

NC Angus Association

NC Angus Association Elite Heifer Program

Program Eligibility

Any person wishing to qualify Angus heifers in the NC Angus Association Heifer Programs must be a member in good standing of the NC Angus Association and American Angus Association.

1. Ownership

Heifers must be registered with the American Angus Association and tattooed or branded with the number listed on the registration paper. Heifers must be owned by a NC Angus Association member in order to sell in a sanctioned NC Angus Association sale. The Elite Heifer Program is meant for sales managed by the NC Angus Association only and is not available for private sales. Effective January 1, 2018, owners of submitted heifers must be active members of the NC Beef Quality Assurance certification program.

2. Prebreeding evaluation

A prebreeding reproductive evaluation is required for all heifers by an accredited veterinarian. Individual animal identification, pelvic area and reproductive tract score is required. It is strongly encouraged that prebreeding exams be performed 6 weeks prior to breeding. Heifers must have a minimum pelvic measurement of 150 cm² and a minimum reproductive tract score of a 3 out of 5. Heifers with a pelvic area less than 150 cm² at prebreeding may be re-measured at the initial pregnancy exam within 90 days from the start of the breeding season and must have a minimum pelvic area of 180 cm² at this examination. (see Sale Eligibility Requirements, Section 8)

3. Minimum Vaccination Requirements

- a. *Weaning:* Heifers must be vaccinated and boosted for IBR, BVD, PI 3, BRSV, leptospirosis (5-way), and 7-way clostridia. Heifers must be 5 months of age or older at time of vaccinations. Follow label directions for all products used. Again all heifers must have an initial vaccination followed by a booster.
- b. *Heifers are required to have a Brucellosis (Bangs) vaccination in accordance with state and federal laws.* (Effective January 1, 2018).
- c. *Prebreeding:* To maximize protection against reproductive loss, vaccinations against BVD, IBR, and Leptospirosis (5-way) must be given between 60 and 30 days prior to breeding. Modified live viral vaccines for IBR and BVD are recommended. Follow label directions for all products used.
- d. *Pregnancy Check:* A booster vaccination against Leptospirosis (5-way) is required at pregnancy examination.
- e. *Records:* Vaccinations must be recorded and presented with their dates given, full name of product used, expiration dates of products, and serial numbers. (effective January 1, 2018)

4. Pregnancy Examination

An initial pregnancy examination must be performed within 90 days from the start of the breeding season. Individual animal identification, pregnancy status and fetal age (in days) are required. Herds utilizing artificial insemination must report breeding dates. Any heifer that fails to become pregnant during, or loses a pregnancy following the original breeding season is no longer eligible for the program. All cattle who will be sold as pregnant should have the pregnancy exam conducted by a qualified veterinarian with approximate months pregnant written on the health paper. No blood pregnancy tests are allowed.

