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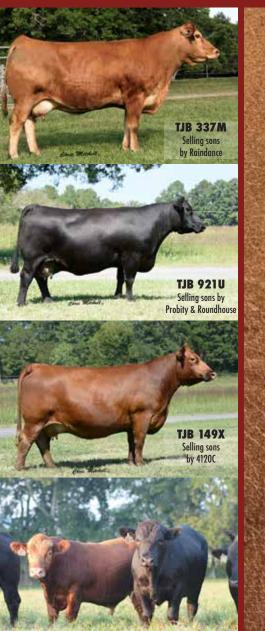
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CONTACTS



1001 S. 70th St., Suite 215
Lincoln, NE 68510
Main phone: 303-465-2333
Fax: 303-465-2339
www.gelbvieh.org
info@gelbvieh.org
Facebook: American Gelbvieh Association
Instagram: americangelbvieh

ASSOCIATION STAFF

Megan Slater Interim Executive Director megans@gelbvieh.org

Tom Strahm Commercial Marketing Director tom@gelbvieh.org 785-547-7999

Taylor Buckley Data Service Coordinator taylorb@gelbvieh.org

Will Fiske Breed Growth Specialist will@gelbvieh.org Sarah Dannehl Registry Services

registry@gelbvieh.org

Lynn Valentine Gelbvieh Media Productions Coordinator/Graphic Design lynnv@gelbvieh.org Rebecca Mettler

Rebecca Mettler
Editorial Content Coordinator
rebeccam@gelbvieh.org

Jake Renner Member and Youth Activities Coordinator jake@gelbvieh.org

Malerie Strahm Multimedia Coordinator malerie@gelbvieh.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Carrel, President (2016) Columbus, MT • 406-322-5991 lauriecarrel@live.com

Dan McCarty, Vice President (2017) Rifle, CO • 970-481-5217 mccartycattle@hotmail.com Klint Sickler, Secretary (2016) Gladstone, ND • 701-483-5250 klintsickler@hotmail.com

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DIRECTORS

Dustin Aherin (2017) Phillipsburg, KS • 785-302-1252 dgaherin@vet.k-state.edu

Todd Bickett, DVM (2018) Chickamauga, GA • 423-667-3799 todd@bickettgenetics.com

> Leland Clark (2016) Barnard, KS • 785-792-6244 prcc@twinvalley.net

Doug Hughes (2016) Max Meadows, VA • 276-620-4271 lwhf@wiredog.com

Jeff Loveless (2017)
Spanish Fork, UT • 801-623-8308
olranch@aol.com

Derek Martin (2017) Bucklin, KS • 620-397-6752 dmartin@kinsleyfeeders.com Lori Maude (2018) Hermosa, SD • 303-809-3789 lori.maude@gmail.com

Andrea Murray (2018) Kingfisher, OK • 405-368-9601 murrayfarm@pldi.net

Lowell Rogers DVM (2017) Seminary, MS • 601-270-4152 Irdrsmiley@gmail.com

Randy Sienknecht (2018) Gladbrook, IA • 319-290-3763 rmsink1209@msn.com

Jeff Swanson (2018)
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Opportunities to Capture Value this Fall

By Rebecca Mettler

Part I: Dive Deep into the Feeder Calf Market

Plateau. It's a term not commonly verbalized when describing the highs and lows of a cattle market cycle. However, that's precisely how Derrell Peel, Ph.D., extension livestock marketing specialist at Oklahoma State University, sees the current cattle market.

"What's different this cycle is that since the middle of the year in 2019 we have reached a plateau rather than a peak. Cattle numbers have leveled out; we are not seeing much expansion plus or minus unchanged from last year."

The peak in the cattle cycle looks like a plateau because there hasn't been a drastic downturn in the market price to incite a liquidation event like past cycles. Conversely, there aren't any additional incentives for producers to expand, either. Overall, Peel believes that the market is currently in a relatively stable place, all other things considered.

Undoubtedly, there are many questions surrounding trade uncertainties on several fronts. Then there's the recent closure of Tyson's Holcomb, Kansas, beefprocessing plant, which is not expected to have a longlasting influence on fall feeder calf prices. Instead, the biggest source of uncertainty comes from another angle.

"The biggest challenge in 2019 is certainly going to be the feed markets," Peel said.

Much of the country encountered a cold, wet spring and getting corn planted was a problem. There is significant uncertainty surrounding the number of corn acres planted along with questions regarding corn yield on acreage that was fortunate enough to get planted, according to Peel.

The added moisture this spring and summer helped pasture forage conditions but presented an extreme challenge for hay production. In many areas of the country, producers weren't able to get enough good quality hay harvested.

"Going into fall and winter there will be concerns about both where we are with concentrate feeds, specifically corn, and potential concerns in some regions about hay supply."

Uncertainty in the feeding sector could result in opportunities for cow-calf producers. They could be in a position to capture more value by adding cheap gain through the backgrouding phase, but that's dependent on forage resources, etc. Peel warns producers to see how the feeder calf market evolves in early fall because several pending situations might affect how the fall calf run pans out. Either way, producers need to do the math to make sure that backgrounding calves versus selling weaned calves pencils in a profit.

"The whole job of the market, the economics of the cattle industry is to figure out who can put weight on cattle the cheapest, and we adjust accordingly. And, because they are ruminants, we have a lot of latitude to be flexible about the feed resources that we use to feed those cattle."

