

Volume 29 • Number 5

Late Fall 2021

SIM TALK

Linking SimGenetics to Commercial Cattle



In This Issue:

Performance Advocate Program

Performance Data Collection Guide

Much More Than a Simple Carcass Test

Let the Numbers Do the Talking

NCBA Panel Discussion on IGS

Comparing Breed Heterosis Effects on Mature Weight

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^a Effect of sire breed group on carcass value of feedlot cattle harvested through Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity Cooperative, Lewis, Iowa, 2002 to 2018. Odde, K. & King, M. (March 2021). Kansas State University. Relationships Among Sire-Breed Group, Calf Sex and Year Group on Carcass Traits. Breeds represented in the English-sired group: Angus, Red Angus, South Devon, Hereford and Shorthorn.

^b Effect of sire breed on sale price of beef steer calves sold through Superior Livestock Auction, summer 2020. Odde, K. & King, M. (December 2020). Kansas State University analysis of 394,900 head of beef calves. Estimating the Value of SimAngus-Sired Calves: Superior Livestock Auction – Summer Sales, 2020. For lots of 50 head or more.

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SMITH *Easy Like 21J*

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Polled Purebred Simbrah. Sired by Smith No Better Than This and out of a Satisfies x Smith Isgrig Eleanor bred female. The Eleanor Cow Family has produced the Charismatic bull, who delivered tremendous performance numbers to the breed. Thank you Yardie SimGenetics and Reavis Farms for each purchasing a 25% breeding interest and possession in 21J at the recent Synergy Sale for \$6,500 each.



SMITH *Price Just Lookin'*

ASA 3923635

Polled Purebred Simbrah. Sired by Smith Just Because and out of Smith SWFS Detonation, an own daughter of Priceless and Smith Detonator. He combines the Bella Bella, Priceless and Diva Cow Families in his pedigree. He is bred to be an easy calver and is strong in maternal traits. Thank you to Cliff and Sandra Marshall, SMM Ranch for purchasing half interest and possession at our recent Synergy Sale for \$5,000.

Keep your eye on these two young sires - they are next in line to deliver greatness.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR PROGRAM, VISIT OUR WEBSITE.



Smith Genetics, Tim Smith
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www.smithgenetics.com

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SIMTALK

VOLUME 29 - NO. 5
Linking SimGenetics to
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Fall in South Texas.
Photo by Ellen Tom, Tom Brothers Ranch.



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EPD	12.7	0.2	93.5	142.4	5	30.4	77.1	13.9	13.3	51.3	-.37	.17	-.084	1.04	129.3	86.8
Acc	.80	.94	.92	.91	.75	.76	.80	.60	.86	.81	.60	.78	.73	.78		
% Rank	45	45	4	10	80	5	2	70	30	10	15	80	10	4	50	15

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EPD	9.4	1.8	96.7	162	4.8	23	71.3	14.7	15.9	51	-.39	.26	-.072	1.19	132.8	88.9
Acc	.42	.47	.45	.46	.23	.15	.24	.27	.35	.48	.37	.42	.36	.46		
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Linking SimGenetics to Commercial Cattle

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Emme Demmendaal

Using Traits that Directly Affect Profitability

It's with a heavy heart that I write my last *From the Editor* article for *SimTalk*. I've loved being a part of the ASA Publication team for the previous six years — working with a fantastic group of coworkers and an incredible group of cattle producers. Many of you have taught me what progressive, profitable cattle operations look like from

every segment of the industry — and how they remain sustainable for the next generation.

While I'll be moving on to a different job at Montana State University's Department of Agricultural Economics, my passion is very much still in line with helping the industry with sound, economically driven decisions that impact agriculture. I discovered my love for helping the industry while interviewing cattle producers for spotlight articles and talking to ranchers about whole-herd data reporting.

In this issue, you will see seedstock producers highlighted for tracking hard-to-obtain data. Focusing on contributing data to the genetic evaluation improves the timeliness of informed breeding decisions and replacement selections for their herd. Not only that,

other seedstock and commercial producers using EPD or Indexes from the IGS Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation benefit from the submitted data.

When you talk to any performance-driven producers, you'll find that they keep economically relevant traits (ERT) at the forefront of their decision-making processes — especially when encouraging their buyers to use ASA's economically based indexes like the All-Purpose (\$API) and Terminal Indexes (\$TI) when making their own selection decisions for their commercial operations.

As many bull and replacement-heifer buyers know, sifting through EPD can be an overwhelming experience. Your seedstock suppliers will be the first to tell you that these easy-to-use indexes help them (and you) make well-rounded, versatile cattle that impact your bottom line.

Also in this issue, you'll find an article focusing on the importance of tracking carcass traits; a performance data collection guide to help you collect data easier; a recap of a NCBA panel hosted by International Genetic Solutions; and an article comparing breed heterosis on mature weight.

What do all of these articles have in common?

They have you in mind. Each article helps cattlemen and cattlemen produce better animal protein through better data collection, economically relevant tools, and sound breeding programs.

I look forward to seeing more innovative, industry-improving moves from the American Simmental Association and IGS partners.

ST

2021 SUPREME CHAMPION JUNIOR HEIFER



Supreme Champion Junior Heifer over all breeds, exhibited by Sara Sullivan of Dunlap IA, at the prestigious 2021 Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City. 10 elite show heifers of her caliber, many half-sisters of similar quality, and many high-class females bred to Lover Boy will sell in this offering. Loverboy is one of the easiest calving purebred Simmentals in the breed. His calves are stylish and correct with growth, performance, eye appeal, exceptional udders, and ideal feet and leg structure.



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Performance Advocate Program Enters Twelfth Year

By Lilly Platts

PA Recognizes Dedicated and Driven Data-Reporting Operations

For a dozen years now, the Performance Advocate Program (PA) has recognized cattle producers who maintain a commitment to data reporting. The 2021 program marked the second year under new guidelines, developed to identify the dedicated data reporting that fuels ASA's genetic evaluation.

A **Driven Performance Advocate** submits records on at least 10 of the 14 traits, and 90% of the contem-

porary group. A **Dedicated Performance Advocate** submits records on 90% of the contemporary group, and records on 8 of the 14 traits.

Performance Advocates listed here are for the fall 2019 and spring 2020 calf crops. The operations featured below have submitted data on at least 8 of the 14 traits, and represent operations that are committed to data reporting.

ASA Performance



Traits Reported to ASA

- Calving ease
- Birth weight
- Weaning weight
- Yearling weight
- Yearling hip height
- Ultrasound
- Docility scores
- Genomic test on birth group
- Foot and leg score
- Mature cow weight
- Mature cow body condition or Mature cow hip height
- Cow herd genomics
- Udder score
- Feed intake data (coming soon)

Roth Farms, Sterling, Kansas

Roth Farm and Ranch, south-central Kansas, consists of a commercial SimAngus cow herd, a small registered Simmental and SimAngus herd, and a farming operation. The cow herd was started in 1976 by Charles Roth. It has since been passed down to his son, Norman, his wife Cindy, and their children Cami and Colton. After transitioning from a dairy herd, Charles and Norman bought a set of Angus cows in 1977. Simmental piqued their interest after a neighbor's bull got in, siring a gray-colored cow that became a top producer. In 1977 they purchased their first Simmental bull, and in 1986 their first registered cows. They have now had Simmental cattle for 44 years.



The Roth family runs Simmental-influenced cattle and farms.



Cami and Colton are third-generation Simmental breeders and the fifth generation to work in the family business. Cami manages the daily cattle operations while Colton works primarily on the farming side. The operation's goal is to breed cattle with high growth, moderate frame, high docility, moderate milk, good calving ease, stayability, marbling, and good udders. While the registered herd is small, extensive focus is placed on producing bulls that will work in the commercial environment and yield the same quality as any of the larger breeders. Bulls are sold by private treaty both locally and regionally. Additionally, they sell a group of two-year-old commercial cow-calf pairs each year. Through ASA programs, Roth Farms utilizes genomic testing.

The Roth family shares, "Extensive records are kept on both the commercial and registered cow herds. Reporting that data to ASA ensures the registered animals have the most complete EPD profiles and improves the accuracy on all related animals in addition to the individual. The more information you have on an animal, the better informed your breeding and selection decisions will be, and the next generation of calves will be more closely aligned to your genetic goals."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

INAUGURAL ★ ★ ★ ★
QUEEN OF THE PRAIRIE
FEMALE SALE
SAT., NOVEMBER 27, 2021

At the Ranch • 10752 BIA Road 15, Veblen, SD

Selling 35 Open Heifers
— 10 Reds, 25 Blacks —

Sires represented



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HOOK'S EAGLE 6E



KINNS MEGA WIDE 3316E



WS ALL ABOARD B80

This set of heifers is from the very heart of our herd and will make outstanding cows for any operation. We have sorted them into groups of 5 and will sell as the complete group. Each group is made up of similar genetics so that if you like one, odds are you'll like the other 4 too, both for phenotype and genotype. We also decided to sell 5 as individuals to help the smaller operator or first-time buyer who may not want or need 5 head.

Keep in mind these are age advantaged heifers since most are born in January, February or first part of March. In typical operations they will be well over a year of age when breeding and over 2 when calving. Being more mature will help them stay in your herd and be productive for many years. Heifers can be viewed starting November 1st at the ranch.

Our Sale format will be a Private Treaty Bid Auction. The bidding will open November 13th with the sale concluding on November 27th. Bidder numbers will be assigned to all bidders and we will have a bid sheet for each lot to record your bids. Bids can be accepted in person, over the phone or through text. All heifers will have a base price of \$1200 and thereafter a minimum increase of \$50 per animal. All customers that bid prior to the close on November 27th at 2:00 PM CST will have the opportunity to bid on any lot as we close them.

All heifers have been bangs vaccinated and will be sold with registration papers and transferred at no cost. Heifers need to be picked up within 7 days of sale. Of course, we will help coordinate trucking when needed. Please call Mike at 605-237-4663 or Owen at 605-551-9016 to line up a viewing!

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Performance Advocate Program Enters Twelfth Year

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Red Hill Farms, Lafayette, Tennessee

Red Hill Farms consists of 450 Red Angus, Simmental, SimAngus, Charolais, and Angus cows, 135 purebred sows, and row crops that support the livestock enterprises. The business is family owned and operated, with Bart and Sarah Jones at the helm; their son Ty is the seventh generation at Red Hill Farms. Data reporting is of utmost importance to Red Hill Farms, and they use extensive performance records and DNA analysis when selecting the bulls and females. Their sales are held annually on the third Saturday of March and last Saturday of October.

Bart and Sarah have deep roots in the area and in agriculture. The original farm was purchased in the late 1860s by Bart's great-great-great grandmother. Sarah utilizes her professional background in accounting, managing all of the financial records, cattle records, and marketing, in addition to being involved in the day-to-day management of the cow herd. Bart grew up on a purebred hog operation, and Red Hill farms continues to raise hogs. This background, and the data-driven nature of the hog business has influenced his emphasis on recording data on the cow herd and participating in Total Herd Enrollment.



Bart, Sarah, and Ty Jones of Red Hill Farms run cattle in the productive, rolling hills of Tennessee.



Ty is currently coming up through junior agricultural programs, and enjoys exhibiting market lambs.

Green Valley Farm, Ithaca, Michigan

Green Valley Farm started raising Simmental cattle in 1988. Brian Harris purchased two purebred Simmental cow-calf pairs with his father, Jon, and became a member of ASA. Using these base cows, they bred up for several years and soon had 20 registered, mostly purebred Simmental cows. Their focus for many years was phenotype and show-focused genetics. Harris shares, "We had a lot of fun showing and promoting our program, but felt there was a better economical way to make even a better product with more consistent marketing opportunities. We decided to



Brian Harris, his wife Paige, and Brian's mother, Jeanne.

focus more on the commercial demands of carcass value and maternal traits. We started pointing our program in that direction in 2009."

Jon, unfortunately, passed in 2012, just when they began seeing the benefits of changing their program. The

majority of the cow herd is SimAngus, with a small group of purebred cows. Green Valley Farm has been a partner in the Great Lakes Beef Connection for 12 years. Data collection is a priority, and a genomic test is completed on each animal to help better identify the best genetics in the herd. Brian shares, "The Simmental breed is very near and dear to me. We have witnessed some amazing changes for the good over the years in our herd and the breed overall. The data, technology, and genetic testing have been extremely valuable. Our end goal is to make the best cattle we possibly can phenotypically and genotypically. We love our SimAngus cows and they work hard for us every year! We are very honored to be recognized in the Performance Advocate Program. We have been extremely blessed to have ongoing support and wonderful friendship from some of the very best genetic leaders in the country to help us reach our goals and assist in identifying new ones."



Green Valley Farm runs SimAngus and Simmental females.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

PRIVATE TREATY BULL SALE

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Pilot Rock, Oregon

Performance Advocate Program Enters Twelfth Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Andy and Kim Kratzer, Marquette, Kansas

Andy and Kim Kratzer run Simmental-influenced commercial cattle in the Smoky Hills region of Kansas. With a background in computer science, data collection and reporting comes naturally to Andy, and he places a high priority on it in the cattle operation. The operation is enrolled in ASA's commercial THE option, and they also obtain carcass data by retaining ownership on weaned calves.



Kim and Andy Kratzer

Andy was first introduced to the breed when his father purchased Simmental bulls in the 1970s. He carried his passion for the beef industry through college, running cows with his father's herd. After college he was able to strike out on his own, and has been improving his cow herd ever since. When asked why he chooses to focus on data as a commercial pro-

ducer, Andy says, "As commercial producers, we are fortunate to have the ability to submit our cattle performance data and have it analyzed by an organization that believes in the science of raising cattle. With the commercial THE option, we have data available to us that was previously only available to producers who registered their animals. By investing a few more dollars and minutes per head, we receive information about our cattle that helps us to manage our herd to increase the bottom line."



The Kratzer family working cows.

Rock Hollow Farms, Alachua, Florida

Rock Hollow Farms, located in north-central Florida, runs a herd of Bos Indicus composite females, and has recently added SimAngus genetics to their program. The Crane family has been ranching in Florida since the early 1950s, starting with registered Angus. They later moved to polled Herefords before deciding to focus on Bos Indicus cattle. In 2000, Bob Crane connected with Alf Collins Sr., a Brahman breeder from Queensland, Australia. Crane had begun using Brahman cattle in his commercial herd, and Collins's knowledge inspired him to fully commit to these genetics. Crane recalls, "His visit led us to acquire the small herd of Boran cattle (an indigenous Bos Indicus African breed) top-crossed from the Brahman herd from the McGregor Research Center in Texas. We also purchased their Boran semen inventory."

In 2016, Collins gifted Rock Hollow Farm semen from five of his top herd sires. Up to this point, data reporting

had not been a priority but these top genetics inspired Crane to enroll his herd in a database. They chose to join ASA, and have been reporting data on their cow herd and calf crops ever since. Recently, they added SimAngus genetics to their program. Efficiency is a priority in the cow herd. The majority of Rock Hollow Farms' pasture is unfertilized Pensacola Bahia grass, and cattle are required to sustain themselves through the spring and winter when forage becomes sparse. Fertility, calving ease, docility, stayability, and moderate mature size are also priorities in the cow herd.

Bob, his son Andy, and Andy's sons Austin and Cole are involved in the operation. Crane says, "Collecting data is important to us because it yields objective facts on which to base mating decisions, rather than relying on subjective appearances, fads, and fancies."



The Crane family recently started utilizing Simmental genetics.



Rock Hollow Farms runs Bos Indicus composite cattle.

WS Proclamation E202



**Homozygous Black
Homozygous Polled**

Triple C Singletary S3H
Sire: CCR Cowboy Cut 5048Z
CCR MS 4045 Time 7322T

CLRS Grade-A 875 A
Dam: WS Miss Sugar C4
WS Anise A71

ASA# 3254156
PB SM

Trait	Direct					Maternal				Carcass							\$ Index	
	CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE	Milk	MWW	Stay	DOC	CW	YG	Marb	Fat	REA	Shr	API	TI
EPD	13.9	0.2	99.9	146.2	.29	11.1	32.4	82.3	17.0	19.7	52.8	-.27	.52	-.063	.92	-.41	166.9	103.1
ACC	.77	.92	.90	.89	.89	.56	.42	.52	.38	.57	.67	.53	.66	.57	.69	.20		
%	15	25	2	4	20	1	4	1		1	2	2		40	15	2	1	

EPDs as of 10.11.2021

- Arguably, Cowboy Cut's finest son, with an extremely successful career of producing sale topping progeny. The strong demand for his impressive sons during the 2020-21 bull sale seasons is unprecedented!
- Acclaimed as 'Sugar's greatest and most pepotent plus most proven son!
- His first daughters calving this spring are beautiful uddered, broody, gentle and extra valuable!
- Structure, softness and eye appeal is consistent for every calf he sires.
- With substantial data now included, Proclamation has reached a level of genetic prowess that few can match.
- For better dispositions, extra body mass, super sound structure, program impacting multi-trait EPD values and added performance, Proclamation is the sire of choice for 2021 and beyond!

Semen: \$40/unit – Limited Availability!

Available through Allied Genetic Resources, Cattle Visions, Bovine Elite, LLC and APEX Cattle.



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Wilkinson Farms
Terry & Cathy Schlenker
701-489-3583
701-320-2171 (cell)

JC King of the Road 468H



**Homozygous Black
Homozygous Polled**

Hook's Beacon 56B
Sire: KBHR High Road E283
WS Miss Sugar C4

MCM Top Grade 018X
Dam: JC Ms Top Grade 468B
Hooks Zola 102Z

ASA# 3701283
PB SM

Trait	Direct					Maternal				Carcass							\$ Index	
	CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE	Milk	MWW	Stay	DOC	CW	YG	Marb	Fat	REA	Shr	API	TI
EPD	16.5	-3.4	81.4	124.3	.27	11.5	31.1	71.7	20.5	14.3	24.8	-.38	.55	-.061	.90	-.36	179.5	98.0
ACC	.47	.52	.49	.50	.50	.27	.19	.29	.30	.31	.50	.39	.45	.40	.48	.03		
%	3	1	30	30	25	1	10	10	10	15		2		45	40	1	1	

EPDs as of 10.11.2021

- Regarded by many as the premier High Road son to sell with stunning genetic values, mass, bone and impeccable structure.
- His astounding \$API puts him in the very highest profit predictability echelon among all Simmental sires.
- Few purebreds offer this kind of calving ease and birth weight mitigation with big, nearly perfect feet and the kind of bone and substance that so many are looking for.
- Dam already has 4 @107 for Weaning Weight and has produced two, sale featured breeder bulls in a row.
- His predictable calving ease service on bred females will add value, his daughters will make superb cows and his low BW, high MARB and big-numbered \$API sons are destined sale pacesetters!

Semen: \$30/unit

Semen available from Allied Genetic Resources, Cattle Visions, and APEX Cattle.



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FOR SALE NOW: 40 Fall Calving Pairs, Nearly All with Calves by the 'HIGHLY PREPOTENT' Proclamation. Every fall calving female sells!!!

Performance Advocate Program Enters Twelfth Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Clear Springs Cattle Company, Starbuck, Minnesota

Located in west-central Minnesota, Clear Springs Cattle Company began operation in 2011. Previously, Jim Wulf and his sons, Travis and Brady, raised Limousin cattle with three of Jim's brothers at Wulf Limousin. The Limousin operation, started by the late Leonard Wulf, was always based around sound science to breed and manage cattle for increased profitability. The tradition has continued, with the collection of phenotypes and genomic data on every calf. Rotational grazing and cover crops are used extensively to utilize forage, with the cows grazing past Christmas most years.

When the Jim Wulf family made the decision to venture on their own and switch breeds, Simmental was an easy choice; Jim had grown up with Tom Hook, Hook Farms, in 4-H, and Hook Farms was the first step in the search to find the type and quality of cattle the Wulfs appreciate. Jim Wulf says, "We are blessed to have become great friends with Tom over the years and from 2015 to 2021 have worked jointly with him to put on the Bred for Balance sale the second Friday of each February." The sale will take place February 11, 2022, featuring 125 bulls and 50 females.

Working with Hook Farms has allowed Clear Springs to add even more focus to evaluating genetics. Travis says, "We are grateful for the mentoring Tom has provided and his willingness to share his abundant knowledge about contem-

porary groups, EPD, and performance data collection with us, and we look forward to continuing learning and striving to breed more profitable cattle for the beef industry."



The Wulf family develops bulls in conjunction with Hook Farms for their Bred For Balance sale.



The Bred For Balance sale offers red and black genetics.

Bridle Bit Simmental, Walsh, Colorado

Bridle Bit Simmentals bred their first cows to Simmental bulls in 1969. Data on these first calves was reported to ASA, and that practice has continued for 50 years. Bridle Bit Simmentals credits Gene Enloes, Weld County Extension agent, in taking all the weaning and yearling weights in the early years of the operation. Correct and accurate data has been a priority since the beginning.



Data collection has been a priority for the Cook family for many years

Artificial insemination was used exclusively until 1986. When the Cook family moved to southeast Colorado, embryo transfer and herd bulls were introduced into the breeding program. In those first years, Bridle Bit data was



Bridle Bit Simmentals recently installed a feed intake system.

reported to the ASA as a non-member and they officially joined the association in 1974, as ASA membership number 4086. They attribute their success to the foresight of the breeders who founded the ASA and the programs they continue to implement.

Bridle Bit Simmentals markets bulls and females through an annual sale in March, with this year's All-Terrain Bull and Female Sale on March 21, 2022. All animals are sold with complete data and genomically-enhanced EPD. Bridle Bit is an owner/member of Allied Genetic Resources, LLC. After several years of collecting feed efficiency data at Hy-Plains Feedyard in Montezuma, Kansas, Bridle Bit installed their own feed intake system at the ranch. This will allow the bulls to stay home, as well as include feed intake data collection on the females beginning in the fall of 2021.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

HETEROSIS HEADQUARTERS

BULL & BRED HEIFER SALE

MONDAY - 1:00 PM
JANUARY 31, 2022



AT THE RANCH NEAR
DANNEBROG, NE

NEBRASKA'S LARGEST AGE-ADVANTAGED SIMANGUS BULL SALE!

160 BULLS

90 Age Advantaged Two-Year-Old and Fall Yearlings
plus 70 Extraordinary Yearlings!

80 HERD BUILDING BRED HEIFERS

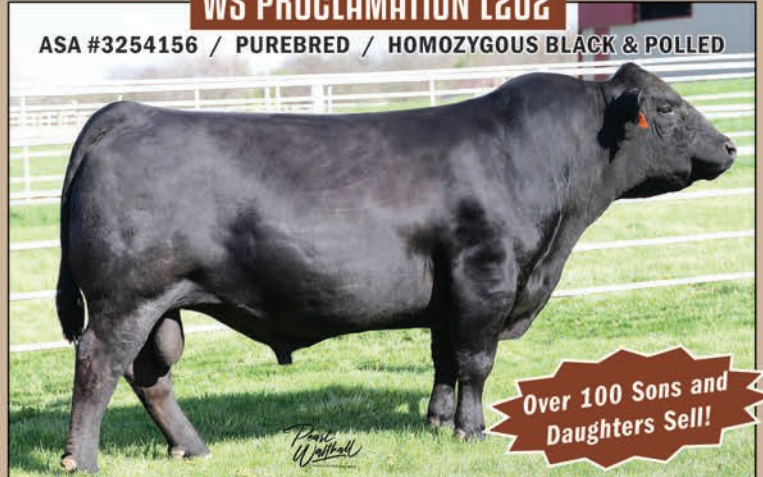
Featuring the service of proven calving ease sire, Proclamation plus JC King of the Road 468H (16.6 CE, -3.2 BW & 180 API), Leachman Good News MO44F (15.3 CE, -0.8 BW & 166 API) and Leachman Approval K140F (18.1 CE, -3.1 BW & 188 API).

