Structural Scoring Update

Industry interest in structural scoring is increasing with herds in both Australia and New Zealand scoring animals. However, data has been slow to come into the system despite reduced BREEDPLAN processing rates (50c per animal covering all traits on one day) and Angus Society of Australia absorbing this on behalf of its own members.

Australian Angus has over 3300 animals recorded from 23 herds for structural traits. There are another 1000 animals recorded from other breeds as well.

ABRI has continued to process structure data at half the normal rate (ie. 50 cents rather than $1.00) and this offer has been extended to 30 June 2005. The Angus Society of Australia will continue to absorb this fee for its members as well. The discount applies to data added to the database prior to the cutoff - so submit your data for processing as soon as possible!

AGBU has included developing an analysis for structural traits into their workplan for the second half of 2005 - assuming there are enough animals with structural data recorded on the databases (AGBU needs at least 5000 records of reasonable quality with genetic linkage to proceed).

A second structural scoring accreditation course was run in July 2004 and there are now 16 accredited assessors in Australia and three in New Zealand.

Jack Allen

Details of accredited assessors are on the BREEDPLAN web site: http://breedplan.une.edu.au/