

# Beef Sire Selection Manual

National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium

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# Foreword

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This manual was sponsored by the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium (NBCEC). The NBCEC is an organization of universities that have been involved in beef cattle genetic evaluations over the last several decades, plus affiliate universities doing research critical to beef cattle selection and evaluation. The consortium, which started operations in 2000, is funded by a Special Research Grant from the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the USDA. The focus of the NBCEC is research, but we strongly believe in the need for an active extension program in beef cattle genetics. As such, we have held workshops and symposia on a variety of topics and have conducted several series of distance-education programs. This manual represents another effort by the NBCEC Extension team to provide current and meaningful information to the industry. As director of the NBCEC, I would like to take this opportunity to pay special thanks to the editors, authors, and reviewers who made this manual come to life.

We live in an age of accelerated scientific discovery, which leads to new technologies that must be understood by members of the production sector of the industry to assure that technology is applied appropriately. Today, producers face the challenges of learning about DNA testing and its application to their selection programs. However, one very appropriate use of any new technology is to synchronize it with tried and tested programs. The beef industry still must use tools like EPD and programs such as crossbreeding and/or composite breeding. The Beef Sire Selection Manual incorporates information on both tried and tested programs as well as on new genetic technology. It is meant to be a reference to help producers understand the important genetic concepts that are the tools for profitable cattle breeding.

Knowledge is a powerful asset for any undertaking, and profitable beef production is an endeavor the members of the NBCEC are committed to support. As such, we the faculty members of the NBCEC hope that you find this to be a useful educational tool and a unique resource.



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