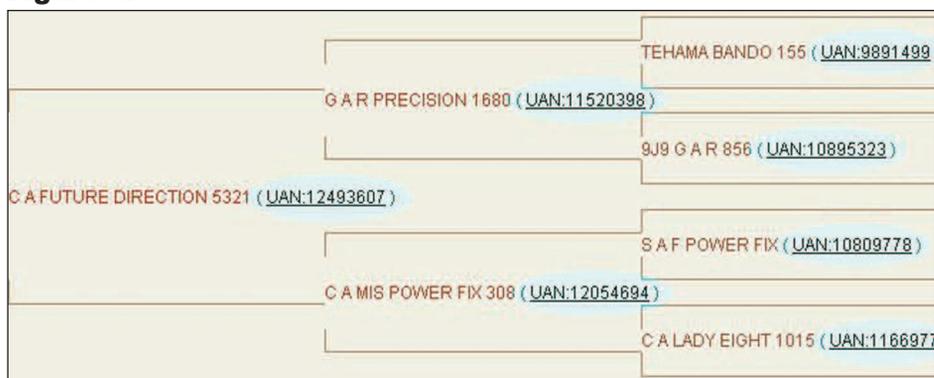
One of the major functions of RAAA is providing producers with infor-mation which can be implemented in making sound mating decisions. The above improvements are a step in the right direction; however, we have not reached the top of the staircase. Currently, RAAA staff is working on programming that will allow producers to directly search for Foreign Angus animals through the Animal Search. Keep an eye on the RAAA website for future improvements. ■