

RED ANGUS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA **CARCASS PROGENY TEST PROGRAM (CPT)**

PURPOSE:

Provide producers a cost and time effective means of validating carcass genetics on young, unproven bulls.

The difficulties and costs associated with producers performing their own carcass progeny tests has resulted in many producers today relying only on ultrasound data to estimate carcass genetics. The CPT program is designed to address these difficulties traditionally burdened on the seedstock breeder by providing a venue that will allow for the capture and utilization of actual carcass data on young unproven sires; data which is superior to ultrasound data alone. Additionally, the CPT program will be coordinated by RAAA staff, thus providing guidance to maximize the number of valid and useful data points to be used in the RAAA National Cattle Evaluation.

With the moderate to high heritability of carcass traits and the increasing importance of known carcass genetics due to grid marketing of commercial cattle, this program will benefit the entire Red Angus breed by allowing more genetic progress to be made over a shorter period of time. Currently, the high use of ultrasound and limited data from producer conducted carcass progeny tests has resulted in an extended time for a sire to have high accuracy carcass EPDs. The CPT program will provide a means of reducing the amount of time needed to prove carcass EPDs on tested sires.

NOMINATION PROCESS:

The owner(s) of a bull registered in the Red Angus Association of America are eligible to nominate individual(s) for participation in the Red Angus CPT. The fees for nomination and expectations of carcass data records received are as follows...

- ✓ \$3,000.00 fee per bull nominated
- ✓ 75 Units of semen provided at owner's expense
- ✓ Minimum of 12 carcass records included in next available NCE
 - If the 12 record minimum is not met, the nominated sire will be used in the following CPT. The owner of the bull will NOT be subject to the nomination fee again; however, the owner must provide the additional semen necessary to reach the above referenced minimum carcass records.
- ✓ Possibility of tested sire used as a reference sire in future CPT program
- ✓ Possibility of performance data on AI sired calves being collected and used in next available NCE (see Test Herd Identification section below).

SELECTION OF BULLS TO BE TESTED:

- ✓ Maximum of 8 nominated bulls per test (may be increased in the future)
- ✓ Test herd management will provide RAAA EPD standards that bulls must meet in order to be used in their herd
- ✓ RAAA will provide the test herd management with information on the nominated bulls that meet their breeding strategies to determine which bulls they will use in their herd
 - This information will include:
 - ✓ Sire and Maternal Grandsire of nominated bulls
 - ✓ EPDs and Accuracies for each nominated bull
 - ✓ Breeder, Owner, Sire Name, etc. will not be provided to test herd

REFERENCE SIRE REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ Backfat EPD with minimum accuracy of 0.40
- ✓ Minimum of one reference sire per test herd will be used per CPT
- ✓ Future reference sires will come from those sires used in previous CPTs
- ✓ Semen on Reference Sires will be purchased by RAAA at \$5.00 per straw
 - Solicitation of donated semen will be pursued

TEST HERD IDENTIFICATION:

There are a number of things that must be considered when selecting test herds to participate in the Red Angus CPT program. First and foremost, these operations need to be very production record oriented. Also, it is important that these operations have an identification system in place that will allow for calves to be matched to their dams accurately; this will be crucial to the success of capturing the data we are seeking. These are other criteria that will be used when selecting test herds to work with.

- ✓ Herds currently AI breeding preferred
- ✓ Ability to breed minimum of 300 cows – allows for retention of some heifers for breeding purposes
 - Fewer cows can be used if no replacements kept
- ✓ Uniform genetic breed make-up of cowherd
- ✓ Retain ownership through feeding phase (preferred, not required)
- ✓ Currently collecting performance data (preferred, not required)
 - Test herds will be encouraged to submit individual performance records on AI sired calves including birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight and ultrasound data on replacement females kept for breeding purposes. All information will be requested in a manner that will allow for the collected information to be included in the next available NCE. Financial compensation may be obtained by test herd for submission of individual performance data that can be used in an NCE.

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NOMINATION FORM

(Please nominate only ONE bull per form)

NOMINATING HERD: RAAA Member #: _____

Ranch Name: _____

First: _____ Last: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

MULTI-OWNED SIRE

Complete this section if multiple owners will be paying nomination fee. Total of 'Amount to be Billed' must equal \$3000.

Member#: _____ Amount to be Billed _____

NOMINATED BULL:

Registration #: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Bull Name: _____

Current Location of Semen: _____

In signing this nomination form, I agree to provide the Red Angus Association of America with the required volume of semen needed to perform the testing of the sire I have nominated. I have read through and completely understand the requirements, results, and benefits that will be obtained through the successful testing of my bull through the Red Angus CPT program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: Semen should remain in current location until notified by a RAAA staff member of where it is to be shipped.