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ASA #3254156 / PUREBRED / HOMOZYGOUS BLACK & POLLED



CED	BW	WW	YW	MCE	MILK	MWW	DOC	MARB	REA	API	TI
13.9	0.3	100.7	146.8	11.4	31.5	81.8	19.6	0.56	0.91	169.2	104.3
15%	25%	2%	4%	1%	5%	1%	1%	2%	40%	2%	1%

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80 Powerful Two-Year-Old and Yearling Sons Sell!

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HOOKS BEACON (API 190)



LEACHMAN GOOD NEWS (API 166)



LCRR MOUNTAIN PASS (API 149)



BRIDLE BIT REMBRANDT (API 163)



CLRS DIVIDEND (API 140)



THR TESTAMENT 5451C (API 157)

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Performance Advocate Program Enters Twelfth Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

CLM Ranch, Olean, Missouri

Straddling the northern portion of the Missouri Ozark Mountains, CLM Ranch maintains a 160-head SimAngus seedstock operation split into spring and fall calving groups. For the past 16 years, bulls have been primarily marketed through the RA Brown Ranch with some sold private-treaty off the ranch. Additionally, the Miller family operates a freezer beef business, selling around 35 home-raised freezer beef each year.

Data is collected on most traits, including birth weights, yearling weights, bull ultrasound, mature cow data, and carcass traits on fed cattle. Chuck Miller explains, “When we track data, selection decisions are easier, and we offer more integrity and value to each bull and bred heifer we sell.”

The entire cow herd is low-density DNA tested and all females are reported in Total Herd Enrollment. Chuck and Christi Miller hold a longtime commitment to ASA programs, saying, “CHR (Cow Herd DNA Roundup) allowed us to get to ground zero, parent verify each cow, and have all females genotyped, and in turn, improved the accuracy of the EPD.”

Through THE and a commitment to data reporting, CLM Ranch has had perfect Performance Advocate scores for several seasons. Miller says, “We believe that Total Herd Enrollment is paramount to the success of ASA’s data system and have always reported each and every calf born.



The Miller cow herd is split between spring and fall calving.



CLM Ranch markets genetics through the RA Brown Ranch, and private-treaty.

We truly believe that the integrity of our data is critical to the success of our program and that of our customers’ programs. The Performance Advocate Program lends serious credibility to the fact that our spring and fall calving herds are amongst the most balanced/elite herds in the nation in terms of dollar indexes.”

Cow Camp Ranch, Lost Springs, Kansas

Located near Lost Springs Kansas, Cow Camp Ranch produces Simmental and SimAngus genetics, with a focus on their commercial customers. The Brunner family has been in the cattle business for many years, and their dedication to producing profitable cattle while remaining committed to progress and science earned them the 2021 Beef Improvement Federation Seedstock Producer of the Year award. Kent and Nolan operate the seedstock enterprise, while Mark, Tracy, Bryant, and Tanner manage the feedlot.



In addition to raising seedstock, Cow Camp Ranch operates a feedlot.

the Brunner family has participated in a number of ASA programs, and places a priority on collecting genomic information on animals. Around 180 bulls and 15–20 elite, spring open-heifers are sold in their annual spring bull sale, held the first Friday in February, and an additional 50–75 bulls are sold by private treaty in late spring or fall. In addition to bulls, 100 bred and open females are sold annually.

The Cow Camp feedlot feeds predominantly Simmental-influenced calves. Any animals that don’t make the cut as bulls or replacement heifers are sent to the feedlot, and the Brunner’s also buy back several thousand head of Cow Camp genetics from the bull customers. For the past 20 years, carcass data on these calves has been returned to ASA. Kent says, “We’re all-in on all the data, all the time. We’re doing it to create the total package. We want the EPD, the genomics, the phenotypes, the feet, the disposition to align with our goals and our customers’ goals.”



The Brunner family, left to right: Tracy, Tanner, Kent, Noah, Nolan, Mark, and Bryant

Cow Camp Ranch collects and submits a variety of data, including birth and yearling information through mature cow measures. In addition to data collection,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Buck Creek Ranch presents the

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Performance Advocate Program Enters Twelfth Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Driven Performance Advocate

(reported 10 or more traits)

BREEDER		SEASON	TOTAL TRAITS
Bridle Bit Simmentals	Walsh, CO	2020 S	10
Clear Springs Cattle Co	Starbuck, MN	2020 S	10
CLM Ranch	Olean, MO	2020 S	10
Double B Acres	Sterling, OH	2020 S	10
Eakins, Roger L	Jackson, MO	2020 S	10
Green Valley Farm	Ithaca, MI	2020 S	10
Konesky, Joseph J	Sand Coulee, MT	2020 S	10
Red Hill Farms	Lafayette, TN	2020 S	10
South Dakota State University	Brookings, SD	2020 S	11

Dedicated Performance Advocate

(reported 8 to 9 traits)

BREEDER		SEASON	TOTAL TRAITS
Andy Kratzer	Marquette, KS	2020 S	8
Andy Kratzer	Marquette, KS	2019 F	8
Cow Camp Ranch	Lost Springs, KS	2020 S	8
J-C Simmentals	Clare, MI	2020 S	8
Martin & Son Farm	Lyles, TN	2020 S	8
Rock Hollow Farm	Alachua, FL	2020 S	8
Rock Hollow Farm	Alachua, FL	2019 F	8
Salinas Farms	Marion, MI	2020 S	8
University Of Illinois	Baylis, IL	2020 S	9
Roth Farms	Sterling, KS	2020 S	9
M Ridge Cattle	Russellville, OH	2020 S	9
McDonald Farms	Blacksburg, VA	2020 S	9
Rakes, Rocky W	Danville, VA	2019 F	9
CLM Ranch	Olean, MO	2019 F	9

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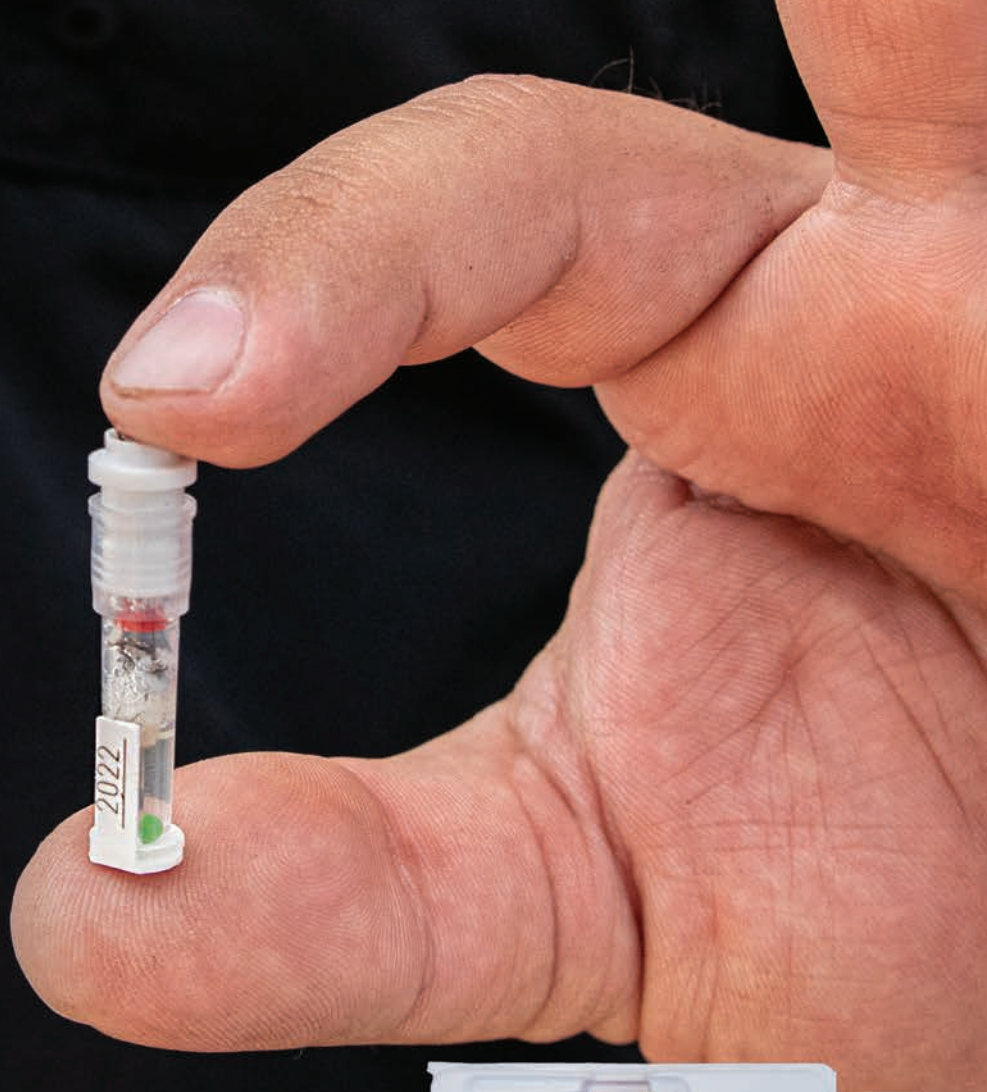
BETH DRAKE, MS - "I bought my husband one for Christmas. He loves it! Rough round and Brangus mamas, safer than anything we've tried."

BARRY SALSMAN, KY - "Excellent protection from mothers...great for doctoring young calves or banding."

BAR 4 RANCH, TX - "We love our Calf Catcher! The cows are more calm because they can see & smell the calves. It is really a one-man job now!"

JEFF HALL, MO - "Has turned tagging and working calves into a one man operation, and made it safer to do it. Pairing out is a breeze as cows follow great."

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BICHLER

SIMMENTALS



BCLR MANIFESTO G352 • REG. #3659574
WS Proclamation E202 X GW Predestined 701T

All-time high seller at Bichler Simmentals • Owned with Lazy C Diamond Ranch



These Bichler-bred females and their Manifesto-sired calves are getting the job done at Kenner Simmentals.



LCDR INTRIGUE 749E • REG. #3356780
CDI Abundance 391C X GAR Prophet
Sire of many lots in the sale
Owned with Lazy C Diamond Ranch



BCLR DIGNIFIED G101 • REG. #3659627
IR Imperial B948 X WS Beef Maker R13
High-selling bull in our November 2020 sale
Owned with Johnson Simmental Farms

DOUG & MARIA BICHLER • Linton, N.D.
Home: 701 254-4306 • Cell: 701 226-4068



BCLR MISS BALDY E704 • REG. #3322997
Remington Lock N Load 54U X HSF High Roller 12T
Dam of several lots in the sale, including a red baldy bull by Intrigue.



High selling black heifer in our November 2020 sale.



High selling heifer in our November 2020 sale.



LCDR MAKIN' WAVES 711E • REG. #3356743
TJ Makers Mark 215Y X CLRS Grade-A 875 A
Sire of many lots in the sale



HOOKS YANKEE 38Y • REG. #2674905
WS Beef King W107 X Hooks/KS Sequoia 35S
Donor dam with 3 Red Mountain sons selling



TJ MS 38W • REG. #2529932
Dikemans Sure Bet X Mr Beef E141
Donor dam with several sons in the sale

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Nov. 15, 2021

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LINTON, N.D.

55 Bulls • 45 Bred Females

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Performance Data Collection Guide

Definitions, Tips, Timelines, and Use

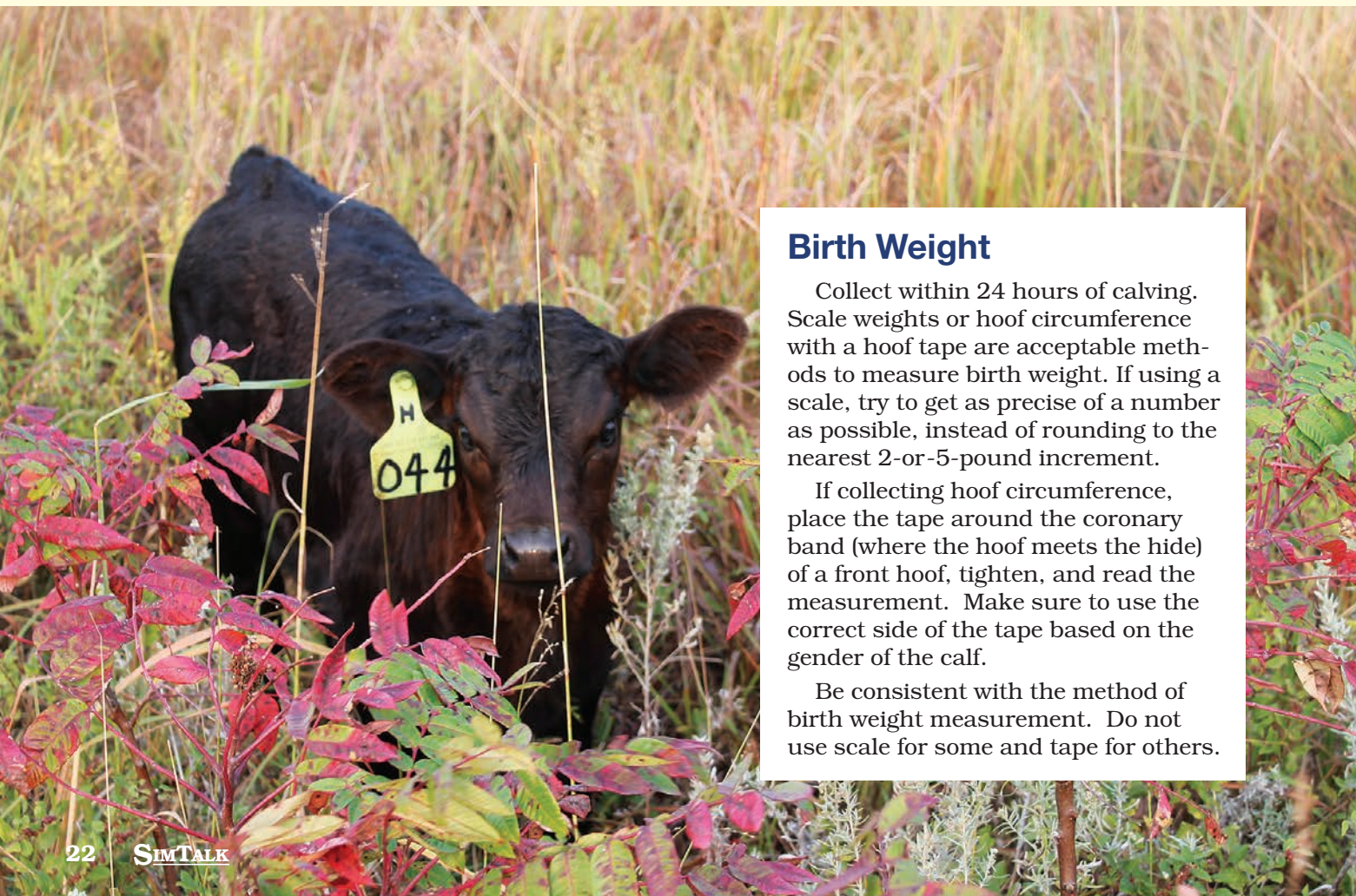
by Jackie Atkins, PhD, director of Science and Education

When it comes to performance data collection, the seedstock breeders, cow-calf operators, managers, and hired hands all play a pivotal role in collecting phenotypic measurements and reporting them into a system to use the information to its fullest extent. This rests on your shoulders, my friends. If you want to get the most complete picture of the genetics of your herd, then you have to commit yourself to collecting the most complete set of records AND using them to analyze your operation and your genetics.

It is not enough to measure the animals and write it down in your record book or in a notebook. Records sitting in a pile of papers on your desk will NOT be used to their fullest extent. I empathize that feeding records into an analysis of your herd's performance or a genetic evaluation is not an easy task, nor do many of us wish

to spend hours with a computer working on this step. But in order to use your herd performance to its fullest, this is a necessary step. This might mean you hire someone to help digitize your records, twist the arm of a family member, or simply sit down and do it yourself. There are many approaches and software platforms to use. My advice is to find a system that works for you so that you USE the records you collect.

The following information is to clarify the best approach for collecting various performance records and to provide a one-stop shop with information you need to gather these data points. This article breaks down each type of phenotypic record and the best way and time ranges to collect them to take away any indecision surrounding this essential component of beef cattle improvement.



Birth Weight

Collect within 24 hours of calving. Scale weights or hoof circumference with a hoof tape are acceptable methods to measure birth weight. If using a scale, try to get as precise of a number as possible, instead of rounding to the nearest 2-or-5-pound increment.

If collecting hoof circumference, place the tape around the coronary band (where the hoof meets the hide) of a front hoof, tighten, and read the measurement. Make sure to use the correct side of the tape based on the gender of the calf.

Be consistent with the method of birth weight measurement. Do not use scale for some and tape for others.

Calving Ease Score

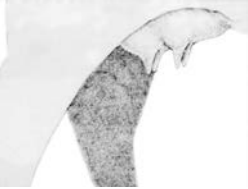

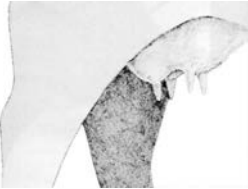






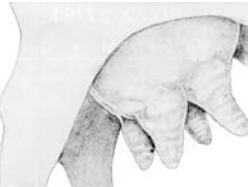
This score indicates how easily a calf was born. Only scores 1 through 4 are used in the genetic evaluation of calving ease, but scores 5 through 7 can be used to further describe the calving event. If a calf's birth was unobserved (hence unassisted), use a 1 as the primary score. If entering scores into ASA's Herdbook, every calf should have a primary score (1-4) but two-digit numbers may be used for more thorough accounting of calving. Examples: Use 36 to indicate a hard pull and dead on arrival. Use a 25 to indicate an easy pull with an abnormal presentation.

- 1 = Born unassisted
- 2 = Easy pull
- 3 = Hard pull
- 4 = Cesarean
- 5 = Abnormal presentation
(omitted from genetic evaluation)
- 6 = Dead on arrival
(omitted from genetic evaluation)
- 7 = Premature (omitted from genetic evaluation)

Udder and Teat Scores

Collect udder and teat scores within 24 hours of calving. Two scores are assigned based on udder suspension (1-9, with 1 being very pendulous and 9 being very tight) and teat size (1-9, with 9 being

very small and 1 being large and misshapen). Ideally one person scores all the udders/teats during the calving season for consistency.

Score	Udder Suspension	Teat Size
9	Very Tight 	Very Small 
7	Tight 	Small 
5	Intermediate 	Intermediate 
3	Pendulous 	Large 
1	Very Pendulous 	Very Large, Misshapen 

Graphic used courtesy of the American Hereford Association.



NEW

3/4 SimAngus™

W/C Fort Knox 609F

By W/C Bankroll 811D
EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 153 \$TI: 93



Full brother to W/C Bankroll

W/C Pinnacle E80

By W/C Loaded Up 1119Y
EPD: CE: 14 \$API: 129 \$TI: 73



W/C Night Watch 84E

By CCR Anchor 9071B
EPD: CE: 19 \$API: 157 \$TI: 88



NEW

DMCC Black Velvet 5E

By Pays To Believe
EPD: CE: 4 \$API: 109 \$TI: 73



SSC Shell Shocked 44B

By Remington Secret Weapon 185
EPD: CE: 18 \$API: 134 \$TI: 73



THSF Lover Boy B33

By HTP/SVF Duracell T52
EPD: CE: 15 \$API: 155 \$TI: 91



NEW

JC King of the Road 468H

By KBHR High Road E283
EPD: CE: 16 \$API: 181 \$TI: 98



NEW

Ruby NFF Up The Ante 9171G

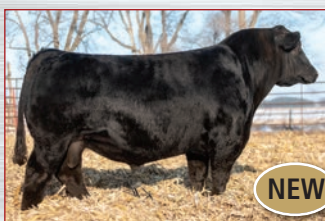
By Ruby's Currency 7134E
EPD: CE: 12 \$API: 120 \$TI: 71



NEW

ACLL Fortune 393D

By MR TR Hammer 308A ET
EPD: CE: 9 \$API: 98 \$TI: 72



NEW

W/C Double Down 5014E

By W/C Executive Order 8543B
EPD: CE: 17 \$API: 114 \$TI: 70



Ruby SWC Battle Cry 431B

By MR HOC Broker
EPD: CE: 10 \$API: 100 \$TI: 75



NEW

Mr SR 71 Right Now E1538

By Hook's Bozeman 8B
EPD: CE: 17 \$API: 155 \$TI: 90



NEW

GSC GCCO Dew North 102C

By HTP/SVF Duracell T52
EPD: CE: 15 \$API: 119 \$TI: 82



PAL/CLAC Meant To Be 823E

By Mr HOC Broker
EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 112 \$TI: 68



3/4 NAILE and NWSS Champ

Reckoning 711F

By W/C Relentless 32C
EPD: CE: 12 \$API: 120 \$TI: 68



NEW

TJSC King of Diamonds 165E

By LLSF Pays To Believe ZU194
EPD: CE: 11 \$API: 113 \$TI: 74



NEW

PBF Red Paint F88

By W/C Executive Order 8543B
EPD: CE: 14 \$API: 118 \$TI: 74



NEW

SC Pay the Price C11

By CNS Pays to Dream T759
EPD: CE: 7 \$API: 118 \$TI: 77



NEW

JASS On The Mark 69D

By W/C Loaded Up 1119Y
EPD: CE: 11 \$API: 127 \$TI: 75



W/C Relentless 32C

By Yardley Utah Y361
EPD: CE: 10 \$API: 118 \$TI: 75



NEW

3/4 SimAngus™

WLE Copacetic E02

By HPF Quantum Leap Z952
EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 113 \$TI: 77



NEW

Holtkamp Clac Change Is Coming 7H

By WLE Copacetic E02
EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 108 \$TI: 74



NEW

W/C Bankroll 385H

By W/C Bankroll 811D
EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 121 \$TI: 74



NEW

3/4 SimAngus™

LLSF Vantage Point F398

By CCR Anchor 9071B
EPD: CE: 14 \$API: 135 \$TI: 88



WS Revival B26

By LLSF Uprising Z925
EPD: CE: 11 \$API: 107 \$TI: 69



LLSF Pays To Believe ZU194

By CNS Pays To Dream T759
EPD: CE: 9 \$API: 124 \$TI: 80



W/C Bankroll 811D

By W/C Loaded Up 1119Y
EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 132 \$TI: 80



CLRS Guardian 317G

By Hook's Beacon 56B
EPD: CE: 20 \$API: 210 \$TI: 107



KSU Bald Eagle 53G

By Hook's Eagle 6E
EPD: CE: 14 \$API: 180 \$TI: 105



WLE Black Mamba G203

By WLE Copacetic E02
EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 136 \$TI: 81



FELT Perseverance 302F

By W/C Executive Order 8543B
EPD: CE: 15 \$API: 112 \$TI: 71



W/C Express Lane 29G

By Rubys Turnpike 771E
EPD: CE: 14 \$API: 135 \$TI: 80



MR CCF The Duke G42

By Mr CCF Vision
EPD: CE: 11 \$API: 116 \$TI: 73



Erixon Bitten 203A

By NCB Cobra 47Y
EPD: CE: 15 \$API: 152 \$TI: 87



LCDR Favor 149F

By LCDR Witness 541C
EPD: CE: 11 \$API: 154 \$TI: 102



SFG The Judge D633

By CCR Cowboy Cut 5048Z
EPD: CE: 9 \$API: 157 \$TI: 97



TL Ledger 106D

By Profit
EPD: CE: 10 \$API: 113 \$TI: 69



GPG Focus 135F

By Mr CCF 20-20
EPD: CE: 6 \$API: 119 \$TI: 77



OBCC Kavanaugh F236

BBy OBCC Unfinished Business
EPD: CE: 14 \$API: 142 \$TI: 81



WS Proclamation E202

By CCR Cowboy Cut 5048Z
EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 168 \$TI: 104



JBSF Logic 5E

By W/C Relentless 32C
EPD: CE: 9 \$API: 117 \$TI: 73



WHF/JS/CCS Double Up G365

By W/C Double Down
EPD: CE: 15 \$API: 118 \$TI: 71



Mr CCF Vision Z60

By Mr NLC Upgrade U8676
EPD: CE: 11 \$API: 106 \$TI: 81



Perfect Vision 26D

By MR CCF Vision
EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 114 \$TI: 77



RRF Trading Up E777

By Pays to Believe
EPD: CE: 14 \$API: 136 \$TI: 76



JSUL Something About Mary 8421

By W/C Relentless 32C
EPD: CE: 11 \$API: 113 \$TI: 72



CDI Innovator 325D

By TJ Main Event 503B
EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 136 \$TI: 91

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Weights

Measure to the nearest whole pound increment. Scale needs to be calibrated and cleaned periodically. Take empty body weights — in other words, cattle waiting to be weighed that are drinking water will be heavier than cohorts weighed without water-fill. Ideally, weigh all cattle the same day or you can take two weights on the animal and use the average.

