BLACK ink™ BASICS

SELECTION FOR $B MAKES CENTS

Profit Tip

Selection of breeding stock based on a single trait is risky, as progress may come at the expense of others. Simultaneous select for several traits while maintaining balance overall, with the American Angus Association dollar-value ($Value) indexes. An evaluation of Angus sires since 1996 proves selecting for efficient, high-marbling calves does not set back other important traits. Using the breed's top 10% of Beef Value ($B) sires can produce calves with higher quality premiums, lower yield grade discounts and better feedlot performance, without sacrificing cow function.

The Facts

- Progeny from high $B sires had five times more Prime grading carcasses, while Standard carcasses were cut by almost two-thirds when compared to low $B progeny.
- The percentage of *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB) brand qualifiers increased more than 28 percentage points from low to high $B sire progeny.
- Yield grade percentages did not vary significantly between groups.
- High $B progeny had a 67-pound carcass weight advantage over low $B progeny.
- Selection indexes for feedlot and grid values improved as $B increased.
- The offspring performed without disrupting the maternal traits used to determine Weaned-Calf Value ($W).
- High $B progeny returned $3.94/cwt. more in premiums. The combined weight and price advantage adds up to $168.02/head more for progeny of the high $B sires.
- Sires in the top 10% $B had an average value of $74.72, compared to sires in the bottom 10% $B with $6.17.

Materials & Methods

- Data represents 1,774 sires from the American Angus Association carcass database with 50,391 progeny harvested from 1997-2012.
- Top 10% and bottom 10% sire groups based on $B represent 177 sires each.
- $B is the expected average dollar per head difference in progeny postweaning performance and carcass value compared to the progeny of other Angus sires, unlike $G, which only evaluates carcass merit.
- A $Value is based on an index that combines multiple traits into a number based on the EPD of future progeny performance and typical market conditions. $Values are expressed in dollars per head.
- $Values are based on economic assumptions using a three-year industry rolling average for price.

Action Steps

- Use the $Value index tool to simplify multiple-trait evaluation.
- Target sires among the top 10% of the Angus breed in $B values that are at least breed average in other Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) important to production goals.
- Don't forget visual appraisal. Examine sires for structural soundness and disposition.

Percent Change in $B Sires			
	Top 10%	Bottom 10%	Change
Number of Sires	177	177	
Steer Progeny	7,359	5,432	
Carcass Weight	826	759	67
Marbling Score	6.60	5.86	0.74
Ribeye Area	13.09	12.28	0.81
Fat at 12th Rib	0.54	0.55	-0.02
$W	26.89	20.45	6.44
$F	30.37	0.74	29.63
$G	36.92	9.74	27.18
$B	74.72	6.17	68.54
$QG	30.60	6.38	24.21
$YG	6.32	3.35	2.97
Prime	14.3%	2.8%	11.5%
Upper 2/3 Choice	53.8%	35.4%	18.4%
CAB Qualified	64.6%	36.5%	28.1%
Low Choice	25.8%	42.2%	-16.4%
Select	5.8%	18.2%	-12.4%
Standard	0.3%	1.4%	-1.1%
Average Yield Grade	3.29	3.34	
MARB EPD	0.71	0.04	0.67
RIB EPD	0.54	-0.19	0.72
FAT EPD	-0.002	0.002	-0.004
CWT EPD	32	-6	37
YW EPD	88	51	37

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

$Values are a selection index tool developed by the American Angus Association. More information is available at www.angus.org/Nce/Definitions.aspx.

Questions?

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