

Designing a Carcass Progeny Test

Carcass progeny testing involves comparing a sire's progeny for carcass merit with the progeny of a known reference sire. The goal is to produce 20 calves from the sire to be tested along with a minimum of ten calves from the reference sire that they will be compared to. All calves must be from the same weaning contemporary group. Twenty or more carcass records from a test sire should provide enough accuracy to qualify the tested sire as a reference sire. If fewer calves are obtained, the data are still valuable, but reference sire status may not be obtained. However, the data are cumulative, and accuracy can be obtained over a period of time by feeding several groups of calves from the same sires. This option will benefit smaller producers who may not have a sufficient number of calves to prove a sire in one year. Please remember, if only one sire is represented in the contemporary group, the data will not contribute to the calculation of carcass EPDs. The Red Angus reference sire list is composed of the sires listed in this summary, which have numerical accuracies. Additionally, several Black Angus bulls qualify as reference sires for Red Angus progeny testing. If you are interested in using Black Angus bull as a reference sire, please contact the Red Angus National Office for further information.

Another key component of a carcass progeny test is randomness. Cows and heifers must be mated randomly to both the test and reference sires. Steers and/or heifers may be fed for carcass data collection, but no selection pressure may be placed on the progeny that will be used for the test. In other words, you cannot select which cows will be bred to which bull, nor should you select the best or worst calves at weaning to be fed for the test. All calves must be individually identified, and birth dates must be known. The Red Angus Association of America offers assistance to breeders in finding commercial operations willing to A.I. for progeny test purposes. If you are interested in this service, please contact the National Office at (940) 387-3502.