

Genetic Information Made Easy

“How to sort through the chaff to find the nuggets”

- Altenburg Super Baldy Ranch, LLC
- Fort Collins, Colorado
- Willie & Sharon Altenburg

Wear Two Hats



Altenburg Super Baldy
Ranch, LLC

Simmental and Angus
. . . Black and Red

With me there is no color issue.



We believe in Crossbreeding . . .
and the Crossbred Cow



**Utilizing Genetic Information
. . . But Making It Practical**

- Breeds?
- How many Breeds?
- How many cows per breed cross?
- Pastures?
- As Seedstock Producers we need to keep it simple for our commercial customers

It's the Cow Stupid!!



The Advantages of Crossbreeding has been well documented

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- It is not about
- Calving ease
- Increased growth
- Improved carcass traits

The Advantages of Crossbreeding has been well documented

Crossbreeding greatly affects lowly heritable traits the most ---

- Calf livability
- Crossbred cows remain in the herd 1.6 years longer because they are pregnant
- 25% more productivity per cow

Super Baldy Cross



- SimAngus
- Continental X English
- Black or Red

Crossbreeding Keep It Simple!!

- Chosen Two Breeds, Simmental and Angus ... black and red
- Simmental for growth, gain, muscle, yield, maternal traits
- Red Angus/Angus for marbling, quality, fleshing ability, maternal traits

Utilizing Genetic Information ... But Making It Practical

Should be the goal of every seedstock producer,
to help their commercial producers.

Two groups of people----

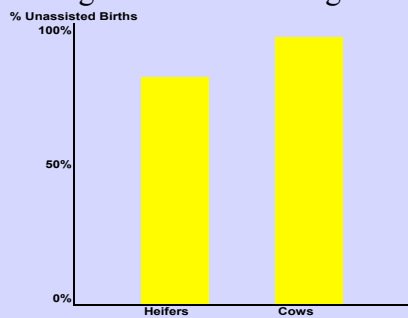
- 1- EPD "Junkies"
- 2- Those who just want to use the numbers as a breeding tool

I will try to address both groups today

Calving Ease and Birth Weight EPDs

- Calving Ease is a better predictor of "calving ease" than Birth Weight

Calving Ease & Birth Weight EPD



Weaning and Yearling Weight EPDs

WW and YW are highly correlated
Negatively correlated to birth weight and
calving ease

Bending the Growth Curve

(WW is 7/12ths of YW)

Maternal Traits

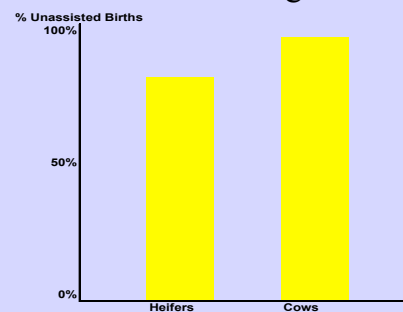
Several---

Stayability, Milk, Maternal Weaning Weight, \$
Energy, Maintenance Energy, Heifer Pregnancy,
Mature Height, Mature Weight, Maternal
Calving Ease

Two I feel most Important for our operation -

- 1-Maternal Calving Ease
- 2-Milk- is a 2 way trait

Maternal Calving Ease



Milk EPD ... a two way trait.
EPDs keep you out of the ditch.
EPDs keep you going down the
center of the road.



Maternal Traits

- Indexes
- Angus \$ Wean (\$W)
- Red Angus Maintenance Energy (ME)
- Simmental All Purpose Index (API)



Carcass Traits

- Ribeye
- Marbling
- Backfat

Carcass Traits

- Ribeye
- Marbling
- Backfat – A 2 way trait
 - As a predictor of leanness and cow condition

Carcass Traits

- Indexes
- Angus - \$ Grid (\$G) \$ Feedlot (\$F) \$ Beef (\$B)

Carcass Traits

- In a Crossbreeding program, emphasize what each breed does well.
- Use complementarity of breeds (marbling of an English breed, muscling of a Continental breed)

Accuracy and Percentile Ranking

Accuracy of the EPDs

- Proven A.I. sires allow the luxury of highly proven, high accuracy sires
- Young sires (yearlings and 2 year olds .30 - .35) used in groups will also give a fairly high degree of accuracy

Accuracy and Percentile Ranking

Percentile Ranking

-Tells you where your sire will rank within the breed for that EPD trait

-Valuable EPD tool !

EPDs But what about phenotypical traits

- Udder, teats, feet & legs, structure, fleshing ability
- 50% EPDs 50% Structure
- It's all about Balance



Two kinds of Cow-Calf Producers

....

- 1) Selling at Weaning
- or
- 2) Retaining Ownership

Which EPDs are important??

Cow-Calf Producer Selling at Weaning

Selling at Weaning

Crossbreeding

Calving Ease EPDs (Heifers)

Weaning Weight EPDs

Maternal Traits

Carcass Traits

Phenotype Traits

Cow-Calf Producer Retaining Ownership

Retained Ownership

Crossbreeding

Calving Ease EPDs (Heifers)

Weaning and Yearling Weight EPDs

Maternal Traits

Carcass Traits

Phenotype Traits

EPDs ... it's all about balance!!
Single trait selection or extremes
will NEVER win!



EPDs ... it's all about balance!!
EPDs are for the believers and non
believers!



A reminder as I'm nearing the end



Beef Sire Selection
Manual
by the
National Beef
Cattle
Evaluation
Consortium

Thank you, I hope I've kept your
interest. ☺



Questions?



- I look forward to your questions at the bull pen sessions to night!
- Thank You!