Weaning Weight: Measure as close to 205 days of age with an acceptable window (with ASA) from 160-250 days of age.

Yearling Weight: Measure as close to 365 days of age with an acceptable window (with ASA) from 330-440 days of age.

Mature Cow Weight: Measure at the same time as collecting a body condition score (BCS). Weigh entire cow herd groups at the same production stage. In other words, do not weigh some at calving, some at breeding, and some at preg check time. Ideally, the entire cow herd is weighed, but if that is not feasible, weigh age groups of cows (for instance, all the two-year-olds and five-year-olds). For genetic evaluation, it is best to have a weight at two years and again by or before six years of age.

Body Condition Scores (BCS)

Scores can be used for both management decisions and to input information about the genetics for size and intake into a genetic evaluation. Like other subjective measurements, consistency is key. Ideally, the same person is assessing the BCS, and scores on cattle are collected during the same production stages (pre-calving, calving, breeding, etc.).

Bulls: Best timing is at least six weeks prior to breeding season and throughout the breeding season.

It is ideal for bulls to enter into the breeding season in a BCS of 5.5 to 6.5 (neither under- nor overconditioning is good for the success of the breeding season). A bull may lose 100-200 pounds during the active breeding season so evaluating BCS throughout breeding helps to determine if the bulls require supplementation.

Cows: Best timing is 60-90 days before calving, at calving, and at weaning or pregnancy diagnosis.

For genetic evaluation purposes, scoring cows at the same time as mature weight collection is ideal. For management purposes, scoring at weaning helps to know how to feed cattle leading up to calving, as the ideal time to add body condition is between weaning their current calf up to the last trimester of pregnancy. Assessing body condition 60-90 days prior to calving helps to determine nutrient requirements, as ideal calving BCS is 5 to 6. This helps the cow recover during the post-partum period and breed back in a timely manner.

See next page for a descriptive table of each BCS.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



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Visual indicators to Evaluate Body Condition Scores (BCS)

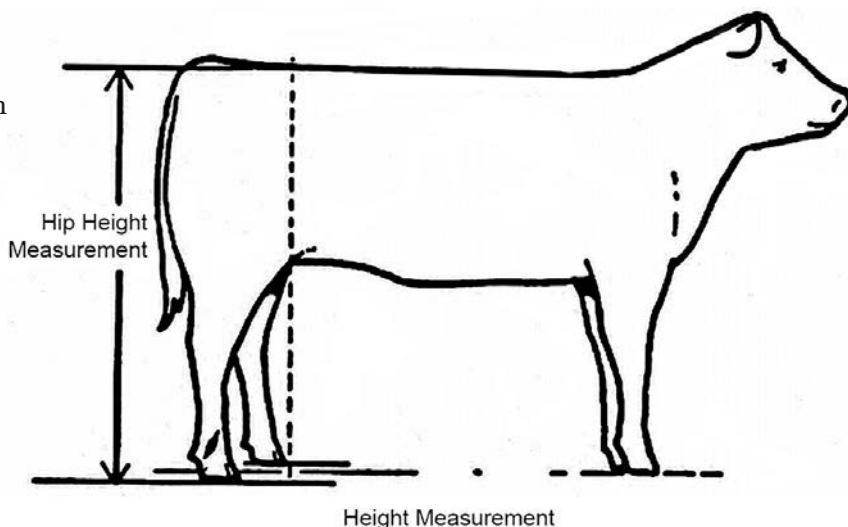
	BCS	Spine	Ribs	Hooks/Pins	Tailhead	Brisket	Muscling
Thin	1	Visible	Visible	Visible	No fat	No fat	None/Atrophy
	2	Visible	Visible	Visible	No fat	No fat	None/Atrophy
	3	Visible	Visible	Visible	No fat	No fat	None
Borderline	4	Slightly visible	Foreribs visible	Visible	No fat	No fat	Full
Optimum Condition	5	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	No fat	No fat	Full
	6	Not visible	Not visible	Visible	Some fat	Some fat	Full
Over-conditioned	7	Not visible	Not visible	Slightly visible	Some fat	Fat	Full
	8	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Abundant fat	Abundant fat	Full
	9	Not visible	Not visible	Not visible	Extremely fat	Extremely fat	Full

Adapted from Herd and Spratt, 1986; BCS = body condition score

Hip Height

Hip Height/Frame (weaning, yearling, or with mature weight):
 The recommended site for hip height measurement is a point directly over the hooks (see image). Cattle should be standing on a flat and even surface. A word of caution about hip heights: the use of body condition score is a better genetic predictor of size and intake than hip height. According to the BIF Guidelines, "Caution should be taken when using the frame score equations and tables. These calculations were developed from cattle data from the 1970s. Cattle have changed tremendously since then, and the growth curve has likely changed, as well. The relationships of height as animals age may no longer be correct. Additionally, predictions of expected carcass weights or mature cow weights based on these frame scores that appear in many publications are

likely incorrect today. Cattle today tend to be heavier, at similar heights, to cattle used to develop the frame score equation." Consult the BIF guidelines (guidelines.beef-improvement.org) for conversion of hip heights to frame scores at various days of age.





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Docility

Assess docility at either weaning or yearling (see “Weights” section for acceptable age windows). Score an entire age group of cattle at the same time (don’t score some at weaning and others at yearling). The following table describes the chute scoring method used by the ASA. Have one person do all the scoring (avoid one person doing some of the cattle and another person scoring the other portion). Being consistent is key to subjective measurements like docility.

1 = Docile	Mild disposition. Gentle and easily handled. Stands and moves slowly during processing. Undisturbed, settled, somewhat dull. Does not pull on the headgate when in a chute. Exits the chute calmly.
2 = Restless	Quieter than average, but may be stubborn during processing. May try to back out of chute or pull back on headgate. Some flicking of tail. Exits chute promptly.
3 = Nervous	Typical temperament is manageable, but nervous and impatient. A moderate amount of struggling, movement, and tail flicking. Repeated pushing and pulling on headgate. Exits chute briskly.
4 = Flighty (Wild)	Jumpy and out of control, quivers and struggles violently. May bellow and froth at the mouth. Continuous tail flicking. Defecates and urinates during processing. Frantically runs the fence line and may jump when penned individually. Exhibits long flight distance and exits the chute wildly.
5 = Aggressive	May be similar to score 4, but with added aggressive behavior, fearfulness, extreme agitation, and continuous movement, which may include jumping and bellowing while in a chute. Exits the chute frantically and may exhibit attack behavior when handled alone.
6 = Very Aggressive	Extremely aggressive temperament. Thrashes about or attacks wildly when confined in small, tight places. Pronounced attack behavior.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

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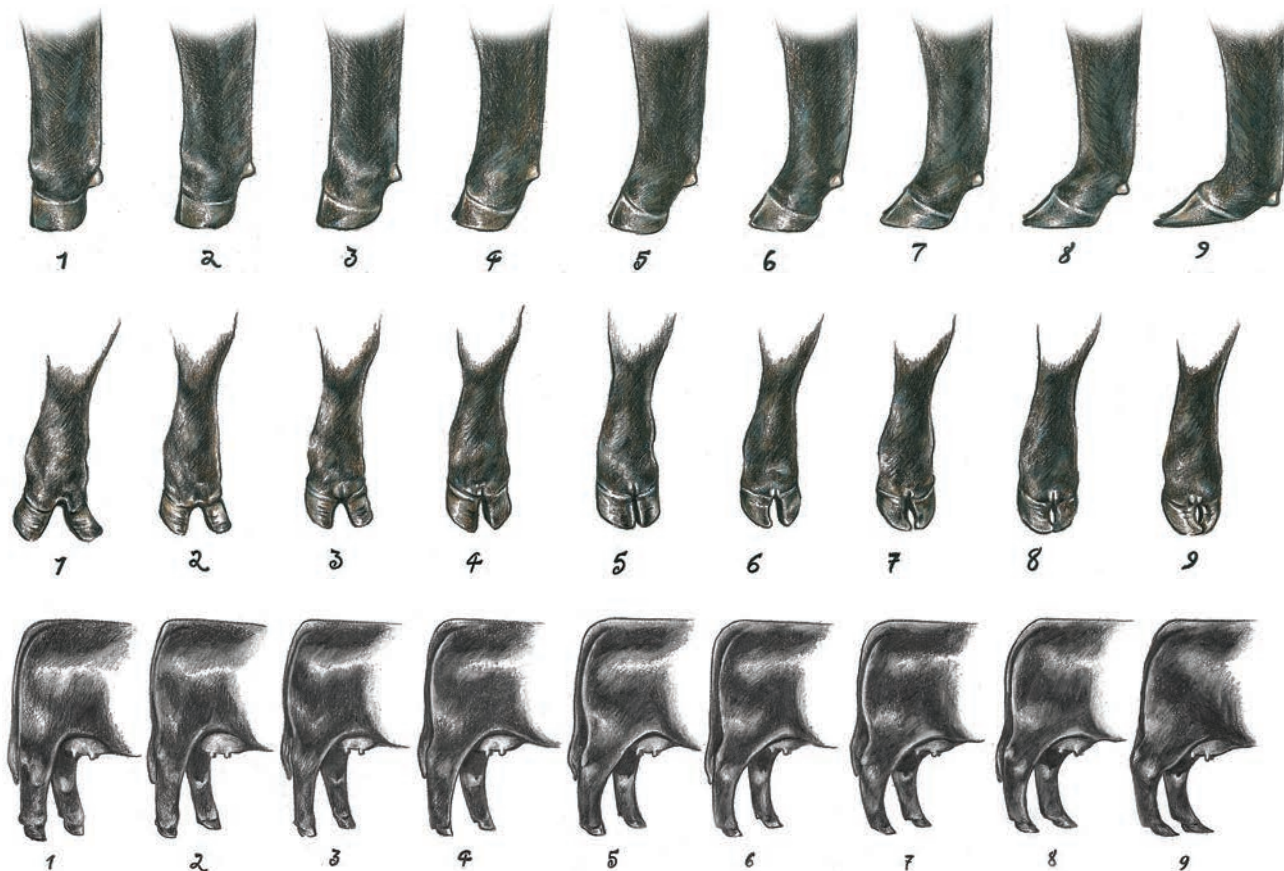
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

Feet and Leg

1. Hoof Angle a description of the angularity that exists between the base of the hoof to the pastern. Can describe steepness, shallowness, and length of toe.

2. Claw Shape a description of the digital conformation with regard to shape, size, and symmetry. Can describe divergence and openness, or curling/crossing of claws.

3. Rear Leg Side View a description of the angularity that exists in the hock joint in relation to movement. Can describe straightness and rigidity, or overflexion of the hock joint.



Artwork by Amanda Raithel Art

Guidelines recommended for feet and leg data collection:

- Score the three traits (Hoof Angle, Claw Shape, and Rear Leg Side View) on a 1 to 9 scale using the above rubrics.
 - If there is variation in conformation of hoof traits between front/rear or left/right, score the worst hoof.
 - Scores should be collected on all yearling bulls and heifers up to 18 months of age to capture whole contemporary groups. **Reminder: animals that contemporary by themselves will not have their scores included in the evaluation.**
 - Scores may be evaluated annually on mature cows (taken in conjunction with mature weights and body condition scores).
 - Score all animals prior to any hoof trimming.
 - Score animals on a level and hard surface, devoid of mud or grass to ensure an accurate appraisal.
 - Score all animals on the same day, from the same evaluator.
- Ultimately, feet and leg appraisal and data collection has a range of benefits, including training membership to become more aware of conformational differences and characteristics in the soundness of their cow herd and annual seedstock offering, building a more robust understanding of feet and leg traits as direct indicators of soundness and longevity, and building a data set for EPD development so all can benefit from more precise genetic selection.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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RANK%	1	1	10	10	1	15	2	1	2	1	1

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Carcass

Carcass Ultrasound (yearling age ranges):

Scan data typically includes ultrasound back fat thickness, ribeye area, rump fat, and intramuscular fat. Ultrasound data needs to be submitted by a certified ultrasound technician (find one at <http://ultrasoundbeef.com/Technicians.php>). It is important to note that ultrasound traits are not equal to harvest records. While they help predict carcass traits, emphasis on acquiring harvest records is vital to carcass trait prediction.

Harvest Records (age dependent on feeding, breed, and type of animal): Harvest records are rare and valuable for understanding the end product produced. For genetic evaluation and management decisions, most carcass information boils down to: 1.) the amount of retail product from an animal, and 2.) the quality of the beef on the animal.

Back fat thickness: Indicator of yield grade. External fat measured at the 12th rib, back fat thickness is used to estimate the yield percentage. As back fat increases, the percentage of retail product decreases.

Dressed carcass yield: Calculated as the hot carcass weight divided by the live weight multiplied by 100 and influenced by fill, muscling, fat, hide, etc. Heavier muscled cattle have a higher dressing percentage.

Hot carcass weight: Weight of the carcass as it leaves the slaughter floor.

Ribeye area: Ribeye muscle measured at the 12th rib to indicate yield.

Yield grade: Calculation that indicates the amount of retail product and measured in whole numbers from 1 (most retail product) to 5 (least retail product), although yield grade expressed in tenths is best for comparing animals.

Marbling score: Estimation of the intramuscular fat in the ribeye between the 12th and 13th rib.

Numerical Scores

Quality Grade	Marbling	Score
Prime	Abundant	10.0 – 10.9
Prime	Moderately Abundant	9.0 – 9.9
Prime	Slightly Abundant	8.0 – 8.9
Choice	Moderate	7.0 – 7.9
Choice	Modest	6.0 – 6.9
Choice	Small	5.0 – 5.9
Select	Slight	4.0 – 4.9
Standard	Traces	3.0 – 3.9
Standard	Practically Devoid	2.0 – 2.9

Additional metrics are used to indicate palatability of the beef, and influence quality grade. These include color, firmness, texture, and tenderness estimates like Warner-Bratzler shear force.

Individual Feed Intake

Individual feed intake records are often taken post-weaning or around yearling age. Growth is also measured during the intake test period.

Warm-up period: Depends on the background of the cattle and the type of feed intake system. If calves are already accustomed to eating out of bunks, a seven-day warm-up period with the feed intake system is likely adequate. For cattle that have not been bunk-broke yet, they could need up to a 21-day warm-up period.

Feed Intake Test: Recommend a 42-day minimum which allows for missed days due to weighing or problems with the intake measurement.

Weights: Animals should be weighed two days in a row (to adjust for fill) at the start of the test and at the end of the test, or cattle can be weighed five times throughout the test period.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

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Fertility Records

Fertility is a lowly heritable trait, influenced by many factors. The fastest way to increase fertility is to use a crossbreeding system. Breeding soundness exams (BSE), reproductive tract scores (RTS), and pregnancy records are all valuable records for managing reproductive outcomes in your herd. These also take specialized training, and in many states require veterinarians to perform the service. Scientists at Kansas State University are looking into the genetics of fertility in bulls and are seeking both BSE and pregnancy records from producers to contribute to the scope of this study.

Reproductive Tract Scoring and Pelvic Measurements: (four to six weeks prior to breeding). Used to assess pubertal status of heifers and cull problem breeders. Half of the heifers should be cycling (score of 4 or 5) for a successful breeding season. If less than half are cycling, consider adjustments to nutrition, timing of the breeding season, and including products that induce cycling in an estrous synchronization protocol (for instance, MGA or Eazi-Breed CIDR).

Breeding Soundness Exams (prior to breeding season): Performed by a veterinarian or a trained reproductive physiologist. Should include both a physical examination of the bull to determine his ability to move and physically breed plus a semen test to look for potential loss of fertility associated with sperm quality and movement.

Pregnancy Status (timing varies depending on the method): Blood tests can detect pregnancy as early as 30 days post-conception, ultrasound as early as 27 days, and rectal palpation 35 days or later. These require trained personnel and have various degrees of accuracy. Use of ultrasound allows for detection of heartbeat and sex determi-

nation of the fetus. If pregnancy rates fall below your expectation, consult with a veterinarian or reproductive physiologist to discuss ways to improve fertility.

Regional Records

Hair Shedding (recorded for yearling during the spring — in most parts of the country May is best timing): Scores are on a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 meaning hair is completely shed (ideal for heat tolerance) and 5 having a full winter coat (worst for heat tolerance). If you missed the yearling age, shedding scores can be taken on mature animals as well. Ideally, the whole herd is scored on the same day by the same person. To date, hair shedding scores are not used routinely in genetic evaluation, but can be used as a culling tool to reduce heat stress (consider culling cows with a 4 or 5 score, especially in warmer climates).

Pulmonary Arterial Pressure (PAP; yearling cattle): PAP is an indicator of high-altitude disease and is used for the screening of animals who are susceptible to pulmonary hypertension. PAP testing is a veterinary procedure used to confirm the presence of pulmonary hypertension by measuring the pressure in the pulmonary artery. These measurements are typically taken at >5,000 feet of elevation in yearling cattle. A lower PAP score indicates less pulmonary stress, reduced susceptibility, and a more desirable phenotype.

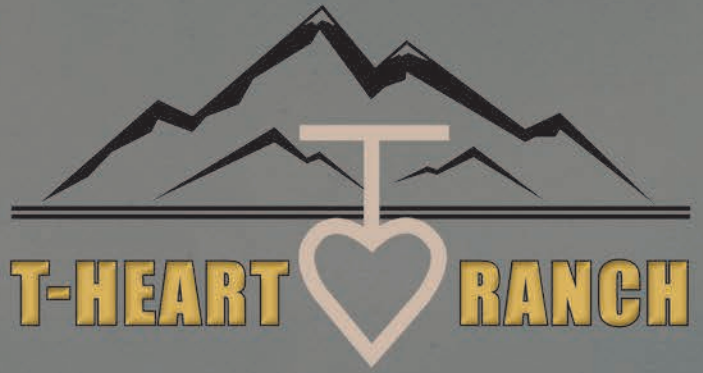
PAP scores are used both to determine if an individual animal is at risk for high-altitude disease and now can also be used in genetic evaluation to predict the likelihood of an animal's progeny to have a risk of high-altitude disease.

Hair Shedding

Score	Definition	Description
1	Slick, short summer coat (100% shed)	Hair shedding is complete
2	Coat is mostly shed (~75% shed)	Hair shedding complete except for lower region of rib
3	Coat is halfway shed (~50% shed)	Hair shed down the brisket and along topline
4	Coat exhibits initial shedding (~25% shed)	Hair shed on neck and around tail head
5	Full winter coat (0% shed)	No hair shedding

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Much More Than A Simple Carcass Test

by Lane Giess, director, Commercial and Nontraditional Data Programs

Results from the 2018 Carcass Merit Program and the need for diversity in carcass programs.

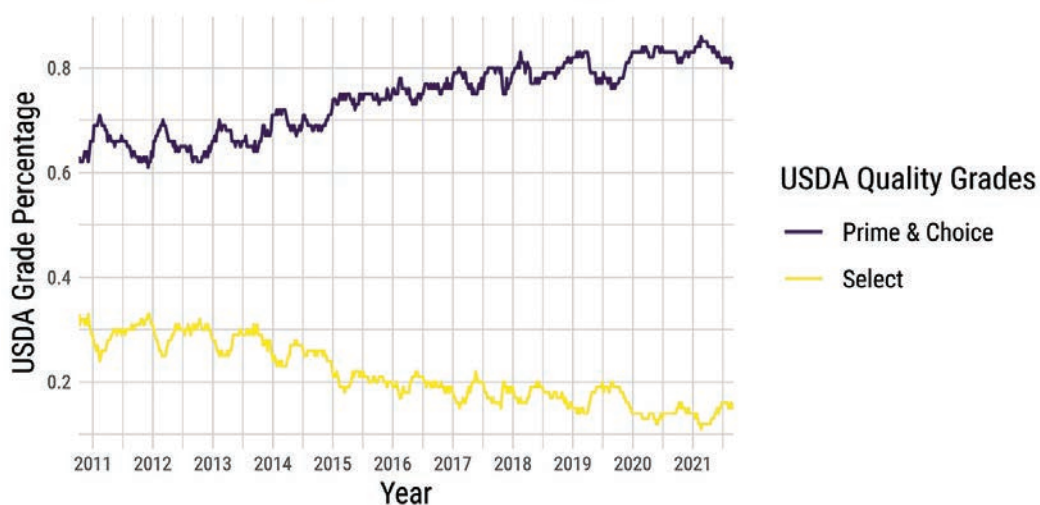
By now readers may be overwhelmed by the amount of content dedicated to the importance of actual carcass data collection. But if we take a moment to think about why that is the case, it highlights the reason so much time, energy, and funds are spent on the actual retrieval of terminal information. Simply, carcass data collection is no easy task, but an important one.

The financial impact of carcass value awareness has never been greater. Whether one is selling feeder calves or harvest-ready steers, the business is taking advantage of more and more knowledge to place value-

tion on calves. Beef consumers simultaneously reap the benefits of added eating quality and are responsible for pushing the accelerator for carcass genetic improvement, particularly marbling.

Consider the change in carcasses grading choice in such a short period of time. In the early 2000s we were grading in the upper 50% choice. Today, that number would likely get any procurement professional relieved of his duties. Just a quick look at USDA numbers over the last decade shows that the push continues at a breakneck pace.

Week-Ending USDA Quality Grade Totals



The American Simmental Association has a rich history of being at the forefront of collecting and gathering carcass data. The organization established the Carcass Merit Program (CMP) in the late 1990s, and it was a large contributor to the resurgence and growth in popularity of the Simmental breed. Not only did the CMP establish a method for generating extremely valuable carcass data, the program also encompassed full lifespan performance traits such as calving ease, fertility, and feed efficiency to name a few. Nominated Simmental and Simbrah CMP sires were compared against high-accuracy sires from other breeds (primarily Angus). It could be argued that, for members, the greater utility of the CMP was the ability to compare SimGenetics to those other breeds' performance, which allowed membership to

have real-world data to show potential bull buyers the merits of SimGenetics.

Today, we have many ways of benchmarking the terminal merit of SimGenetic cattle compared to other breeds. The Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity Cooperative provides unbiased, powerful comparisons on the performance of different breeds in a terminal setting. Kansas State University investigated sire breed group comparisons (English, Continental, Simmental, and SimAngus) for terminal value and carcass traits. Simmental and SimAngus calves showed similar marbling to English-sired calves, which had at least 0.3 less USDA yield grade. Ultimately, Simmental- and SimAngus-sired calves were at least \$20 more profitable in overall carcass value compared to Continental- or English-sired calves.

Tri-County Carcass Profitability Results

Sire breed group	# of Animals	Carcass Value
English sired	45,055	\$1,299.22
Continental sired	6,511	\$1,303.29
SimAngus sired	3,767	\$1,319.73
Simmental sired	4,419	\$1,334.04

Simmental and SimAngus-sired calves provide at least \$20 more per carcass than other breeds.

