

# **BAA RULES & REGULATIONS**

## **SECTION III – PERFORMANCE OPTION PROGRAM**

### **A. Introduction**

While it is recognized that performance information has different values to different breeders, it is important that all performance data acquired from BAA members be collected in a uniform and meaningful manner. The BAA Performance Option program (POP) is designed to 1) allow BAA members to choose whether or not they will collect performance data on their herd, 2) provide a uniform and meaningful system for data collection, 3) receive funding only from the users of the program, and 4) return performance calculations from the data only to the users of the program.

POP requires 1) the payment of a Performance Option Annual Fee on every breeding female in the enrolled herd, and 2) the annual reporting of calf performance records (or Disposal or Reason Codes) on every POP enrolled female.

### **B. Major Benefits of POP**

1. Participation is purely optional. A member does not have to have their herd enrolled in POP for their calves to be eligible for registration in the BAA herdbook.
2. Participation in POP entitles breeders to reduced registration fees, and free or reduced transfer fees.
3. A more accurate and unbiased evaluation of the genetic prepotency of participating cattle on an individual herd and national level
4. Complete reporting on all enrolled females improves the accuracy and reliability of BAA Expected Progeny Differences (EPD's) by removing reporting bias from performance ratios and EPD's.
5. Fertility and cow cost EPD's as well as other selection tools are easier to develop and more reliable with complete reporting.

### **C. Performance Calculations**

1. Cattle born prior to January 1, 2011 (including Legacy Animals)
  - a. For females enrolled in POP, new EPDs will be calculated annually, as long as the female remains enrolled.
  - b. If not enrolled in POP, the female still will have EPDs, but no new progeny information will be added into the calculations.
  - c. Bulls will continue to have EPDs calculated.
2. All cattle born on or after January 1, 2011
  - a. If the dam is enrolled in POP and the calf is a heifer, EPDs will be calculated until the heifer reaches 540 days of age.
  - b. If the dam is enrolled in POP and the calf is a bull, new EPDs will be calculated with each succeeding genetic evaluation.
  - c. If the dam is not enrolled in POP and the calf is a bull, no EPDs will be calculated for the calf, until the calf becomes the sire of a calf born to a POP enrolled female.
  - d. If the dam is not enrolled in POP and the calf is a female, no EPDs will be calculated for the calf, until the calf is enrolled in POP and has produced progeny in the program.

## D. Enrollment

1. BAA registered females
  - a. Females 540 days of age or older as of May 1, 2011 may be enrolled in POP by the owner of record by paying the Performance Option Annual Fee for the current year on each female.
  - b. Female calves born to POP enrolled females are considered enrolled in POP once they reach 540 days of age, unless the owner of record indicates otherwise. Such females will remain active as long as the owner of record pays the Performance Option Annual Fee and meets the annual performance reporting requirements for each female.
2. Females registered with another breed association
  - a. Females registered with another breed association may be fully enrolled in POP at the discretion of the owner of record at any time by paying the Performance Option Annual Fee for the current year.
    - i. The registration number from the originating breed association is required.
    - ii. All such enrolled females will be subject to the same fees, reporting requirements, and performance calculations as females registered with the BAA.
  - b. Females registered with another breed association that are not enrolled in POP can produce POP enrolled progeny provided all of the following are met:
    - i. the female has EPDs from the originating breed association
    - ii. the registration number from the originating breed association is provided
    - iii. all required weaning performance information is reported
    - iv. an enrollment fee equal to double the Performance Option Annual Fee is paid v. the calf is fully registered with the BAA with all other required fees paid
3. Unregistered females
  - a. Unregistered females may be fully enrolled in POP at the discretion of the owner of record at any time by paying the Performance Option Annual Fee for the current year. It is not mandatory that a breeder enroll unregistered females.
  - b. Unregistered females will not have any pedigree entered into the BAA herdbook.
  - c. A unique, within-herd, permanent ID (tattoo or brand) and description of breed makeup must be submitted for every unregistered female enrolled in POP.
  - d. Unregistered enrolled females will be subject to the same fees, reporting requirements, and performance calculations as females registered with the BAA.
  - e. The progeny of unregistered females that have not been enrolled in POP are not considered POP eligible and will not receive official performance ratios or EPDs. The calves of such females may subsequently be enrolled in POP and will receive EPDs when they have produced progeny meeting POP requirements.
4. Bulls
  - a. Bull calves born to POP enrolled females are considered enrolled in POP and will receive EPDs without further requirements.
  - b. Bull calves born to females not enrolled in POP will not receive EPDs, unless the bull later becomes the sire of the progeny of POP enrolled females.

