From Conception to Carcass

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Carcass Premiums

- 972 head
- $55,602.64 total quality grade premiums.
- $57.20 per head.
- 1,212 lbs average harvest weight.
- $4.72 per hundred live premium.

Quality Grades

- 972 head
- 88.2 % Choice or better
- 36.7 % CAB
- 16.2 % NAB
- 7 % prime

Value That Was Added by Grade

Grade	Value per head
Choice or better	$25.79
CAB	$12.11
NAB	$3.22
Prime	$16.08
Total per head	$57.20

Net Premiums

Quality Grade	$57.20
Yield Grade	-6.44
Total net premium	$50.76

Average Carcass Measurement

Average carcass weight	776.50
Average back fat	.59
Average REA	12.68
Average REA per 100 carcass	1.63
Average REA required	13.12
Average REA short fall	.44

Value Added To The Beef Cattle Chain Through Genetic Management

- Research done by Jessica Robertson under direction of Dr. Joseph Parcell
- Took carcass data from 1999 to 2005
- Stacking for high quality (Prime)
- One generation 11% more likely
- Two generations 19% more likely
- Three generations 23% more likely
- Four generations seemed to level off

Genetics Are a Great Risk Management Tool.

- 84.23 % choice
- 36.77 % CAB
- 2.31 % Prime
- 18.12 % NAB
- 2.37 % 4's
- Gained 4.16 lbs per day
- Converted on 4.87 dry matter
- Cost of gain .38
- Lost $113.28 per head

Seed stock Producers the New Risk Reducers.

- Breed cattle that perform in the pasture, feedlot and the cooler.
- Maintain high quality data base and EPD's.
- Help producers with profitable management practices.
- Help producers market the genetics that you have provided.

Do Commercial Producers Recognize the Value of Data?

- 9200 head of cattle
- 102 producers
- $15. to $20. per hundred carcass weight difference in every load
- $400. to $500. per head difference on every load
- They see what has value and what doesn't.

Heifer Sales

- Value on A.I. bred heifers $327.00
- Data on the heifers and their Sires
- Carcass data on their steer mates
- Stacked genetics
- 85 % repeat buyers
- Future information

Long Term Genetic Progress

- Bull Selection is a very important part of genetic improvement, but heifer selection is where you make the long term progress toward your breeding and marketing goals.

- One beneficial management practice that has worked for us is proper heifer development.

Heifers

- Heifer development is a very large part of our operation. It makes up about 55% of our gross income.
- All of our heifers go through the Show-Me-Select Heifer Development Program.
- This program has caused me to reevaluate my previous penny pinching heifer development practices.

Cost of Heifer Development Spring 2005

• Value of heifer at weaning	$674.25
• Feed (grain) 2,550 lbs.	$163.20
• Forage (pasture hay)	$66.66
• Veterinary and vaccines	$11.48
• Breeding fees (semen and	
• Synchronizing)	$32.87
• Clean-up bull	$6.27

Cost continued

• Open heifer charge	$18.72
• Interest on heifer	$38.81
• Interest on feed	$5.11
• Labor	$40.86
• Sale expense	$40.00
• Total development cost	$423.98
• Total cost	$1,098.23
• Average cost per day	$1.08

Retention Rates

• Year born	Number of breeding S.	%maintaining 365 interval
• 1999 J	6	71%
• 2000 K	5	81.48%
• 2001 L	4	80.50%
• 2002 M	3	94.60%
• 2003 N	2	97.00%

Retention Comparison

- The breeding seasons 1995 to 1998 averaged 12% to 15% lower retention than the heifers developed under the SMS program.
- Replacement costs make retention rates very important in our operation.
- 19% of our herd is over the age of 10.

Selection of Replacements

- Left over method
- Selection for long term goals of low cost cattle that work in the pasture, feedlot and cooler for a long time
- Cost of replacements is to high to cull cows based on carcass so this makes heifer selection even more critical.

- The use of A.I. has been a major contributor to the results we have had on both heifers and steers in our program.

Reproductive Management

- We have used A.I. heavily for 32 years.
- Over the years we have tried many methods of synchronizing.
- We now use Timed A.I. on all of our heifers and cows because no other system has worked remotely as well as these protocols.

Heifer Protocol

- Day 1 CIDR
- Day 14 CIDR removal
- Day 23 GnRH
- Day 30 PG
- 72 hours after PG time breed plus GnRH

Cow Protocol

- Day 0 CIDR and GnRH
- Day 7 CIDR removal plus PG
- 66 hours after PG time breed with GnRH

Results

- 60% to 70% on cows
- 55% to 65% on heifers
- Wide variation in conception rates on bulls with fixed time A.I.

Changes we have made

- We DO NOT check for heat at all any more.

Most Exciting Results

- 2002 born heifers have now completed 3 timed breeding seasons and all the pregnancies have been confirmed with ultrasound.

  Of the heifers that conceived on the timed A.I. as virgin heifers, 78% of them have now conceived all 3 times to the timed A.I.

Results Continued

- If we take those same heifers (that conceived on timed A.I. as virgin heifers) and count the number of services (3) per heifer, 90.02% of the time, these females were inseminated, they have conceived A.I.

What Have We learned

- Selecting replacements that conceived on the first timed breeding service has a great deal of merit.
- The ability in the future to select heifers from females that respond and that are sired by bulls that work well in a timed system I think has tremendous potential.

Risk Reducing Recipe

- Have the best genetics possible.
- Get the most value out of those genetics.
- Use management practices that give positive, profitable results.
- Work closely with people who stand behind their products.
- Don't be afraid to try something new.

Bold Moves

- CAB
- Open A.I.
- Unparalleled data base.
- What's Next??