

Effect of region of origin, Southeast versus Midwest, on feedlot performance and carcass traits in beef calves. W.D. Busby¹, D. Strohbehn¹, L.R. Corah², and M.E. King² ¹*Iowa State University, Ames, IA*; ²*Certified Angus Beef LLC, Wooster, OH*.

Calves (n=27,538) from 15 states fed at ten Iowa feedlots through the Iowa Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity over six years (2002-07) were used to evaluate the effect of origin of calves on feedlot performance and carcass traits. A common diet was fed and similar implant and health programs were administered to all calves. Five Midwest (M) states (n=9,310) and ten Southeast (SE) states (n=18,228) were represented. Calves were sorted and harvested when they were visually evaluated to have one centimeter of fat cover. Delivery weight (kg), delivery age (days), final weight (kg), and ADG (kg/day) were 290.7, 324.3, 533.4, and 1.44; and 285.6, 252.9, 536.8, and 1.46 for SE and M calves, respectively (P<0.001 for each pair of values). Morbidity rate (%), treatment cost (\$/head), and mortality rate (%) for SE and M calves were 15.22, 5.01, and 1.43; and 20.76, 7.38, and 1.76, respectively (P<0.05 for each pair of values). The percentage of Prime, Choice, Select, and Standard carcasses for SE and M calves were 1.14, 67.94, 28.33, and 2.59; and 1.01, 69.28, 27.22, and 2.48, respectively. A significantly higher (P<0.001) percentage of the SE versus M calves (21.57% and 19.02%, respectively) of the black-hided Angus calves eligible for the *Certified Angus Beef*[®] Program (CAB[®]) were accepted. When considering feedlot and carcass traits and all associated costs, the SE calves had a profit/head of \$48.63 versus \$37.31 for M calves (P<0.001). Southeast calves had fewer health problems, higher CAB[®] acceptance rates, and more profit/head while Midwest calves tended to have better feedlot performance.

Key Words: Health, Region of Origin, Quality Grade