

Angus Association Develops Centralized Ultrasound Processing For Carcass Information

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — The American Angus Association, headquartered here, is on the leading edge of developing new ways to use ultrasound measurements in their carcass expected progeny differences (EPDs). A two-year research program, part of the Association's long-range goals, is part of a project with Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

The American Angus Association Centralized Ultrasound Processing (AAACUP) is a program that will allow Angus producers to obtain and utilize carcass EPDs from live animals. The ultrasound images will be scanned by specially trained participating technicians, and interpreted by one staff of highly trained technicians in the central laboratory. This system offers producers an alternative method of obtaining carcass

EPDs for live yearling cattle and their parents without going through the conventional harvest process.

The AAACUP lab at Iowa State began accepting ultrasound images in January 1998. In the lab, a lab manager and a select group of trained interpreting technicians evaluate the images for quality assurance, and interpret them for 12th/13th rib fat thickness, rib-eye area, rump fat thickness and percent intramuscular fat.

"As we prepare to enter the 21st century, we must be prepared to embrace change if change is needed," said John Crouch, director of performance programs with the American Angus Association. "The inclusion of ultrasound technology in evaluating live animals for carcass merit is a change that is greatly needed. Not only will it enhance current technology, it will allow our industry to more quickly identify seedstock with the genetic ability to improve carcass characteristics."

Since January, images from more than 7,000 Angus yearling

bulls, replacement heifers, and feedlot cattle have been processed by AAACUP. Once the images are interpreted, the data is merged with barn-sheet information from the Association and electronically submitted to the Association. The Association adjusts the data to age contestants, and contemporary group ratios are calculated. The information is finally submitted back to the breeder. The process normally happens within seven days from the time the animals are scanned.

"Our goal is to provide ultrasound data collected on yearling seedstock that will allow for the calculation and utilization of EPDs for carcass traits from these ultrasound measurements," said Craig Hays, AAACUP laboratory director at Iowa State.

Producers will be able to obtain a separate set of EPDs from the ultrasound for ribeye area, rib fat thickness, rump fat thickness and percent marbling in the fall of 1999. The EPDs will be calculated only on sires whose progeny are scanned in

1999; however, the 1998 data will be used to strengthen contemporary groups and improve accuracy.

In an effort to maintain uniformity, only images that are scanned by trained technicians are accepted by AAACUP. In September, a training workshop was conducted at Iowa State to train and qualify technicians. According to Crouch, 39 people participated in the training. Once they are accepted into the program, they sign a contract with the Association. The technicians are requalified on an annual basis.

A list of participating technicians is available by contacting Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) Department at the Association or Craig Hays at Iowa State's centralized processing lab. There is no cost to the producer, other than the ultrasound technician's fees.

For more information on AAACUP, contact Crouch at the American Angus Association at (816) 383-5100, or access the Association's website at www.angus.org.

Nine More Pa. Counties Eligible For Disaster Aid

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Gov. Tom Ridge announced that farmers in nine additional counties will be eligible to receive disaster aid for damage to their farms because of severe storms and excessive rain in late May and early June.

Family farmers in Bradford, Erie, McKean, Pike, Potter, Susquehanna, Tioga, Warren, and Wayne counties are eligible because they are contiguous to New York counties that have been named as primary disaster areas.

Farmers in these counties join those in 27 other Pennsylvania counties declared eligible at the request of Gov. Ridge because of severe storms, tornados, and flooding. The request was made as part of the Presidential declaration for relief, June 3.

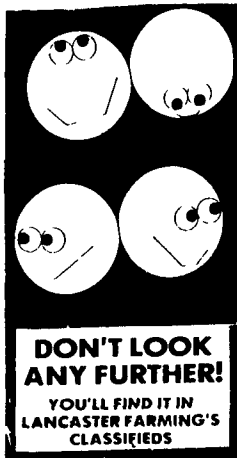
Eligible family farmers can apply for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans.

"It's been a difficult growing season for farmers affected by severe weather, and this official declaration will offer some relief," Ridge said.

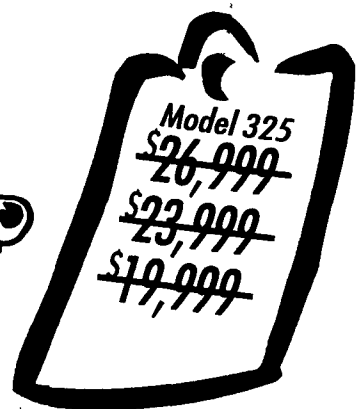
Eligible counties in Pennsylvania announced previously this year were Allegheny, Beaver, Berks, Pike, Somerset, Susquehanna, and Wyoming. The contiguous counties also named to receive assistance were Armstrong, Bedford, Bradford, Butler, Cambria, Chester, Fayette, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lawrence, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Washington, Wayne, and Westmoreland.

Since Erie, McKean, and Warren counties were named as contiguous counties on July 7 under the original presidential disaster declaration for the same disaster, the termination date for accepting Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loan applications for physical and production losses will remain March 8, 1999.

For counties not previously named for the same disaster, the termination date for accepting FSA emergency loan applications for physical and production losses will be March 22, 1999. The current interest rate is 3.75 percent.



The COW PLEASER



Limited Edition Turbo-4™ TMR Mixers

- Prices Slashed!!!
- 2 Great Finance Options!!!
- 1. We make your first 4 lease payments...OR Expires 12 31 98
- 2. No payments till May, 1999. THEN...low rate financing option with interest free early buyout option.

Choose Badger Farm Systems for the best value in TMR mixing equipment. Innovative designs, superb "fit and finish", built-in quality and design strength make it a "best buy". Unique 4 auger design mixes feed in all directions, and can be filled fuller than other units.

4 auger mixing, low profile loading, unloads into 40 in. bunk, high volume discharge, 325 or 450 cu. ft.

Toll Free 888-322-3437



View the complete line at www.millerstn.com

ZIMMERMAN

125 King Court/
Hollander Rd.
New Holland, PA 17557
(717) 354-9611

Contact Us For
Literature Or
The Dealer
Nearest You!

WELL BALANCED, RUGGEDLY BUILT FOR MANY YEARS OF TROUBLE FREE SERVICE

380 SERIES
PORTABLE ELEVATORS

A Versatile Economical Elevator For Bales and Ear Corn

880 SERIES
BALE ELEVATOR AND
MOW CONVEYOR

A Full Line Of Exhaust Fans

Including Efficient Belt Drive Units With Housing & Shutter
24", 30", 36", and 48"

390 Series
ROLL-A-WAY
CONVEYOR

Useful For Conveying Ear Corn, Bulk Feeds, Small Grains, Silage or Manure

ZIMMERMAN CUSTOM BUILT UTILITY TRAILERS

RT SERIES

FRT SERIES

RT and FRT Series Trailers Available In 5000# thru 12,000# GVW
We Also Build Other Models, Sizes, and Capacities. Call For Information