

LIM·FLEX®

LIMOUSIN·ANGUS HYBRID

Lim-Flex® Quick Guide:

- ❖ Percentage Limousin cattle that contain between 37.5% and 75% of Limousin blood and 25% to 62.5% Angus or Red Angus blood, are called Lim-Flex®.
- ❖ All percentage Limousin cattle registration rules and requirements for registration also apply in order to register an animal as a Lim-Flex®.
- ❖ Lim-Flex® animals will be assigned a registration number with CXM or CXF as its prefix for all Canadian Lim-Flex®
- ❖ The certificate of registration for Lim-Flex™ animals resembles the traditional “percentage certificates”, with the exception that it has the Lim-Flex® certification mark on the bottom left corner of the paper.
- ❖ Lim-Flex® animals registered with NALF are subject to qualification verification before being admitted in the Canadian Herdbook and do not automatically qualify.
- ❖ Registration costs for Lim-Flex animals are the same as other Limousin cattle registrations, with the options of
 - Enrolling the dam on the Whole Herd Enrollment (WHE) for \$25/year, entitling to a single calf or natural twins registration, first transfer of calf born to enrolled female and transfer of the female in the same year. It also includes performance information in the International Genetic Evaluations
 - Or
 - Fees of \$60 per registration, \$20 per transfer
- ❖ As recognizing Lim-Flex® is new in Canada, a grace period is in effect
 - Herds that participate to WHE have the opportunity to enroll additional females for the current year until the end of 2009 without penalty
 - Herds that are not on WHE, but wish to become enrolled in order to register Lim-Flex®, have the opportunity to do so until the end of 2009. Established deadlines will be applicable for consequent years.
 - Breeders who registered percentage cattle prior to June 1, 2009 that meet the Lim-Flex criteria, have the option to return their “orange” registration paper for a free update to the Lim-Flex® certification / paper. Updates will be free until December 31, 2009.

- Breeders who registered percentage cattle prior to June 1, 2009 that meet the Lim-Flex® criteria, but request the update after January 1, 2010, will be subject to the certificate update charge (currently at \$2).

Note to On-Line Users:

At this time, Lim-Flex registration papers have to be manually printed. Therefore, when you are registering Lim-Flex cattle, please also notify the CLA with an email, listing your Lim-Flex animals so they are printed on the proper registration certificates.

Background:

Since 2000, the North American Limousin Foundation (NALF) has been recognizing that in addition to using fullblood and purebred Limousin genetics, a growing number of commercial producers are utilizing lower percentage, hybrid bulls to simplify management of crossbreeding. In response, NALF created the trade mark Lim-Flex® to clearly identify those animals that represent a blend of Limousin and Angus or Red Angus genetics.

The Canadian Limousin Association recently reached an agreement with NALF for the usage of the certification mark Lim-Flex® in Canada.

Lim-Flex® is registered in Canada for the exclusive recognition, by the Canadian Limousin Association, of percentage Limousin cattle meeting the criteria mentioned below.

Meaning of Lim-Flex:

Lim-Flex cattle are a hybrid composition of Limousin and Angus or Red Angus genetics. **FLEX** stands for **L**imousin **E**fficiency **C**ross (**X**) — a beef industry's option to profitable system-wide production of case ready products

Lim-Flex stands for Limousin with muscle and efficiency, along with **flexibility** — the most significant strength of this powerful genetic blend:

- _ Flexible seedstock for simple, easily managed crossbreeding
- _ Flexible market for progeny that consistently hit dressing percentage along with yield and quality grade targets for mainstream
- _ Flexible females adapted for efficiency across a wide range of environments

Lim-Flex Breed Composition and Pedigree Specifications

Animals registered as Lim-Flex® must be between 37.5 to 75 percent Limousin and 25 to 62.5 percent Angus or Red Angus, with a maximum allowance of another breed or unknown breed composition of 12.5 percent (1/8th).

Percentage of Limousin blood is computed using the same CLA calculation and rounding procedures as are used for other categories of registered Limousin. CLA percentage of Limousin blood of registered Lim-Flex® animals is printed on registration certificates. Breed composition requirements for Lim-Flex® animals can originate from parents of any percent blood that meet the sire and dam specifications listed below.

Lim-Flex® cattle are the result of an up-breeding program using a registered Limousin sire or dam of at least 75% Limousin blood. Lim-Flex® animals shall be assigned a registration number with the CXM or CXF prefix, the same as other Percentage Limousin cattle in Canada. However, cattle meeting the Lim-Flex™ requirements of the proper Limousin and Angus or Red Angus percentage, will receive a distinct Lim-Flex® certificate of registration.

All Percentage Limousin cattle which have been imported from the U.S. which have been first registered by the North American Limousin Foundation and which qualify in all other respects, shall be entered in the Canadian Limousin Herd Book utilizing their North American Limousin Foundation registration number and registration prefix.

Why are some commercial producers turning to the use of hybrid bulls as compared to purebreds and fullbloods?

In most cases, when compared to using straightbred bulls in rotational crossbreeding systems, use of hybrid bulls offers two advantages 1) hybrid bulls help to simplify management of crossbreeding and grazing systems, and 2) use of hybrid bulls results in less variation of percent blood among animals in a given calf crop. This results in production of female replacements and harvested progeny that are more uniform in breed composition as compared to animals from rotational mating systems.

Simplification of mating and grazing is achieved through not necessarily having to identify, record parentage and sort cows as specifically into separate breeding pastures matched to the correct breed of service sire to execute the rotation. Hence, use of hybrid bulls offers most of the benefits of crossbreeding with the simplicity of straightbreeding. Fortunate for Limousin, it should be pointed out that this same simplicity is achieved with classical terminal crossing systems where all progeny are sold and replacements are purchased from outside the system.