

## Hay & Cows

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animal fat produced on lespedeza is white whereas all other legumes that contribute to animal fat is yellowish in color. In the old days in southern Indiana many farmers fattened cattle for the many small packers of the area on lespedeza pasture and a limited amount of grain.

When it is necessary to supplement my hay creep with grain, a mix of soyhulls and corn gluten meal has worked well for my calves. It is a high energy palatable feed of about 16 percent protein and is a safe feed with no bloat or going off feed problem.

An often overlooked fact is that marbling and muscling are antagonistic traits. When extra selection emphasis is placed on IMF and it is increased then muscle is decreased and the ratio of red meat in the carcass is decreased. I mean no disrespect to the Limousin breed and breeders, but those cattle are woefully lacking in marbling, but they are tremendous in their amount of muscle. In contrast, the Jersey breed is extremely well marbled, but does not have enough muscle in its hind end to sit down on. I sometimes wonder what we want our Angus cattle to resemble as we vacillate from one single trait selection to another, that leads from one extreme to another. I have written this monthly column for over 20 years and have strived to keep my personal feeling and beliefs to a minimum. But once in awhile and I hope you will forgive me for occasional relapses and I get on my soap box. I believe that the Angus breed is strongest when it sticks to the middle of the road, especially with the economic

traits that count the most. Those traits are reasonable calving ease, and not little bitty calves that start life at 50 and 60 pounds, but a strong lively calf big enough to face mother nature at its worst. That should be our number one goal. Secondly, this calf should have lots of natural growth potential between its birth and the feed lot. When grain prices are high the shorter the stay in the feed lot to reach its potential slaughter grade the more economical it becomes.

The Angus breed has always been noted for their carcass traits but pushing too far in the direction of more and more marbling at the expense of muscle expansion and less and less body fat and natural covering seems short sighted. Eventually there will be a mother cow of the same description that becomes a poor keeper when she faces tough environmental conditions. And I might as well say my say about cow size, weight and frame. Of course I don't believe that one cow size fits all. In the areas where it takes anywhere from 20 to 100 acres of grass to support one cow unit of course a smaller cow is desirable. But the bulk of the beef cows are not located in that environment. Most of the cow numbers are located in much better environmental conditions than those of the spartan conditions where a 900 pound cow with not a lot of milk in her system is considered just right. We don't need the norm Angus cow to be a 4 to 5 frame, 900 pound belt buckle ornament, with a low milk EPD, but unfortunately we seem to be headed in that direction.

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See you in Lu'veille.

HNW 



## Value-added Calves Made Easy

*AngusSource® continues to advance with improvements to the program.*

For the past six years, nearly 2,000 producers enrolled in AngusSource have had the opportunity to capture premiums — as high as \$35 — with value-added calves through age and source verification. Confidence in the program has grown, with the addition of Gateway, increasing enrollments 97.7% in June 2011.

AngusSource functions through the American Angus Association® as a USDA process-verified program (PVP) that documents source, group age and a minimum of 50% Angus genetics.

A second-tier program of AngusSource, Gateway offers a cost-effective option for producers wishing to verify only the source and age of their calves, without the Angus-sired requirement. The AngusSource Feedyard Umbrella offers additional PVP coverage to feedyards and farmer feeders.

AngusSource strives to provide an avenue for as many producers as possible to market their calves as age- and source-verified. To accomplish this in an ever-changing industry, AngusSource is continuing to advance with improvements to the program.

### Enrollment Forms

An updated enrollment form will increase the efficiency of information submitted and help producers capture the value of their Angus-sired feeder calves and replacement females. The form, AngusSource/Gateway Enrollment Form/Agreement (ENR 200/300), will allow producers to compile information including the number of females exposed, females who have calved and live calf numbers, in advance.

AngusSource staff will continue to verify cow, bull and calf

numbers as well as discuss management practices, calving methods and other information about the operation with the producer.

### Program Changes

The ENR 200/300 form will also include an affidavit stating the information provided is true and correct. This means producers only need to provide registration numbers instead of receipts for semen, and leased or purchased bred females.

AngusSource will continue to require breeding records, including registration numbers of all bulls used. This includes bulls already bred to purchased females, as well as owned and leased bulls.

The more records there are, the more calves AngusSource can potentially enroll. Producers should document events that are of risk to expelling calves from the program. Events may include exposure to an alternative bull or other cattle and artificial insemination to another breed.

For more information or to enroll in the AngusSource, Gateway or Feedyard Umbrella programs, call 816-383-5100 or visit [www.angus.org/angusource](http://www.angus.org/angusource).

*The American Angus Association is the nation's largest beef breed organization, serving nearly 30,000 members across the United States and Canada. It provides programs and services to farmers, ranchers and others who rely on the power of Angus to produce quality genetics for the beef industry and quality beef for consumers.*

*For more information about Angus cattle and the American Angus Association's programs and services, visit [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org)*