

## **Avoiding Paperwork Pitfalls**

*From the American Gelbvieh Association Registration Department*

The greatest challenge for many seedstock producers is keeping up with the paperwork on their registered herd and turning in data in a timely manner. The American Gelbvieh Association (AGA) requires total herd reporting. What is this you ask? Basically it means that the AGA requires a producer to turn in calf information on each active cow. If the calf died at birth, the cow aborted or the calf was culled—it doesn't matter the AGA wants the information documented. This cow data is important in figuring the Stayability EPD for Gelbvieh cattle.

Each year in January, the American Gelbvieh Association sends out Herd Assessments to all AGA members. Herd Assessments assist the American Gelbvieh Association in tracking the number of active cows in the breed, as well as a revenue source. Herd Assessments allow the member to dispose of cows that have been sold, died or moved to a commercial herd. These Herd Assessments must be paid by March 15 in order to keep your membership active. You can pay your annual dues, but if your herd assessments aren't paid then your membership is not considered active and you will have to do business at non-member rates until the herd assessment is paid.

On the Herd Assessment, a producer has the option of selecting to go One-Rate or Traditional. One-Rate is \$18 per cow and includes registration and transfer credits with each active cow paid for. Traditional is \$12.50 per cow and does not include any registration or transfer credits. Traditional payment members will pay for all registration and transfer fees as the work is processed.

Following are some basic rules to keep in mind as you fill out your registration paperwork this summer and fall.

### **One-Rate Rules**

**Transfer Credits:** cattle must still be transferred within 45 days of the sale to avoid late penalties. If a transfer is within 45 days, then the transfer uses one credit. If the transfer is done more than 45 days after the sale then it will use one transfer credit **plus** a \$7.50 late fee.

**Transfer Credits Do Expire:** Transfer credits are good until the following year's Herd Assessment is paid or March 15—whichever comes first. For example, you paid One-Rate on your 2007 Herd Assessment, those transfer credits will be available to use until you pay your 2008 Herd Assessment or March 15, 2008, whichever comes first. Transfer credits do not accumulate over time.

**Registration Credits:** With each active cow a member pays a One-Rate fee, he or she earns a registration credit to use on any calf registered. That registration credit is not attached to a specific cow; our system simply gives you the number of credits to match your active cows paid for. The One-Rate system automatically registers each calf that data is submitted on and uses one registration credit. There are no computes with One-Rate. A registration credit is used regardless if the calf is a steer, culled heifer or sold as a feeder calf. You have to submit data on each calf due to the Total Herd Reporting requirement.

**Registration Credits Don't Last Forever:** One-Rate members need to submit data on calves born between January 1-July 31 of the previous year by April 15 of the current year (for example, data for calves born January 1 to July 31, 2006 should have been submitted by April 15, 2007). Data on calves born August 1 to December 31 needs to be submitted by July 31. That means the deadline to submit data on those fall-born 2006 calves is approaching quickly! If you don't submit the data by the deadlines listed, you will have to pay regular registration fees because the Registration Credits have expired.

**Registration Credits Are Used for Any Calf:** Each member has a certain number of registration credits available based on how many active cows you paid for in the spring. Those registration credits can be used for any calf including embryo transfer calves or calves being

recorded out of a non-Gelbvieh dam. Once all of the registration credits are used, then an \$18 per head registration fee applies.

One thing to remember as a One-Rate member is that if you buy bred females after Herd Assessments are paid in the spring, there is a good chance that you will have to pay the \$18 registration fee on the calves born that year. For example, you paid for 10 cows with your 2007 Herd Assessments. Later in the spring you bought three bred cows and they have calves at your place. You also have done some embryo transfer work and have five embryo calves to register. Come fall you have 18 calves to register, but only 10 registration credits. This means you will need to pay registration fees on eight head.

### **Traditional Registration Rules**

Some members opt to pay the smaller fee in the spring of the year at \$12.50 per cow. Those members have a different set of fees and pitfalls to avoid.

**Age is Important:** Traditional rate members have three different registration fees based on age of the calf at registration. 0-240 days is \$15; 241-365 days is \$26.50; and more than 365 days is \$36.50. It is important to submit the registration information when a calf is younger to get the best rate. You can register a calf without weaning weights, so after calves are born in the spring you can submit the information to register that calf. AGA will then send you a gold-colored Weaning Worksheet to use in the fall to submit your weaning weights on those calves.

But, you say, “What if I don’t know if I want to register that calf when it’s born?” AGA allows Traditional rate members to compute animals at birth for no charge, unless the dam is a non-Gelbvieh. Compute allows you to submit birth information without paying a registration fee and then you can determine which ones to register when you submit your Weaning Weight Worksheet. But remember the registration fee is still based on the age of the calf when it is registered, so that means 240 days is the magic number for the best rate.

**Non-Gelbvieh Dams:** If a traditional member registers or computes a calf out of a non-Gelbvieh dam (Angus, Red Angus, commercial cow, non-registered Gelbvieh dam), then a \$12.50 fee is added to the registration fee. This is essentially that non-Gelbvieh female’s herd assessment fee.

**Transfer Fees:** The 45-day rule also applies for Traditional rate members. If a transfer is done within 45 days of the sale, then the fee is \$7.50. If it is more than 45 days after the sale, a transfer cost \$7.50 plus a \$7.50 late fee for a total of \$15.

Just remember, the AGA Registration staff is only one phone call away and can answer any question as you are filling out that registration paperwork.