Sale Eligibility Requirements

1. *Bred Heifers Only* - We will only accept bred heifers for the Elite Heifer Program.
2. *Sire definition* - Heifers must be sired by an AI Sire registered with the American Angus Association and must be confirmed bred to an AI sire registered with the American Angus Association. AI sires are defined as bulls that are leased or semen is sold thru one of the major semen companies (ABS, Accelerated Genetics, Alta, Cattle Visions, Genex, Origen, Select Sires, Semex, or Universal). Herd sires and bulls collected by individual farms and used in an AI program do not qualify. Heifers bred by AI and cleaned up with a herd sire, must be confirmed by an accredited veterinarian with days bred written on the Health Paper. NO BLOOD TESTS WILL BE ALLOWED.
3. *Calving Dates*- Heifers must be bred such that they will calve to an AI sire before they turn 25 months old according to the due date. This is not a guarantee that they will calve before they turn 25 months old. This would make them eligible for pathfinder status in the future.
4. *Age* – heifers can be no less than 16 months of age and no more than 24 months of age on sale date.
5. *AHIR data* – eligible heifers are required to have AHIR data submitted to the American Angus Association including: birth, weaning, yearling weights and yearling height (height submission is required for all sales effective January 1, 2018). AHIR data must be turned into the sale committee prior to the sale. Heifers must have a weaning ratio and a yearling ratio at 100 or higher. Heifers must have an adjusted yearling frame score of 5.0 to a 7.0.
6. *Genomics*- eligible heifers are required to have a i50k test, HD50K test, GGPFD, or a GGPLD tests submitted with results available prior to the sale. Genomic data must be turned into the sale committee prior to the sale.
7. *Genetic abnormalities* – all heifers must be negative for both AM, NH, CA, and DD.
8. *Pelvic measurements* – Pelvic rechecks are to be done at pregnancy check, and cannot be done more than twice in the heifer's life to qualify for sale.
9. *Pregnancy* – The initial pregnancy exam must be performed within 90 days of the AI date by an accredited veterinarian. A confirmatory pregnancy examination must be performed within 30 days prior to sale by an accredited veterinarian. NO BLOOD TEST ARE PERMITTED. The consignor guarantees bred heifers to be safe in calf at the time of sale. If a heifer is proven by veterinary exam within 30 days after sale not to have been pregnant, the consignor will replace the heifer or make a financial settlement with the buyer. Heifers in individual sale lots are grouped to calve within approximately 45 days of each other based on expected calving dates.
10. *Parasite Control* – All heifers must be treated for internal and external parasites within 30 days of the sale. Products for internal parasite control must have a label claim for immature stages of the parasite life cycle. (Examples include Cydectin, Dectomax, Eprinex, Ivomec, or Longrange). No generics allowed.
11. *Blemishes* – Heifers with active Pinkeye or Pinkeye scars are not eligible for sale. Heifers with active ringworm or warts are also ineligible for sale. Heifers with excessive white on their belly that does not comply with the requirements of the American Angus Association are ineligible for sale.

12. *Weight and body condition* – Bred heifers on the day of the sale must weight a minimum of 800 pounds and receive a body condition score within a range of 5 through 8 on a 9 point scale.
13. *Frame Score* – Heifers must have a minimum frame score of 5.0 and a maximum of a 7.0.
14. *Foot Score*- Heifers should be between a 3 and a 6 for foot angle and claw set and should have never been trimmed.
15. *Inspection of heifers* – Heifers will be evaluated prior to sale by a member or group of members defined by the sale committee for muscle and body condition. All heifers must meet a minimum adjusted yearling frame score of “Medium” (5.0-7.0), and a muscling score of average. The selection committee will also evaluate AHIR records, vaccination records, veterinary records and any other information required to make sure the heifers qualify. All decisions made by the selection committee are final and are not subject to debate.

Certification

Only heifers that meet the requirements listed on this sheet with will be eligible to receive certification. Misrepresentation, false advertisement or use of the NC Elite Heifer or NC Select Heifer trademarks and logos for heifers that do not meet the aforementioned requirements is subject to penalty.

Checklist for NC Angus Association Elite Heifer Program:

- Are you a current member in good standing with the NC Angus Association and the American Angus Association?
- Are you a current member of the NC BQA certification program? (effective January 1, 2018)
- Is your heifer sired by an AI sire and confirmed pregnant to an AI sire with a due date before it turns 25 months old?
- Did your heifer meet the minimum reproductive tract score and pelvic measurement as defined?
- Have you submitted birth weights, weaning weights, yearling weights, and yearling heights to AHIR?
- Are your weaning and yearling ratios 100 or higher for your heifer?
- Is your adjusted yearling frame score between 5.0 and 7.0 according to the American Angus Association AHIR records?
- Have you submitted DNA for either a i50K, HD50K, GGPHD, or GGPLD test?
- Is your heifer free for all known genetic defects?
- Has your heifer met all of the weaning, yearling and presale vaccination and deworming requirements?
- Is your heifer between a body condition score of 5-8?
- Does your heifer meet the foot score requirements and has never been trimmed?
- Is your heifer free of blemishes?