Peel explains that the second half of 2019 has seen lower cattle prices than last year. He anticipates seeing more seasonal pressure with feeder calf markets down 3 to 5% in October and November compared to the previous year.

Seasonal pressure invokes an ever more present need for producers to step up their calf marketing game and make the best of a market inundated with spring-born calves.

Peel says that the first thing for producers to look at doing is a preconditioning program. This type of program has been around a long time and is proven to add value in most situations if done correctly. Basically, a preconditioning program is getting credit for doing the things that producers should already be doing, i.e., castration, two rounds of vaccines, dehorned, dewormed, and weaned a specified amount of time. Lastly, don't miss the critical step of utilizing a marketing venue, or sale, to capture that value.

"Look for a place, or a special sale, that is targeted toward those programs because they have a critical mass of buyers," Peel said. "There are two parts to this scenario: Do what you need to do production-wise to add value and then find those markets that are attuned to those programs."

For producers who want to take management and marketing to the next level, follow along to part two of this article where we dive deep into more advanced valueadded programs.

Part II: From Source and Age and Beyond

The Source and Age Verification (SAV) program has been in practice in the beef industry since 2004 and continues to play an essential role in adding value for U.S. beef producers.

At its base, SAV programs attract a premium, but other programs have evolved to distinguish feeder calves further. SAV has become a jumping-off point to other value-added programs. Non-Hormone Treated Cattle (NHTC), Verified Natural Beef (VNB), and Global Animal Partnership (GAP) certification are some of the more popular bundling programs that tie to SAV.

In 2018, a source and age program provided a \$3/ cwt premium based on 600-pound steer calves. NHTC garnered an average of \$6/cwt premium, verified natural calves received \$7/cwt in added value, and the GAP verified premium averaged \$14/cwt. Now let's look at the premiums in terms of net return. For a 250 head group of 600 pound steers, source and age netted \$14 per head, NHTC netted \$28 per head, and GAP certified cattle received \$70 per head net return after all expenses, according to statistics compiled by IMI Global, a company that specializes in verification programs for the livestock industry.

Doug Stanton serves as the vice president of business development at IMI Global. Each year, Stanton travels throughout the country to the bulk of the major video sales hosted by Superior Livestock Auction and Western Video Market. While he doesn't have the final numbers for the 2019 sales, he believes that 2019 premiums will be above 2018 for the value-added categories stated above.

Breed-Identified Programs

In addition, commercial producers who primarily utilize a specific breed of sire in their operations often have the opportunity to participate in breed-identified programs. Breed-identified programs provide the opportunity for producers to be recognized for the genetics leaving their operation.

The American Gelbvieh Association offers Balancer® Edge, a source and age verification program for feeder cattle sired by Gelbvieh and Balancer bulls. The Balancer® Edge program requires a minimum of 75 percent of the sires used on an operation to be registered Gelbvieh and Balancer bulls, and these bulls must be a minimum of

25 percent Gelbvieh genetics. The verification process for this program requires producers to submit first and last calf born date, head count support, and registration papers of the sires to verify Gelbvieh genetics.

Balancer® Edge meets the SAV base requirement for cattle to be eligible for marketing into the China Export Verification program, NHTC program for the EU, Verified Natural Beef, and others. In addition, Balancer® Edge documentation is eligible for establishing age of animals at the processor and is also now an accepted method of determining maturity of animals for grading purposes – ensuring they fall into the A maturity category if they are under 30 months of age at harvest.

"Balancer® Edge provides the opportunity for producers utilizing Gelbvieh and Balancer genetics to participate in a breed-identified program and have their production practices verified to be able to add value and gain additional marketing opportunities for their cattle," said Tom Strahm, AGA commercial marketing director. "In addition, IMI Global's recent partnership with the IGS Feeder Profit Calculator™ allows producers to quantify the genetic merit of the animal's they are selling."





Getting Started

"We encourage our ranch customers to engage in as many programs as the cattle are eligible for," Stanton said.

Bottom line, feedyards want flexibility. If they can procure cattle that are approved for multiple value-added programs, like NHTC, VNB and GAP, it gives them flexibility when they are marketing those cattle up to a vear later.

"The packer is the same way. With multiple claims on the same animal there can be better carcass utilization and different cuts can go to different markets," Stanton said.

Specific requirements must be met for cattle to qualify for the value-added programs. As step up from NHTC to Verified Natural to GAP more rules are applied at each program. However, Stanton believes that the premiums in today's market are definitely worth the investment necessary.

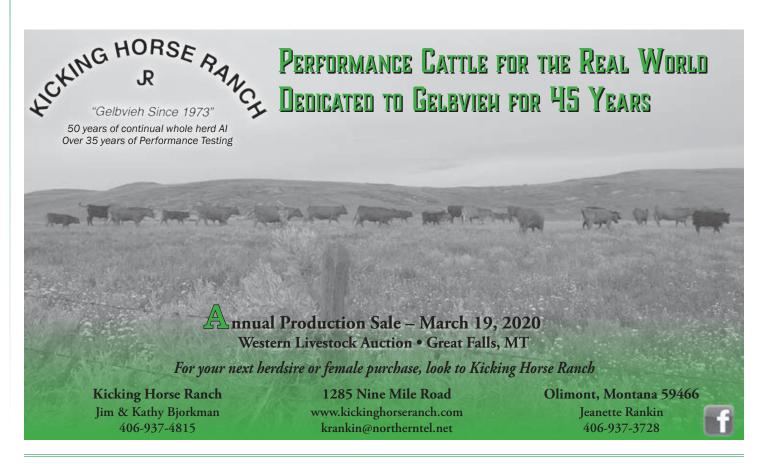
Often, producers are worried about the additional paperwork and auditing process required to be involved in some of the top-tier value-added programs. However, Stanton finds that in most cases, the management changes and paperwork aren't an issue.

