

BREEDERS GUIDE TO REGISTERING LIM-FLEX CATTLE

The Limousin Society has established a Lim-Flex register to accommodate blends of Limousin and Angus. Combinations of Limousin and other breeds can also be registered within the Limousin crossbred register

Lim-Flex cattle combine the carcass yield of Limousins with the maternal traits of Angus to target all domestic and export markets except the long-fed B3 Japanese market.

Hybrid vigour is maximized especially for maternal traits of fertility and mothering ability.

LIM-FLEX BREED COMBINATION AND PEDIGREE SPECIFICATIONS

- 1. Animals registered as Lim-Flex must be 25 to 75 percent Limousin and 25 to 75 percent Angus or Red Angus.***
- 2. Sires of registered Lim-Flex animals must be registered with ALBS the Angus or the Red Angus Society and have documented pedigree information for parents.***
- 3. Dams of registered Lim-Flex animals must be documented as from a registered sire included in either the ALBS herd book or that of the Angus or Red Angus Societies and have actual percent blood information recorded.***

USING REGISTERED ANGUS OR RED ANGUS COWS TO PRODUCE LIM-FLEX

Provided registered Angus or Red Angus cows have been entered into the ALBS herd book, recording Lim-Flex offspring is the same as recording straight bred Limousins using the standard L1 registration forms or the web registration system.

Angus females will have the prefix XAA and Red Angus females the prefix XRA, a grade of zero and their year letter and number.

Registered Angus and Red Angus cows not yet on the ALBS herd book may be recorded by submitting copies of their registration certificates to the ALBS office. The cost of entering these animals is \$5.50 per head. For fastest turn-around time for Lim-Flex data processing, breeders should submit required information on registered Angus and Red Angus dams prior to recording Lim-Flex offspring.

USING REGISTERED LIMOUSIN COWS TO PRODUCE LIM-FLEX

This is simple. The sire must be a registered Angus or Red Angus bull. Bulls from the Angus Performance Register are acceptable. Copies of the registration certificates for these bulls (available from the Angus or Red Angus websites) must be submitted to ALBS prior to recording of their Lim-Flex progeny. The cost of recording these base animals is \$5.50 per animal.

USING UNREGISTERED, NON-LIMOUSIN COWS TO PRODUCE LIM-FLEX

Lim-Flex seedstock may be produced from unregistered Angus or Red Angus cows as long as breed composition, age and sire information is documented with ALBS. This information must be recorded prior to processing Lim-Flex progeny information.

The Unrecorded Cow Reporting Form should be used for submission of required information on unrecorded cows. These cows must be individually identified with an NLIS tag and given your herd prefix, a grade of "0", a year letter code and number. Breed composition must be documented to the nearest 12.5 percent using ALBS' eight digit breed codes. The first four digits of the breed code represent the breed composition of the cow's sire, while the second four digits are for the breed makeup of the cow's dam. A "0" breed code should be used for unknown breed composition.

For offspring to be eligible for Lim-Flex registry the sire of the unregistered cow must be documented in the ALBS herd book. The sire's registration prefix (e.g. AAA or RAA) and number should be included on the Unrecorded Cow Reporting Form, and for most efficient processing, a copy of the sire's registration certificate should be provided if the sire is not yet recorded with ALBS.

WHAT ABOUT PRODUCING LIM-FLEX FROM UNREGISTERED LIMOUSIN COWS?

The progeny of an unregistered Limousin cow are eligible if full information on the breed composition, age and sire of the cow is documented with ALBS.

LIM-FLEX REGISTRATION FEES

The initial registration fees for Lim-Flex animals are the standard fees for Grade 1 animals (\$11.00) and Grade 2 animals (\$16.50). Once the Lim-Flex females become part of the cow inventory for the herd the standard annual cow inventory fee of \$18.70 is charged with no cost to register the calves.

DNA TYPING REQUIREMENT

All sires of Lim-Flex calves must have a DNA type recorded with ALBS before progeny can be registered. Where Lim-Flex calves are produced by embryo transfer the donor dam must have a DNA type on file with ALBS.

RANDOM PARENT VERIFICATION

Lim-Flex animals are randomly DNA typed and parent verified at the same rate, using identical procedures as other Limousin cattle entering the ALBS herd book. ALBS pays for all random DNA typing and parent verification.

BREEDING SUPERIOR LIM-FLEX ANIMALS

In order to breed the best Lim-Flex animals, superior Limousin and superior Angus (red or black) genetic inputs should be identified by using EBVs and visual assessment and blended in a complementary way according to selection objectives determined by target markets and maternal requirements. The advantages of hybrid seedstock are heterosis (hybrid vigour) and the ability to combine the strengths of two breeds. Careful selection of genetics from each breed is essential.

In general, Angus are enhanced by the muscle, growth, efficiency, and percent retail product advantages of Limousin. Conversely, the early puberty, marbling and covering ability of Angus generally complement Limousin cattle. Both breeds are fundamentally strong in calving ease, survival, growth rate, traits associated with convenience and have moderate levels of milk and mature size. Particular attention should be paid to the docility of both breeds using docility EBVs where available.

By design, most Lim-Flex seedstock are primarily suited to produce offspring for mainstream target markets calling for an optimum combination of muscle and fatness. Because the range in percent blood for Limousin and Angus may vary from 25 percent to 75 percent, the most versatile Lim-Flex seedstock will likely result from blending Limousin and Angus pedigrees that represent superior combination of genetics for traits associated with feedlot performance, carcass merit and optimum maternal performance. For specialized maternal situations, it makes sense to build Lim-Flex animals from Limousin and Angus parents that are above each breed's average for scrotal circumference, have reputations for calm docility, possess adequate fleshing ability and are within optimum ranges for sensible levels of milk and mature size.

EBVs FOR LIM-FLEX ANIMALS

Provided performance records including birth weight, later weights and docility are submitted, EBVs for these traits will be calculated and published for Lim-flex animals. The analysis will remove the effect of heterosis (hybrid vigour) in the calculation of these EBVs and the EBVs will be directly comparable with EBVs for purebred Limousin cattle.

