



Quality Time™

Quality news and features for farm broadcasters from Certified Angus Beef LLC
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Backfat targets make a difference

30-second story: Sorting cattle for a backfat target can increase profit.

Certified Angus Beef's Larry Corah says cattle should be marketed when their backfat reaches five-tenths to six-tenths of an inch. Many cattle feeders aim for a leaner, four-tenths inch, but Corah says that could cut the percentage of cattle grading Choice by up to half.

The C-A-B vice president says procuring more uniform cattle and sorting prior to sale can help eliminate outliers.

The 2006 average Choice-Select spread was more than \$13 per hundredweight, so Corah says that extra marbling is worth the effort.

60-second story: Sorting cattle for a backfat target can increase profit.

Certified Angus Beef's Larry Corah says cattle should be marketed when they've reached an ideal endpoint. There is a fine balance between maximum quality and optimum yield grade.

Many cattle feeders target four-tenths of an inch of backfat at harvest. The C-A-B vice president for supply development says that could hurt an animal's ability to grade.

Actually, Corah (:20): "The ideal window is right about five-tenths to six-tenths, and in that window, if they have marbling potential to achieve 60 to 70 percent Choice and in excess of 20 percent C-A-B acceptance, that's a perfect window to be in. When you start getting over point six (.6), that's when your yield grade really starts increasing."

(LINK http://www.cabpartners.com/news/radio/corah_qt2_1_1.mp3)

Q:...really starts increasing."

Corah says procuring more uniform cattle and sorting prior to sale can help eliminate outliers.

He reports the average Choice-Select spread for 2006 was more than \$13 per hundredweight, which could make that extra marbling worth the effort.

245-word story: Sorting cattle for a backfat target can increase profit.

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Actuality, Corah (:20): "The ideal window is right about five-tenths to six-tenths, and in that window, if they have marbling potential to achieve 60 to 70 percent Choice and in excess of 20 percent C-A-B acceptance, that's a perfect window to be in. When you start getting over point six (.6), that's when your yield grade really starts increasing."

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Q: ...really starts increasing."

Corah says getting more uniform groups of cattle is a key to eliminating outliers and grid discounts.

Actuality, Corah (:23): "If you're really going to capture premiums, you have to get as many in this window as you possibly can, and it becomes very difficult to achieve that without some sort. Now another option beyond sorting as finished cattle, is to do a better job of sorting cattle on the front end, possibly sorting by weight or even, some feedyards will sort on a combination of weight and the amount of fat cover as they go on feed."

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