MAINE-ANJOU PERFORMANCE PROGRAM AGREEMENT
MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED TO THE AMAA

ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENT.

ALL ACTIVE MAPP MEMBERS MUST SIGN AND RETURN THIS AGREEMENT TO OBTAIN EPDS (**Expected Progeny Differences)**. THOSE THAT DO NOT SIGN THE AGREEMENT WILL BE PLACED IN THE BREEDERS CHOICE PROGRAM.

- A $5 fee to activate a dam when registering in the current year will be applied if registering out of that dam for the first time. Performance-only or Pedigrees from another association are not assessed the $5 fee and will require the animal to be evaluated by AGI before EPDs are provided on the subject animal. Valuations are run twice a year (Spring and Fall).
- If not registered but reported, data will be a part of the AMAA performance program but not available to the breeder.
- Failure to pay the annual MAPP billing within 30 days of invoicing will result in being removed from the program.
- Registration rates are lower for those in this program but are expected to keep their account in good standing at all times

MAPP REGULATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- To remain in MAPP dues must be paid in January to remain in the program.
- All registered Maine-Anjou and Maintainer females are included in the MAPP program. Registered females of another breed or commercial females **will not be charged the active female fee**.
- Birth, Weaning, and Yearling weights are very important to include when registering animals.
- Enrollment may be completed starting September 1 of each year by logging into your online account and selecting “MAPP Inventory”. A hard copy may be requested by calling or emailing our office.
- Those that do not comply with the deadline will be removed from the MAPP program.
- Once removed a $50 reactivation fee plus $5 per active Maine-Anjou cow must be paid. A new agreement must be provided when re-entering the program.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR MAPP MEMBERS:

Starting in 2024, all (Maine-Anjou Performance Program) members are required to have a credit card on file to maintain their membership status. This new policy aims to streamline our payment process and ensure seamless access to the benefits and services offered by our association. If you haven’t already done so, please ensure that you provide your credit card information to our association’s records. Alternatively, if you prefer alternative payment options, kindly reach out to our association for assistance.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support of MAPP. We strive to enhance your membership experience and look forward to serving you better in the future.

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This agreement is binding between the Maine-Anjou Association and all person(s) listed on the foresaid account below. All parties on the account have read all terms and conditions. All parties hereby agree to keep all account(s) in good standing, complete and return inventories by the deadline and know the risks and terms if said parties do not comply.

(___) I wish to place my credit card on file for herd reporting and dues purposes. I understand that my credit card will be billed in January of each year if inventory is not returned by the deadline.

CC#_____-_____-_____-_____ EXP DATE: _____/_____ CVV CODE: _____

NAME ON CREDIT CARD: _____

ADDRESS TO CREDIT CARD: _____, City _____State _____Zip_____

(___) I do not wish to place a credit card on file and agree to pay by check for all Maine Anjou cows. I understand that I must pay my invoice within 30 days of the invoice date when selecting this option. If payment is not received within 30 days of the billing date, I understand that I will be removed from the program.

(___) I HAVE NOT REGISTERED ANY ANIMALS IN THE PAST YEAR AND WISH TO BE REMOVED FROM THE MAPP PROGRAM AT THIS TIME.

_____
AMAA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

_____ _____
Signature of Maine Account Holder(s) **Parent/Guardian Signature on account**

Date Signed: **_____ Received Date_____**

Office use only

PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS AGREEMENT TO KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

Expected Progeny Differences (EPD's)

Cattle EPD, or Expected Progeny Differences, are an essential tool in modern cattle breeding programs. They are numerical estimates that predict the genetic merit of an animal's offspring for various traits. These traits can include growth rate, milk production, carcass characteristics, and reproductive efficiency, among others. EPDs provide valuable information to cattle producers, allowing them to make informed decisions when selecting animals for breeding, ultimately leading to improvements in herd performance and profitability.

EPDs are calculated using complex statistical models that analyze pedigree information, performance data, and sometimes genomic data from the animal and its relatives. By comparing an animal's genetic information with performance data from its relatives, such as offspring, siblings, and parents, EPDs can provide estimates of how an animal's progeny are likely to perform.

Cattle EPDs are typically expressed in units relevant to the trait being measured. For example, a growth EPD might be expressed in pounds of weight gain, while a milk production EPD might be expressed in pounds of milk produced per day. The magnitude of the EPD indicates the expected difference in performance between the progeny of an animal and the average performance of all animals in the same population.

Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) are fundamental to modern cattle breeding programs and play a crucial role in genetic improvement within the beef industry. Here are some key points highlighting the importance of cattle EPDs:

1. **Genetic Selection**: EPDs provide a reliable estimate of the genetic potential of an animal for various economically important traits such as growth rate, carcass quality, maternal ability, and reproductive performance. This allows producers to make informed decisions when selecting breeding stock to improve desired traits in their herds.
2. **Accuracy and Predictability**: EPDs are based on statistical models that incorporate performance data from the individual animal, as well as its relatives. This provides a more accurate prediction of an animal's genetic merit compared to simply looking at its own performance. As a result, EPDs offer a more reliable indication of how an animal's offspring are likely to perform, helping producers make long-term breeding decisions.
3. **Efficiency**: By using EPDs, producers can accelerate genetic progress within their herds more efficiently than traditional selection methods. Instead of waiting to observe the performance of an animal's offspring, which could take several years, EPDs allow for early selection of superior genetics, leading to faster improvements in desired traits across generations.
4. **Customization to Production Goals**: EPDs can be tailored to match specific production objectives. For example, producers focusing on feedlot performance may prioritize EPDs related to growth rate and carcass traits, while those emphasizing maternal traits may prioritize EPDs for fertility, calving ease, and maternal milk production. This customization enables producers to align their breeding goals with the demands of their particular market or production system.
5. **Risk Reduction**: EPDs help minimize the risk associated with genetic selection by providing quantifiable estimates of an animal's genetic merit. This reduces the likelihood of investing in breeding stock that may not meet performance expectations, ultimately leading to more profitable outcomes for producers.
6. **Enhanced Marketability**: Cattle with favorable EPDs are more attractive to buyers, as they offer greater assurance of superior genetic potential. This can lead to increased demand and higher prices for animals with documented genetic superiority, benefiting producers who have invested in breeding programs focused on genetic improvement.
7. **Long-Term Sustainability**: By continually selecting for improved genetics through the use of EPDs, producers contribute to the long-term sustainability of their operations. By producing more efficient and productive animals, they can achieve greater profitability while also reducing environmental impacts and resource inputs associated with cattle production.

In summary, cattle EPDs are invaluable tools for livestock producers, enabling them to make data-driven breeding decisions that lead to genetic improvement, increased efficiency, and ultimately, more profitable and sustainable cattle production systems.