

# Bull Selection – Simplified.

Red Angus stakeholders have enjoyed the capability of selecting bulls based on economically relevant traits (ERTs), such as Heifer Pregnancy or Stayability, that truly impact their operations profitability. While these ERTs allow for efficient selection decisions, the growing number of ERTs and EPDs has resulted in confusion as producers attempt to estimate a sire's overall impact. In response, RAAA has developed the HerdBuilder and GridMaster indices, which answer the question:

**“What impact will each potential sire have on my operation’s profitability?”**

## **HERDBUILDER**

Producers selecting bulls to develop profitable replacement females and maximize the value of non-replacement marketed progeny should incorporate the HerdBuilder Index into their selection decisions.

The HerdBuilder Index is built using the following scenario:

- Red Angus bulls mated to cows and heifers
- Replacement heifers retained from within the herd
- All remaining progeny sold on a quality-based carcass grid

Given that replacement heifers are retained, significant influence is placed on the obvious maternal ERTs of Stayability, Heifer Pregnancy and Calving Ease. Additionally, with all remaining progeny sold on a quality-based carcass grid, Marbling, Yield Grade and growth EPDs also impact the HerdBuilder Index.

## **GRIDMASTER**

Use the GridMaster Index if your operation's primary goal is maximizing profitability of feeders in the feedyard and on the rail.

The GridMaster Index is built using the following scenario:

- Red Angus bulls mated to cows
- All progeny sold on a quality-based carcass grid

Marbling, Yield Grade and growth EPDs are the traits of primary importance in the GridMaster Index.

**While the process of calculating an index is very complex, the resulting selection tool is very simple to implement.**

**HerdBuilder and GridMaster are expressed as differences in profitability per exposure.**

### **HerdBuilder Example:**

30 cows x 5 years breeding = 150 exposures

Bull A has a HerdBuilder Index of 175:  $175 \times 150 = \$26,250$

Bull B has a HerdBuilder Index of 100:  $100 \times 150 = \$15,000$

**\$11,250 Difference  
in Profitability**

**Ranch Tested. Rancher Trusted.**

# **Red Angus**

(940) 387-3502 | [RedAngus.org](http://RedAngus.org)

