



Genetics Update

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Heifer Exposure Forms

RAAA members who recently received Heifer Exposure Forms in the mail also received a letter regarding the increased importance of completing these forms. We have had a noticeable swell of interest in the Red Angus Heifer Pregnancy (HPG) EPD. Based on this observation, it is apparent that possessing a cowherd with known HPG EPDs will provide you with a marketing advantage. Increasing the accuracy of HPG EPDs of your cowherd begins with correctly completing and submitting your heifer exposure forms. Take a close look at the bulleted points in the letter that accompanied your heifer exposure forms. These bulleted points will guide you in the correct completion of the forms, thus providing more useful information for the National Cattle Evaluation. The beauty of reporting heifer exposure information is the simplicity of collecting the data; merely which females were exposed to be bred and what dates the females were exposed. If you have internet access, you can save the ever increasing cost of a stamp by completing and submitting your heifer exposure information online at www.redangus.org. If you have any questions regarding the completion of the heifer exposure forms contact the RAAA National Office (940) 387-3502.

Calving Ease Direct (CED) and Calving Ease Total Maternal (CETM)

Occasionally we receive a phone call that begins "I just got the Registration Certificates on my newly registered

animals and they don't have CED or CETM interim EPDs. Both their sire and dam have CED and CETM EPDs." Simple, straightforward answer; we do not calculate interim EPDs for CED or CETM. In order for animals to possess EPDs for CED and CETM their data must be evaluated in the National Cattle Evaluation (NCE). Therefore, if the marketing of your animals demands CED or CETM EPDs, such as the Kentucky Tobacco Program, their calving ease score must be reported to the RAAA National Office prior to an NCE. We conduct two NCEs per year, in June and December. Keep an eye on the Registration Bulletin in the ARA Magazine in the months prior to the NCEs to determine the deadline for data to be included in the NCE.

Carcass Interim EPDs

Another common question: "I just received my ultrasound summary sheet from the RAAA National Office and some of my calves do not have carcass EPDs. They were not in a single head contemporary group and both their sire and dam have carcass EPDs. Why don't these calves have carcass EPDs?" There are a couple reasons why an animal in this particular situation may not have interim carcass EPDs, but 9 times out of 10 the cause is both parents have parental average (P) accuracies for carcass EPDs. In order for RAAA to calculate carcass interim EPDs at least one parent must have numeric carcass accuracies. However, after the animal's ultrasound data is included in an NCE, not only will the ultra-

Definitions

Parental EPD - Calculated by averaging the EPDs of the sire and dam. This is used when no performance data is reported on an animal and the animal has not been evaluated in a National Cattle Evaluation. These EPDs are assigned a "P" accuracy.

Interim EPD - Calculated using the animal's recorded performance, genetics of the animal's sire and dam, and an estimate of the average genetic value of the animal's contemporaries. These EPDs are displayed for animals that have reported performance data to the RAAA, but have not been evaluated in a National Cattle Evaluation. These EPDs are assigned a "P+" accuracy.

sounded calf receive carcass EPDs and numeric accuracies, but the calf's sire and dam will also receive numeric accuracies.

Genetics Library

Those of you who frequent the RAAA website (www.redangus.org) have probably noticed the enhancements to the site. These enhancements are released in stages, with several more to come. If you have not recently visited the RAAA website, I would encourage you to do so. One improvement worthy of pointing out is the new Genetics Library. The purpose of the Genetics Library is to educate RAAA members and commercial bull buyers on the genetic tools provided by the RAAA. To access the Genetics Library go to www.redangus.org and hold your cursor over the word Genetics in the top toolbar. A drop-down toolbar will appear and simply click on Genetics Library. Check often to keep informed on RAAA genetics tools. ■

Fall 2006 NCE EPDs are now available at www.redangus.org