

**Table 1****Natural service versus A.I. costs**

Natural service costs			
	Bull	Heifer	Calf
Bull purchase price*	\$4,398		
Annual bull maintenance**	\$900		
Annual depreciation***	\$900		
Total bull cost****	\$1,800		
Cost per live calf****			\$66.67
A.I. costs			
A.I. costs per heifer*****		\$14.30	
Additional labor and arm service		\$10.00	
Semen cost†*****		\$17.00	
Total cost/female exposed		\$41.30	
Total cost/A.I. calf*****			\$70.00

*Average selling price, year-to-date September 2013, of bull sales reported to the American Angus Association, November 2013, Angus Journal, page 206.

** Includes pasture, feed, mineral, vaccinations, yearly breeding soundness exam, pour-on, damage to property, interest, etc.

*** Assumes bull salvage value of \$1700 and useful life of three years.

**** Annual bull maintenance costs + annual depreciation). Assuming the bull was exposed to 30 cows/year with 90% weaning rate, 27 calves would be born next year.

**** Cost per live calf (Total bull cost/year/number of live calves) \approx \$66.67

***** This scenario gives approximate A.I. costs for a group of 100 virgin heifers. Synchronization drug costs (assume the 14-day Co-Synch + CIDR protocol, one injection of GnRH \approx \$1.80/injection, one injection of PGF2 α \approx \$2.50/injection, one CIDR \approx \$10.

***** High accuracy, calving ease Angus bull.

***** Assume 100 heifers bred, 65% A.I. conception rate, 90% weaning rate. In this scenario the costs are fairly comparable; there is a cost savings of \$3.33/ calf weaned for a calf born to natural service vs. A.I. I encourage you to enter your own numbers into the calculator and determine the bottom line for your operation.