Benchmarking is a powerful tool for promotion, but what about actual animal improvement? Since the CMP has been operating, the ASA has been collecting a large swath of carcass data that continues to fuel a hungry genetic evaluation. Since 2001, the ASA has accumulated over 40,000 animal records with actual carcass data, due in part to the CMP. As a cumulative program, the CMP has been one the greatest success stories for any young sire progeny test in the industry — yet, in some years, it also highlights the difficulty and need for such programs.

I think no one would argue that 2020 was a difficult year of turmoil, uncertainty, and change. Ripple effects from COVID-19 are still being felt, and the CMP is one of those unfortunate collateral casualties. The CMP class of 2018 fell victim to packing plant restrictions, market volatility, and even some change in cooperator herd management.

Now, to be clear, some of these issues were already in the works prior to the pandemic, and in any given CMP year there is always turnover where data loss is a natural thing. A certain level of data loss is expected due to difficulties of carcass data collection, and so redundancies such as sampling the same CMP bull in multiple herds is done to prevent inadequate sampling. But when redundancies fail, this makes for a less-than-exciting CMP class of 2018 carcass report.

In 2018, a total of 2,059 units of semen on 35 sires were bred to commercial cows in nine cooperator herds. This was the one of the largest CMP classes in recent history, and should have resulted in approximately 600 calves with carcass data. Instead, the program netted 439 terminal animal records. A whopping one-third of the expected data were lost. The real casualties, however, are the bulls nominated for which no carcass data on progeny were collected, and because of the significant time lag of three years between breeding and harvest — time is the real loss.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44



Cooperator Herd Responsibilities

- Breed at least 100 cows at random in a commercial setting
- Select from list of nominated CMP bulls
- Select at least four unique sires
- Coordinate breeding dates and shipping times with ASA CMP coordinator
- Provide AI breeding summary
- Enroll all dams in Herdbook and report full calf information
- Communicate harvest dates and locations with ASA CMP coordinator
- Birth data: calf ID, birth date, birth weight, and calving ease
- Weaning data: weaning date, weaning weight, tissue samples on all designated terminal calves
- Yearling data: feedlot ship date, feedlot entry weight
- Carcass data: hot carcass weight, marbling score, ribeye area, fat thickness, processing data
- Must retain ownership

Cooperator Herd Benefits

- Free semen on top young herd sires
- Free ASA genetic evaluation on cow herd
- Free genotyping on terminal progeny
- Keep any or all replacement females
- \$65 for each AI-sired CMP calf with terminal data
- Access to full range of ASA research DNA programs

Responsibilities of CMP Sire Nominators

- Enroll young sire at \$1,500
- Provide 100 units of semen
- Ensure young sire is AI certified (high-density genomic panel)
- Ship semen to ORigen for storage
- Ship semen prior to the beginning of breeding season (April 1st)

Responsibilities of ASA

- Guarantee at least 12 carcass data per CMP sired in the program
- Reimburse \$125 for each carcass record less than the guaranteed 12 animals
- Coordinate shipment of semen to cooperator herds
- Coordinate data retrieval and report back to test herd and bull owners

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(Continued on page 46)

Much More Than A Simple Carcass Test

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

CMP Sires Sampled in 2018

Sire Name	Registration #	# of Carcass	Sampled in 2019
GIBBS 1084Y Tux & Tails	2676362	5	
GW TRIPLE CROWN 018C	2954741	12	
GIBBS 4478B RELEVANT	2968383	7	
JC ENGINEER 102C	2976529	5	
RHF-SFG 0053Z 427Z 41C	3009999	23	
ES LOADOUT CA11-2	3025430	13	Yes
RC BILLBOARD NS 437C	3102045	10	
SFG3 MMARK X 156B D313	3107252	17	
6462D	3116712	4	
BAR CK 1006X 6005D	3235289	17	
DFF SWEETWATER NS D60	3239491	11	Yes
DFF MR PROFIT NS D67	3239492	21	
SLN AVONDALE E8062	3250533	21	
Hook`s Eagle 6E	3253742	5	
Hook`s Encore 65E	3253795	4	
GIBBS 6176D FACEBOOK	3256169	13	
GIBBS 6328D IMPACT	3256237	6	
GIBBS 6784D STATELINE	3256375	9	Yes
GIBBS 6155D SUPER DUTY	3256504	13	
K-LER Architect 709E	3268068	13	Yes
TJ High Plains 986E	3288842	12	
GW VINDICATOR 312E	3295296	8	
ASR Strong Arm E7209	3303671	5	Yes
ASR Black Nomad E7215	3303694	5	
KBHR Wentz E190	3312184	2	
KBHR HIGH ROAD E283	3312276	6	
SAS BITTEN E532	3313620	2	
Camp Campbell E737	3319012	6	Yes
WLE SMITH MULTITASK E3	3374442	0	Yes
3C PASQUE 4331B B	2914313	0	
IR Imperial D958	3210738	0	
DFF DUNDEE NS D52	3239478	0	
GW Major Move 390E	3242835	0	
LRS CRAFTSMAN 120E	3261167	0	
TJ ROOSEVELT 366E	3288497	0	

Carcass data collection is not easy, and following a single animal through its entire lifecycle is met with many hurdles. Changes in ownership and technological failures are a couple of the main drivers behind loss of information. Historically, packing plants have been extremely protective of their data, and so retained ownership is now a baseline requirement if you are even to begin to receive the data. Selling cattle for cash is no longer an option. Tag loss and electronic ID readers have a tendency to fail, and even having one carcass fall off of the rail can result in total ID disruption.

Perhaps the biggest interruption is the fact that few packing plants regularly even collect individual ID, meaning that if a load of cattle is shipped on the wrong day, the plants may not have the personnel to collect the needed information. There is nothing more disappointing than having a load of retained-ownership cattle getting killed on the wrong day, and getting a dataset with individual data but no ID, resulting in effectively useless data.

Cooperators of the CMP have a lot invested as well, as they receive \$65 per animal with carcass data. Losing this information hurts their bottom line as much as it hurts the ASA and its members.

That's not to say the CMP class of 2018 was without success; many of the bulls nominated were able to get appropriately sampled, and have contributed to our understanding of their carcass merit.

Never put all of your eggs in one basket, right? It's fortunate that the ASA has invested heavily in other incentives, data programs, and membership support that help contribute carcass information to the genetic evaluation. There will always be a need for ASA members to collect carcass ultrasound and encourage their commercial customers to get involved in carcass research programs.

The ASA hosts multiple carcass futurities, such as the Graham County Feedyard project and the Steer Profitability Contest. Research programs like the Carcass Expansion Project (CXP) and Calf Crop Genomics (CCG) have surpassed the CMP in carcass data collection. The CMP was only responsible for 6% of the carcass data totals in 2018, which was the CXP inaugural year. Animals reported in 2018 with carcass phenotypes numbered 6,813, which dwarfed the 439 records collected from CMP-sired calves.



To put this in perspective, the 2018 carcass data total is nearly double from the year prior and represents a 2% increase in the percentage of registered animals with carcass information that enter the database.

Thanks to these programs and membership engagement, the ASA is responsible for over 10,000 of the 11,000 animals with genomics and actual carcass data in the International Genetic Solutions (IGS) multi-breed database. A genetic evaluation the size of IGS is hungry for information, and the ASA is one of the best when it comes to carcass data.

The ASA is dedicated to providing the most powerful scientific tools that benefit its members and its members' customers — to ignore carcass merit would be to ignore the profitability of our customers and turn our backs on the success of the beef industry. For questions relating to the ASA's carcass initiatives, please contact lgiess@simmgene.com.

Carcass Data Reported to ASA From Last 10 Years

- ❖ 2018 is the last full year of data reporting for terminal animals
- ❖ Values within parentheses are the percentage of phenotypes reported to animals enrolled

Year	Animals	Cxs Ultrasound	Carcass
2008	93,045	10,085 (11%)	1,773 (2%)
2009	89,462	10,178 (11%)	1,751 (2%)
2010	91,621	10,938 (12%)	1,828 (2%)
2011	95,471	12,791 (13%)	1,724 (2%)
2012	98,932	13,299 (13%)	2,257 (2%)
2013	104,532	13,156 (13%)	2,057 (2%)
2014	108,106	14,741 (14%)	2,126 (2%)
2015	117,842	16,578 (14%)	2,347 (2%)
2016	125,604	16,632 (13%)	3,853 (3%)
2017	133,280	17,306 (13%)	3,729 (3%)
2018	137,803	15,639 (12%)	6,813 (5%)

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State Marketplace

(Continued from page 43)

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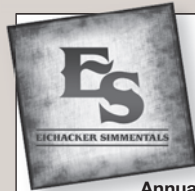
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Let the Numbers Do the Talking

As commercial producers, Two Bar Ranch of Deer Lodge, Montana, focuses on breeding cattle for their buyers and the end consumer.

by Emme Demmendaal

Running cattle in Montana isn't without challenges. Whether it's traversing the high-desert rangeland flanked by the mountains or facing long, cold, and windswept winters, cattle need to be sound, rugged, and hardy to thrive in an unforgiving environment. For Two Bar Ranch, located in Deer Lodge, Montana, SimAngus cattle do all that and more.

"We have an animal that can deal with our environment, which gets very cold or very dry depending on the time of the year," shares Kylie Johnston, part-owner and manager

of Two Bar Ranch. "SimAngus has been the perfect cow for us. They produce the ideal quality of beef we want to provide the consumer."

With the Big Hole Mountains as a backdrop to their productive commercial operation, Two Bar Ranch runs more than 600 Simmental and SimAngus cattle over 10,000 acres of owned and leased property. The Johnston family remains committed to creating quality animal protein for consumers through strategic selection decisions, and dedicated to improving the cattle and sustaining the land.



The high-mountain terrain requires that Two Bar Ranch females are hardy and adaptable.

out problems, all while also weaning off a good calf. She says, “We need a cow to be problem-free, wean off a nice-sized calf, and breed back early. Our Simmental cows really do it all.”

Robert was an early adopter of artificial insemination and crossbreeding with Angus cattle. When Kylie’s father, Evan, inherited the operation in the early 2000s, the first thing he focused on was updating the ranch with 21st-century innovations, and implementing the technology available to make better beef cattle faster. Kylie says, “We made real improvements to the ranch. We put in pivots, updated our buildings, and built a nice calving barn. We started collecting more data on our calves.”

Kylie notes that the improvements to summer pasture irrigation made the most significant change in how far the cattle moved during the warm months. “The cows now can stay a little lower and have good access to water.”

Around the time Evan started managing the operation, SimAngus cattle moved to the forefront of the industry. Kylie shares, “Dad always said that SimAngus was the best of both breeds. Simmental provided the size — a five- to six-frame score, high milking traits, and mother-ability — while Angus rounded out the muscle and marbling. Our SimAngus calves are unbeatable.”

Ethan adds, “The heterosis that a little bit of crossbreeding added improved our cows’ stayability in the herd, but also how the calves gain and the end carcass quality. Today, most of the cows are three-quarter Simmental and one-quarter Angus. We’ve seen that the three-quarter Simmental, one-quarter Angus calves have improved the carcass quality of our cattle.”

Founded on Simmental

The ranch has been in the Simmental business since the breed was brought to the US. Dating back to 1909, the operation has grown from 600 acres and 40 cows to approximately 3,000 acres and 600 head of commercial Simmental and SimAngus cows.

In the late 1960s, brothers Robert and Joseph Johnston were among the first thousand ranchers who joined the American Simmental Association. Theirs was membership number 951.

“Robert was the first to bring Simmental into the valley,” recalls Kylie. Robert was her great-great-uncle, making Kylie and her brother Ethan the fourth generation to run the ranch. “Even back then, the Simmental outperformed. They travel better in higher elevation and mountainous country.”

At the time, Two Bar Ranch ran primarily commercial Simmental cattle, but occasionally registered and sold a few bulls — a tradition that has continued today. Kylie notes that their Simmental cattle handle the elevation change, the low resources of high-elevation grazing, and cover large amounts of the rugged mountainside with-

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Let the Numbers Do the Talking

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Two Bar Ranch runs commercial SimAngus cattle

Association or the Con Warren. The heifers go to the Forest Service allotment and come home later than the cow-calf pairs. Kylie explains, “We try to get them synchronized, bred, and out to pasture as soon as possible. They are safe to travel zero to four days after AI, and don’t force us to wait 45 days to get them moved.”

Generations of rigorously selecting AI sires have improved Two Bar Ranch’s genetics. Of the 250 cows selected for AI breeding, all are between three and seven years old, ensuring that younger genetics are used with proven AI bulls. She adds, “Many of the top heifers that we hold back as replacements are out of these AI-bred cows.”

EPD and ASA’s indexes like All-Purpose Index (\$API) and Terminal Index (\$TI) are essential when making selection decisions. Ethan says, “We’re looking at a variety of traits like calving ease and milk, but we also use \$API and \$TI. When these calves get to the feedlot, we want them to take off and grow.”

Making selection decisions for their herd has been easier in the last few years since they joined ASA’s Total Herd Enrollment commercial option. By providing an inventory of their commercial cows and calving, weaning, and mature dam data, Two Bar Ranch receives information back on all heifers. The numbers they receive from the Association not only help them select the top replacement heifers in their herd, but they are also able to find areas they can improve in their herd.

Kylie says, “We submit our cows and calving data to ASA so we can improve our herd genetics and the efficiency of the cattle we sell. It’s helped us remove cows that aren’t doing their job. Realistically, we want to have the best group of cows we possibly can, and collecting and submitting data helps us do that.”

In addition to numbers, the Johnstons pay attention to feet and leg structure. “One of the pastures our cows travel is 2,500 acres with about a thousand-foot elevation change. We need heifers that will move, mothers who will be up on the hill picking at grass, not waiting for us to come to feed them,” Kylie explains.



Evan (left), with Kylie (middle) at the county fair.

Dedicated to Improvement

With 17 inches of annual precipitation and a 90-day growing season, implementing profitable practices is essential for Two Bar Ranch’s bottom line. Kylie shares how AI breeding and using the top genetics in the herd has created a more uniform cow herd, as well as a well-matched calf crop at the end of the year. “We’ve used AI over the last 50 years, and it’s helped introduce superior genetics and create a quality product for the consumer.”

In the first part of June, all the replacement heifers and about 250 mature cows are synchronized using MGA pellets, and then AI bred one time before being put out with clean-up bulls. Kylie explains, “Dad always liked using MGA pellets because it is less expensive, easily mixes into feed, and doesn’t require us to run the cattle through the chute more than necessary.”

In the first four days after AI breeding, the cows are loaded onto a truck and moved out to ground leased from the Sparrow Grazing

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Two Bar Ranch is located near Deer Lodge, Montana.

On top of a low-maintenance cow, a quality udder and easy-to-handle disposition are a must. Kylie laughs while recalling a point of disagreement between her and her father, “If they’re breeding back in time, raising a good calf, have good udders and a good disposition, they get to stay. I don’t like keeping the mean ones, but dad always said, ‘she brings home a good calf. She’s got to stay.’”

With the heavily droughted summer, calves were weaned in the first part of September instead of October. After weaning and making replacement and bull selections, the rest will be backgrounded 60 days before being sent to a feedlot. For the last ten years, cattle have been sold in the Northern Video Sale and shipped out to Nebraska or Canada.

“Fall is my favorite time of the year,” Ethan shares, “When we bring the calves home and see all the work that we’ve put into what the cow produced. From the AI selection, calving, and branding to the backgrounded calf we sell, we get to see if we were successful.”

In Honor of Evan

Kylie and Ethan’s father, Evan, passed away this September. He had a significant impact on the trajectory and success of the ranch over the last 20 years. Evan’s family and the Deer Lodge community will remember him as the guy who let his cattle speak for themselves.

“Evan was a leader in our community. He was slow to make decisions, but he researched everything before he made a decision. He was someone in the community people could ask beef cattle questions to,” his wife, Dana, shares. “He loved working cattle, and at branding time, he would call it our stay-cation.”

Today, Kylie and husband Tayber Goff, Ethan and fiancé Marlee Sandry, and Dana manage the operation. Kylie shares how their father rubbed off on them: “I think it’s pretty rare that both kids, Ethan and I, came back to the ranch. It’s a way of life we love, and we want to pass our family’s legacy down to the next generation.”

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Evan Johnston, who passed away this September, was a pivotal part of the ranch’s success.





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Panel Discussed Benefits of IGS Genetic Evaluation at 2021 NCBA Convention

by **Kate Giess**

Originally published in the Western Ag Reporter, 9/9/2021



During the 2021 National Cattlemen's Beef Association convention (NCBA) hosted in Nashville, Tennessee, August 10–12, beef industry professionals gathered for a panel discussion covering the topic of “Why IGS?” International Genetic Solutions (IGS) is the largest multi-breed genetic evaluation tool in beef cattle in the world to date, made up of 20 breed and partner organizations and over 20 million cattle records. You might be asking, “what is the product of this collaboration?” The answer is directly comparable across breeds to expected progeny differences (EPD).

The mindset behind this type of genetic evaluation compared to a single breed evaluation is the more steam (data) added, the more powerful the engine (IGS) can run. Today's American producers either believe in a purebred approach or harnessing the power of crossbreeding. Is there such a thing as a right or wrong train to be on? Depending on the goals of one's operation, they can hop on whichever “train” best suits them.

The panel discussion, led by Chip Kemp of IGS, tapped into the knowledge of three renowned professionals in the beef industry: Dr. Bob Weaber, of Kansas State University (KSU) and the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF); Tom Brink, chief executive officer of the Red Angus Association of America (RAAA); and Marty Ropp, founder and executive officer of Allied Genetic Resources (AGR).

Each professional holds a key role in the beef chain, bringing a unique perspective to the conversation in addressing some of the factors of this multi-breed genetic evaluation and how the initiatives ultimately tie back to the industry's commercial producers.

“What we need to think about when we think about IGS is how much it [the genetic evaluation] benefits the cattle industry as a whole, as well as the participating breeds,” Brink stated.

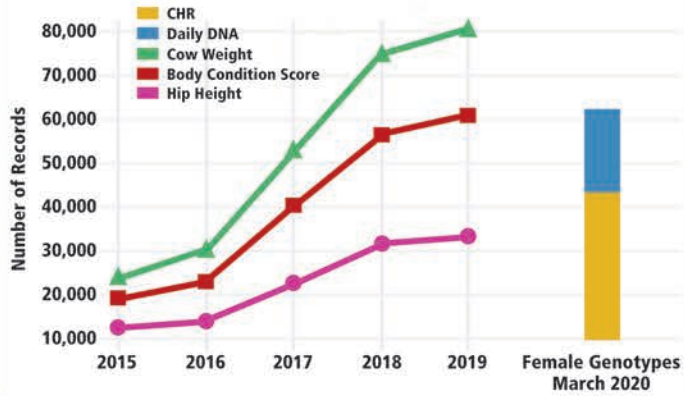
The key difference between a multi-breed genetic evaluation and the more traditional single breed genetic evaluations, is that the multi-breed approach allows massive amounts of hybrid and crossbred data to be analyzed and connected alongside purebred animals. So long as there are shared sire groups between breed populations, a multi-breed genetic evaluation is possible.

Ten years ago, a multi-breed genetic evaluation was perceived as “nonsense” and held no value for the average producer. Ropp, who also has previous breed association experience with the American Simmental Association and has carried that knowledge over to the commercial and seedstock sector, recalled the transition into developing the multi-breed evaluation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 56

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Panel Discussed Benefits of IGS Genetic Evaluation at 2021 NCBA Convention

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“Twenty-three years ago, it was still ‘castles and moats,’ we protected our purebred breed, type of mindset,” Ropp said. “Soon, the genetic value wasn’t there, and members were lost. As we began to work our way back through a genetic evaluation, I was fortunate to be there at a time when the first multi-breed calving ease EPD and carcass EPD was developed. It was then, we knew long-term this was going to be a multi-breed business.”

Dr. Weaber also weighed in on the purpose of the multi-breed evaluation. “It gives us a better opportunity to evaluate genetic differences between individuals of different breed compositions, and having a genetic evaluation that’s designed from the beginning with that in mind really adds power to not only the EPD calculation, but benefits the commercial industry,” Dr. Weaber said.

Genetic Data Benefits Everyone

Panelist moderator, Kemp, discussed with the panelists what makes IGS unique and where genomics comes into play.

“The Bolt software uses a genetic evaluation model that leverages the data more completely,” Dr. Weaber explained. “By, one, doing a better job modeling the relationships between individual animals and their grandparents, and, two, with the software using the actual SNP marker effects in the data that are quantitatively aligned with individual traits.”

With the use of genetic technology rapidly growing in the industry, genomic panels that provide SNP effects offer increasing flexibility for both commercial and seedstock producers. However, the benefit of these genomic chips lose value over time without the collection of actual data and phenotypes.

Kemp then directed the conversation toward data collection among seedstock producers. “You’re either a professional seedstock producer and you collect all the data, or you’re not a professional seedstock producer because you don’t collect the data,” Ropp stated firmly.

The average cattlemen might argue the other side, that they don’t need to collect all of the data because that may give their competitors a leg up.

Brink addressed this notion as a miscommunication between the evaluation and the individual breeder. “There is a misconception to the individual breeder — keep in mind when you collect data on multiple traits, it benefits your individual herd the most,” Brink said. “That data goes right into the evaluation and, yes, there is a ripple effect, it does help the whole evaluation too, but if you concentrate as an individual breeder when you submit your data, you concentrate the benefit of that information on your own cattle.”

The Power of Collaboration

Dr. Weaber also addressed the need for evaluation in the long-term, and said collaboration is going to be a big piece of this.

“The structure of IGS really lends itself to leverage collective data — shared info, genomics, phenotypes. As new participants come in, they immediately get to leverage those genetic relationships. They also have the opportunity to build out genetic programs to help bolster that improvement,” Dr. Weaber explained.

Kemp emphasized the value of sharing sweat equity and the brain power of some of the most intelligent scientists in the industry to keep progressing the evaluation forward.

“We have a lot of small- to medium-size breeds within IGS, and a few larger breeds, so by collaborating, we can afford the best scientists and really the best science available for genetic evaluation. That in itself is very powerful for the individual breeder,” Brink shared.

In tying the evaluation back to an industry viewpoint, Ropp reflected on the direct and indirect effects it has on today’s commercial producers.



Left to right: Dr. Bob Weaber, Tom Brink, Marty Ropp, and Chip Kemp. A panel discussion was held during the convention, where these industry professionals answered the question, “Why IGS?”



“The members of the seedstock producers we work with [of AGR], are absolutely committed to using a genetic evaluation to make a population of cattle that is better each and every generation for their commercial customers, and then also let those customers use some of the tools that are available downstream to make those decisions if they choose to,” Ropp explained.

Rounding out the panel discussion, no one shied away from the unique challenges associated with the rapid acceptance and growth of the collaborative IGS model.

“We’re out there on the edge of science,” Brink said with confidence. “We have the best scientific minds, so together, we’re always learning, improving, and pushing forward. It is work and it won’t be without some bumps along the way, but we understand that. That’s the product of being on the cutting edge.”

The panel discussion was streamed live through the International Genetic Solutions Facebook page, where it can still be viewed.

ST

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Timing matters: It pays to get more cows bred in the first 21 days

By Todd Bilby, PhD,
Cattle Technical Services



Reproduction in beef cattle is 10 times more economically important than growth traits. It's 20 times more important than carcass traits. An extra calf, or more calves per cow herd, is the single largest factor in increasing pounds of beef.

Getting cows and heifers pregnant in a timely manner is critical to reaping economic advantages. For every 21 days cows are open, we lose somewhere between 20 and 60 pounds of weaning weight. There's a lot of profit potential if we can have more calves in the first 21 days of calving season.

