By the Numbers

► by **Association Staff**

Spring 2011 sire evaluation report

While the American Angus Association has moved to tabulating the National Cattle Evaluation (NCE) on a weekly basis, we are still publishing the biannual Sire Evaluation Report, which includes some of the overview tables that help establish benchmarks for the breed.

Table 1: Expected progeny difference (EPD) and $Value averages, standard deviations (SD) and minimum/maximum.

Trait	No. Records	No. EPD	Avg.	SD	Min	Max
Calving ease direct, %	1,123,221	7,005,739	2	5	-36	20
Birth weight, lb.	5,857,469	7,886,240	1.5	2.4	-11.5	15.7
Weaning weight direct, lb.	6,548,706	7,886,240	24	18	-62	97
Yearling weight, lb.	3,227,969	7,886,240	43	33	-83	151
Residual average daily gain, lb./day	21,573	75,556	.09	.07	-.25	.43
Yearling height, in.	621,315	1,123,575	.4	.4	-2.1	2.6
Scrotal circumference, cm	576,307	1,252,308	.18	.46	-3.57	3.3
Docility, %	102,039	289,022	8	8	-34	43
Calving ease maternal, %	1,123,221	7,005,739	4	4	-33	20
Maternal milk, lb.	6,548,706	7,886,240	11	9	-38	47
Mature weight, lb.	152,403	345,381	20	30	-154	252
Mature height, in.	152,403	345,381	.3	.5	-3.8	5.1
Carcass weight, lb.	91,400	2,016,528	9	9	-63	71
Marbling score	91,400	2,007,102	.25	.22	-.69	1.51
Ribeye area, sq. in.	91,400	2,016,528	.05	.19	-.96	1.23
12th-rib fat thickness, in.	91,398	2,015,757	.004	.020	-.124	.174
Ultrasound intramuscular fat, %	1,206,453					
Ultrasound ribeye area, sq. in.	1,211,771					
Ultrasound fat thickness, in.	1,215,373					
Current Sires[1]	**No. Indexes**					
Wean Value ($W), $ per head	22,541	24.83	5.09	-16.48	51.25	
Feedlot Value ($F), $ per head	22,541	23.24	13.25	-42.19	83.34	
Grid Value ($G), $ per head	19,055	22.23	8.86	-19.76	48.90	
Beef Value ($B), $ per head	19,055	43.08	13.14	-22.37	83.01	
Cow Energy ($EN), savings, $/cow/year	22,541	2.84	8.93	-31.33	55.51	

[1]Current Sires have at least one calf recorded in the American Angus Association Herd Book within the past two years.

Overview

The American Angus Association Spring 2011 Sire Evaluation went live online Dec. 13, 2010, and printed reports will be available shortly*.

From a total of 209,763 sires with progeny records in the data base, the spring 2011 report lists 2,097 sires that meet the following requirements:

- ►At least 35 yearling progeny weights in proper contemporary groups on Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR);
- ►A yearling accuracy of at least 0.40; and
- ►At least five calves recorded in the American Angus Association Herd Book since Jan. 1, 2009.

The "Young Sire Supplement" lists 2,668 bulls born after Jan. 1, 2007, that have at least 10 progeny weaning weights on AHIR and post a weaning accuracy of at least 0.30.

Residual average daily gain (RADG) and docility (DOC) have been incorporated into the NCE, which now produces 16 expected progeny differences (EPDs) and seven dollar value indexes ($Values).

The table to the left summarizes the number of records contained for each trait; how many EPDs are calculated for the trait; along with the average, minimum and maximum EPD for each trait. SD is the standard deviation. It can be helpful because it provides a measure of how diverse the data set is. In a typical bell-shaped curve 68% of animals will fall within 1 SD of the average, or mean. So, in the case of birth weight EPD, 68% of animals would fall ±2.4 lb. from the average EPD of 1.5 lb. Ninety-five percent would fall within 2 SD, ±4.8 lb., of the mean; and 99% would fall within 3 SD.

We'll share the genetic trends in the February issue.

Pathfinder reminder

The deadline for submitting records to the Performance Programs Department to be included in the *2011 Pathfinder Report* is Feb. 11.

***Editor's Note:** *Active members who returned their blue request cards to receive a printed copy of the fall 2010 report will receive the spring 2011 report automatically. All other members and commercial producers who want a printed report must request it by contacting Brenda Gabriel at 816-383-5144 or send e-mail to bgabriel@angus.org.*