

2007 RAAA National Cattle Evaluation

by Larry Keenan, RAAA Research/Special Projects Coordinator

Spring breeding season is quickly approaching and it is time to start making those all important breeding decisions. With the sire accounting for 50 percent of the calf crop genetics, it is obvious that selecting a good bull is the best and quickest way to increase the quality of your calf crop, which in turn will mean more money in your back pocket.

Calving Ease Direct (CED) EPD

One difference you will notice in this Sire Summary, and all new documents released by RAAA, is the location of Calving Ease Direct (CED) among the other EPDs. Previously, CED was listed with the maternal reproduction EPDs (HPG, CETM, STAY). However, with CED being a predictor of calves being born unassisted, it makes more sense to list CED next to Birth Weight (BW) EPD. While BW EPD predicts differences in birth weight, CED EPD trumps BW EPD by accounting for birth weight and calving ease scores. Calving ease scores account for genetic factors such as gestation length, calf shape, etc. that have an impact on (un)assisted births. If your breeding decisions include selection for unassisted births, bypass BW EPD and take the correct route: CED EPD.

Statistics

Through the NCE, we are able to provide statistics that allow you to compare animals you own, or may purchase, to other animals of the same grouping (Proven and Opportunity Sires, Active Cows, and Non-Parents). Table 1 details the percentile table for the Proven and Opportunity sires. From this you can determine how animals

Table 1.

Percentiles for Proven and Genetic Opportunity Sires in the 2007 Sire Summary													
Top %	CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	TM	ME	HPG	CETM	ST	MARB	REA	FAT
1%	15	-5.9	56	98	31	52	-7	15	13	19	0.38	0.48	-0.03
2%	14	-5.2	54	93	29	50	-6	14	12	18	0.34	0.43	-0.03
3%	13	-4.7	52	90	28	49	-5	14	11	17	0.32	0.39	-0.02
4%	13	-4.3	50	88	28	48	-4	14	11	17	0.30	0.36	-0.02
5%	12	-4.1	49	86	27	47	-3	13	10	16	0.29	0.34	-0.02
10%	11	-3.1	45	80	25	44	-2	12	9	15	0.24	0.27	-0.02
15%	10	-2.4	43	75	23	42	0	11	8	14	0.20	0.22	-0.01
20%	9	-1.9	41	72	22	40	1	11	7	14	0.18	0.18	-0.01
25%	8	-1.4	39	69	21	39	2	10	7	13	0.15	0.15	-0.01
30%	7	-1.0	37	66	20	37	2	10	6	13	0.13	0.12	-0.01
35%	7	-0.6	36	64	19	36	3	9	5	12	0.11	0.09	-0.01
40%	6	-0.3	35	61	19	35	4	9	5	12	0.09	0.06	0.00
45%	6	0.1	33	59	18	34	4	8	4	11	0.08	0.04	0.00
50%	5	0.4	32	57	17	33	5	8	4	11	0.06	0.01	0.00
55%	4	0.7	31	55	16	32	6	8	4	11	0.04	-0.02	0.00
60%	4	1.1	29	53	15	31	6	7	3	10	0.03	-0.04	0.00
65%	3	1.4	28	50	15	30	7	7	3	10	0.01	-0.07	0.01
70%	3	1.8	27	48	14	29	8	6	2	9	-0.01	-0.10	0.01
75%	2	2.2	25	45	13	27	8	6	1	9	-0.03	-0.13	0.01
80%	1	2.7	23	42	12	26	9	5	1	8	-0.06	-0.16	0.01
85%	0	3.2	21	39	11	24	10	5	0	8	-0.08	-0.20	0.01
90%	-1	3.9	19	34	9	22	12	4	-1	7	-0.12	-0.25	0.02
95%	-2	4.9	15	28	7	19	13	3	-2	6	-0.17	-0.32	0.02

Table 2.

Percentiles for Non Parents													
Top %	CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	TM	ME	HPG	CETM	ST	MARB	REA	FAT
1%	14	-4.7	50	86	27	48	-4	14	9	18	0.28	0.42	-0.02
2%	13	-4.1	47	82	25	46	-3	13	8	17	0.25	0.37	-0.02
3%	12	-3.7	46	80	25	45	-2	13	8	16	0.23	0.34	-0.01
4%	12	-3.5	45	78	24	44	-2	13	8	16	0.22	0.32	-0.01
5%	11	-3.2	44	77	23	44	-1	12	7	16	0.21	0.30	-0.01
10%	10	-2.4	41	72	22	41	0	12	6	15	0.18	0.24	-0.01
15%	9	-1.9	39	69	21	39	1	11	6	14	0.16	0.20	-0.01
20%	9	-1.5	38	66	20	38	2	11	5	13	0.14	0.17	-0.01
25%	8	-1.1	36	64	19	37	2	10	5	13	0.12	0.14	-0.01
30%	8	-0.8	35	62	18	36	3	10	4	12	0.11	0.12	0.00
35%	7	-0.5	34	60	18	35	4	10	4	12	0.10	0.09	0.00
40%	7	-0.2	33	58	17	34	4	10	4	12	0.08	0.07	0.00
45%	6	0.0	32	57	17	33	5	9	3	11	0.07	0.05	0.00
50%	6	0.3	31	55	16	32	5	9	3	11	0.06	0.03	0.00
55%	6	0.6	30	53	15	31	5	9	3	11	0.05	0.01	0.00
60%	5	0.8	29	52	15	30	6	8	2	10	0.04	-0.01	0.00
65%	5	1.1	28	50	14	29	6	8	2	10	0.02	-0.03	0.00
70%	4	1.4	27	48	14	28	7	8	2	10	0.01	-0.06	0.00
75%	4	1.7	26	46	13	27	8	8	1	9	0.00	-0.08	0.01
80%	3	2.1	24	44	12	26	8	7	1	9	-0.02	-0.11	0.01
85%	3	2.5	23	41	11	25	9	7	0	8	-0.04	-0.14	0.01
90%	2	3.0	21	38	10	23	10	6	0	7	-0.06	-0.18	0.01
95%	1	3.8	18	33	9	20	11	6	-1	6	-0.09	-0.24	0.01

you are using, or are considering using, rank for any particular trait. Another interesting statistic that results from the NCE are the genetic trends for each trait. These trends

are highlighted in Figures 1, 2 and 3. It is apparent that through the use of EPDs we have been able to make progress in the traits evaluated.