A decade of records were analyzed to determine the effect of the calving period on heifer and steer progeny at Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory in Whitman, Nebraska.¹ Progeny were classified as being born in the first, second or third 21-day period of the spring calving season.

The research showed that heifer calves born during the first 21 days of the spring calving season had greater weaning, prebreeding and precalving body weight; greater percent cycling before breeding; and greater pregnancy rates. Similarly, steer calves born earlier in the calving season had greater weaning body weight, carcass weight and marbling scores.

Synchronization benefits bull breeding programs

Another study aimed to determine the effect of estrus synchronization on calving distribution and the impact of time of calving on carcass characteristics.² The study compared calves from nonsynchronized 60-day breeding seasons with calves from estrous-synchronized 45-day breeding seasons. Estrus was synchronized using a single injection of prostaglandin administered 108 hours after mixed-age bulls were turned in with the cow herd.

Data showed that more synchronized cows calved during the first 21 days, and calves born to synchronized dams were 20 pounds heavier at weaning. Calves born in the first 21 days of the calving season had greater carcass weights, marbling scores and yield grades than later-born calves. In addition, the percentage of steers grading premium choice or greater, and the total carcass value declined as time of calving increased.

The data showed that one shot of prostaglandin at 4-5 days after turning out the bulls resulted in cows coming into estrus sooner, which in turn gave a better opportunity to get pregnant earlier, and therefore, more of these cows calved in the first 21 days of the calving season. Their calves were heavier at weaning and produced a heavier, more valuable carcass that was worth an additional \$77 at the feedlot. If that protocol won't fit your management system, one shot of prostaglandin at turnout will still induce more cows to show heat sooner.

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Pregnancy rate to FTAI was significantly higher in cows treated with Fertagyl than in cows treated with control. Estrumate has a long half-life of three hours³. Consult your veterinarian for recommendations on heat synchronization protocols.

¹Funston RN, Musgrave JA, Meyer TL, Larson DM. "Effect of calving distribution on beef cattle progeny performance." *Journal of Animal Science*. 2012;90:5118-5121.

²Larson DM, Musgrave JA, Funston RN. "Estrous synchronization increases early calving frequency, which enhances steer progeny value." *Nebraska Beef Report*. 2010:14-16.

³European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products, Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products, Cloprostenol and R-Cloprostenol Summary Report, 1997.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION FOR ESTRUMATE

Women of childbearing age, asthmatics, and persons with respiratory problems should exercise extreme caution when handling ESTRUMATE. ESTRUMATE is readily absorbed through the skin and may cause abortion and/or bronchospasms; direct contact with the skin should be avoided and accidental spillage on the skin should be washed off immediately with soap and water. Do not administer ESTRUMATE to a pregnant cow if abortion is not desired. Severe localized post-injection clostridial infections have been reported; in rare instances infection has led to death. At 50 and 100 times the recommended dose, mild side effects may be detected. For complete information on ESTRUMATE, see package insert.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION FOR FERTAGYL

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more, visit
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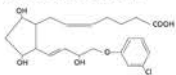


Estrumate® (cloprostenol injection)

250 mcg cloprostenol/mL (equivalent to 263 mcg cloprostenol sodium/mL)
A sterile solution of a prostaglandin F2 α analogue for intramuscular injection in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers.
Caution: Federal (USA) law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

DESCRIPTION:

Estrumate® (cloprostenol injection) is a synthetic prostaglandin analogue structurally related to prostaglandin F2 α (PGF2 α). Each mL of the sterile colorless aqueous solution contains 250 mcg cloprostenol (equivalent to 263 mcg cloprostenol sodium), 6.1 mg sodium citrate, 0.56 mg anhydrous citric acid, 6.7 mg sodium chloride, 20 mg benzyl alcohol, and water for injection, q.s.



INDICATIONS FOR USE:

- For unobserved or non-detected estrus in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers
- For treatment of pyometra or chronic endometritis in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers
- For treatment of mummified fetus in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers
- For treatment of luteal cysts in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers
- For abortion of beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers
- For estrus synchronization in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers
- For use with Fertagyl® (gonadorelin) to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for fixed time artificial insemination (FTAI) in lactating dairy cows.

Estrumate causes functional and morphological regression of the *corpus luteum* (luteolysis) in cattle. In normal, non-pregnant cycling animals, this effect on the life span of the *corpus luteum* usually results in estrus 2 to 5 days after treatment. In animals with prolonged luteal function (pyometra, mummified fetus, and luteal cysts), the induced luteolysis usually results in resolution of the condition and return to cyclicity. Pregnant animals may abort depending on the stage of gestation.

DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION:

Two mL of Estrumate (500 mcg cloprostenol) should be administered by **INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION** using the specific dosage regimen for the indication. 20 mL bottle size: Use within 28 days of first puncture. 100 mL bottle size: Use within 28 days of first puncture and puncture a maximum of 12 times. Use only with automatic injection equipment or repeater syringe. Discard bottle after one stopper puncture with draw-off spike.

- For unobserved or non-detected estrus in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers**
Cows and heifers which are not detected in estrus, although ovarian cyclicity continues, can be treated with Estrumate if a mature *corpus luteum* is present. Estrus is expected to occur 2 to 5 days following injection, at which time animals may be inseminated. Treated cattle should be inseminated at the usual time following detection of estrus. If estrous detection is not desirable or possible, treated animals may be inseminated twice at about 72 and 96 hours post-injection.
- For treatment of pyometra or chronic endometritis in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers**
Damage to the reproductive tract at calving or postpartum retention of the placenta often leads to infection and inflammation of the uterus (endometritis). Under certain circumstances, this may progress into chronic endometritis with the uterus becoming distended with purulent matter. This condition, commonly referred to as pyometra, is characterized by a lack of cyclical estrous behavior and the presence of a persistent *corpus luteum*. Induction of luteolysis with Estrumate usually results in evacuation of the uterus and a return to normal cyclical activity within 14 days after treatment. After 14 days post-treatment, recovery rate of treated animals will not be different than that of untreated cattle.

- For treatment of mummified fetus in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers**
Death of the conceptus during gestation may be followed by its degeneration and dehydration. Induction of luteolysis with Estrumate usually results in expulsion of the mummified fetus from the uterus. (Manual assistance may be necessary to remove the fetus from the vagina). Normal cyclical activity usually follows.
- For treatment of luteal cysts in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers**
A cow or heifer may be noncyclic due to the presence of a luteal cyst (a single, anovulatory follicle with a thickened wall which is accompanied by no external signs and by no changes in palpable consistency of the uterus). Treatment with Estrumate can restore normal ovarian activity by causing regression of the luteal cyst.

- For abortion of beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers**
Unwanted pregnancies can be safely and efficiently terminated from 1 week after mating until about 5 months of gestation. The induced abortion is normally uncomplicated and the fetus and placenta are usually expelled about 4 to 5 days after the injection with the reproductive tract returning to normal soon after the abortion. The ability of Estrumate to induce abortion decreases beyond the fifth month of gestation while the risk of dystocia and its consequences increases. Estrumate has not been sufficiently tested under feedlot conditions; therefore, recommendations cannot be made for its use in heifers placed in feedlots.
- For estrus synchronization in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers**
The luteolytic action of Estrumate can be utilized to schedule estrus and ovulation for an individual cycling animal or a group of animals. This allows control of the time at which cycling cows or heifers can be bred. Estrumate can be used in a breeding program with the following methods:

- Single Estrumate injection: Only animals with a mature *corpus luteum* should be treated to obtain maximum response to the single injection. However, not all cycling cattle should be treated since a mature *corpus luteum* is present for only 11 to 12 days of the 21-day cycle. Prior to treatment, cattle should be examined rectally and found to be anatomically normal, be non-pregnant, and have a mature *corpus luteum*. If these criteria are met, estrus is expected to occur 2 to 5 days following injection, at which time animals may be inseminated. Treated cattle should be inseminated at the usual time following detection of estrus. If estrous detection is not desirable or possible, treated animals may be inseminated either once at about 72 hours or twice at about 72 and 96 hours post-injection. With a single injection program, it may be desirable to assess the cyclicity status of the herd before Estrumate treatment. This can be accomplished by heat detecting and breeding at the usual time following detection of estrus for a 6-day period, all prior to injection. If by the sixth day the cyclicity status appears normal (approximately 25%-30% detected in estrus), all cattle not already inseminated should be palpated for normality, non-pregnancy, and cyclicity, then injected with Estrumate. Breeding should then be continued at the usual time following signs of estrus on the seventh and eighth days. On the ninth and tenth days, breeding may continue at the usual time following detection of estrus, or all cattle not already inseminated may be bred either once on the ninth day (at about 72 hours post-injection) or on both the ninth and tenth days (at about 72 and 96 hours post-injection).

- Double Estrumate injections: prior to treatment, cattle should be examined rectally and found to be anatomically normal, non-pregnant, and cycling (the presence of a mature *corpus luteum* is not necessary when the first injection of a double injection regimen is given). A second injection should be given 11 days after the first injection. In normal cycling cattle, estrus is expected 2 to 5 days following the second injection. Treated cattle should be inseminated at the usual time following detection of estrus. If estrous detection is not desirable or possible, treated animals may be inseminated either once at about 72 hours or twice at about 72 and 96 hours following the second Estrumate injection. Many animals will come into estrus following the first injection; these animals can be inseminated at the usual time following detected estrus. Animals not inseminated should receive a second injection 11 days after the first injection. Animals receiving both injections may be inseminated at the usual time following detection of estrus or may be inseminated either once at about 72 hours or twice at about 72 and 96 hours post second injection.

- Any breeding program recommended should be completed by either:
 - observing animals (especially during the third week after injection) and inseminating or hand mating any animals returning to estrus, or
 - turning in clean-up bulls(s) 5 to 7 days after the last injection of Estrumate to cover any animals returning to estrus.

Management considerations for use of Estrumate for estrus synchronization:

- A variety of programs can be designed to best meet the needs of individual management systems. A breeding program should be selected which is appropriate for the existing circumstances and management practices. Before a breeding program is planned, the producer's objectives must be examined and the producer must be made aware of the projected results and limitations. The producer and the consulting veterinarian should review the operator's breeding history, herd health, and nutritional status and agree that a breeding program is practical in the producer's specific situation. For any successful breeding program:
 - cows and heifers must be normal, non-pregnant, and cycling (rectal palpation should be performed);
 - cows and heifers must be in sound breeding condition and on an adequate or increasing plane of nutrition;
 - proper program planning and record keeping are essential;
 - if artificial insemination is used, it must be performed by competent inseminators using high-quality semen.

It is important to understand that Estrumate is effective only in animals with a mature *corpus luteum* (ovulation must have occurred at least 5 days prior to treatment). This must be considered when breeding is intended following a single Estrumate injection.

There is no difference in the fertility achieved following the single or double dosage regimen when breeding occurs at induced estrus, or at 72 and 96 hours post-treatment. Conception rates may be lower than expected in those fixed time breeding programs employing Estrumate alone which omit the second insemination (ie, the insemination at or near 96 hours). This is especially true if a fixed time insemination is used following a single Estrumate injection.

7. For use with Fertagyl® (gonadorelin) to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for fixed time artificial insemination (FTAI) in lactating dairy cows

- In reproductive synchrony programs similar to the following:
 - Administer the first Fertagyl® injection (2 mL, 86 mcg gonadorelin, as gonadorelin acetate) by intramuscular injection on Day 0.
 - Administer 2 mL of Estrumate by intramuscular injection 6 to 8 days after the first Fertagyl® injection.
 - Administer the second Fertagyl® injection (2 mL, 86 mcg gonadorelin, as gonadorelin acetate) 30 to 72 hours after the Estrumate injection.
 - Perform FTAI 8 to 24 hours after the second Fertagyl® injection, or inseminate cows on detected estrus using standard herd practices.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Do not use this drug product in pregnant cattle, unless abortion is desired.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS:

- **WITHDRAWAL PERIODS AND RESIDUE WARNINGS:**
No milk discard or pre-slaughter drug withdrawal period is required when used according to labeling. Use of this product in excess of the approved dose may result in drug residues.

USER SAFETY WARNINGS:

- Not for use in humans. Keep this and all drugs out of the reach of children.
- **Women of childbearing age, asthmatics, and persons with bronchial and other respiratory problems should exercise extreme caution when handling this product.** Estrumate is readily absorbed through the skin and can cause abortion and/or bronchospasms. Direct contact with the skin should therefore be avoided. Accidental spillage on the skin should be washed off immediately with soap and water. To obtain a copy of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) or for technical assistance, contact Merck Animal Health at 1-800-211-3573 or <http://www.merck.com>

ANIMAL SAFETY WARNINGS:

As with all parental products, careful aseptic techniques should be employed to decrease the possibility of post-injection bacterial infection. Severe localized clostridial infections associated with injection of Estrumate have been reported. In rare instances, such infections have resulted in death. Aggressive antibiotic therapy should be employed at the first sign of infection at the injection site, whether localized or diffuse. At 50 and 100 times the recommended dose, mild side effects may be detected in some cattle. These include increased uneasiness, slight frothing, and milk let-down.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

To report suspected adverse drug experiences, call Merck Animal Health at 1-800-211-3573. For additional information about adverse drug experience reporting for animal drugs, contact FDA at 1-888-FDA-VETS or at <http://www.fda.gov/reportanimal>

HOW SUPPLIED:

- 20 mL and 100 mL multidose vials
- **STORAGE, HANDLING, AND DISPOSAL:**
 - 1. Protect from light.
 - 2. Store in carton.
 - 3. Store at 2-30°C (36-86°F).

See FDA's website <http://www.fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal> for information on safe disposal of needles and other sharps.
Approved by FDA under NADA # 113-845
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Made in Germany
Rev. 12/2018

FERTAGYL® (gonadorelin)

189979 R9

43 mcg/mL gonadorelin injectable solution

For treatment of cystic ovaries in dairy cattle

- For use with Estrumate (cloprostenol injection) to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for fixed time artificial insemination (FTAI) in lactating dairy cows
- For use with cloprostenol sodium to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for FTAI in beef cows

CAUTION:

Federal Law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

DESCRIPTION:

Fertagyl is a sterile solution containing 43 mcg/mL of gonadorelin (GnRH; as gonadorelin acetate) suitable for intramuscular or intravenous administration according to the directions. Gonadorelin is a decapeptide composed of the sequence of amino acids -5-Oxo-Pro-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-Gly-Leu-Arg-Pro-Gly-NH₂, a molecular weight of 1182.32 and empirical formula C₂₄H₄₂N₁₀O₇. Each mL of Fertagyl contains:
Gonadorelin (as gonadorelin acetate) 43 mcg
Benzyl Alcohol 9 mg
Sodium Chloride 7.47 mg
Water for Injection, USP q.s.

pH adjusted with sodium phosphate (monobasic and dibasic).
Gonadorelin is the hypothalamic releasing factor responsible for the release of gonadotropins (ie, luteinizing hormone [LH], follicle stimulating hormone [FSH]) from the anterior pituitary.
Synthetic gonadorelin is physiologically and chemically identical to the endogenous bovine hypothalamic releasing factor.

INDICATIONS FOR USE:

- **Cystic Ovaries**
Fertagyl is indicated for the treatment of ovarian follicular cysts in dairy cattle. Ovarian cysts are non-ovulated follicles with incomplete luteinization which result in nymphomania or irregular estrus. Historically, cystic ovaries have responded to an exogenous source of LH such as human chorionic gonadotropin. Fertagyl initiates release of endogenous LH to cause ovulation and luteinization.
- **Reproductive Synchrony**
Fertagyl is indicated for use with Estrumate (cloprostenol injection) to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for fixed time artificial insemination (FTAI) in lactating dairy cows.

Fertagyl is indicated for use with cloprostenol sodium to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for FTAI in beef cows.

DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **Cystic Ovaries**
The intravenous or intramuscular dosage of Fertagyl is 86 mcg gonadorelin (2 mL) per cow.
- **Reproductive Synchrony**
For lactating dairy cows, the intramuscular dosage of Fertagyl is 86 mcg gonadorelin (2 mL) per cow, used in reproductive synchrony programs similar to the following:
 - Administer the first Fertagyl injection (2 mL) on Day 0.

- Administer 2 mL of Estrumate (500 mcg cloprostenol, as cloprostenol sodium) by intramuscular injection 6 to 8 days after the first Fertagyl injection.
 - Administer the second Fertagyl injection (2 mL) 30 to 72 hours after the Estrumate injection.
 - Perform FTAI 8 to 24 hours after the second Fertagyl injection, or inseminate cows on detected estrus using standard herd practices.
- For beef cows, the intramuscular dosage of Fertagyl is 86 mcg gonadorelin (2 mL) per cow, used in reproductive synchrony programs similar to the following:
- Administer the first Fertagyl injection (2 mL) on Day 0.
 - Administer 500 mcg cloprostenol (as cloprostenol sodium) by intramuscular injection 6 to 8 days after the first Fertagyl injection.
 - Administer the second Fertagyl injection (2 mL) 30 to 72 hours after the cloprostenol sodium injection.
 - Perform FTAI 8 to 24 hours after the second Fertagyl injection, or inseminate cows on detected estrus using standard herd practices.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS:

Not for use in humans. Keep out of reach of children.

WITHDRAWAL PERIODS:

- No withdrawal period or milk discard time is required when used according to the labeling.

To report suspected adverse drug events, for technical assistance or to obtain a copy of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS), contact Intervet at 1-800-211-3573. For additional information about adverse drug experience reporting for animal drugs, contact FDA at 1-888-FDA-VETS, or <http://www.fda.gov/reportanimal>.

PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY:

Endogenous gonadorelin is synthesized and/or released from the hypothalamus during various stages of the bovine estrous cycle following appropriate neurohumoral stimuli. It passes via the hypophyseal portal vessels, to the anterior pituitary to effect the release of gonadotropins (eg, LH, FSH).

Synthetic gonadorelin administered intravenously or intramuscularly also causes the release of endogenous LH or FSH from the anterior pituitary. Gonadorelin acetate has been shown to be safe. The LD₅₀ for mice and rats is greater than 60 mg/kg, and for dogs, greater than 600 mcg/kg, respectively. No adverse effects were noted among rats or dogs administered 120 mcg/kg/day or 72 mcg/kg/day intravenously for 15 days. It had no adverse effects on heart rate, blood pressure, or EKG to unanesthetized dogs at 60 mcg/kg. In anesthetized dogs it did not produce depression of myocardial or system hemodynamics or adversely affect coronary oxygen supply or myocardial oxygen requirements.

The intravenous administration of 60 mcg/kg/day gonadorelin acetate to pregnant rats and rabbits during organogenesis did not cause embryotoxic or teratogenic effects. Further, gonadorelin acetate did not cause irritation at the site of intramuscular administration in dogs with a dose of 72 mcg/kg/day administered for seven (7) days.

TARGET ANIMAL SAFETY:

In addition to the animal safety information presented in the PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY section, the safety of gonadorelin was established through the review and evaluation of the extensive published literature available for the use of gonadorelin-containing products.

The intramuscular administration of 860 mcg gonadorelin (as gonadorelin acetate) on five (5) consecutive days to normally cycling dairy cattle had no effect on hematology or clinical chemistry. In field studies evaluating the effectiveness of gonadorelin for the treatment of ovarian follicular cysts, the incidence of health abnormalities was not significantly greater in cows administered gonadorelin than cows administered a placebo injection. The target animal safety of, and injection site reactions to, Fertagyl when used with Estrumate (cloprostenol injection) were evaluated during the conduct of effectiveness field studies in lactating dairy cows. The incidence of health abnormalities was not significantly greater in cows administered Fertagyl than cows administered a placebo injection.

The target animal safety of, and injection site reactions to, gonadorelin when used with cloprostenol sodium were evaluated during the conduct of effectiveness field studies in beef cows. The incidence of health abnormalities was not significantly greater in cows administered gonadorelin than cows administered a placebo injection.

EFFECTIVENESS:

The use of gonadorelin for treatment of ovarian follicular cysts in dairy cattle was demonstrated to be effective with a treatment dose of 86 mcg gonadorelin (as gonadorelin acetate).

The effectiveness of Fertagyl for use with Estrumate (cloprostenol injection) to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for FTAI in lactating dairy cows was demonstrated in a field study at six different locations in the U.S. A total of 758 healthy, non-pregnant, primiparous or multiparous lactating dairy cows within 50-120 days postpartum were enrolled in the study. A total of 377 cows were administered Fertagyl (2 mL, 86 mcg gonadorelin as the acetate salt) and 381 cows were administered an equivalent volume of saline as an intramuscular injection twice in the following regimen:
Day 0: 2 mL Fertagyl or saline
Day 7: 2 mL Estrumate (cloprostenol injection)
Day 9: 2 mL Fertagyl or saline

Fixed time AI was performed on Day 10, 16 ± 8 hours after the Day 9 injection. Cows were evaluated for pregnancy on Day 45 ± 5 days by trans-rectal ultrasound or rectal palpation. Pregnancy rate to FTAI was significantly higher (P<0.005) in cows treated with Fertagyl (33.4%) than the pregnancy rate to FTAI to cows treated with saline (17.8%).

The effectiveness of gonadorelin for use with cloprostenol sodium to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for FTAI in beef cows was demonstrated in a field study at 10 different locations in the U.S. A total of 706 healthy, non-pregnant, primiparous or multiparous beef cows within 40-150 days postpartum were enrolled in the study. A total of 364 cows were administered gonadorelin (1 mL, 100 mcg gonadorelin as the acetate salt) and 342 cows were administered an equivalent volume of water for injection as an intramuscular injection twice in the following regimen:
Day 0: 100 mcg gonadorelin (as the acetate salt) or sterile water for injection
Day 7: 500 mcg cloprostenol (as cloprostenol sodium)
Day 9: 100 mcg gonadorelin (as the acetate salt) or sterile water for injection

Fixed time AI was performed immediately after the Day 9 injection. Cows were evaluated for pregnancy on Day 55 ± 5 days by trans-rectal ultrasound. Pregnancy rate to FTAI was significantly higher (P<0.0006) in cows treated with gonadorelin (21.7%) than the pregnancy rate to FTAI in cows treated with water (7.4%). The effectiveness of a 2-mL dose of gonadorelin delivering 86 mcg gonadorelin (as gonadorelin acetate) for use with cloprostenol sodium to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for FTAI in lactating dairy cows and beef cows was also demonstrated through references to scientific literature.

HOW SUPPLIED:

Fertagyl is available in a concentration of 43 mcg/mL gonadorelin (as gonadorelin acetate) pH adjusted with sodium phosphate (monobasic and dibasic). Fertagyl is supplied in multi-dose vials containing 20 mL and 100 mL of sterile solution.
STORAGE, HANDLING, AND DISPOSAL: Keep refrigerated: 2°-8°C (36°-46°F).
20 mL vial: Use within 28 days of first puncture.
100 mL vial: Use within 28 days of first puncture and puncture a maximum of 10 times when using an 18 gauge needle. When using a draw-off spike or needle with bore diameter larger than 18 gauge, discard any product remaining in the vial immediately after use.

Approved by FDA under ANADA # 200-134
Manufactured for:
Intervet Inc. (d/b/a Merck Animal Health)
Madison, NJ 07940
Gonadorelin (active ingred.) made in the Netherlands.
Formulated in Germany.
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Comparing Breed, Heterosis Effects on Mature Weight

by Dr. Bob Hough, originally published by Western Livestock Journal (wlj.net)

In a recent issue of the *Journal of Animal Science*, the scientists at the University of Nebraska and US Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) published their findings on the mature weight differences of the 16 breeds in the current USMARC Germplasm Evaluation Program.

The article, “Breed and Heterotic Effects for Mature Weight in Beef Cattle,” is found in Volume 99, Issue 7 of the July 2021 *Journal of Animal Science*.

As usual, the results of their analysis demonstrate breed differences — although in this case, a single trait — which help producers design breeding programs that account for and take advantage of these breed differences and complementarity.



