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NALF News

Herds Continue to Join LIMS

Active North American Limousin Foundation (NALF) members may conduct business using the Web-based Limousin Inventory Management System (LIMS). Participants pay an annual fee of \$15 per active cow and, in turn, can record, register and transfer her calf for that birth year. That is a \$12 per calf savings compared to the least expensive registration and transfer fees.



LIMS participants are the only members who are Certified Performance Herds. LIMS participants contribute more complete and comprehensive production information that leads to better expected progeny differences (EPDs).

To enroll for fall 2011, call the NALF office before the July 15 deadline.

Breed Improvement Depends on Measurement

Use NALF's online recording tools for free, preprinted forms for timely reporting of birth, weaning and yearling data. Take the time to enter this spring's yearling data; and include all heifers (not just those selected for replacements), yearling bulls and steers.

Commercial cattle producers want information about breed composition; color; polled status; EPDs, including accuracies, percentile rankings and breed averages; birth, weaning and yearling weights; frame scores; scrotal circumferences; carcass and ultrasound data with ratios; and feeding-test results. Reporting data to NALF helps your organization help you meet customer expectations.

The deadline to submit data for the next International Limousin Genetic Evaluation is June 15.

Plan Ahead for Successful Contemporary Groupings

A contemporary group includes calves of the same sex and percentage-blood category—born within 90 days of one another—that you managed together. Designate birth, weaning and

yearling management codes when submitting performance data so NALF can form accurate contemporary groups that will contribute to reliable EPDs.

Weigh and evaluate all calves in a weaning group on the same day, when the youngest calf is at least 160 days old and the oldest calf is not older than 250 days. Take yearling weights and other yearling information at least 140 days after weaning and when the animals are between 330 and 450 days of age.

Find more tips in the "Successful Performance Program" section of the sire summary, which is in the "Genetic Evaluation" section of the NALF website.

Marketing in '13 Starts Now

As you make breeding decisions, think about NALF's breed-improvement directives birth weight, growth, grade, docility and fertility and your customers' wants and needs in 2013. The key to successful bull marketing down the road is maximizing the number of like-aged calves from truly superior sires that complement the cows to which you mate them. With fullblood, purebred and Lim-Flex® genetic options available, there are more ways to serve customers than ever.

Transfers Facilitate Commercial Programs

Transfers are the lifeblood of NALF's commercial programs. They provide NALF with contact information so it can keep breed information in front of Limousin users throughout the year. Several marketing options, including the Strauss Free Raised® veal and Laura's Lean Beef (LLB) programs, also depend upon properly transferred bulls. Submit your transfers in a timely fashion so NALF can add value to your seedstock sales.

When transferring animals, be sure to include the buyers' full names and addresses. Complete information guarantees your customers receive breed information and ensures NALF can process the transfers correctly.

AVERAGE EPDS 2008-2010 BORN CALVES													
CE Direct	Birth Weight	Weaning Weight	Yearling Weight	Milking Ability	CE Maternal	Scrotal Circum.	Stayability	Docility	Carcass Weight	Ribeye Area	Yield Grade	Marbling Score	\$MTI
7.5	2.0	43.4	80.3	21.2	3.7	0.4	0.0	16.8	20.8	0.54	-0.11	-0.05	43.2

North American Limousin Foundation

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Office hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. MST.

Helpful Hints for Expediting Polled, Color Tests

To ensure you receive results for color and polled tests as quickly as possible, follow a few simple instructions.

- Provide your complete name and member number on the sample-submission forms. When submitting sample to Genity, be sure to use the Limousin-branded form that is available on the NALF website.
 - Use the complete registration number and tattoo exactly as they appear on NALF paperwork.
 - Print all information clearly.
- Breeders should allow at least three weeks for the whole process of sample submission, testing and reporting.

Remember ET Requirements

Breeders must sire-verify donor dams via DNA before embryo-transfer (ET) calves can be parent-verified and registered. When completing the form to register ET calves, you must include the DNA case numbers for the sire and dam. You can find those on the NALF website using the pedigree and EPD lookup, or contact the NALF office.

Recipient-cow information is required for ET calves to qualify to be in contemporary groups. A recipient's identification (ID), breed codes and birth year must be on the ET application for registration. Flush dates and transfer dates must be supplied and don't forget to have embryo transfers if are not the owner of the donor cow.

Don't Wait to Get Papers

If you need registration papers for a show, call the NALF office at least one week beforehand so staff members can make the necessary arrangements.

MOE Petitions, Judges Nominations Due Next Month

State and regional Limousin associations can petition NALF for permission to host a Medal of Excellence (MOE) show. Petition forms, updated rules and judges lists are available on the website. If there is a local or state show you

would like counted for MOE points, submit the petition form by June 15. Be sure the show utilizes the updated 2011 rules.

Active annual and lifetime members can submit nominations for the approved-judges list until June 30. Mail, fax or e-mail them to the NALF office. Provide your member number or herd prefix and the nominee's address and phone number.

Montana to Host BIF Conference

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) annual meeting is North America's leading forum for discussing genetic evaluation and improvement, and NALF encourages its members to attend. This year's event will be in Bozeman, Montana, June 1-4. Visit www.beefimprovement.org/convention.html on the web for information about registration and the program.

Photo Contest Update

NALJA is proud to announce the expansion of the Adult photo contest held at the National Junior Limousin Show and Congress. The revamped contest features five categories including: at the Ranch/Scenic, at the Ranch/People, kids and cattle, just cattle and anything but the ranch.

Entries are open to all members and cost \$5 each. Entry fees will be jackpotted for each category with 75 percent going to first and 25 percent going to second. Members not attending the NJLS&C are encouraged to participate by submitting their photos to the NALF office by June 15. Please see page six of the Summer 2011 NALJA News located in the Juniors section of the NALF website for complete rules. The goal of the contest is to build the Limousin story through photos.

The year-letter code for 2011 is



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Director of

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AVERAGE EPDS 2008-2010 BORN LIM-FLEX CALVES

CE Direct	Birth Weight	Weaning Weight	Yearling Weight	Milking Ability	CE Maternal	Scrotal Circum.	Stayability	Docility	Carcass Weight	Ribeye Area	Yield Grade	Marbling Score	\$MTI
8.4	0.0	46.2	89.8	25.7	2.9	0.4	0.0	13.7	27.4	-0.13	0.35	0.36	55.4