

Feedlot Performance and Carcass Traits for Southeast or Midwest Calves. W.D. Busby¹, D. Strohhahn¹, G.D. Fike², and M.E. King² ¹*Iowa State University, Ames, IA;* ²*Certified Angus Beef LLC, Wooster, OH.*

Calves (n=47,526) from 19 states fed at 18 Iowa feedlots through the Iowa Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity over eight years (2002-09) 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. Twelve Southeast (SE) states (n=31,155) and seven Midwest (M) states (n=16,371) 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) and final weight (kg) were 295.1, 319.6 and 533.5; and 285.9, 255.4 and 535.0 for SE and M calves, respectively (P<0.01 for each pair of values). Calf ADG was the same, 1.45 kg/day, for both regions. Morbidity rate (%), treatment cost (\$/head) and mortality rate (%) for SE and M calves were 15.8, 5.53 and 1.35; and 22.1, 8.49 and 1.81, respectively (P<0.05 for each pair of values). The percentage of Prime, Choice, Select and Standard carcasses for SE and M calves were 1.08, 65.25, 30.99 and 2.68; and 0.8, 67.27, 29.41 and 2.52, respectively. Of the black-hided Angus-type calves eligible for the *Certified Angus Beef*[®] program (CAB[®]), a significantly higher (P<0.001) percentage of the SE versus M calves (18.43% and 16.91%, respectively) were accepted. When considering feedlot and carcass traits and all associated costs, the SE calves had a profit/head of \$37.34 versus \$23.79 for M calves (P<0.001). Southeast calves had fewer health problems, higher CAB[®] acceptance rates and more profit/head.

Key Words: Health, Region of Origin, Quality Grade