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Accessing the New EPDs

There are several ways to view the information derived from the NCE: printed Sire Summary, the internet, and whole-herd EPD reports. If you would like to receive a printed Sire Summary, contact Judy Edwards, judy@redangus.org, at the RAAA national headquarters. The Sire Summary also contains editorial content that explains EPDs and Accuracies, as well as EPD statistics such as averages and percentiles for each EPD. Another, and in my opinion the best, way to access the new EPDs is via the internet through our website: www.redangus.org. Not only does the website contain the electronic version of the Sire Summary, but it also features an EPD Lookup tool that allows you to search for the EPDs on any animal registered in the RAAA database, not just the 1,750 sires listed in the 2007 Sire Summary. It is important to remember that every animal in the RAAA database receives updated EPDs and accuracies during every NCE. Another useful tool located on the website is the Sire Search. This tool allows you to enter EPD ranges, for several or all EPDs, that best meet your breeding strategy; it then searches all sires in the RAAA database, and returns a list of sires that meet your requirements. This tool greatly reduces the time needed to find bull(s) that will fit your breeding program. Another powerful selection tool available to Red Angus bull customers and found on the website is the Beef Cattle Decision Support System, produced and run by Colorado State University. Lastly, RAAA members can view the new EPDs on the Whole Herd EPD Report that was mailed to every RAAA member in January. Additionally, commercial producers can request a Bull Buyer EPD Report that lists the new EPDs on purchased bulls. To request a Bull Buyer EPD Report contact Kenda Ponder, kenda@redangus.org

RAAA was founded in 1954 as the beef industry's first performance based association. The founders' desire was for the cattle to be objectively tested and produce the industry's best genetic predictions. The current Association has implemented many policies to achieve this goal: Total Herd Reporting - mandatory reporting performance of all progeny, not just the ones good enough to register; Technical Committee - overview of EPDs to separate politics from science; Economically Relevant Traits - RAAA only releases EPDs that have an economic impact on a producer's bottom line; Colorado State University Connection - EPDs calculated "outside RAAA" by scientific community which provides the most current science to EPD calculation and third party oversight. The combination of these tools provides cattle producers with the most financially stimulating tool on their ranch: reliable genetic predictions. ■

Figure 1. RAAA Growth Trends

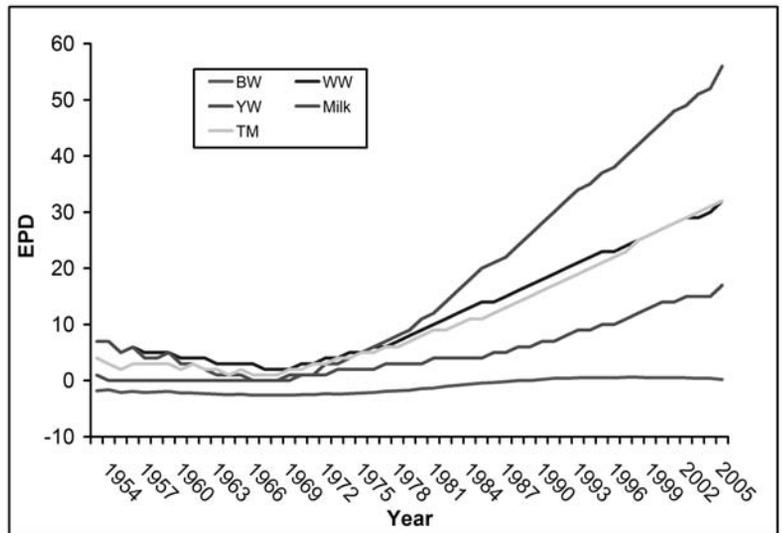


Figure 2. RAAA Reproduction Trends

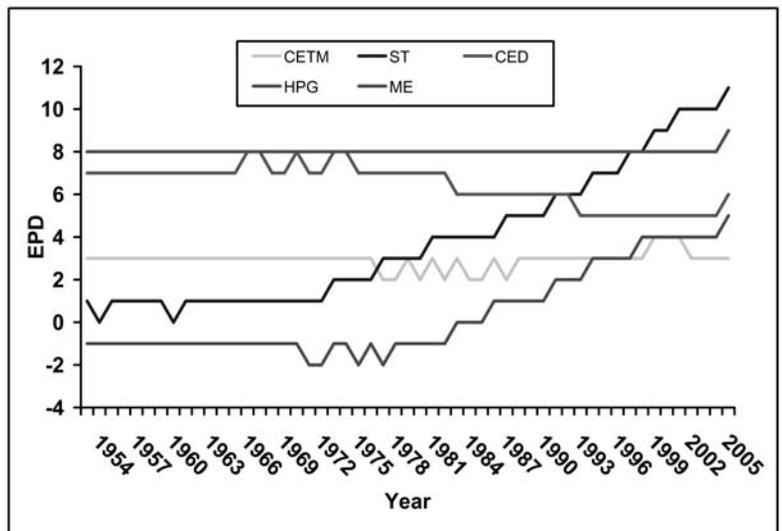


Figure 3. RAAA Carcass Trends

