

## **LIMS – Limousin Inventory Management System**

Beginning with the 2006 calf crop, active members will have the option of conducting business using LIMS – a new web-based Limousin Inventory Management System.

Different than the current model for conducting business with NALF, members choosing the LIMS option will pay an annual fee of \$15 per active cow each year and in turn will be granted the entitlement to record performance and register and transfer that year's calf crop. Currently, the least costly registration (\$15 for 0 to 120 days) and transfer (\$12 for 0 to 60 days from sale) is \$27 per animal.

LIMS provides members and the association a number of benefits, from incentive to capture unbiased, complete performance and reproductive information for more reliable genetic predictions to a simplified and often lower cost way of conducting business for members. LIMS will also help NALF more accurately predict revenue for budgeting, planning and prioritizing programs for the association.

The following LIMS specifications were recently approved by the board:

- LIMS will adhere to Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) guidelines for inventory-based breed association recording.
- There will be an annual \$15 per cow LIMS assessment on all females (registered, unrecorded and foundation) that are 16 months of age and older at time of assessment. There will be no annual LIMS assessment on bulls.
- In order for NALF to capture critical productivity information, LIMS cows must have either a calf record or a reason code for no calf reported on an annual basis. Cows removed from inventory must have a disposal code reported. Members managing their inventories for the first time are not required to account for cow productivity during the years prior to first-time LIMS participation.
- Payment of LIMS cow assessment entitles calf born in that inventory year to be registered and transferred (limited to first transfer of calf). Regular transfer fees will apply for females over 24 months of age and males over 30 months of age at time of transfer (i.e., sale date).
- The annual assessment on LIMS cows used as donor dams will cover the registration and transfer of the first calf—whether natural or ET—out of the cow that year. Normal ET registration and transfer rates will apply to ET calves out of non-LIMS donor cows. DNA parentage testing requirements and fees will apply to any ET calf, regardless of donor's LIMS status.
- The annual assessment on LIMS cows used as recipient dams will cover the registration and transfer of the first ET calf out of the cow that year. Normal ET

registration and transfer rates will apply to ET calves out of non-LIMS recipient cows. DNA parentage testing requirements and fees will apply to any ET calf, regardless of recipient's LIMS status.

- LIMS participants will be required to flag potential donor and recipient cows on their annual inventories. Donor dams who are dead may be placed on member inventories by assigning the “dead used as donor” code.
- Partnership cows will be the responsibility of the primary owner of the cow. The primary owner is defined as the partner associated with the address on file for the partnership. Leased cows will be the responsibility of the owner on file of the cow. Changes to partnership and leased cow responsibilities may be arranged by contacting the NALF office.
- Transfer fees still apply to offspring of non-inventory cows.
- Transfer fees will not be discounted for LIMS bull calves that are transferred after being listed in the Limousin Exchange Bull Listing Service.
- LIMS is optional for active NALF members. It is not an option for inactive members.
- LIMS is only available via web through electronic management of inventory information. LIMS will not be available via paper or non-electronic submission of inventory information.
- Members wishing to alternate between LIMS in one year and non-LIMS in another will be required to pay annual assessments for all cows in each of the previous non-LIMS production years as well as provide calf data or reason codes for all cows in each of those years.
- If a member decides to participate in LIMS for a given year, that member will be responsible for paying all annual assessments incurred, whether the member disperses during that year or decides for some other reason to participate no longer. NALF will not refund assessments paid by these members.
- The entitlement to register and transfer calves out of LIMS-assessed cows will accompany the cow's transfer to the new owner.
- Calves from non-LIMS cows sold to LIMS members are registered and transferred at member rates during the years in which no assessment was collected on the dam.
- LIMS calendar will include separate spring and fall calving schedule of inventory management events and billing.

- For members with both spring and fall calving herds, both herds must be either LIMS or non-LIMS (cannot have one season on LIMS and the other season not on LIMS).
- In early January (spring calving herds) and early June (fall calving herds), active members with email addresses on file with NALF will be emailed links to their current cow and replacement female inventory (see ages specified above) for updating.
- In mid-February (spring calving herds) and mid-July (fall calving herds) active members must electronically enroll and provide updated cow inventories to NALF with all changes, additions and corrections. This establishes the active inventory of cows for progeny recording, registration, transfer and assessment.
- To help ensure complete productivity information from all cows every year, after initial enrollment, a \$45 per cow reinstatement fee will be assessed to change cows from inactive to active status. There is no reinstatement fee for bulls. There will be no discounted rates for cow reinstatement.
- In early November (spring) and early March (fall), member must respond to the “no progeny application report”. In mid-February (spring) and mid-July (fall), cows designated as active, but with no progeny or a reason code for no progeny reported during the previous year, will be flagged as inactive and removed from active inventory by NALF. Inactive cows are ineligible to have progeny reported and registered unless reinstated through later report of progeny or a reason code for no progeny.
- To ensure that active inventories accurately reflect incoming replacement heifers, in mid-May (spring) and mid-November (fall), NALF will send email link to member’s existing yearling heifer inventory for designation of retained and disposed heifers, exposure information, breeding season dates and grouping information. Returned information is optional and due back by mid-August (spring) and mid-February (fall).
- Billing will occur in two equal installments based on the member’s inventory submitted in mid-February (spring herds) and mid-July (fall herds). NALF will mail invoices for the first installment on April 1 (spring) and October 1 (fall) and for the second installment on October 1 (spring) and April 1 (fall). Payment will be due at the end of the month billed--on April 30 for April 1 invoices and on October 31 for October 1 invoices.
- LIMS members with 10 or fewer cows on their inventory will not be billed in two equal installments, but will be billed only one time in full. NALF will mail invoices to these members on April 1 (spring) and on October 1 (fall). Payment will be due on April 30 (spring) and on October 31 (fall).

- As long as the LIMS participant is a member in good standing with NALF, NALF will release the member's paperwork before the member has paid in full for all annual cow assessments.
- Failure to pay an invoice within 45 days will result in interest being charged to the member's account at the rate of 1½% per month. Failure to pay an invoice within 6 months will result in a letter be sent by NALF to the member explaining the consequences of non-payment, including an additional penalty of \$3 per cow to remain in the LIMS program. If a member does not pay the April invoice and penalty by January 1 of the following year or the October invoice and penalty by July 1 of the following year, the member and his or her inventoried cows will be removed from the LIMS program.

NALF members are encouraged to watch for additional information about LIMS in the Limousin World and the NALF Partners e-newsletter. LIMS represents an exciting opportunity for many members to lower their costs of doing business with NALF, and at the same time contribute more complete and comprehensive productivity information to better position the breed for improvement in the years ahead.