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NALF NEWS

More Herds Join LIMS

Seven herds joined the Limousin Inventory Management System (LIMS) from February 16, 2008, to February 15, 2009. The total number enrolled in the whole-herd data-reporting system now stands at 128, representing 10,065 spring-calving and 2,492 fall-calving cows.

Active North American Limousin Foundation (NALF) members may conduct business using the Web-based LIMS. Participants pay an annual fee of \$15 per active cow and, in turn, can record, register and transfer her calf for that birth year. That is a \$12-per-calf savings compared to the least expensive registration and transfer fees.

LIMS participants also contribute more complete and comprehensive production information that leads to better expected progeny differences (EPDs).

Find the LIMS sign-up page in the secured, members-only portion of the NALF Web site. You must enroll fall-calving cows by July 15. Enrollments for spring-calving cows are due February 15.

Bull Listing Builds Momentum

Between January 1 and March 1, Limousin breeders listed more than 600 bulls for sale by either private treaty or public auction on the Limousin Exchange Bull Listing Service.

Breeders can add bulls via the secured, members-only portion of the NALF Web site. Once logged in, click the "List Bulls for Sale" link. The service is virtually free, because NALF credits the \$5 listing fees toward the bulls' eventual transfers.

NALF directs bull buyers to the Limousin Exchange through its advertising and staff members' personal contacts. Once on the NALF home page, potential customers can search for herd-sire prospects by clicking the "Bull Listing Service" link. They can identify their selection criteria to obtain information about matching bulls then sort the results by specific traits.

Board Meeting Is This Month

The NALF Board of Directors will gather for its spring meeting April 29-30 in Sacramento, California, in conjunction with the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) annual meeting and research symposium. Contact any board member or Kent Andersen in the NALF office to suggest agenda items.

BIF Conference Rushes to California

The BIF annual meeting is North America's leading forum for discussing genetic evaluation and improvement. This year's conference will be in Sacramento, April 30-May 3. Organizers expect more than 300 attendees.

Visit www.calcattlemen.org/bif2009.html on the Web for program details, online registration and hotel reservations.

Affiliate Organizations Should Submit Updates

State and regional association leaders need to notify NALF after their elections. Those updates are the basis for the Web site's state contacts, and they ensure all information—including that regarding cooperative marketing, junior activities and news releases—gets to the correct people. If you do not have one, request an update form from the NALF office or download it from the Web site.

Juniors: Note This Summer's Deadlines

- Start planning for this summer's junior events.
- May 1—Early deadline for the Heartland Regional Junior Show, June 5-6, Ottawa, Kansas.
- May 1—Early deadline for the Eastern Regional Junior Show, June 12-13, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.
- May 1—Early deadline for the Western Regional Junior Show, June 18-20, Klamath Falls, Oregon.
- May 15—Early deadline for the National Junior Limousin Show and Congress (NJLSC), July 11-17, Amarillo, Texas
- June 10—Late-entry deadline for the NJLSC

The Texas breeders will host the "Big Texas Shindig 2" 2009 NJLSC. The Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo will be the headquarters. For reservations, call 806/358-6161. The overflow hotel is the Holiday Inn Amarillo, 806/372-8741.

Find the 2009 NJLSC schedule in the "Juniors" section of the NALF Web site. North American Limousin Junior Association (NALJA) members soon should receive the summer edition of *NALJA News*, containing more show information and entry forms.

May 15 Is Big Day for NALJA Members

All NALJA members 17 years or older may apply for the board of directors if they will not turn 23 during the two-year term.

North American Limousin Foundation

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Office hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. MST.

Active members entering their freshman or sophomore years at four-year academic institutions and majoring in animal science or closely related fields may apply for the prestigious \$500 Leonard and Vi Wulf Scholarship.

Hands-on experience with Limousin cattle, proven excellence and leadership, and effective goal setting could earn \$750 Awards of Excellence for up to three NALJA members. Applicants must have been between 19 and 21 years old on January 1, 2009, and be in good standing with NALJA. They also must be active in some segment of the beef industry or enrolled in an ag major in college. Previous recipients may not reapply.

The "Juniors" section of the NALF Web site offers all three applications and more information about each one, or contact Kate Maher in the NALF office. They are due May 15.

Scholarships, Grants Available From Limi Boosters

NALJA members have until May 15 to apply for scholarships and grants from the Limi Boosters, which is giving two \$500 scholarships and one \$500 grant. Anyone with questions should contact Susan Carmichael, 432/260-9333, or Norma Davis, 325/784-5071.

State grant applications also are due to the Limi Boosters by May 15. Those grants help state associations defer the costs of junior events. Contact Carmichael with questions.

All Limi Boosters applications are available on the NALF Web site.

NALF, DNA Labs Negotiate Prices

The following table shows the prices for stand-alone tests at the two DNA-testing laboratories that NALF endorses. Each laboratory also offers bundle pricing; contact the NALF office for those details.

DNA Diagnostic Test	MMI Genomics	Igenity
Parentage Verification	\$35	n/a
Polled Status	\$75	\$75
Coat Color	\$34	n/a
F94L Myostatin	\$42	\$28
Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM)	\$24	\$26
"Beef Profile" (carcass & maternal traits)	n/a	\$38

The prices for MMI Genomics apply when you submit samples on FTA cards; add \$7 for hair, semen or tissue samples.

ET Calves' Parents Must Have DNA on File

Breeders must *parent-verify* artificial-insemination (AI) sires and *sire-verify* donor dams via DNA before embryo-transfer (ET) calves can be parent-verified and registered. Before collecting and mailing samples from ET calves to MMI Genomics, contact the NALF office to verify the sires and dams have the proper tests and to obtain the case numbers, which also are available through the NALF Web site's EPD and pedigree lookup.

Submit Registrations, Recordings Online or On Paper

Complete, accurate data collection and reporting are fundamental to keeping your production information and the entire Limousin herdbook as informative as possible. And it is best to start with a current herd inventory.

Online recording and LIMS are available through the secured, members-only portion of the Web site. Record cattle; update your herd inventory; and submit performance data with Web-based tools that mimic the traditional forms' familiar configurations.

If you prefer to put pencil to paper, request your free, preprinted registration applications, which list all active cows in your inventory.

Either way, for your data to be included in the next genetic evaluation, you must submit it error-free by June 15.

Bottom Line Newsletter Is a Benefit of Transfers

Among the many reasons to transfer ownership of the bulls you sell is the *Bottom Line* newsletter, which goes to all commercial producers who have had bulls transferred to them in the last three years. Besides each issue's current information about the Limousin breed and its role in the beef industry, the mailing panel credits you—the seller—for activating the "subscription."

When transferring animals, be sure to include buyers' full names and addresses. Complete information guarantees they receive the *Bottom Line* and ensures NALF can process the transfers correctly.



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The year-letter code for 2009 is

