

August 2011

EPD Red Angus Bulls

Placing: 2-3-1-4

Cuts: 5-2-4

In this class of EPD Red Angus Bulls, I place them 2-3-1-4. Starting with the most functional bull, both visibly and numerically, I opted to start with 2 in my top pair. As here is the soundest appearing bull within the class that is the most correct in the angulation to his shoulder and set to his hock, all the while standing down on more substance of bone and a bigger foot. He's also the heaviest muscled, boldest ribbed bull, which I would expect to be the easiest to manage in a Rugged Range setting. To further compliment his manageability I would expect him to have the least problems at calving time as well. Sure, 3 is going to have the bigger calves at weaning, but he goes second as he gets steeper out of his hip, softer on his pasterns, and tight hearted when compared to my class winner.

It gets more challenging in the middle pair as there are two bulls that differ in type and kind. None the less, I opt use 3 in the middle as here is the bull that from a scenario standpoint excels over 1 as the red ear-tagged bull is near breed average for birth weight and has a decisive advantage when it comes to weaning weight as I would expect him to produce the heavier calves at weaning achieving more profitability for the ranchers. Additionally, I read him as being adequately structured, as he is acceptable in his foot and bone and sound in his appearance. However, I appreciate 1 more structurally as he is sounder appearing, all the while being bolder about his rib, but he goes third as he is the lowest in weaning weight and shorter hipped when compared to 3.

In an easier concluding decision, it's 3's added structural soundness that sorts him over 4. Here is the sounder made bull who is more functional through his shoulder and hock standing down on more bone and a bigger foot. He has more arch and curvature to his rib, and is more attractively fronted. He is below breed average for birth which is advantageous in rugged ranch conditions, as he is expected to have fewer problems at calving. Admittedly, 4 is expected to have the bigger calves at weaning, but that's where it ends as the more terminal appearing white ear-tagged bull gets to be the poorest structured in his shoulder and hock, smallest boned, lightest muscled and tightest ribbed within the class today.

Thank you.

Jeremy Armstrong