The USMARC, part of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service, is located in Clay Center, Nebraska, on what was a 34,000-acre decommissioned US Navy munitions depot. Starting with the 1970 calf crop, the Germplasm Evaluation Program has been our country’s — and for that matter, the world’s — most comprehensive comparison characterizing breeds for various biological properties.

Whereas in the early years the Germplasm Evaluation Program was run in cycles, they have recently gone to a continuous approach of studying our country’s most economically important breeds. This has presented some unique statistical challenges, one of which is accounting for sampling bias in the sires they use. In this case, they adjusted for selection bias using the sire’s yearling weight EPD compared to the average of the various breeds’ industry population.

In terms of the data used in the mature weight comparisons, the study involved 5,156 cows with 108,957 weight records collected throughout the animals’ lifetime, up to six years of age. Most cows had three records per year, which included the third trimester prior to calving, prior to breeding, and when palpated for pregnancy.

A number of statistical models were fit to determine what best explained the breed differences found within the cows in the germplasm study, which had varying breed percentages and repeated weight measures taken over their lifespans.

This alone resulted in a stand-alone peer-reviewed journal article comparing these statistical methodologies: “Comparison of Different Functions to Describe Growth from Weaning to Maturity in Crossbred Beef Cattle.” The article can be found in Volume 97, Issue 4 of the April 2019 *Journal of Animal Science*.

The average weight of the age-adjusted cows was 1,430 pounds, and the direct heterosis was determined to be 2.4 percent. We generally look at heterosis as a “free lunch,” and in most cases it is, but heterotic effects like increased mature weight and increased milk come at a cost that needs to be considered. The authors’ estimate of heritability of mature weight from these data was 0.56, indicating this is a trait that will respond rapidly to selection.

When viewing the results found in Table 3, Angus, representing the country’s most populous breed, is used as the base upon which other breeds are deviated. This is usual with USMARC germplasm reports.

Column 1 in the table represents the direct mature weight breed solutions, which demonstrates considerable breed variation. For example, Charolais is slightly heavier at 10.6 pounds, compared to Braunvieh at the other extreme at -248.4 pounds.

The direct breed effect estimates seen in column 1 were then adjusted to account for the sire sampling utilizing yearling weight EPD. Yearling weight genetic predictions were chosen because they are based on a commonly reported weight trait most closely associated with mature weight.

Any sire sampling bias was accounted for through regression analysis, which included the average of each breed’s 2017 calf crop’s yearling weight EPD (column 2), and the weighted average of the sires’

Table 3. Direct breed solutions for MWT (lb), average EPD for YWT (lb), and adjusted breed effects for MWT for 16 breeds evaluated in the GPE program at the USMARC¹

	Direct breed solution for MWT ² (1)	Industry average YWT EPD ³ (2)	USMARC average YWT EPD (3)	Direct breed effect for MWT ² (4)
Breed	Est.	Est.	Est.	Est.
Angus	0.0	95.7	60.1	0.0
Red Angus	-47.1	89.1	82.9	-98.6
Beefmaster	-84.3	41.1	44.0	-151.4
Brahman	-5.5	28.8	17.2	-47.1
Brangus	-59.0	49.5	42.0	-108.2
Braunvieh	-248.4	74.6	69.1	-300.7
Charolais	10.6	53.9	35.4	-19.6
Chiangus	-56.5	70.0	70.6	-119.9
Gelbvieh	-112.9	89.8	72.8	-145.4
Hereford	8.4	80.7	71.9	-38.5
Limousin	-70.8	94.8	73.0	-95.3
Maine Anjou	-20.7	56.8	55.9	-81.2
Salers	-18.5	82.7	67.8	-54.6
Santa Gertrudis	-4.0	9.0	9.5	-66.7
Shorthorn	-74.1	75.9	73.7	-132.4
Simmental	-32.6	100.8	88.7	-73.5

¹Solutions are deviations from Angus. The YWT EPD were extracted from genetic evaluations conducted in 2019.

²Estimate of MWT differences at 6 yr of age. ³Average of 2017-born animals. ⁴(4) = (1) + 2 × b [(2) - (3)], where b = 0.868 ± 0.099 lb/lb is the regression of MWT phenotype at USMARC on sire's YWT EPD from breed association genetic evaluation from 2019.

yearling weight EPD (column 3) used to produce the USMARC population from which the data was collected. This methodology would also account for bias based on when sires were sampled and the genetic trend differences between breeds.

For example, little difference would be expected in sires sampled over time from a breed with a flat genetic trend. However, because Angus exhibited a particularly steep genetic trend, it resulted in the higher magnitude difference in the averages seen in columns 2 and 3. These breed differences made the researchers' decision to adjust for sampling bias appropriate and necessary for the mature weight comparisons to be valid.

When this adjustment is made (column 4), the breed differences are magnified. Angus are clearly the heaviest cows in this population, with the next closest breeds being Charolais and Hereford at -19.6 and -38.5 pounds, respectively. Others examples of high-use breeds were Red Angus (-98.6 lbs.), Gelbvieh (-145.4 lbs.), Limousin (-95.3 lbs.), Shorthorn (-132.4 lbs.), and Simmental (-73.5 lbs.). The most extreme breed difference seen was Braunvieh at -300.7 pounds lower than Angus.

There are considerable differences between the breeds as represented in their deviations that could be exploited in a breeding program. When viewed alone, mature weight represents a cost to an opera-

tion in the form of maintenance requirements, and, to a lesser extent, potential revenue in the form of salvage value. However, no single trait should ever be considered in a vacuum.

When evaluating breeding decisions — beyond these mature weight estimates — the corresponding revenue potential for things such as the genetic potential for growth and carcass weight must be considered, as well as the ability of an animal to express this potential based on the environment in which it will be asked to perform.

Ultimately, all breeders' operations are unique systems, and every producer, whether they are separated by region of the country or just a strand of barbed wire, must operate within their unique matrix of environment, feed resources, management, and market. There is no overarching ideal breed or animal, and mature cow size is not a proxy for efficiency, as biologically efficient and inefficient cows come in all sizes.

Therefore, the USMARC scientists, aided by researchers at the University of Nebraska, continue to provide our industry with the great service of the Germplasm Evaluation Program. These across-breed comparisons are necessary to build across-breed EPD, indexes, and decision support software, which will allow producers to make better breeding decisions with each passing year.

BEST PRACTICES FOR SEEDSTOCK PRODUCERS

Best Practices to Receive the Most Accurate Genetic Predictions

1 Clearly define breeding objectives

With the ability to increase the rate of genetic change comes the possibility to make mistakes at a faster pace. Breeding goals need to be clearly identified to ensure that selection at the nucleus level matches the profit-oriented needs of the commercial industry.

2 Use whole herd reporting

Inventory-based reporting captures more complete phenotypes on reproduction and longevity traits, and thus creates more accurate genetic selection tools.

3 Properly define contemporary groups

It is important for the precision of the genetic evaluation to group animals treated uniformly. Proper reporting of contemporary groups reduces bias in EPD.

4 Take data collection and reporting seriously

Phenotypes are the fuel that drives the genetic evaluation. Take pride in collecting accurate data. Report records on the complete contemporary group in order to paint the most accurate picture of the genetics in these cattle. If possible, collect additional phenotypes like mature cow weight, cow body condition score, udder scores, feed intake, and carcass data.

5 Make both thorough and accurate phenotypic data collection for economically relevant traits a high priority

The quantity and quality of fertility traits need to dramatically improve. Providing disposal codes to identify why females leave the herd is vital. Commercial data resources, where the true economically relevant traits exist, are going to become more critical to capture. Breeders can help prove the genetics of their own seedstock by encouraging their commercial customers to join ASA's Commercial Total Herd Enrollment (THE) option and add valuable data to the evaluation.

6 Use index-based selection

As the list of published EPD continues to grow, using economic selection indices will become even more helpful to reduce the complexity of multiple trait selection.

If the number of EPD increase, tools to reduce the complexity of sire selection for commercial producers must continue to develop. Breed associations and seedstock producers have the obligation to aid commercial clientele in making profitable bull selection decisions.



Jackie Atkins, Ph.D.



Matt Spangler, Ph.D.



Bob Weaver, Ph.D.



Wade Shafer, Ph.D.

7 Use genomics

Genomic selection offers an opportunity to increase the rate of genetic change and break the antagonistic relationship between generation interval (the average age of the parents when the next generation is born) and the accuracy of selection (e.g., accuracy of EPD) — two components that determine the rate of genetic change. However, as with any tool, genomic information must be used correctly and to its fullest extent.

Adding a DNA test to your decision is like knowing . . .

- ◆ 25+ calving ease scores
- ◆ 22 birth weights
- ◆ 25+ weaning weights
- ◆ 25+ yearling weights
- ◆ Stayability / productivity records on 15 daughters
- ◆ 6 carcass weights
- ◆ 10 marbling scores
- ◆ 8 ribeye area measurements

All this from a test you can complete before you wean the calf.



Best Practices for Genomic Testing

1 All animals within a contemporary group should be genotyped.

If genomic data are meant to truly enable selection decisions, this information must be collected on animals before selection decisions are made. The return on investment of this technology is substantially reduced if it is used after the decision is made. The ASA offers the Calf Crop Genomics (CCG) program to offer 50% off GGP100K test for breeders who commit to genotype the entire calf crop. See sidebar for more details.

2 Both male and female animals should be genotyped.

The promise of genomic selection has always suggested the largest impact is for lowly heritable and/or sex limited (e.g., fertility) traits or those that are not routinely collected (e.g., disease). This is indeed true, but it necessitates that genotyped animals have phenotypes. For sex-limited traits, this becomes a critical choke point given historically the vast majority of genotyped cattle are males. If producers wish to have genomic-enhanced EPD for traits such as calving ease maternal and heifer pregnancy, they must begin or continue to genotype females. The ASA has a unique program called the Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR) to help herds collect female genotypes. See sidebar for more details.

3 Genotypes can provide useful information in addition to predictions of additive genetic merit.

Do not forget the value in correcting parentage errors, tracking inbreeding levels, identifying unfavorable haplotypes, estimating breed composition, and estimating retained heterozygosity. All of these can be garnered from populations that have a well-defined set of genotyping protocols.

The beef industry should be congratulated for the rapid adoption of genomic technology, but there is a lot of work to do. Of critical importance is the fact that genomic technology will continue to change and does not replace the need for phenotypes nor the fundamental understanding of traditional selection principles including EPD and accuracy.

Total Herd Enrollment (THE)

A cow inventory reporting program, THE requires participants to provide annual reproductive and inventory status on their cow herd. THE is designed to improve quality of data submitted for the genetic evaluation, and in turn improve and develop reproductive EPD. By submitting data on the entire calf crop or contemporary group, breeders will receive more accurate predictions of their cattle. The ASA has four THE options to fit most seedstock and commercial operations.



Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR)

The Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR) is designed to increase the number of female genotypes to better predict maternal traits, such as maternal calving ease. Genotyping entire herds reduces bias created when only the best cattle are genotyped. Gathering massive amounts of genotypes on entire cow herds will significantly improve the genomic predictions and rate of genetic progress. As parentage testing is included, CHR herds will have pedigrees validated through DNA. Participating breeders benefit from having genomically enhanced EPD on the entire cow herd — equivalent to a lifetime number of calf records in several traits for an exceptionally low cost.



Calf Crop Genomics (CCG)

Calf Crop Genomics, a research project launched by the ASA in collaboration with Neogen Genomics, offers 50% off GGP100K genomic test including parentage (\$25 compared to \$50 equivalent test) to participating breeders who test their entire calf crop. Genotyping entire calf crops is important to use genomically enhanced EPD (GE-EPD) for selection decisions, reduce selection bias in genomic predictions, and increase the volume of genotyped animals for future improvements to genetic predictions. The latter two points make any singular genomic test in the future better for all members using genomics.



Carcass Expansion Project (CXP)

Despite the importance of carcass traits to our industry, few producers devote resources to collecting and recording actual carcass data. While the Carcass Merit Program (CMP) is a valuable progeny test, it is limited in the number of records produced. We cannot depend on the CMP alone to bring in carcass data. In the age of genomics, it is clear we need genotypes on animals with actual carcass phenotypes.

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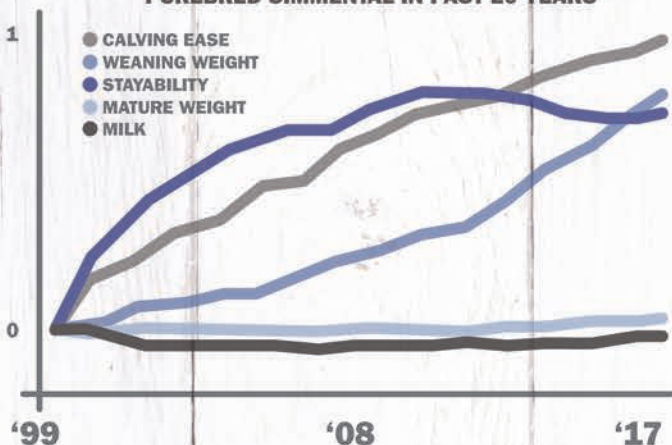
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Heart Rate Variability Can Help Assess Stress and Pain

by Maureen Hanson, Bovine Veterinarian

Calves can't talk, but they do experience pain, discomfort, and stress. Helping them cope with those stressors requires first knowing when — and to what extent — they experience them. Researchers are exploring heart rate variability (HRV) as one quantitative method of objectively measuring animal welfare.

British researcher Jim Clapp with the Newcastle University School of Agriculture in the UK explained that heart rate variability is not just an assessment of how fast the heart is beating, but how quickly the heart rate changes.

By using non-invasive heart monitors strapped to calves and linked to computerized data loggers, changes in heart rate are recorded. Researchers then use software to calculate HRV. Both Clapp and German researcher Teresa Tschoner have determined the most useful measure of HRV is evaluation of the root mean square of sequential inter-beat differences (RMSSD) over time. Lower RMSSD values signify increased stress. Clapp and his team have evaluated RMSSD associated with a variety of typical calf lifetime events, with the following results:

Dam separation: A significant, negative correlation was found between age of separation (ranging from 12 hours to 5 days) and RMSSD value. Separation stress increased the longer the calf stayed with its mother.

Weaning: Comparing singly housed newborn (< 2 weeks old) calves provided “dummy” teats and a group of similarly aged calves with no dummy teats, no difference in RMSSD values were observed. However, when the dummy teats were removed after five days, RMSSD values dropped significantly for that group, which was correlated with weaning stress.

Commingleing: RMSSD values were evaluated in 12 calves three days after being transferred to group pens after various periods of time in isolation, ranging from 3 to 28 days. The calves that spent more time in isolation had significantly lower RMSSD scores, suggesting that isolation prevents calves from developing necessary social skills, and causes greater stress when they eventually are commingled.

Dehorning: When 18 calves were dehorned at approximately 35 days of age, all were given a local anesthetic, and half also were given long-term pain-management therapy (0.5 mg/kg of meloxicam). Both groups exhibited lower RMSSD scores shortly after dehorning. . But by 48 hours after, the decline

had ceased in the treated calves, indicating that the meloxicam treatment had alleviated chronic, post-dehorning pain.

Sickness: Throughout their studies, the researchers noted that calves exhibiting traditional signs of sickness, such as fever and elevated heart rate, also showed significantly lower RMSSD values compared to apparently healthy calves.

This information can help influence interventions and management practices to help support calf comfort, health, and productivity.

However, Tschoner cautioned that HRV also can be influenced by factors such as sex, age, respiration, fitness, posture, physical activity, and diurnal rhythms. Thus, she suggested it should not be employed as an absolute indicator of stress or pain, but as a useful data piece when combined with other assessment methods, like cortisol levels, infrared thermography, and animal behavior.

3D Printed Wagyu Steaks

What is reportedly the world's first 3D-printed Wagyu beef has been successfully manufactured by scientists at Osaka University, utilizing stem cells that were isolated from Japanese cattle. The resulting “meat alternative,” as presented by researchers, contains muscle, fat, and blood vessels arranged to closely resemble conventional steak. Wagyu beef is highly prized in the culinary world for its high marble content — the visible layers within the musculature that provide both a distinctive texture and a deep, savory flavor. This characteristic is what made the attempt to 3D print particularly difficult.

Currently, the available cultured meat alternatives consist primarily of poorly organized muscle fiber cells that fail to reproduce the complex structure of real beef steaks. To overcome this challenge, the research team used two types of stem cells, called bovine satellite cells and adipose-derived stem cells. These cells were “coaxed” to differentiate into every type of cell needed to produce the cultured meat.

“Using the histological structure of Wagyu beef as a blueprint, we have developed a 3D printing method that can produce tailor-made complex structures, like muscle fibers, fat, and blood vessels,” said Dong-Hee Kang, the study's lead author. Individual fibers including muscle, fat, and blood vessels were fabricated from these cells using bioprinting. The fibers were then arranged in 3D to reproduce the structure of actual Wagyu meat, and then sliced perpendicularly, in a manner similar to traditional Japanese *Kintaro-ame* candy.

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“By improving this technology, it will be possible to not only reproduce complex meat structures, such as the beautiful *sashi* of Wagyu beef, but to also make subtle adjustments to the fat and muscle components,” senior author Michiya Matsusake said. “This results in customers being able to custom order a cut of meat tailored to their specific desired amount of fat, based on taste and health considerations. However, the process of raising cattle for the production of Wagyu beef has been associated with increased climate emissions, and it is thought that the 3D-bioprinting process could offer a feasible alternative for the development of meat products.”

Open Heifer Options — Making Lemonade out of Lemons

by Kevin Laurent, Extension specialist, University of Kentucky

There are many events or moments throughout the year that we as beef producers look forward to

with great anticipation, excitement, and, frankly, some degree of worry. It could be the daily checks during calving season or finding out your pay weight and price for a load of yearlings you delivered to the sale barn. I think most of us would agree that the annual preg checking of the cow herd is right there toward the top of the list of management activities that can have us on pins and needles. Open cows and open heifers are part of the business. What we choose to do with open females can affect our bottom line. For the sake of brevity, I would like to limit this discussion to replacement heifers and what options we have when the vet finds her empty.

Give her another chance or cull her? It may be tempting to give open heifers another chance, especially if you have both a fall and spring calving season. The problem with this option is that the research shows there may be upwards of 20 percent reduction in conception rates on heifers that failed to conceive in the first breeding season. Ask yourself, if she was a slow breeder as a yearling, what will her chances be of breeding back as a two-year-old? If we choose to cull her, what is the best way to market a 900- to 1,100-pound open heifer?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 72



Next Step

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1/2 SM 1/2 AN RED HILL 231A son

CE	WW	YW	MARB	RE	SAPI	STI
11.2	90.2	148.7	0.79	1.14	164.9	97.1



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3/8 SM 5/8 AN RED HILL 231A son

CE	WW	YW	MARB	RE	SAPI	STI
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Option 1: Sell at the sale barn. Obviously, the easiest option, but be prepared for a pretty severe discount, mainly because there are simply not that many heifers of that weight class at the sale barn on any given day. Remember, the cattle market moves in load lots of 48,000 to 50,000 pounds. It may take order buyers several weeks to assemble 45 to 50 open heifers of that weight class to make a load.

Option 2: Feed them. Open replacement heifers are still of an acceptable age to be finished for slaughter. Most heifers at pregnancy check time are about 18 months of age and can be easily finished with 3–4 months of additional feeding. Local beef is in big demand, and if slaughter space can be scheduled this may be an acceptable option.

Option 3: Retain ownership and send them to the feedlot. This is one option that most small to medium size cow-calf producers have probably not considered. Recent data from the PVAP-Feedlot program on 18 open replacement heifers showed an average profit of \$132 per head, while feeder calves on the same load lost \$98 per head. The primary reason for this difference is due to the discounted starting value of the open replacement

heifers; however, the replacement heifers outgained and out-graded the feeder calves.

There appears to be great potential for producers to pool open replacement heifers in late summer and send to the feedlot as opposed to selling at a discount. But there are some additional factors to consider.

Considerations for retaining ownership and finishing open replacement heifers:

- Be mindful of the age of heifers. Heifers that are skeletally mature may be downgraded to Commercial or Utility grade and severely discounted. Try not to feed heifers that are older than 20 months.
- Manage heifers much like feeder calves. Make sure to booster respiratory vaccines and de-worm before shipping to the feedlot.
- If you choose to feed heifers on your farm take advantage of educational programs.

Understanding Anaplasmosis Risk

by Bob Larson, DVM, Bovine Veterinarian

Anaplasmosis is a serious disease that affects cattle in an increasingly larger area of the country. A tiny organism called *Anaplasma marginale* attaches to red blood cells, which leads to destruction of those cells and a decrease in the ability of affected cattle to carry oxygen in their blood. If more red blood cells are destroyed than the animal can replace with new cells, the blood becomes watery, the animal becomes anemic, and other signs of infection can occur, including fever, depression, dehydration, rapid or difficult breathing, and yellow discoloration of the mucus membranes of the gums, around the eyes, and the vulva.

Sometimes affected animals become excited and aggressive when not enough oxygen reaches the brain. Young animals are often able to recover because they can make new red blood cells very quickly, but older animals do not produce new cells very fast, and they can quickly become very anemic and have very low oxygen levels in the blood, leading to severe illness or death.

Anaplasmosis is primarily carried from cattle to cattle by ticks, but the movement of blood from infected cattle to susceptible cattle can also be accomplished by biting flies such as horseflies, or by human activities such as via blood-contaminated needles, dehorning instruments, tattoo pliers, or palpation sleeves. The disease has historically been a problem in the southern parts of the United States, but has now spread north so that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 74

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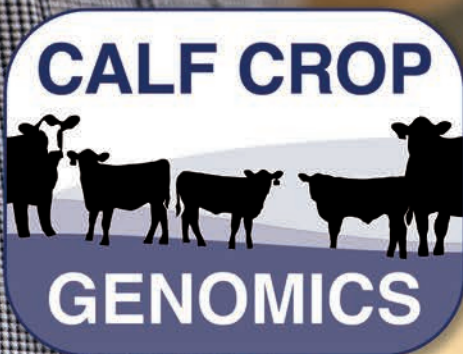




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producers in many important beef-producing areas need to be aware of the problem. In herds that become exposed to the organism, cattle of any age can become infected, but the severity of illness is usually mild in young cattle and increases with age.

In cattle that become infected when they are three years of age or older, 30% to 50% of animals showing signs of the disease are likely to die. If infected cattle are able to survive, they are not likely to have severe problems due to the disease in the future, but they remain as carriers for the rest of their lives. In some cases these carrier infections can be eliminated using antibiotic treatment.

The first sign of anaplasmosis in a herd may be the sudden death of adult cattle. If anaplasmosis is identified as a cause of death and disease in a herd, cattle that are obviously sick should be kept as quiet as possible and treated with an appropriate injectable antibiotic to kill the organism. In addition, tetracycline can be fed in the mineral mix or supplement to provide additional protection to the herd as directed by a veterinarian through a VFD document.

For carrier cattle that don't appear sick but that are infected with the anaplasma organism, your

veterinarian can plan a treatment protocol using approved antibiotics administered over several days to clear the organism. However, treatment with antibiotics is not effective for all cattle and those animals that are cleared of the organism become susceptible to re-infection.

The best plan to minimize disease loss due to anaplasmosis depends greatly on a farm or ranch's geographic location and the number of cattle in the area that are infected. In parts of the country where anaplasmosis infection is rare, a strategy to find and treat and/or remove any carrier animals is recommended. In contrast, in areas of the country where many cattle are infected, an attempt to remove all carriers from a herd will result in a herd that is susceptible to re-infection, and the herd may have greater losses than if other strategies had been used to minimize the disease's effects.

