Angus Information Management Software — 3.0

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I register my animals electronically?
Yes, but maybe not in the way you think. The information to register an animal is entered into AIMS and then a short submit data or export file process that creates a file with the appropriately formatted information. That file is then transmitted to the Association, either by Data Upload and then you finish checking out your cart as you do on AAA Login or as an email attachment.

Can I transfer online?
Yes, you can Register and Transfer new calves via Data Update or the export file process once the information has been entered into your AIMS. If an animal's registration is stored electronically (i.e. a registration paper was not printed), you can also submit a transfer via Data Upload or creating an export file to transfer those animals to a new owner(s).

How do I put AI sires into the database?
They can either be manually entered through the Add new animal process, or you can email, fax or call in a list of registration numbers and we will send back a file to import into the software. The cost to get the data from the Association is $1.00 per head for owned cattle and $2.00 per non-owned with a $15.00 minimum. In addition to the requested animal, breeders receive the animals that make up its three-generation pedigree.

Do you have a file that I can import into the software for my ultrasound?
Yes, the process starts with a request from you by either Submit Data or creating an export files for the animals – where we return a file to download and process or by sending as an email attachment to import the ultrasound data and adjusted values.

How do I do the simulated breeding?
Both the dam and the sire must be on your database with Actual EPDs in order for this process to work. Go to the Breeding tab, click on the Simulated Breeding button and highlight the dam that you want to use. Put in the criteria that you want the calves to meet, and then click the selected sires to see the resulting calf EPDs. A pen of sires can be used, or you can compare to the National Sire Evaluation (NSE) database.

Can I pull animals from the NSE report into my database?
No. The animals that are in the NSE portion of the AIMS Database cannot be moved or copied over to the animals in your AIMS Database. Due to differences in the number and size of fields between the two databases, this is not yet possible. You can manually add those animals by doing File \ New \ Animal or you can send a list of the registration numbers to the AIMS Support Staff and they can request an Additional Animals file that you can import into your AIMS. See question "*How do I put AI sires into the database*" in this document.

What's the proper procedure for entering ET records?
Actually, this is beyond the scope of this short document, but it is covered in the Help file. The key is to start at the very beginning of the ET process – breeding the donor cow – and then enter *every* step. If you follow the complete process, it actually works quite well. In the Help File you can use the ET Data Entry Example and follow steps 1-7.

What are the computer hardware requirements?
In today's world of computers, they are actually quite reasonable. In general, AIMS will run under Windows 7(Service Pack 1), Windows 8, and Windows 10— if you have a relatively new computer, it will work. An Internet connection is *not* required, but it makes sending and receiving update files much easier

How much is the software?
$495. Yes, some people feel this is expensive, especially for smaller herds, but we compare very favorably to other comparably featured software products. Other cattle record management programs can cost less, but often leave out certain features to compensate; ours is the same price for the full version.

I only have a few head of cattle, can you sell it to me for less than $495; or is there a smaller version for smaller breeders?
Just like the Association's membership demographics, 70% of AIMS users own 10 head or less. Any size herd can benefit from AIMS and it would be very difficult to administer a variable price or variable size program.

Can I add commercial/non-registered animals?
Yes, you can add as many other animals as you want, simply by using the Add New Animal process.

What instructional material is available?
The Help file is solely based on a printed manual and although we don't include a printed manual, the file is online and can be downloaded from the AIMS Page. There is also a Quick Tip How To document you can download or view online.

What kind of support is available?
We offer free phone support for AIMS; you pay for the call, we pay for the support. This is available during normal Association business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., M-F, CST). The phone number is 816-383-5100 or you can email us at aims@angus.org.

What about upgrades to the software in the future? Will they cost anything?
Yes, there will be upgrades, but potential costs depend on the complexity of the upgrade as well as the wishes of the Association's Board of Directors. History shows that upgrades have been very reasonable in cost, and often free. You will be notified with an email that an upgrade is available that you can download through your AAA login.

Is the software easy to use?
For most people, it is very easy, especially if you have experience with the Windows environment. Like any software program, there are those that think it is hard to use, but that usually means they are used to a different herd management program or they are scared of computers to the point it prevents them from wanting to learn the software. The key is to learn AIMS in small pieces; don't try to learn the whole thing the first week. Rome wasn't built in a day, software can't be learned in a day either.

How do I get updated EPDs back on my herd?
Since EPDs are ran on a weekly basis you can use the File \ Export \ Web EPD Request Owned option Submitting Data. You will receive an email that the file is ready to process using the Data Download feature. This will update the animals you own at no charge. Another method is to go through the Export process to create a request file. It will contain *all* of the animals in your database, including ancestral animals. Send the file to the Association and we return a file that you will import. This will update all owned animals, the dam and sire of owned animals and progeny of owned cows if they are in your database for a flat $15; if you wish to also update the non-owned animals, it is $1.00 per head.

What's the best feature of the software?
That's really a hard question to answer. Certainly a key feature is the quick access to animal information. The tab concept for accessing each animal in AIMS makes it easy and quick to go from an animal's weaning information directly to yearling, or calving, or breeding, etc. Some users would rank the simulated breeding as the best feature. Another user stated that the ability to name animals simply by clicking on the sire and dam's names (i.e. not use the keyboard at all) is the best feature. You can also export the 'All Views' to excel, cvs, txt or html format to open into another program and modify the data for your personal needs. Another great feature is the ability to electronically exchange information with the Association via data upload and download. But maybe the best overall reason is the stability of the American Angus Association. Many software packages have come and gone, but by having the support of the Association, it is virtually guaranteed that users will always have a way to get support for the AIMS software package. We're also very proud of the staff who supports the software – good people are always a good feature.