USPB AngusLink℠ GMS Fact Sheet

AngusLink℠ **Genetic Merit Scorecard℠** (GMS) provides a **Beef Score** that is based on EPD's of sires in the herd's bull battery along with a description of the cow herd. Scores range from 0 to 200. To qualify for the grid premium, animals must be in a group that has a **Beef Score of 100 or greater** (100 is meant to represent industry average). One Beef Score is provided for each group or herd, not individual animals. This is a program developed by the American Angus Association and implemented by IMI Global. It also includes group Age and Source verification.

General Basic Requirements:

- **Sire registration numbers** of the herd's total bull battery. Must be *minimum 50%* registered Angus bulls.
- **Description of the cow herd** breed composition. If retaining replacement heifers, a 10-year history of sires used would be ideal, but not mandatory.
- Group **birth records**, at minimum, beginning and ending birth dates of the calf crop.
- Low frequency **EID tag** in each animal, preferably before leaving the ranch of origin. However, back verification is possible if cattle already moved, as a group, to a backgrounder or feedlot.
- Optional: GeneMax DNA testing within the herd can improve the cow herd description and contribution.

The Beef Score is generally driven by $Beef ($B) indexes of registered Angus bulls used in the herd. This $B index includes all things "post weaning", including Marbling, Ribeye, Fat, Carcass Weight, Residual ADG and Dry Matter Intake. In general, selecting bulls with **higher $B Indexes should increase the Beef Score**.

Once approved, a certificate is sent to the ranch which can be shared with buyers. Certificate numbers will need to be submitted when scheduling delivery on the grid. In addition to the Beef Score there are also Feedlot and Grid Score values. Beef Score is all-inclusive and is the score used for the premium on the USPB grid. Other information included on the certificate: # head, weight, hide color, flesh/condition, sale/delivery date, gender, registration numbers of Angus bulls used in the bull battery and the ranch address.

Enrollment cost with IMI Global (IMI) for the rancher ranges from $2.75 - $3.25/head, including the EID tag. Differences reflect the brand of EID tag selected. Verification will be completed through a desk audit process which includes a completed application, phone interview and a review of submitted records. If the ranch purchased and applied EID tags outside of IMI, the enrollment cost is $1.50/hd.

Back verification enrollment is $3.00 - $3.50/head including EID or $1.75/head if EID tags are purchased outside of IMI. EID tags must be applied before shipping from the backgrounder or feedlot.

Feedyards will need to submit a GMS Showlist Form A **two weeks prior to delivery** for groups/lots enrolled in GMS to allow time for screening. Deadline is noon, Tuesday, two weeks prior to harvest. Certificate numbers must be listed on Form A. *Eligible lots must be at least 85% black hided and free of any rib brands*. Small brands are allowed on the shoulder or hip. Hide color and brands will be screened by National Beef buyers at the feedyard prior to harvest. Eligible GMS cattle scoring 100 to 149 will be paid a **$5/head GMS premium** for each EID tag that is read and assigned to a carcass ID. Cattle with a Beef Score of 150 or higher will receive an added $5/head [**$10 total**]. All GMS cattle would also receive the **$1/head payment for the EID tag** that's available for all grid cattle. The GMS premium is only available on the USPB grid for cattle delivered to National Beef plants in Kansas.

Interested feeder cattle buyers can search listings on the AngusLink℠ website. They can also sign up for email alerts when enrolled cattle are offered for sale as calves or feeder cattle.

For more information:

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Angus Verified is a different program that verifies feeder cattle are sired by registered Angus bulls. However, no GMS values are generated for this program. This does NOT qualify for the grid premium.