"In some cases, there are management tweaks, but once they've been through an audit, they realize that they didn't need to change that much," Stanton said.

If producers are going to take the time to manage their feeder calves as directed by the program and purchase the program tags and incur the audit expense, they need to be ready to market their cattle correctly.

Not all auction facilities are approved locations to market program cattle, so producers need to do their research before marketing time. As a general rule, major video sales are the best place to maximize premiums because of the number of buyers present at these types of sales.

Continued on page 10



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Continued from page 8

Market Climate for Value-Added Programs

Moving forward, the climate for value-added programs has continued to stay positive. A new agreement with the European Union (EU) was recently signed. Once enacted, the new trade agreement is expected to open up the EU to more U.S. beef, which in turn is expected to bolster the demand for NHTC cattle.

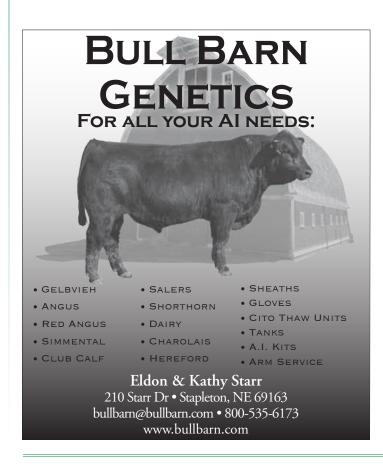


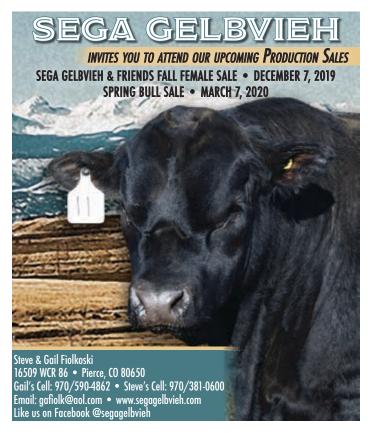
In addition, a trade agreement with China favoring U.S. exports would positively impact the beef market. SAV cattle meet the base requirement for cattle to be eligible for marketing into the China Export Verification program, and thus, a new trade deal with China would benefit participating producers.

GAP is a program that was implemented by Whole Foods in 2011. When Amazon acquired Whole Foods in August 2017, the GAP premiums were flat, but GAP numbers have seen positive growth since then. Whole Foods is finding ways to market the higher-end GAP beef and are showing growth in volume, according to Stanton.

"In our communications with three or four packers providing GAP products to Whole Foods, we've heard that they are getting more orders and in the future, they will get larger."

While the work may be more intense to sell verified value-added program cattle, premiums received by progressive commercial producers across the country prove that program cattle have a place in the industry. ••





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VIEW FROM THE BOARD



What's Your Profit Picture?

By John Carrel

onsolidation seems to be ✓ everywhere. Meatpackers are consolidating, as are feed companies, drug companies,

feedlots, and equipment dealers, etc.; consolidation is met around every corner. Is it economies of scale, or something else driving this trend? I am not sure, but I do know it affects the bottom line of all producers. Is this a good trend or an unfortunate trend? Only time will tell.

For several years a large commercial operation that runs adjacent to me on several ranches kept expanding every year. Then one year, I noticed they dropped several leases, sold a ranch, and cut way back on their cow numbers. After a branding, I asked the ranch manager why. To this, he replied, "I was doing a lot of running around, but I didn't know where I was running to." This took a minute to sink in, but after considering it, it made a lot of sense.

He is an operator I admired, so I pried for a little more information. Not only did it affect the number of bulls he needed each year, but I was most interested in his business model.

The manager explained that economies of scale worked to a certain point and only if the ranches were close enough together. He also said profitability was the same in their case at 400 cows versus 600 cows scattered all over the country. Yes, total revenue was higher with 600 cows, but so were losses and expenses.

"I do a much better job of breeding and overall management when my cows are in four groups of 100 rather than the big bunches we used to deal with. My conception rates are higher, I have overall better health, increased calving percentages, heavier weaning weights, and overall higher quality cattle," he explained.

At this point, he had me really intrigued. I told him that I saw where he was coming from, but that it flies in the face of what we are experiencing in the rest of the industry. He said, "Other than the feedlots they don't have to deal with live animals." Feed companies know

how much feed they have to sell, drug companies know how much vaccine they have to sell, and equipment dealers know exactly what there inventory is. They might have to mark down a slow seller to get it off the books, but they don't run the risk of finding 10 dead cows one morning because they ate too much tall larkspur. In the past, he would just have to absorb a loss like this because he didn't have time to deal with it or prevent it until it was too late. Now he has time to ride pastures to watch for tall larkspur and move his cows before they get into trouble. Or, he finds a crippled bull in time to get him replaced with a new one that can get the cows bred in a timely fashion.

fficiency encompasses work on such a wide variety of factors; it will keep you But overall, the American beef producer uncontrollable factors we face.