5. Embryo transfer and cloned calves
  - a. A calf produced through embryo transfer or cloning from a BAA registered donor that was born prior to 2011 will be considered POP enrolled and will receive EPDs if the recipient dam is enrolled in POP or an enrollment fee equal to double the Performance Option Annual Fee is paid, and the calf is fully registered with the BAA with all other required fees paid.
  - b. A calf produced through embryo transfer from a BAA registered donor that was born in 2011 or later:
    - i. The calf will be considered a POP progeny and receive EPDs if the donor dam was enrolled in POP, and either the donor still is enrolled in POP, or the recipient dam is enrolled in POP, or the Performance Option Annual Fee is paid.
    - ii. If the donor dam was never enrolled in POP, the calf will only receive EPDs when it has produced progeny meeting POP requirements.
6. Multiple-sire calves
  - a. When the actual sire of a calf cannot be determined and the calf is the progeny of a POP enrolled female, the calf will receive EPDs based solely on the dam's performance and pedigree.
  - b. When the actual sire of a calf cannot be determined and the calf is not the progeny of a POP enrolled female, the calf will not receive EPDs until the calf becomes the parent of a POP enrolled progeny.

#### **E. Performance Option Annual Fee**

1. Payment of the Performance Option Annual Fee is required for each female enrolled in POP that will be 540 days of age or older on the Annual Renewal Date. Payment of the Performance Option Annual Fee entitles the owner of an enrolled female to: (a) report performance information on all calves born to the female during the 12- month period, (b) receive performance ratio and EPD reports for the female and her progeny for that 12- month period, (c) register calves born to POP enrolled females at a discounted rate, and (d) have the first registration transfer of a calf born to a POP enrolled female processed at no charge, regardless of age at time of transfer.
2. There is no Performance Option Annual Fee associated with bulls.

#### **F. Annual Reporting Requirements**

During each 12-month period a Calf Record or Reason Code **must** be received for each cow enrolled in POP in order for the cow to remain enrolled in POP:

1. The Calf Record includes either a and b, or a and c from the following:
  - a. Birth Information (sire information, calf sex and birth date are mandatory; birth weight, calving ease score, birth management group, etc. are optional).
  - b. Required weaning performance information:
    - i. Weaning weight measured with a scale between the ages of 160 and 250 days.
    - ii. Weaning weight date
    - iii. Feed Code
      - Own Dam Only = 1 (default, if nothing entered)
      - Own Dam Plus Creep = 2
      - Bucket Fed or Foster Dam = 3
    - iv. Management Group designation  
Any combination of three alphanumeric characters may be used to designate different management groups. Any change in management from one calf to the next can result in non-genetic performance differences between those animals. It is the responsibility of members to ensure that management differences are accurately identified when submitting any performance information.

- c. Appropriate Calf Disposal Code (may be substituted for required weaning information only if the calf dies before weaning).

