Beef Cattle Selection

Selecting Feeder Cattle, Breeding Heifers, and Bulls
Overview

- Primary Considerations
- Feeder Cattle
- Breeding Heifers
- Bulls
- Expected Progeny Differences
- Keep/Cull Heifers
Primary Considerations

- What are your goals?
- Environment
- Weather
- Feed Resources
- Labor Resources
- Basic Selection Criteria
- Breed
- Age
- Sex (feeder cattle)
- Weight and Condition
### Feeder Cattle Selection

#### Phenotypic Priorities
- Muscle
- Condition (fatness vs. trimness)
- Capacity and Frame
- Size
- Structural Correctness

#### Performance Traits
- Weight per Day of Age
- Feed Efficiency
Breeding Heifers

- Structural Correctness
- Volume and Capacity
- Balance and Femininity
- Condition and Udder Development
- Muscle
- EPDs
Bulls

- Structural Correctness
- Muscle
- Balance
- Capacity and Condition
- Testicular Size and Masculinity
- EPDs
Expected Progeny Differences

- “the differences in performance expected from the offspring of one individual compared to the offspring of another individual, within the same breed”
  
  Ensminger and Perry, 1997

- Prediction of how the offspring will perform, NOT the individual

- Largest values are not always best

- Accuracy is important

- Not comparable between breeds, utilize breed averages
Expected Progeny Differences

- **Common traits**
  - BW=Birth Weight
  - WW=Weaning Weight
  - YW=Yearling Weight
  - MA, MM=Milking Ability, Maternal Milk
  - TM=Total Maternal
  - SC=Scrotal Circumference

- **Others (not all breeds)**
  - CE=Calving ease
  - GL=Gestation length
  - STAY=Stayability
  - DOC=Docility
  - REA=Rib eye area
  - MS=Marbling Score
  - BF, BFT=Backfat, backfat thickness
  - HCW=Hot carcass weight
Keep/Cull Limousin Heifers

#1

EPDs:

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Questions?