He said one of his most significant leaps forward was when he changed over to artificially inseminating only on his replacement heifers, as they were confined. Mind you, this is big rough country he ran in and getting the cows AIed was a struggle for his crew and logistically challenging. He would have liked to continue to AI his cows, but it just wasn't feasible. Instead, he took the capital necessary to AI the cows and put it into higher quality bulls and better nutrition for his cowherd. Conception went up, the cows bred earlier, stayability increased, calf weights went up, and his crew wasn't on the verge of quitting after every breeding season. He laughed and referring to our breed's magazine said, "This is my profit picture."

Obviously, everyone's scenario is different depending on the location and outside factors of every operation.

However, there is something to be learned from my neighbor. As seedstock producers, we must never forget the commercial producer is truly the backbone of our industry. If they struggle, it doesn't take long to affect our bottom lines. It does bother me to see how many of their input costs are beyond their control. Although my neighbor is a very hard worker, he has fine-tuned much of their operation in the controllable segment and is now most worried about the expenses he can't control.

I was happy to hear that a big part of his profit picture was the satisfaction he had in the Gelbvieh and Balancer* bulls he was using on his Angus cowherd. He had sold his calves at the top of the market, and usually to the same buyer, for eight years running. He said this is a factor that impacts his bottom line in which he does have some control over. And, producing a product that earns a repeat buyer for the majority of a decade is no small feat.

I'll ask you the same question: "Have you found your profit picture?" I guess that part of your profit picture equation includes a push to become as efficient as possible. Efficiency encompasses work on such a wide variety of factors; it will keep you awake at night—I completely understand. But overall, the American beef producer is fairing well given the controllable and uncontrollable factors we face.

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with Paul and Jennifer Jensen, Jensen Ranch, Lewistown, Montana By Tom Strahm



aul and Jennifer Jensen are both third generation
ranchers who run a commercial cow-calf operation
near Lewistown, Montana. They both grew up on ranches
in this area, and joke that "ranching is in our genes (or our
jeans)!" Jensen Ranch runs approximately 380 spring calving
commercial cows, many of which are Angus/Gelbvieh cross
females. They use a mix of Balancer® and Angus bulls; over
50% of the herd sires are Balancer. They really appreciate the
genetic punch for productivity and performance that they
get from crossbreeding with Balancers.

Paul grew up just over the hill, about 7 miles due west, from where they currently live. He took over his parents' ranching operation when they retired in 1992. Their cowherd had been Angus and Hereford cross, and then when Paul started running the ranch, he was buying all straight Angus bulls.

Jen grew up on a ranch about 20 miles south of Lewistown, in the foothills of the Snowy Mountains, "right in the heart of God's Country." Her parents, Elton and Jill Owens, started buying Gelbvieh and Balancer bulls in the late 1980s. They were impressed with the productivity, and the weaning weights of some females that Elton's sister had purchased for a 4-H project. Elton and Jill originally bought purebred Gelbvieh bulls to use on their Angus/Hereford cross cows. The Owens gradually transitioned to buying Balancer bulls for their herd because they were retaining their own replacement females.





Paul and Ien were married in 2010, and soon started leasing Elton and Jill's operation, including the land and cattle.



Jennifer, Paul, and Bailey

"It didn't take me long to figure out that the Balancer cows were weaning a considerably larger calf than my Angus cows," Paul said. "I was struggling to wean a 625 pound calf, while Elton's were raising calves that were easily meeting, or even exceeding 700 pounds...and we were calving at the same time!"

For several years, Paul and Jen were living at his ranch, and with lots of help from Elton and Jill, were running both places as one operation to better utilize their resources. They would calve out the cows at the Jensen place, and haul the pairs over to summer pasture at the Owens' ranch. Summer would find them putting up hay on both ranches. They would ship all the calves in the fall, and keep the cows at the Owens' until about the first of January. Then they would trail the cows all over to the Jensen ranch. The two ranches were only about 7 miles apart, and this system worked well when the weather was good. However, when the roads were bad during the winter and spring, it was a 20-mile trip to get from one place to the other.

"We realized we were spending a huge amount of time and money transporting cows, and ourselves, back and forth between places," Jen said.

Paul and Jen were recently able to take advantage of an opportunity to solve the logistical issues. Paul explains, "This past winter we sold my home place and bought a ranch across the fence from Jen's folks place. Now the entire operation is in one big parcel!"

Elton and Jill continue to live on the ranch, and now Paul and Jen live nearby. Jen says, "Once in while we get some help from a returning college kid, as we have four kids between the two of us." Joseph, 23, is living in Bozeman while pursuing a master's degree; Haiden, 20, lives and works in Bozeman; Zack, 19, attends college in Miles City; and Bailey, 19, will be starting college in Bozeman this fall.

Even though there is a lot of work and improvements to be done on their new ranch, the Jensens are excited about the opportunities that they have to become more efficient with their time and resources. They are equally excited and enthused to continue incorporating Balancer genetics in their cowherd in order to continue to take advantage of the benefits of increased production that they have experienced over the years by implementing crossbreeding.

