108-Lancaster Farming, Saturday, November 3, 1979





# Angus breeders use

## production data

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. - Angus breeders increased their use of individual cattle performance records by 5.5% during the 1979 fiscal year, reports Dr. C. K. Allen, executive vice-president of the American Angus Association.

During the year a record 120,739 weaning and yearling weights were reported to the Association and processed in the Angus Herd Improvement Records program, compared with 114,739 a year earlier.

The number of weaning weights reported totals of 84,563, an increase of 3,497 over a year ago. The most significant increase was in yearling weights, said Dick Spader, director of performance programs for the Association.

"During the year breeders reported 36,176 yearling weights, which are probably the most effective single production measurement they can use to use improve their herd," Spader said.

The number of members participating in the AHIR program increased by nearly 8%. During 1979, 1,870 members of the Association reported yearling and weaning weights.

The AHIR production measure program has made steady, continuous growth since it was started in 1960. In its first three years of existence only 7,178 weights were reported.

By 1965, the annual total

had increased to nearly 13,000 weights. Growth continued to over 58,000 weights recorded in 1970 and to the current record 120,739 in 1979.

In 1977, 121,559 weights were actually added to the AHIR program but these included some 13,000 back weights that were transferred from a large privately owned herd's records to the AHIR program.

A plan that will cut paper work for Angus breeders and make it more convenient for them to participate in the AHIR program will be initiated during 1980 reports Dick Spader.

All breeders who record cattle during the year will be supplied with a weaning report form. This form will list all the cows in the herd and the information on the calves they have recorded.

Using this form, breeders may record weaning weights of the calves they have registered without having to write out any additional information.

Also, on this weaning report form, breeders may register additional calves from the cows listed without having to fill out a separate registration form.

The plan will make it easier for breeders who have never participated in the AHIR program, to get started and to report weaning weights simply and accurately, Spader said.



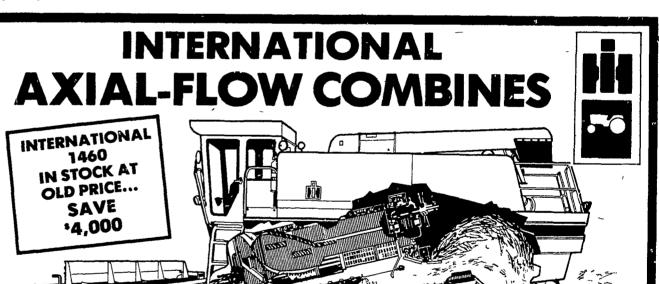


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