

Calving Season Record Keeping: Simple Steps That Pay Off

Calving season is one of the busiest times of the year, and when days are busy and conditions aren't always ideal, record keeping can easily slide down the priority list. However, accurate calving records play a key role in herd management, genetic improvement, and long-term profitability. With a few simple tools, producers can make record keeping easier without adding extra work during an already demanding season.

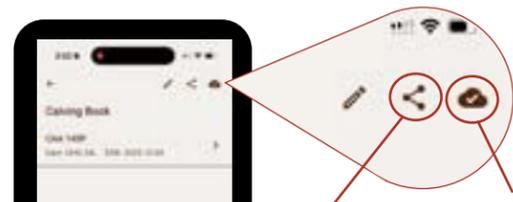
Updated Calving Book App Designed for the Barn

Based on member feedback, the Canadian Angus Association has updated the Calving Book app to better reflect how and where records are actually kept. One of the most important improvements is enhanced syncing. Since many records are entered in barns or calving pens where cell service may be limited, the app now clearly shows when data has been saved to the cloud. An icon indicates whether your information is synced, and a notification will appear if you attempt to log out before your data is saved, helping prevent accidental data loss.

Also, herd inventories now load automatically as long as you label your calving book with the year 2026. When entering calving records, as you start typing in your cow tattoo, the system will automatically bring up qualified dams, making dam selection quicker and more accurate. You can still type in your tattoo manually.

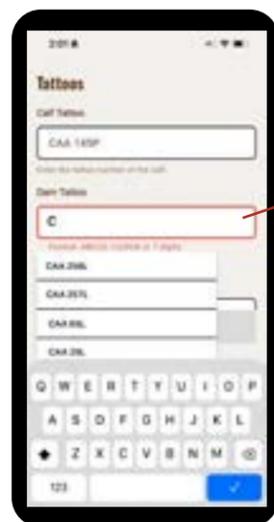
Please note that if you use the Calving Book app, you can complete your calf record on the Calving Book registration portal and then submit your calf records for registration. You do not need to reenter your calf records in AngusNOW for registration purposes. In addition, dam disposals can be completed using the [Calving Book registration portal](#).

A step-by-step guide to using the app and portal is available here: [Calving book - Canadian Angus Association](#)



This share icon allows you to email yourself a copy, as a backup for your records.

This cloud icon confirms that all info is synced. If you do not see this symbol, wait until you are on a network and synced before logging out.



Herd Inventories now load automatically as long as you label your calving book with the year 2026

Recording Teat and Udder Scores

Teat and udder scores should be recorded within 24 hours of calving and can be entered directly through the Calving Book app, or using our Teat and Udder Score spreadsheet template. These scores contribute to Teat and Udder EPDs, which estimate a cow's genetic potential for teat size and udder suspension. Higher EPDs are considered favourable.

Udder structure has a direct impact on both cow longevity and calf performance. Pendulous udders and large, bottle-shaped teats are associated with increased risk of mastitis and can delay a calf's ability to nurse. These challenges often result in early culling and lost income. Because of their importance to both seedstock and commercial operations, teat size and udder suspension are included in Canadian Angus genetic evaluations. Scores range from 1, indicating large teats or very pendulous udders, to 9, representing small teats and tight udders. [Click here for a visual scoring guide.](#)

Management and RFID Tags

The Canadian Angus Association offers a range of management tags in various shapes, colours, and sizes, with customization options available. While customized tags require additional turnaround time, they can improve on-farm identification and streamline record keeping. RFID tags are available through [canadaID.ca](#).

[Click here to access the management tag form.](#)



TSU Reminder

Avoid the stress or delayed sample taken at weaning. Take your DNA sample at birth using Allflex TSUs available through the Canadian Angus Association. [Order your TSUs here.](#)

Did you know that you can get matching TSU/RFID tag sets? These are available through [canadaID.ca](#). Matching TSU and RFID tag sets can further simplify data collection and improve accuracy.

Some reminders on Best Management Practices during Calving

Preparing for Calving Season

Calving facilities should be cleaned and checked ahead of time, with dry, sheltered environments available as weather conditions require. Having calving supplies cleaned, organized, and easy to access can save valuable time when assistance is needed. Common essentials include colostrum, bottles, OB gloves, chains and handles, calf pullers, ear tags, halters, ropes, and a reliable flashlight.

During calving season, frequent observation allows issues to be identified early. Knowing when to intervene is critical. Once a water bag appears, calves should be born within one hour for mature cows and within an hour and a half for heifers. Ensuring calves receive adequate colostrum within the first 24 hours of life is essential for early immunity. Keeping calving areas clean between births and grouping cow-calf pairs by similar calf age can also help reduce the spread of disease. Maintaining accurate records throughout the season supports better management decisions long after calving ends.

The Economic Impact of Good Calving Management

The financial impact of calving management is significant. Loss of a calf or cow is a direct loss of revenue at weaning. Calves that experience dystocia are more than twice as likely to become sick within their first 45 days of life, leading to increased treatment costs and reduced performance. Preparing for calving season, selecting appropriate sires, managing cow body condition, and matching cattle to their environment can all help reduce dystocia risk and associated costs.

Additional resources:

[Calf 911 Resources - BeefResearch.ca](#)