Every year the Jensens keep back 70 to 80 of their homeraised heifer calves as replacements. They are very pleased and impressed with the productivity of these Balancerinfluenced females.

"We have beautiful heifer calves to put back in our herd. The have nice udders, good dispositions, and great milking ability. They mature into good, thick and deep cows that have fertility and longevity," Jen said. "We have 12 to 13-yearold cows who are still producing calves that wean at average or even slightly above. Cows that raise heavy feeder calves for many years is what puts money in our pockets!"

Paul continues, "We've seen an 80-100 pound increase in weaning weights and we've been able to maintain that performance. Our heifers start calving around the first of February, and the cows begin around March 10. We typically ship in mid-October. Since moving toward the Balancer cross, we ship 710-740 pound steer calves off the cows." Paul believes they would not be able to achieve those weights without crossbreeding.

When selecting bulls to purchase, Paul and Jennifer look for high quality bulls with balanced traits and EPDs. They are looking for moderate birth weight and good calving ease, but strong growth and performance. Disposition is very important to them, and overall, they appreciate the docility of the Balancers. Phenotype and confirmation are important considerations. Paul says, "I hope to be looking at these bulls for 5 years, and I want to be happy when I see them."

With their new acquisition, the Jensens have fences to build and other improvements to make to increase the overall productivity of their land. They plan to keep buying the best Gelbvieh/Balancer bulls they can for their cowherd.

Most importantly Paul and Jen agree, "We want to continue the ranching legacy that our families have passed onto us. We are hopeful that at least one of our kids will take over the operation someday!" ★◆

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FAST FACTS

Who we are.

The American Gelbvieh Association (AGA) is a beef cattle breed association dedicated to recording, promoting, and improving Gelbvieh-influenced cattle. The AGA was started in 1971 and now consists of approximately 1,000 members with a registry database that contains over 1 million animals including approximately 40,000 currently active Gelbvieh, Balancer®, and Gelbvieh-influenced cows.

The Strengths of Gelbvieh:

The Gelbvieh breed is well known throughout the industry for their maternal strengths and superior growth. With these attributes, Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle fit well into a crossbreeding system and provide genetics that work for the commercial cattle business.

The high costs associated with the development or purchase of replacement females make sustained production in a herd essential. Gelbvieh females are proven to stay in the herd longer.

What is a Balancer[®]?

Balancer cattle are registered hybrid seedstock that have documented pedigrees and expected progeny differences (EPDs). The American Gelbvieh Association was the first beef cattle breed to recognize and include a hybrid animal as registered stock.

Balancer animals are 25 to 75 percent Gelbvieh with the balance of Angus or Red Angus. Balancer cattle combine the Gelbvieh growth, muscle, leanness, fertility, longevity and low yield grading ability with the carcass qualities of Angus.

Balancer cattle offer a simple and powerful way to maintain hybrid vigor and a profitable blend of British and Continental genetics without a complicated crossbreeding system. These cattle fit well into all aspects of the beef industry including commercial cow-calf operations and on the rail.

Looking to Buy Bulls this Fall?

If you're a producer looking to purchase new genetics for your herd this fall, use Gelbvieh.org as your go-to resource for Gelbvieh and Balancer sale information. The upcoming events calendar can be found under the Marketing tab on the website homepage. Also, don't forget to check out the sale catalog page on the AGA website at www.gelbvieh. org/exchange/sale-catalogs to view upcoming sale catalogs posted by AGA members. A listing of the upcoming sales and AGA events can be found on page 78 of this edition.

Watch "The American Rancher"

Mark your calendar for Monday, October 7, at 8:00 p.m. CDT to watch the premiere of the AGA's new episode of "The American Rancher" on RFD-TV (Dish channel 231 and DirecTV channel 345).

We Focus on Programs for Commercial **Producers**

Feeder Finder

Feeder Finder is a free email service offered by AGA to promote and assist in marketing load lots of Gelbvieh and Balancer-influenced feeder cattle. Producers who have cattle to sell are encouraged to fill out the online form, or contact AGA staff to submit information about their cattle.

An email blast is sent to feedyards and potential buyers to notify them about when and where these cattle are available for sale. Interested buyers can sign up to receive the Feeder Finder emails on the AGA website.

Producers are invited to use this service whether the cattle sell by video auction, traditional livestock barn, or private treaty.

Smart Select Service

Smart Select Service is an online commercial cowherd database and herd management system offered by AGA. This program is available to any producers and any breed of cattle for \$1 per head annual enrollment. Cows can be enrolled at any time, and all that is required is individual identification, estimated birthdate and possible parentage.

Dam production reports, progeny performance reports, and herd summaries are some of the reports generated. Smart Select can help identify strengths and weaknesses in the cowherd, enabling producers to make better-informed breeding and management decisions.

For more information about these or other programs offered by the AGA, please visit www.gelbvieh.org or contact the AGA office at 303-465-2333.

AGA's Commercial Marketing Staff

The AGA has outstanding marketing staff that understands both the beef business and the Gelbvieh breed. They are available to help commercial cattlemen find Gelbvieh or Balancer genetics to fit your program or assist in marketing Gelbvieh-influenced breeding animals or feeder cattle. To contact AGA's commercial marketing staff simply call the AGA office at 303-465-2333.