If infected cattle are found in a herd in a part of the country where anaplasmosis is rare, one strategy to minimize disease loss is to test the herd for anaplasmosis infection and to treat any test-positive animals with an appropriate antibiotic as directed by your veterinarian. This treatment should be at a time of year when the local tick and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 76

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fly population is the lowest. Because the treatment does not clear infection from every animal, the animals should be tested again about six months after the treatment, and if an animal tests positive at this time, it should be considered a treatment-failure and removed from the herd, either by slaughter or by being sold to a herd in an area where anaplasmosis is common.

In contrast, in herds located where anaplasmosis is common, rather than trying to avoid infection, some producers may want to allow infection to occur while the cattle are young in order to minimize obvious sickness and death loss. In some countries, young animals are purposely exposed to the organism, allowing them to build immunity at a time in their life when the disease is mild. Although they will be infected for life, they are not likely to suffer severe illness.

In some states in the US, your veterinarian may be able to obtain an experimental anaplasmosis vaccine that does not prevent infection, but is reported to reduce the risk of clinical signs and death. Producers may also elect to feed tetracycline under the direction of a veterinarian when the disease is most prevalent to control active infection, and to use insecticides to control tick and fly populations.

Because the best anaplasmosis control strategy for a particular farm or ranch depends on how likely that herd is to come into contact with the organism, an important component of a control strategy is a plan to deal with replacement animals. If your herd is free of anaplasmosis and the risk of exposure is low, any replacement animal should be tested before being brought into contact with the herd. A test-positive animal should either be culled or isolated and treated, and then re-tested six months after treatment.

In contrast, if your herd is infected with anaplasmosis and the organism is common in your area, a test-positive replacement animal is desired, and the greatest health risk is in replacement animals that are not infected with the organism but that will be placed in direct contact with carrier animals. In this situation, one option is vaccination (if available) with close monitoring for clinical signs of the disease and quick treatment if disease is detected.

Anaplasmosis control requires a good working relationship with your veterinarian to determine your level of risk and best control strategies. The best control strategy for your herd may be very different from that of your neighbors or producers in other parts of the country.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 78

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Providing Comfort Care and Understanding When to Intervene are Keys to Wellness

Kansas State University

Strep throat, and ear and sinus infections are just a few bacterial illnesses that might lead a physician to prescribe an antibiotic. Often-times relief soon follows. But when the sickness lingers, sometimes it is necessary to re-treat the infection. This can be true in cattle as well.

Treatment intervals and comfort care were two topics of discussion on a recent Cattle Chat podcast hosted by the Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute (BCI) team of veterinary experts.

“With respiratory disease that is treated with a long-acting antibiotic, I tell producers to wait for five to seven days before they treat the animal again,” veterinarian Brian Lubbers said. “That is generally enough time for the antibiotic to work and the treated animal to show signs of improvement.”

BCI director and veterinarian Brad White noted that there are differences between the drugs and the treatment situations, so he advised working with a veterinarian to come up with a treatment plan. “If on day two post-treatment, you notice the individual is looking terrible, you may need to re-treat sooner, and your veterinarian can help you with that decision,” White said.

He added that producers need to start a protocol and track the results. “Research has shown that the response rate improved if we followed a five- to seven- or seven- to ten-day window as opposed to an immediate re-treatment,” Lubbers said.

Along with antibiotic treatment, veterinarian Bob Larson stressed the importance of providing cattle comfort care. “As the human caretaker, we can make sure the animals are not stressed, by providing them a comfortable place to lay down with plenty of access to water and palatable feed,” Larson said.

Benefits and Risks of Carbon Credits

Kansas State University

Kansas State University researchers have completed a study that looks at the potential value of carbon credits — and whether it’s an opportunity for farmers to earn some extra income.

“There are starting to be a few more concrete opportunities for producers to sign up for carbon credits, and especially some opportunities in Kansas right now,” said Micah Cameron-Harp, who is a graduate student in agricultural economics.

Carbon credits refer to a tradable permit or certificate that offsets the emission of one ton of carbon dioxide or another greenhouse gas by the credit holder. Large corporations — like McDonalds and Microsoft — have recently announced voluntary efforts to reduce carbon emissions by contributing to a carbon credit market.

“They’re making corporate pledges to reduce how much they’re emitting,” said K-State Research and Extension agricultural economist Nathan Hendricks. “They’re going to reduce their emissions, but in order to get to their goals, they’re going to buy some offsets. That’s what’s driving this market; it’s completely voluntary on the part of corporations.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 80

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Agriculture is one of several industries that could benefit from the offsets sought by corporations. In effect, a farmer could be paid for implementing practices on their land that reduce carbon emissions.

“The most common (practices) that people talk about are no-till and planting cover crops, but there are others out there,” Cameron-Harp said. “These are practices that sequester carbon from the air and store it in the soil in order to offset carbon emission from the corporations that are buying credits.”

Cameron-Harp said the university’s work was geared toward helping farmers better understand how to enter the carbon market. Researchers looked at what’s available and analyzed factors that should go into making a decision.

“We are taking this abstract marketplace where there are many players and distilling it down to what’s pertinent to a Kansas producer,” Cameron-Harp said.

Cameron-Harp said most buyers in the carbon market are paying \$15 per carbon removal ton, and the price “is not fluctuating. Right now, there is not an interplay between supply and demand, so that is what you’re going to get at this point in time.”

“Ultimately, the goal is that this will become a free market,” Cameron-Harp said. “In such a case, we would see the price fluctuate as companies like Microsoft make large commitments. That’s what these marketplaces are hoping to achieve in the next couple years.” In the European Union, buyers are paying as much as \$55 per carbon removal ton, Cameron-Harp said.

“Something that would drive the price higher in the United States is if there was a point where some kind of regulatory pressure was put on companies to reduce their emissions,” Hendricks said, noting a carbon tax placed on businesses in the European Union. “If other companies had that, it would drive up the demand for how much they’re willing to pay for carbon credits.”

Farmers considering getting into the carbon credit should ask some key questions before signing a contract, including: How long of a commitment are you making?; Is there a tenant-landlord relationship to consider?; What data will you be required to provide?; How will the buyer use the data you provide?



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Starting in July 2021, the ASA will reduce the female-based foundation registration rate of \$17.00 to \$5.00 for the 2022 fiscal year (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022). The promotional rate applies to any female cow that is registered with another recognized breed association.

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“There are a lot of factors to consider; it’s not just sign up for the highest payment and go with it,” Hendricks said. “You need to look at the data requirements for each place you go to, and each producer needs to use their best understanding of where this market is going to go. It’s really important to look into each of the contracts and realize each of these is different and not just go for the highest price.”

Sudden Change in Diet May Cause Bovine Fog Fever

North Dakota State University Extension

The summer of 2021 has been very challenging for ranchers and livestock. With severe to moderately severe drought, we have experienced the challenges of a reduced amount of forage for grazing and forages harvested for winter feed.

“While the recent rains have improved some pasture and late season grazing conditions, winter feed inventories still remain a challenge for many,” says Zac Carlson, North Dakota State University Extension beef cattle specialist.

“The challenge of reduced winter-feeding inventories can be improved if the fall environment allows for late season grazing of cover crops, cereal crop regrowth or un-grazed lush meadows,” Carlson says.

While viral and bacterial pneumonia in adult cattle are somewhat rare, NDSU Extension veterinarian Gerald Stokka warns that a sudden change in the composition of forage of mature grazing cattle may result in a condition known as “fog fever,” or bovine pulmonary emphysema.

“Animals diagnosed with fog fever have lung damage due to metabolites produced by the rumen microflora in response to the rapid change in diet from dry, mature grasses and forages to the higher moisture, lush growth found in grasses, alfalfa, some meadow forages, and even some species of brassica cover crops,” Stokka says. “The change in diet results in metabolites of the naturally occurring amino acid tryptophan.”

Stokka explains that L-tryptophan is converted to 3-Methylindole in the rumen by rumen microorganisms. 3-Methylindole is absorbed into the bloodstream and is the source of the pneumotoxicity (lung damage) after metabolism. The level of tryptophan in crops is most likely to be high in lush, rapidlygrowing pastures, particularly — but not exclusively — in the fall.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 82

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Pictured is Bridle Bit GPS H078 and his dam.

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“This type of pneumonia produces lung damage similar to a condition in feedlot cattle called atypical interstitial pneumonia, but is distinctly different from bacterial pneumonia,” Stokka says.

The symptoms of this condition are labored, open-mouth breathing, extended head and neck, and frothing at the mouth. Body temperatures will be high-normal but may be elevated when environmental temperatures are high.

“Attempting to move cattle will exacerbate the need for oxygen from the damaged lungs, and while some cattle will survive, there may be long-term damage,” Carlson says.

According to Carlson, an outbreak typically develops within the first two weeks of changing pastures. Pneumonia of this type does not respond to antibiotic therapy, but may benefit from antihistamine and/or anti-inflammatory therapy if instituted early enough. However, Stokka warns that the use of some anti-inflammatories, such as corticosteroids, may induce abortion in pregnant cows.

“Monensin (Rumensin) and/or lasalocid (Bovatec) have been shown to prevent tryptophan-induced acute bovine pulmonary edema and emphysema,” Stokka says. “According to published research, these ionophores act by reducing the ruminal conversion of L-tryptophan to 3-Methylindole.”

“This fall in particular, use caution when changing forage diets in cattle,” Carlson advises. “Ensure that cattle are not hungry when changing to new, lush regrowth.”

Feeding hay bales prior to turning cattle into new growth, or making the transition gradual by limiting the number of hours cattle can graze new, lush forage will decrease the risk of this condition, according to Carlson.

Feeding Rumensin to beef cows at a rate of 200 mg per head per day will lower the risk, but it must be fed several days ahead of turning animals into new forage. Bovatec is not currently labeled for beef cows in a mineral mix, but can be provided via lick block to pasture cattle. Please consult with your veterinarian about all therapy recommendations and when making rapid changes in the diets of pastured cattle.

Testing of Hay and Pastures Key to Offsetting High Feed Grain Prices

Oklahoma State University Extension

High feed grain prices have been an area of concern for livestock producers this year, leading many

to look for more cost-effective alternatives to meet the nutritional needs of their cattle during fall and winter months.

There has been a steady increase in cost of gain in cattle going back to the summer of 2020. To combat this and ensure the continued well-being of his livestock, Kent Miller of Ellis County, Oklahoma, is planning on making full use of his native range and dual-purpose, graze-and-grain wheat pastures. Miller, who is the second of three generations working the family farm and ranch enterprise, said it's key to pay attention to the details given as to how most people's profit-loss margins are too tight to risk their operations.

“Oklahoma State University Extension has been providing information on how to get the most out of our pasture resources for years,” he said. “In my 35 years of ranching, I've found most of us listen and apply what we've been told at their various meetings.”

Rodney Cook of Noble County agreed. The cattle producer plans to make full use of available native range pastures. In addition, he intends to turn out his cattle on a cover crop of oats, turnips, and other healthy forages for about four hours a day — an approach he has used for years with great success.

“We're big on rotating pastures and making sure all our hay is tested,” Cook said. “Our family operation typically doesn't go through a lot of feed, so unless something happens to our pasture resources, we should be able to weather the higher prices and cost of gain compared to previous years.”

Testing hay and pastures is vital to knowing for certain how the supplemental requirements of the cattle need to be met. OSU Extension has online resources to help producers take accurate samples, get them tested, and use the analysis provided to create a feeding program that meets the nutritional needs of their specific herds.

Some producers have asked OSU Extension county offices about using alfalfa as a cost-effective replacement for protein, according to agricultural educator reports.

“Producers need to be diligent with feeding accuracy when using alfalfa as a supplement,” said Dana Zook, OSU Extension area livestock specialist. “However, some sources of alfalfa could provide the protein needed, and potentially also provide added calcium and vitamin A that conventional cubed supplements lack. Speak with your local Extension agricultural educator who can answer questions in detail.”

Zook said producers need to be sure to compare costs of the ingredients by the nutrient needed



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JC036H || ASA#3701271 || 1/2 SM 1/2 AN
IR CAPITALIST E041 daughter

CE	WW	YW	MARB	RE	\$API	\$TI
15.4	85.9	141.7	0.67	0.33	171.1	96.1



JC022H || ASA#3701258 || 1/2 SM 1/2 AN
KBHR WENTZ E190 daughter

CE	WW	YW	MARB	RE	\$API	\$TI
15.8	94.6	145.8	0.18	0.42	132.2	87.1



JC060H || ASA#3701250 || 5/8 SM 3/8 AN
EGL FIRESTEEL 103F daughter

CE	WW	YW	MARB	RE	\$API	\$TI
16.1	75.0	123.6	0.91	0.60	173.1	94.6



JC079H || ASA#3701265 || 5/8 SM 3/8 AN
TFS POWDER RIVER 8658F daughter

CE	WW	YW	MARB	RE	\$API	\$TI
19.2	75.0	107.1	0.49	0.72	164.9	85.9



JC021H || ASA#3701313 || 3/4 SM 1/4 AN
TJ HEISMAN 388F daughter

CE	WW	YW	MARB	RE	\$API	\$TI
11.4	94.6	149.8	0.70	0.60	166.0	97.9



JC030H || ASA#3701363 || 5/8 SM 3/8 AN
NIGHTVISION ADV D4371 daughter

CE	WW	YW	MARB	RE	\$API	\$TI
14.4	76.5	130.6	0.55	0.71	155.5	85.9

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when looking at supplemental replacements. For example, compare the cost per pound of protein in winter feeding situations when cows are on dry grass.

“Again, don’t skip on testing hay for protein and energy,” she said. “It can help the producer be more accurate when supplementing, and thereby reduce costs. Every OSU Extension county office can send off a test for a minimal cost.”

Livestock operators may wish to take advantage of the OSU Cowculator, a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet designed to help producers make informed decisions about beef cattle nutrition. Criteria such as cow weight, body condition, stage of production, and breed can be customized to each operation and to specific scenarios within an operation. Animal nutritional requirements and performance prediction are based on years of research data.

Cultured Meat Labels Investigated

The US Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has announced that it was giving the public up to two months to comment on the labeling of meat and poultry products created in a lab from cultured animal cells. After receiving input from the public, FSIS will assemble a plan for ultimate labeling. Cell-cultured meat is created by “borrowing” a small number of cells from a living animal and then feeding those cells the appropriate nutrients, causing the cells to multiply. The process takes place in a controlled environment, with the cells reproducing until there is enough meat to package and market. FSIS explained that many companies, both foreign and domestic, are working on cultured meat products for sale, although there isn’t a cultured meat product in the US market at the present time. Results for online shopping search produces graphic art works, books, and realistic fake steaks made of polyvinyl for use in photo shoots and market decorations.

There are US companies preparing for marketing, though. In San Francisco, the company Eat Just Inc. has announced it is building a cultured meat factory in Qatar. Both Qatar and Singapore have already approved cultured meat for sale. A selling point for Eat Just is that animals aren’t slaughtered for its product. Also, that there is less wear and tear on the environment, and less water is consumed as well. The argument against labeling cultured meat as something other than meat was that a government mandate for such labels violates a company’s First Amendment rights to speak freely for what its product really is: meat.

H-2A Program Doubles

The H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers Program more than doubled in size in less than ten years, and fruit, vegetable, and nut growers were a big reason for the growth. The H-2A program allows agricultural employers in the US to bring in foreign farmworkers to fill seasonal labor contracts lasting less than a year.

A new report from the US Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service said that, between 2010 and 2019, H-2A positions certified by the US Department of Labor increased more than 220%. The number of firms requesting H-2A workers increased 95% from 2010 to 2019, the report said, from about 5,200 to 10,100 firms.

AMERICA'S COW

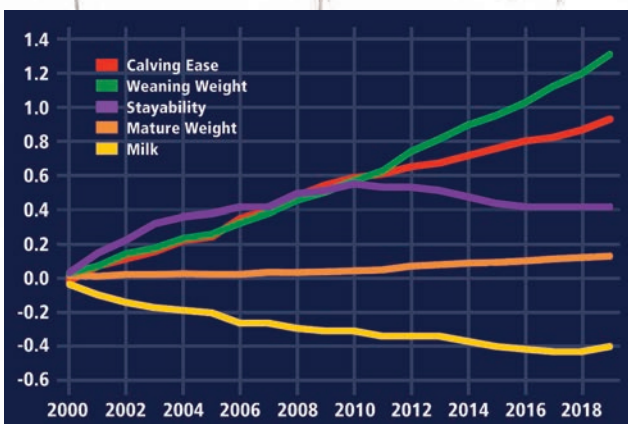
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Maternal Trait Genetic Trends

Purebred Simmental in past 20 years



Simmental genetics bring calving ease, early growth, and cow longevity while keeping feed costs at a minimum.

Breed	Mature Cow Wt.
Hereford	1,419
Angus	1,410
Red Angus	1,409
Simmental	1,404

Source: USDA MARC

\$All Purpose Index (\$API)

predicts cow herd profitability using valuable traits like cow longevity (STAY) and calving ease while keeping pressure on terminal traits.

Compare the profit potential of two Simmental bulls using \$API

- 1 Bull A's \$API = \$120 and Bull B's \$API = \$180
- 2 Breeding 25 females/year
- 3 Used for 5 years

Bull	1 \$API	2 # Females per year	3 # years using the bull	Profit Potential
A	\$120	X 25	X 5	= \$15,000
B	\$180	X 25	X 5	= \$22,500
Difference				= \$7,500

Just like an EPD, compare two bulls to see the expected difference in profit. Bull B is likely to result in direct revenue and expense savings of an additional \$7,500 over the course of five years. Plug in your numbers for **1**, **2**, and **3** to compare your potential earnings.

MORE MEANS MORE

More carcass weight, live weight, muscle and marbling. More profit.

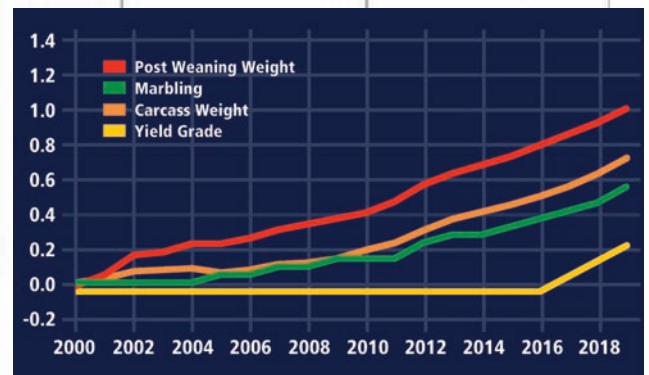
Simmental calves reliably perform in the feedyard – with better growth, better structure and fewer health problems. Simmental cattle add pounds without sacrificing marbling.

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All to strengthen your bottom line.

Terminal Trait Genetic Trends

Purebred Simmental in past 20 years



\$Terminal Index (\$TI)

predicts profitability when all calves are harvested.

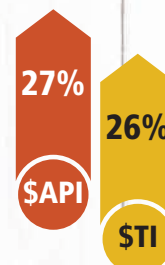
Trait	Simmental rank compared to other Continental breeds
Marbling	First
Carcass Weight	Second
Back Fat	Second
Post Weaning Gain	First

Source: USDA MARC

Simmental cattle bring marbling and growth without too much fat. Simmental genetics perfectly complement British strengths and weaknesses for an ideal carcass.

Did You Know?

◆ According to the National Association of Animal Breeders, Simmental ranks second for semen sales compared to all other beef breeds, and in recent years, the percentage of semen sold in the US from Simmental bulls has grown by 35%.



◆ \$API increased 27% and \$TI increased 26% in the last 20 years. This translates to an **average increased profit of \$3,375** per bull when used to sire replacement heifers and harvesting remaining calves or \$2,000 when all calves are harvested.



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- ◆ ASA Spotlight
- ◆ EPD FAQs
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- ◆ Down to the Genes

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 23 Clear Choice Female Sale — Milan, IN
- 23 Magnolia Classic — Starkville, MS
- 23 New Day Genetics' Fall Bull Sale — Salem, MO
- 23 Pennsylvania Fall Classic Sale — Waynesburg, PA
- 26 Banners and Beyond Online Sale — dponlinesales.com (pg. 95)
- 29 27th Annual Hokie Harvest Sale — Blacksburg, VA
- 30 7P Ranch's 46th Annual Production Sale — Tyler, TX
- 30 H2O's Cattle Laser Focused Production Sale — Walkerton, IN
- 30 High Ridge Farms' Genetic Opportunity Sale — Albemarle, NC
- 30 Pollington Bred for Success Sale — Marion, MI
- 30 Red Hill Farms' "Bulls of Fall VII" Sale — Lafayette, TN (pg. 96)
- 30 Yon Family Farms Fall Sale — Ridge Spring, SC

NOVEMBER

- 1 Hanel's Black Simmentals' "The Female Sale" — Courtland, KS
- 6 25th Annual Southern Showcase Sale — Rome, GA
- 6 Cason's Pride and Joy Simmentals' Maternally Inspired Female Sale — Russell, IA
- 6 Dakota Ladies Sale — Worthing, SD
- 6 Irvine Ranch Annual Production Sale — Manhattan, KS
- 7 Prospect Cattle Company's High Society Sale — Hillsboro, OH
- 7 Triangle J Ranch's Female Sale — Miller, NE (pg. 46)
- 13 Anderson Land and Livestock's Private Treaty Bull Sale — Stanfield, OR (pg. 11)
- 13 Deer Creek Farm's Annual Bull Sale and Open House — Lowesville, VA
- 13 Gibbs Farms' 16th Annual Bull and Replacement Female Sale — Ranburne, AL (pg. 97)
- 15 Bichler Production Sale — Linton, ND
- 15 Houck Rock Creek Ranch's Fall Private Treaty Sale — Allen, KS
- 16 Elliott Livestock and Wild Rose Cattle Company's Bull and Bred Heifer Sale — Clifford, ND (pg. 31)
- 19 Heartland Simmental's Performance with Class Sale — Waverly, IA
- 20 Callaway Cattle Company's AffordaBULL Sale, — Hogansville, GA
- 20 C&C Farms' Clear Vision Production Sale — Winder, GA (pgs. 27, 95)
- 20 Driggers Simmental Farm 10th Annual Bull Sale — Glennville, GA (pg. 78)
- 20-23 LMC and Friends "Giving THANKS" Online Donation Sale VII — www.lamuecacattle.com
- 20 Next Step Cattle Co., 9th Annual "Boot Brand Genetics" Bull Sale — Livingston, AL (pg. 70)
- 20 Stanley Martins Farms' Herd Reduction Sale — Decorah, IA (pg. 4)
- 20 Yardley Cattle Company's Bred Cow and Heifer Sale — Beaver, UT (pg. 6)
- 21 48th Annual Minnesota Simmental Association Sale — Cannon Falls, MN
- 27 10th Annual Breeding for the Future Sale — Rockfield, KY (pg. 92)
- 27 Chestnut Angus Female Sale — Pipestone, MN
- 27 Felt Farms' Foxy Ladies Sale — West Point, NE
- 27 Great Lakes Beef Connection Bred Heifer Sale — Clare, MI (pg. 83)
- 27 Inaugural Queen of the Prairie Female Sale — Veblen, SD (pg. 9)
- 27 Trennepohl Farms' Right By Design Sale — Middletown, IN

DECEMBER

- 3 52nd Annual Calhoun Performance Bull and Commercial Female Sale — Calhoun, GA (pg. 95)
- 4 Jewels of the Northland Sale — Clara City, MN (pg. 89)
- 4 T-Heart Ranch and L-Cross Ranch High-Altitude Female Sale — LaGarita, CO (pg. 37)
- 4 The Source Sale, Vo. VII — Nashville, GA (pg. 95)
- 4 Tom Brothers Ranch Private Treaty Bulls Sale (Opening Day) — Campbellton, TX (pg. 29)
- 4 Western Choice Simmental Sale — Billings, MT (pg. 87)
- 10 JS Midwest Made Elite Female Sale — Prairie City, IA
- 11 Cowboy Logic Bull and Female Sale — Talmo, GA (pg. 95)
- 11 North Alabama Bull Evaluation Sale — Cullman, AL
- 11 North Dakota Simmental Association Showcase/Classic Sale — Mandan, ND (pg. 74)
- 12 Trauernicht Simmental's Nebraska Platinum Standard Sale — Beatrice, NE (pg. 91)
- 17 Buck Creek Ranch's Grand Event, Vol. II — Yale, OK (pg. 17)
- 18 South Dakota Source Sale — Mitchell, SD
- 27-28 St. Nick's Eggstravaganza — www.dponlinesales.com