BAA POP Disposal Codes for calves prior to weaning:

3 Died – Sickness or disease

4 Died – Injury

5 Died – Calving difficulty

6 Died – Reason unknown

2. A Reason Code is used to report the reason that a cow did not have a calf during the reporting period.

BAA POP Reason Codes:

30 Female not exposed for breeding

31 Open – Missed calving opportunity

33 Open – Bull fertility problem

34 Open – ET program donor cow

35 Open – ET program recipient cow

38 Calf aborted/premature

39 Calf died at birth

3. Members will have 730 days from the birth of the last reported calf of each female to complete the reporting requirements for the following calving period. Each cow with no Calf Record or Reason Code reported within 730 days of the birth date of the last known calf and annually thereafter will be removed from enrollment with a default disposal code assigned by the BAA. There will be no refund of fees of any kind for females removed from enrollment for non-reporting.

#### G. POP Billing Cycle

1. The Annual Renewal Date for POP enrolled females is February 15.
2. The Association will provide each member with an Annual Enrollment Report thirty (30) days before the Annual Renewal Date of each year. This report will be mailed and/or posted on [www.braunvieh.org](http://www.braunvieh.org) for each member. Each member will identify those females to be removed from enrollment and add any new females of eligible age not found on the Annual Enrollment Report (new purchases, leased animals, etc.). The member has until the Annual Renewal Date to complete adjustments to their enrollments. Mailed enrollment adjustments must be received in the BAA office by the Annual Renewal Date. The final adjusted enrollment should include all the animals the breeder wants to remain enrolled in POP.
3. The total Performance Option Annual Fee amount based on the final adjusted enrollment will be billed to members on March 1. No additional enrollment adjustments may be made once the Performance Option Annual Fee has been billed.

#### H. Removing a Female from Enrollment

1. Once enrolled in POP, a female should ***only*** be removed upon her death or when permanently culled from the breeding herd. To remove a cow from enrollment in POP, a Disposal Code must be reported.

BAA POP Disposal Codes for cows

7 Died – Sickness or disease \*

8 Died – Injury \*

9 Died – Calving difficulty

10 Died – Old age

11 Died – Reason unknown \*

12 Culled – Quality issue \*

13 Culled – Poor performance \*

14 Culled – Fertility \*

15 Culled – Illness \*

16 Culled – Injury \*

17 Culled – Temperament \*

19 Culled – Unsoundness \*

25 Culled – Old age

26 Culled – Calving difficulty

\* These are the only appropriate post-weaning Disposal Codes for calves.

2. If no Calf Record or Reason Code is reported by the annual reporting deadline, a default Disposal Code will be assigned by the BAA and the female will be removed from enrollment.
3. Upon the failure of a member to meet his/her financial obligations to the BAA, all POP females of the member will be removed from enrollment. Such females may be re-enrolled in POP later by the same member by paying the re-enrollment fee, or the member may resume registering calves from the females when their account is no longer in arrears in the non performance program..
4. If it is determined by a two-thirds vote of the BAA Board of Directors that falsified performance records have been submitted on a POP enrolled female the offending member will be notified, the falsified records deleted from the BAA performance database, and a default Disposal Code assigned by the BAA to remove the involved female(s) and progeny from enrollment.
5. A female removed from enrollment by the owner of record may be returned to enrollment by the same owner of record only before the next Annual Renewal Date without penalty.
6. Once a female is removed from enrollment for any reason, and the next Annual Renewal Date passes, that female can only be re-enrolled in POP by the owner of record at the time the female was removed from enrollment by paying the re-enrollment fee and the current year's assessment.
7. A female that has been removed from enrollment may be re-enrolled by a different member by paying only the current year's Performance Option Annual Fee provided the registration of the female has been properly recorded.

#### **I. Recipient and Foster Dams**

Members are encouraged to enroll their recipient and foster dams in POP. Future enhancements to the BAA National Cattle Evaluations may allow the inclusion of performance information on ET and multiple-birth calves.

#### **J. Leased Females**

1. When a lease agreement is on file with the BAA, lessee is responsible for any POP fees and POP reporting requirements that become due during the term of the lease.
2. When no lease agreement is on file with the BAA, the owner of record remains responsible for any POP fees and POP reporting requirements that become due during the term of the lease.