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UNABLE TO ATTEND? WATCH AND BID ON DVACTION

FROM THE CORNER OFFICE



Getting the Job Done with Gelbvieh and Balancer®

By Megan Slater

B y this time of year, summer is winding down and many producers are starting to see

the fruits of their labor through weaning calves and

preg checking females. Everyone hopes to see their calves top the scales and at the same time they would like each of their females that were turned out to grass now pregnant with a calf. This time of year can bring the production cycle all together for producers because it is a time for

them to see the rewards of their mating decisions. After 16 months of waiting,

from breeding season to a weaned calf, producers are

offered an idea of how well the genetics they have chosen are working in their operation.

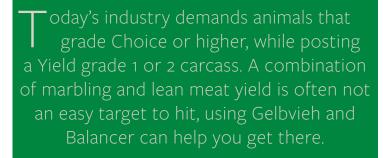
Weaning is one of the biggest events that takes place on a ranch and is the time to see the result of hard work all throughout the year. The ultimate goal of nearly

> every cattle operation is to have every cow wean off a heavy calf. Several factors can play into a cow producing a live calf that ultimately reaches average or above weaning weights. Aside from nutrition. two influential factors affecting performance of both the calf and the female are genetics and crossbreeding. Gelbvieh

and Balancer have a reputation for growth and heavy weaning weights. This combined with the excellent

> mothering ability that Gelbvieh is well known for makes them the ultimate female to have in the herd. Additionally, this can be further increased when they are put into a crossbreeding scenario and the effects of heterosis are seen.

Not only can crossbreeding increase growth and performance of the calves, which is known as individual heterosis, but it also has a positive impact on females all throughout their life through maternal heterosis. Crossbred females reach puberty at a younger age, exhibit an increased calving rate, contribute to an increase in calf survival through weaning, and provide an improvement in longevity. Combined, these advantages lead a female to produce more pounds of calf in her lifetime. Now add maternal heterosis to the Gelbvieh breed's knack for maternal efficiency—that's a winning combination.





FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Weaning time is really the time to evaluate the females within the herd. Are females producing a heavy enough calf and are they getting bred in time to do it again next year? In addition, does she have what it takes to stay in the herd long enough to earn her keep? On the average operation a female starts to pay for herself after six years of age, so having females that stay productive in the herd and are producing good enough calves is essential. Gelbvieh and Balancer females excel in stayability. A study performed by Colorado State University proves that Gelbvieh females stay in the herd longer (see figure 1).

Age of	% Stayability	Breed Association ¹				
Dam	Population	AGA	ASA	RAAA		
3 year	% Success	82%	71%	77%		
	Total	74,885	365,907	180,584		
4 year	% Success	74%	62%	67%		
	Total	74,536	367,886	180,125		
5 year	% Success	68%	52%	58%		
	Total	65,182	365,047	168,177		
6 year	% Success	62%	43%	50%		
	Total	54,459	262,663	153,203		
¹AGA = American Gelbvieh Association; ASA = American Simmental Association; RAAA = Red Angus Association of America						

Figure 1

In addition to what Gelbvieh and Balancer can add on the ranch, the benefits of using Gelbvieh and Balancer genetics can also be seen in the feedlot and on the rail. These cattle are adding the pounds, making the grade, and delivering the value. The efficiency and growth that is seen on the ranch can also be seen in the feedyard with cattle that gain efficiently and convert feed well. In addition, several producers have seen their Gelbvieh and Balancer-influenced cattle grade 85 percent Choice or better with 90 percent Yield Grades 1, 2, and 3s. Today's industry demands animals that grade Choice or higher while posting a Yield grade 1 or 2 carcass. A combination of marbling and lean meat yield is often not an easy target to hit, but using Gelbvieh and Balancer can help you get there.

From their maternal superiority on the ranch to the growth and performance on the rail, Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle are meeting modern industry demands all throughout the beef supply chain. Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle are also backed by an Association well versed in commercial beef industry experience. The American Gelbvieh Association is committed to the success of the commercial producer and offers tools and services such as the Balancer® Edge age and source verification program and Smart Select Service. For questions about these and other programs or for assistance, contact the AGA office at 303-465-2333. ◆◆

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NEWS

IGS Feeder Profit Calculator ™ Highlights Profit, Reduces Risk

International Genetic Solutions offers free, thirdparty validation on feeder calves.

Then profit-focused genetics combine with superior calf management, the producer has done the hard work. Still, that leaves little guarantee on sale day. The IGS Feeder Profit CalculatorTM seeks to minimize such risk.

Using the IGS Feeder Profit Calculator, cattlemen are able to provide sire information, regardless of breed, as well as preconditioning, weaning and health data in exchange for a Total Relative Value that compares the profit potential of their calves to the industry at large. That value, indicated on a formal certificate, can be used for producer benchmarking and buyer insight.

Superior Livestock Representative Clint Berry says such technology is in line with what he sees for buyer demand.

"We sell cattle in all capacities, all formats, but the one thing we see continued pressure on is cattle that offer flexibility to the buyer, that gives the buyer a chance to have some value-added options," Berry says. "If he can recapture from that purchase price, he can recapture a profit on his side. Whether those are export verification programs or cattle that simply grow and grade better in the feedyard on his side of the business."

"Producers get paid to have better cattle. It's common to see spreads of \$20-\$40 at market from additional information and value-added programs," Berry says. At present, he adds, there's no ceiling.