CONTINUED ON PAGE 88

SIMMENTAL SALE

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JANUARY 2022

- 14 Diamond Bar S Bull Sale — Great Falls, MT
- 17 National Western "The One-Volume XXVII" Sale — Denver, CO
- 18 Powerline Genetics Arapahoe 1 Sale, Arapahoe, NE
- 28 Double J Farms' 48th Annual Bull Sale — Garretson, SD (pg. 47)
- 28 Ellingson Simmentals' Annual Production Sale — Dahlen, ND (pg. 46)
- 29 Cowtown Classic Simmental Sale — Fort Worth, TX (pg. 57)
- 29 J&C Simmentals' Annual Bull Sale — West Point, NE (pg. 43)
- 30 Triangle J Ranch's Annual Production Sale — Miller, NE (pg. 46)
- 31 APEX Cattle 'Heterosis Headquarters' Annual Bull and Bred Heifer Sale — Dannebrog, NE (pg. 15)

FEBRUARY

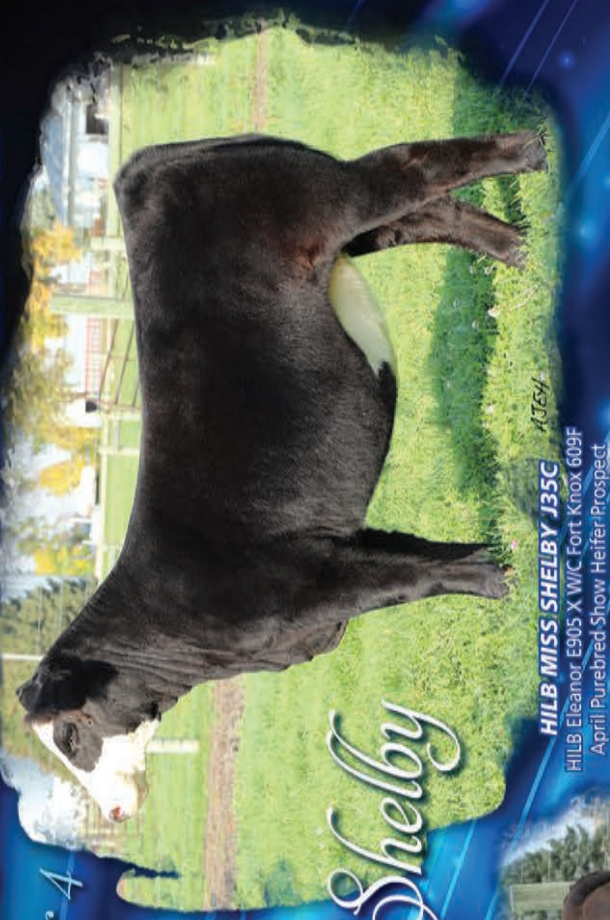
- 1 S/M Fleckvieh Cattle's Private Treaty Bull Sale — Garretson, SD
- 2 Begger's Diamond V Big Sky Genetic Source Bull Sale — Wibaux, MT
- 2 Lazy C Diamond Ranch's Bull and Female Production Sale — Kintyre, ND
- 3 Stavick Simmental's King of the Range Bull Sale, — Veblen, SD (pgs. 9, 47)
- 4 Cow Camp Ranch's Spring Bull Sale — Lost Springs, KS (pgs. 5, 42)
- 4 Kunkel Simmentals' Annual Bull and Bred Female Sale — New Salem, ND
- 5 Klain Simmental Ranch's 40th Annual Production Sale — Ruso, ND
- 5 Prickly Pear Simmentals "Made In Montana" Sale — Helena, MT
- 5 Springer Simmental's Value Based Genetics Sale — Decorah, IA
- 7 42nd Annual Gateway "Breeding Value" Bull Sale — Lewistown, MT (pg. 1BC)
- 8 Edge of the West Production Sale — Mandan, ND (pg. 46)
- 9 Jackpot Cattle Company's Annual Bull Sale — Wessington, SD (pg. 47)
- 9 River Creek Farms' 29th Annual Production Sale — Manhattan, KS (pg. 43)
- 10 Houck Rock Creek Ranch Spring Private Treaty Sale — Allen, KS
- 10 Lassle Ranch Simmentals' 29th Annual Bull Sale, — Glendive, MT
- 11 Bata Brothers/Bell Family Annual Joint Simmental Bull and Female Sale — Rugby, ND
- 11 Hook Farms and Clear Springs Cattle Co. "Bred for Balance" Sale — Starbuck, MN (pg. 69)
- 11 TNT Simmentals' 37th Annual "Carrying On" The Explosive Difference Sale — Lehr, ND (pg. 47)
- 12 Kenner Simmentals' 26th Annual Production Sale — Leeds, ND
- 12 Mississippi-Dixie National Sale — Jackson, MS
- 12 Rydeen Farms 24th Annual "Vision" Sale — Clearbrook, MN (pgs. 7, 43)
- 14 Nelson Livestock Company's Annual Production Sale — Wibaux, MT (pg. 43)
- 15 Guandt Brothers Annual Sale — Oakes, ND
- 16 Hart Farms Beef Builder Bull Sale — Frederick, SD
- 18 Dakota Xpress Annual Bull and Female Sale — Mandan, ND (pg. 46)
- 18 Mader Ranches' 33rd Annual Bull Power Sale — Carstairs, AB
- 18 R&R Cattle Company's Annual Production Sale — Chamberlain, SD
- 18 Sandy Acres Simmental Bull Sale — Creighton, NE (pg. 46)
- 19 7P Ranch's 28th Annual Spring Bull and Female Sale — Tyler, TX
- 19 Dixon Farms, Inc., Private Treaty Sale and Open House — Atwood, KS
- 19 Rhodes Angus Annual Sale — Carlenville, IL
- 19 Schnabel Ranch Simmentals' Annual Sale — Aberdeen, SD
- 20 Trauernicht's Bull Sale — Wymore, NE
- 21 Bulls of the Big Sky — Billings, MT (pg. 76)
- 23 C Diamond Simmentals' Bull and Female Sale — Dawson, ND
- 24 Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale — Springfield, IL
- 25 Beitelspacher Ranch's Annual Bull Sale, Mobridge, SD
- 25 Mid-America Simmental Sale — Springfield, IL
- 26-3/5 Hofmann Simmental's Annual "Buy Your Way" Bull Sale — Clay Center, KS
- 28 Lehrman Family Simmentals' Annual Production Sale — Mitchell, SD

MARCH

- 1 Doll Simmental Ranch's 42nd Annual Production Sale — Mandan, ND
- 1 Hill's Ranch Bull Sale — Stanford, MT (pg. 43)
- 2 Klein Ranch's "Heart of the Herd" Sale — Atwood, KS
- 3 18th Annual Cattlemen's Kind Sale — San Saba, TX
- 3 Keller Broken Heart Ranch Annual Production Sale — Mandan, ND (pg. 46)
- 4 Eichacker Simmentals' Annual Bull Sale — Salem, SD (pg. 47)
- 4 KSU's Annual Legacy Sale — Manhattan, KS
- 5 Powerline Genetics PAP-Tested Bull Sale — Castle Dale, UT
- 5 Trinity Farms' Generations of Excellence Sale — Ellensburg, WA (pg. 47)
- 6 Gold Bullion Group's Annual Bull Sale — Wamego, KS
- 7 Hanel's Black Simmentals' Black and White Bull Sale — Courtland, KS
- 7 Rincker Simmentals' Sweet 16 Bull Sale — www.sconlinesales.com
- 11 Yardley Cattle Company's Bull Sale — Beaver, UT
- 12 Carcass Performance Partners Bull and Female Sale — Lucedale, MS

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A354

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HILB Eleanor E905 X WIC Fort Knox 609F
April Purebred Show Heifer Prospect

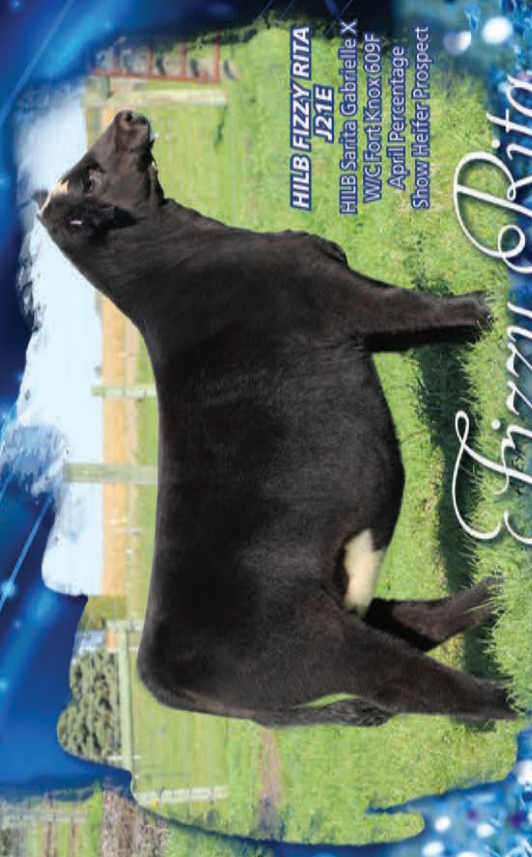


Fiyahh

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February Purebred Show Heifer Prospect

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HILB Sarita Gabrielle X
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View sale live and bid online at:



Rates and Policies

Ad Sales Staff

For All Your Advertising Needs



Nancy Chesterfield
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Subscriptions

- Domestic \$50/year
- First Class \$100/year
- All International \$150/year (US)

SimTalk is an 8 1/8 x 10 7/8 inch publication produced by *the Register*, the official publication of the American Simmental Association. Published four times annually, *SimTalk* is a glossy, full-color publication with a circulation that targets commercial users of SimGenetics. Advertising in *SimTalk* provides a unique opportunity to brand and trademark your program to thousands of potential customers. If you are serious about communicating with the commercial beef business, consider an advertising presence in every one of our four annual issues.

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1/2 page	\$510	\$480	\$460	\$150
1/3 page	\$380	\$370	\$350	\$100
1/4 page	\$260	\$250	\$230	\$75
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2-inch card	\$289/year, 4 insertion			\$60
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SimTalk Deadlines for Publication:

	Sales Close	Ad Materials	Camera Ready	Mail Date
January 2022	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Jan 13
March 2022	Jan 21	Jan 28	Feb 10	Feb 24
Early Fall 2022	July 22	July 29	Aug 12	Aug 30
Late Fall 2022	Sept 19	Sept 23	Oct 7	Oct 25

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May 2	May 10	May 24	June 14
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Send all ad materials to: register@simmgene.com or Fax: 406-587-9301

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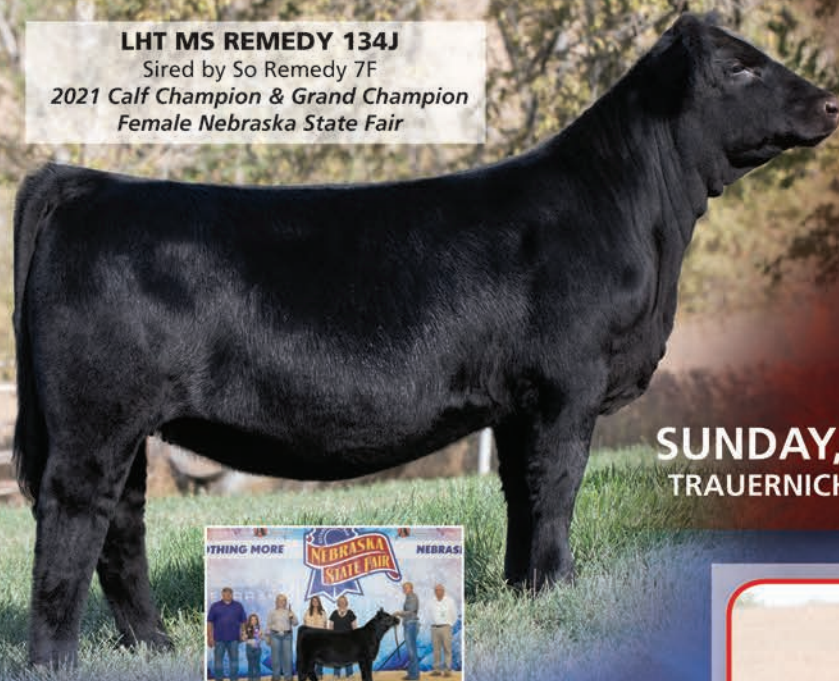
Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed are the writers' and not necessarily those of *SimTalk*. Photographs are welcome, but no responsibility is assumed for material while in transit or while in the office.

ASA PUBLICATION, INC

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Bozeman, Montana 59718
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LHT MS REMEDY 134J
 Sired by So Remedy 7F
 2021 Calf Champion & Grand Champion
 Female Nebraska State Fair



NEBRASKA PLATINUM STANDARD Female Sale

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 • 12:00 NOON
 TRAUERNICHT SALE FACILITY, 803 E PINE, WYMORE, NE



LHT MS MAIN EVENT 100H
 Sired by TJ Main Event 503B
 Bred to Nebraska



LHT MS COPACETIC 329H
 Sired by WLE Copacetic E02
 3rd Overall Percentage Female 2021 AJSA Western Regional Classic



LHT MS FRANCHISE 53H
 Sired by TJ Franchise 451D
 Bred to BCI MR Hobo



LHT MS FLINTROCK 88H
 Sired by CCR Flint Hills 2092B
 Bred to TJ Flat Iron



LHT MS INNOVATOR 110H
 Sired by CDi Innovator 325D
 Bred to OMF Epic

Catalog online at www.ebersale.com • Bid online at www.LiveAuctions.tv



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10th Annual Bull and Female Sale



BREEDING FOR THE FUTURE

Saturday, November 27, 2021 at 1:00 PM
Cattlemen's Livestock Market
210 Stamps Road • Rockfield, KY 42274

Sale Offering:
24 SimAngus™ Bulls
20 Angus Bulls
20 Registered Angus Cow Calf pairs (Fall Calves)
10 Registered Spring Bred Heifers – Four Registered Open Heifers
56 Commercial Spring Bred Heifers (Spring Calves)

All bulls have genomically-enhanced EPD.
All bulls have passed a current BSE.
All bulls have tested PI negative.
All bulls Johne's tested negative.
SimAngus™ bulls are homozygous black.
Bulls and bred heifers should qualify for Kentucky and Tennessee cost share programs.



Website:
www.BreedingForTheFuture.com

Contacts:
Ray Nolan – 270-772-1227
Tim Barr – 270-772-0113
Doug Bagby – 270-772-0784
Wayne Johnson – 270-542-9495

Sale will be broadcast live on DVAuction



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Trait	Simmental Rank vs. Major Continental Breeds*	Angus/Red Angus Rank vs. Major British Breeds
Marbling Score	First	Second
Carcass Weight	First	First
# Retail Product	Second	First
Weight Gain Feed Efficiency	First	Second
Weaning Weight	Second	First
Post Weaning Gain	Second	Second
Shear Force	First	First

Across-Breed EPD Table, GPE Rep. 22, MARC, USDA

* Major Continental Breeds — Simmental, Gelbvieh, Limousin, Charolais

SimAngus™. The Obvious Choice.

“Crossbred steers with a **50:50 ratio of Continental European to British breed** inheritance are likely to produce a more **optimum** balance between carcass **quality grade** and **yield grade** than crossbred or straightbred steers that represent either 100% British breed, or 100% Continental European breeding.”

— *MARC GPE Progress Report No. 22, USDA*



American Simmental Association

www.simmental.org



beef@internationalgeneticsolutions.com

www.internationalgeneticsolutions.com

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#2 FLECKVIEH SIMMENTAL

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✓ ADAPTABILITY

✓ LONGEVITY

✓ PERFORMANCE

✓ PRODUCTIVITY

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GSSA Fall Calendar of Events

October 26, 2021 – Banners & Beyond Online Sale

Host: DP Online Sales Group visit: dp.com for more information
For further information contact: Rick Wood 706-499-2325 or visit <https://dponlinesales.com/auction/13152> for copy of sale catalog.

October 30, 2021 – Yon Family Farms Fall Sale, 11 a.m.

Location: Yon Family Farms Sale Facility, Ridge Springs, SC. Catalog and other information: yonfamilyfarms.com. Contact: 803-685-5048, lydia@yonfamilyfarms.com or visit <https://yonfamilyfarms.com/fall-sale/>

November 6, 2021 – 25th Annual Southern Showcase Sale

Location: Select Cattle Enterprises, near Rome, GA
Catalog and Videos: www.impactcattle.com
Contact: Bruce VanMeter 770-547-1433 or John Howard 423-413-4442

November 13, 2021 – Gibbs Farms 16th Annual Bull & Replacement Female Sale

Location: At the farm, Ranburne, AL. Contact: Doug Gibbs 404-717-2264 or Gordon Hodges 336-469-0489 or visit www.gibbsfarms.net

November 20, 2021 at 12:00 pm – Callaway Cattle & MM Cattle Co. Host the 9th Annual AFFORDA BULL Sale

Location: Callaway Cattle Company, Hogansville, GA. GPS Address: 2280 Coweta-Heard Rd, Hogansville, GA 30230. Information contact: John Callaway 770-355-2165. www.callawaycattlecompany.com

November 20, 2021 – Fall Clear Vision Production Sale

Location: C&C Farms, 2321 Gum Springs Church Rd, Winder, GA
For more information, contact: Dwight Cooper (706-215-1251) or Steven Cooper (706-215-2285)

November 20, 2021, 1 pm – 10th Annual Strickland-Driggers Bull Sale

Location: Strickland Farm, 9120 US Hwy 301N, Glennville, GA
Contact: Jessie Driggers 912-237-0608 or Jess Strickland 803-617-8415

December 3, 2021 – 52nd Annual Calhoun Performance Bull & Commercial Female Sale

For information contact: Calhoun Bull Evaluation Center 706-624-1403

December 4, 2021, 1 pm – The Source Sale Vol VII

Location: Akins Cattle Enterprises, Nashville, GA
Contact: Chandler Akins 229-237-2449 or Jacob Holmes 678-986-7085

December 11, 2021 – Cowboy Logic Bull & Female Sale

Location: Elrod Farms, Talmo, GA
Contact: Cole Elrod 678-410-1312, Alex Tolbert 706-338-8733, Kyle Potts 678-410-5157, or Casey Green 706-540-3793

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At Red Hill Farms, we are proud to offer consistent genetics that rank at the top of the breeds for economic indices. Maternal traits, such as calving ease, low maintenance energy requirements and high conception rates reinforce what we already know – profitability starts with the cow. Additionally, profitability is intensified when cattle grow and grade. Profitability truly is pasture to plate!

CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE	Milk	MWW	ST	DOC	CW	YG	MARB	BF	REA	API	TI
12.3	-0.5	90.4	147.8	0.36	8.5	5.5	50.6	18.9	17.2	39.5	-0.43	0.78	-0.061	1.26	174.8	99.6
50%	35%	10%	4%	4%	25%	99%	95%	15%	4%	30%	5%	3%	25%	1%	2%	1%

*EPDs as of 10-6-21

**MORE THAN
A BULL SALE**

XVII

17th Annual Sale
Saturday, March 19, 2022
 1 p.m. CDT • At the Farm

Selling:
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GF

Genetics That Matter

16th ANNUAL Bull & Replacement Female Sale

RANBURNE, AL **November 13, 2021** 11:00 AM CST

175 Fall Yearling Bulls - 200 Bred & Open Replacement Females



0024H ASA# 3882742
SIMANGUST™ - REDHILL 672X X004 231A SON

CE	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	SAPI	STI
14.8	-3.3	75.8	124.9	0.72	0.94	179.1	93.2



0039H ASA# 3882757
PB SM - HOOK ` S EAGLE 6E SON

CE	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	SAPI	STI
12.7	-0.2	96.1	154.7	0.53	1.17	172.4	102.4



0191H ASA# 3882908
SIMANGUST™ - GIBBS 7124E STONEWALL SON

CE	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	SAPI	STI
17.2	-2.7	84.3	135	0.53	0.92	167.5	93.5



0216H ASA# 3882933 Sells open
PB SM - HOOK ` S EAGLE 6E DAUGHTER

CE	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	SAPI	STI
14.2	-2.6	90.9	149.2	0.45	1.27	170.9	100.4



9070G ASA# 3717077 Safe in calf to High Road
PB SM - GW LUCKY BOY 252U DAUGHTER

CE	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	SAPI	STI
12.6	-0.4	95.5	154.6	0.27	1.23	152.8	96.2



0425H ASA# 3883137 Sells open
SIMANGUST™ - BRIDLE BIT ECLIPSE E744 DAUGH-

CE	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	SAPI	STI
23.1	-4.7	74.2	123.6	0.68	0.19	186.1	93.8

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- Top 10% for Stayability
- Top 5% for \$API
- Top 15% for BW
- Top 10% for TI
- Top 20% for Docility

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www.gatewaysimmental.com

Chris Miller, Larry Hagenbuch, Logan Butcher, Brock Butcher



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42ND Annual Gateway Bull Sale

Monday, February 7, 2022 at Noon

Featuring the best 250 out of 460 bull calves weaned.

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417-437-0911, 417-437-4434



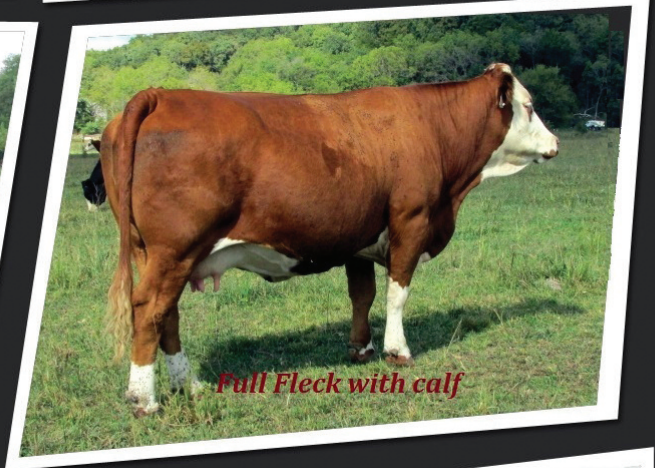
*Polled
Full Fleck*



Full Fleck



Polled Full Fleck with calf



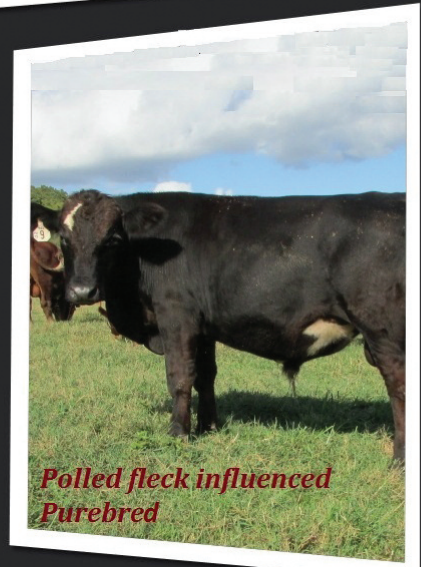
Full Fleck with calf



Polled Fleck influenced Purebred



*Polled Fleck
influenced
Purebred*



*Polled fleck influenced
Purebred*

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