

# Carcass Merit Program Cooperator Herd summary

The Carcass Merit Program (CMP) is one of the largest contributors of high-quality carcass data entering the International Genetic Solutions (IGS) genetic evaluation, an arm of the American Simmental Association (ASA).

The structure of the CMP is designed to provide interested commercial cattlemen the opportunity to use young, unproven, and elite genetics in their production system while also stimulating the collection of meaningful carcass data. Participating herds are described as cooperator herds and receive multiple perks for being involved in this research project.

1. Free genetic evaluation of entire cowherd (\$7.50/cow value).
2. Ability to choose from a provided list of young bulls, offered as CMP sires for the breeding year.
3. A payment of \$200/calf sired by a CMP bull provided the receipt of individual actual carcass data. Carcass data must be returned within 1 month of harvest.
4. Free Low Density (100K) Genotyping on terminal calves.
5. Ability to retain any or all replacement heifers at the cooperator's discretion.

The CMP program cycle is approximately three years, renewed annually for each calf crop.

During this time cooperator herds will benefit from the use of complementary genetic evaluation services on their cowherd. The ASA is committed to working with and investing in cooperator herds because of their crucial role in this program. Due to the significant time and financial investment, the ASA does have expectations to ensure the program is successful.

- Each participating herd will **not** bias results by unevenly distributing a sire in their cowherd. Examples of bias would be:
  - Only using a small amount of semen representative of one bull and a large amount on another, when given equal amounts to start.
  - Breeding all their "best" cows to the "best" bull.
- Each participating herd will **NOT** retain bull calves for the purpose of selling as seedstock or retaining as potential herd sires.
- Each participating herd will return carcass data greater than a 70% threshold of the expected number



## **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's CMP coordinator
- Provide AI breeding summary
- Enroll all dams in Herdbook and report full calf information
- Communicate harvest dates and locations with ASA's 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
- \$200 for each AI-sired CMP calf with terminal data. This increased rate begins with the 2023-born calves!
- Access to full range of ASA research DNA programs

of calves. The expected number of calves (ENC) accounts for a 60% conception rate and 50% rate of having male versus female.  $ENC = \# \text{ of Units} \times 0.6 \times 0.5$

- If less than 70% of ENC carcass data is returned, the data payout per animal may be decreased, at the discretion of the ASA on a case-by-case basis.
- Cooperators will provide annual breeding information using a provided worksheet.

Cooperators are encouraged to become actively involved in and familiar with Total Herd Enrollment (THE) as this will be integral to developing a sound genetic understanding of your cowherd and allows us to accurately enter calf data into the evaluation. We have an excellent ASA team to help you with THE and other programs.

Below is a timeline of general data reporting dates throughout the year. Cooperator herds also have access to Cowherd DNA Roundup (CHR) and Calf Crop Genomics (CCG) research projects as members of the ASA.

### Reporting Data: a Year in the Life

Below is a sample timeline of breeding, calving, and weaning dates with times to collect and report whole herd data for today's fast-paced genetic evaluation.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
Spring Calving Season		Feb 7 – Apr 7												
Send in Spring Calving Data				Apr 15										
THE Open Enrollment (Fall)				Apr 15 – June 15										
Fall Weaning Date (calves are 175 to 236 days of age)				Apr 16										
Spring Breeding Season					May 1 – June 30									
Spring Yearling Data (yearlings will be 374 to 433 days old)				Apr 16										
Late Enrollment/ Final Adjustments (Fall)						Jun 15 – Aug 15								
Fall Calving Season (based on a 285 gestation length)								Aug 23 - Oct 23						
Spring Weaning Date (calves are 177 to 236 days of age)										Oct 1				
THE Open Enrollment (Spring)										Oct 15 – Dec 15				
Send in Fall Calving Data											Nov 1			
Fall Breeding Season												Nov 15 – Jan 15		
Fall Yearling Data (yearlings will be 374 to 433 days old)											Nov 1			
Late Enrollment/ Final Adjustments (Spring)													Dec 15 – Feb 15	

Breeding
  Calving
  Weaning
  Yearling
  THE Open Enrollment
  Late Enrollment/Final Adjustments

### CMP Timeline:

- March-June = Sire lists are sent out and semen tanks delivered.
- August-January = Calf weaning data, carcass data are requested.
- January-March = Carcass data is processed, and payments are made.

For questions, please contact the program coordinator Susan Russell at 719-469-0020 or [cmp@simmgene.com](mailto:cmp@simmgene.com) if you are interested in becoming a CMP cooperator herd.