"As we move forward, the genetic key in that is becoming more and more prominent for producers who are wanting to sell at the top of the market," he says. "Being able to verify those genetics and have a record of those genetics is the key difference."

As a third-party validation tool, the IGS Feeder Profit CalculatorTM satisfies that need. Buyers who pay a premium on a set of calves will look to recoup those and add additional profit down the road at harvest.

"In our format, they might buy a calf in July, that ships to them in October, that doesn't die until April of the next year. There's a lot of time frame between the day that he made the decision to do the bid price, and the day that he recaptures his monetary value," Berry notes.

By leveraging what is there on the front end, success is more likely to follow.

"Having flexibility and having a security blanket, you might call it, for a buyer to know this set of cattle is better than the average goes a long way when you want to demand a premium for your cattle on the

market," he says.

The IGS Feeder Profit Calculator is offered to all cattle producers at no cost, and is available for mobile use through the App Store.

Commercial producers wanting to learn more can visit with the marketing staff at the American Gelbvieh Association at 303-465-2333 for Gelbvieh and Balancer inquiries. Additional information can also be found at internationalgeneticsolutions.com. **



NEWS

Summer Feeder Calf Sale Recap

By Tom Strahm and Will Fiske

The 2019 summer run of feeder calf video auctions ▲ has been a success for the American Gelbvieh Association (AGA). The AGA traveling staff made it to the five Superior Livestock Auction sales: Corn Belt Classic in Council Bluffs, Iowa; The Big Sky Roundup in Billings, Montana; Week in the Rockies in Loveland, Colorado; Video Royale in Winnemucca, Nevada; and The Big Horn Classic in Sheridan, Wyoming. Staff also attended the Western Video Market sales in Reno, Nevada, and Cheyenne, Wyoming, and the Cattle Country Video sale in Gering, Nebraska.

Balancer®-influenced calves sold at every sale and sold either at or above the average market price. Balancer recognition is quickly gaining more and more popularity; crossbred calves are in demand!

At these events the AGA staff sets up a booth in the trade show to display promotional material and also take advantage of the opportunities to network and meet the producers raising the Balancer-influenced calves, the representatives selling calves, and also the people who feed these calves.

Commercial producers from around the area where the sale is being held come watch their cattle sell, enjoy a nice steak dinner, and other various social events.

These sales are also a great opportunity to for seedstock producers to promote their operation and support customers who are selling on these videos.

All the Gelbyieh and Balancer-influenced calves that were sold on these video sales were promoted on the AGA's FREE Feeder Finder service. Feeder Finder is an email marketing tool used to promote load lots of Gelbvieh and Balancer-influenced feeder cattle feedyards all across the country. To sign up to review these emails or promote your load lot of Gelbvieh and Balancer-influence calves, please contact the AGA office at 303-465-2333 or email info@gelbvieh.org. ◆◆

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EDITORIAL



Don't Underestimate the Value of a Crossbred Cow

By Tonya Amen, Ph.D., AGA Breed Improvement Consultant

The American Gelbvieh Association's (AGA) registry of Balancer® cattle shows that as a whole, the Gelbvieh breed values the use of crossbreeding. However, commercial customers should understand the benefits of utilizing Gelbvieh and/or Balancer bulls in a crossbreeding program, including potential benefits of keeping replacements when those bulls are used on English-based cows. Making use of the two pillars of crossbreeding, breed complementarity and heterosis (hybrid vigor), can have a huge impact of profitability for commercial users of Gelbvieh and Balancer genetics.

First, let's consider that there are three genetic factors that affect efficiency and profitability of beef operations:

- 1. The characteristics of the animals produced- having marketing goals and producing a calf crop that most optimally meets those goals.
- 2. Hybrid vigor (both direct and maternal).
- 3. The characteristics of the sires and dams- there are ways it makes sense to design a breeding program. Choose females that are well suited to the environment in which they will be expected to produce and select sire breeds to complement them.

Employing crossbreeding can be used to influence all three of these factors. First, let's recall the two primary benefits of crossbreeding: breed complementarity and hybrid vigor.

I believe breed complementarity is pretty straightforward, but hybrid vigor is often misunderstood and its value underestimated. Here are some key items of importance with regard to hybrid vigor:

- It is most impactful for survival and reproductive traits.
- Its benefit tends to be greater for breeds that are more genetically different from each other. For example, there is more expected hybrid vigor in

British-Continental crosses than between crosses of only British or only Continental breeds. The largest impact of hybrid vigor is expected in *Bos indicus-Bos taurus* crosses.

• It tends to be proportional to the degree of heterozygosity.

The use of crossbred females is especially important because some of the largest impacts are on traits related to female productivity (maternal ability and reproduction). Crossbred females are expected to have a younger age at puberty, a quicker return to estrus postpartum, more longevity in the herd as well as being superior for most other measures of fertility. This is called **direct hybrid vigor**.

In addition, calves born to crossbred dams benefit from the fact that their dam is crossbred, which gives them both added survivability and growth. This is referred to as **maternal hybrid vigor** and is <u>in addition</u> to any hybrid vigor that calf expresses directly.

As an example, in the early '80s the Meat Animal Research Center (Cundiff et al., 1982) designed a system to illustrate the value of crossbreeding. First, they compared weaning rates and weights of crossbred vs straightbred calves when both were raised by straightbred dams (this would show the value of direct hybrid vigor). Then they compared weaning rates and weights of crossbred calves when they were raised by either crossbred or straightbred cows (this would show the value of having a crossbred dam, which equates to maternal hybrid vigor). Results are shown below:

Crossbred calves weaned at 3 percent higher rate, and weighed 4.6 percent more when straightbred dams raised them, and as a result, the system producing crossbred calves benefited with 8.5 percent more pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed.

When compared to the system using straightbred cows, the system using crossbred cows had 14.8 percent more pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed.

Finally, when the straightbred system was compared to the system using crossbred dams to produce crossbred calves 23.3 percent more pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed was achieved. I should note, that the crosses were for Angus, Hereford and Shorthorn. So, even greater benefit could be expected between Gelbvieh and British crosses.

Trait	Direct Hybrid Vigor	Maternal Hybrid Vigor	Total Hybrid Vigor
Weaning %	3.0%	6.4%	9.4
Weaning Weight	4.6%	4.3%	8.9%
Lbs weaned/cow exposed	8.5%	14.8%	23.3%

When comparing straight breeding systems using purebred females to crossbreeding systems using crossbred females: Over half of the advantage of crossbreeding systems can be attributed to the use of crossbred cows. I hope this information helps you understand the value of not only utilizing Gelbvieh and Balancer bulls, but that the value of retaining crossbred females should not be underestimated. **

TERMINOLOGY:

Breed Complementarity • The strengths of one breed being used to complement another.

Hybrid Vigor • (aka heterosis) the higher performance of crossbred animals as compared to the purebred average.

Direct Hybrid Vigor • the boost in performance in the calf due to the calf itself being crossbred.

Maternal Hybrid Vigor • the improvement in calf performance because it has a crossbred dam.

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NEWS

Join the Gelbvieh Association in Big Sky Country!

Save the date and make plans to attend the 49th Annual American Gelbvieh Association National Convention in Billings, Montana, December 4-6, 2019. This year's event will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Billings.

The AGA encourages all of its members and Gelbvieh and Balancer® customers to attend convention where they have the opportunity to learn more about the happenings of the AGA and be involved in shaping the future of the association at various convention events. These events include committee meetings, which all members are invited to attend, and of course the annual meeting where the election of the AGA Board of Directors as well as other important association decisions are made.

At convention, members and commercial customers have the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of important topics in the beef industry by listening to industry-leading speakers during the Cattlemen's Profit

Roundup. Convention rounds out with the awards banquet to celebrate the recipients of the commercial producer of the year and breeder of the year awards as well as honors individuals who have made a lasting impact on the Gelbvieh breed through the AGA Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Billings, dubbed Montana's Trailhead, is the unique city where civilization meets the Western frontier. Marked by history, surrounded by beauty, and filled with several dining and entertainment options, Billings will be a great location to host the 49th Annual AGA National Convention.

Make plans to join the AGA in Billings, December 4-6, 2019, as we continue to plan for a successful future fore all Gelbvieh and Balancer® stakeholders. Registration is now open on Gelbvieh.org. **

American Gelbvieh Association Relocates Headquarters Office to Lincoln, Nebraska

The American Gelbvieh Association (AGA) relocated its L headquarters office to Lincoln, Nebraska this summer.

After careful consideration and much planning by the AGA Board of Directors in 2018, the AGA began final preparations for the move earlier this year. This new location places the office in a more centralized location in relation to the U.S. beef industry, including a bulk of the Gelbvieh and Balancer® cowherd and customer base. A more direct tie to the Midwest will also give the AGA better access to help foster and grow relationships with our beef industry partners such as commercial customers, feedyards, packers, and other agriculture companies.

"A move to the Midwest greatly benefits the AGA's future. The AGA will be closer to an increased number of our members and stakeholders, which will help to enhance customer relations," says Megan Slater, AGA interim executive director. "In addition, Lincoln is a much more affordable city than the Denver metro area. This move not only financially benefits the Association, but also provides current employees with a lower cost of living and will help attract and retain new staff talent."

All correspondence should now be sent to the AGA's new Lincoln address: 1001 \$ 70th Street, Ste 215, Lincoln, NE 68510. The AGA's phone number, 303-465-2333, will remain. The AGA will be open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Central time.

An open house will be held at the new headquarters later this fall. Details of the open house will soon be available at Gelbvieh.org. **

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STAFF EDITORIAL



Identifying Profitability with Economic Selection Indexes

By Will Fiske

 $\mathbf{F}^{ ext{all often leaves producers}}$ reminiscing of summer cattle prices and forecasting future

matings. Both points offer a valuable reference point when deciding the direction of your operation.



The amount of information available for producers to use when building better cattle can be complex and often cumbersome. Even after the marketing objective is determined, there is an overwhelming amount of data that can be used to

determine which sire will maximize the calf crop's profitability. Given the example, marketing objective of selling calves on a terminal basis, there are a vast number of expected progeny differences (EPDs) related to growth, efficiency, grade, performance, etc. Beef producers realize that several traits play a vital role in the profitability of cattle, but often struggle to identify which recipe of EPDs will have the best impact on their bottom line. Economic selection indexes are developed

with the commercial producer in mind. Economic selection indexes provide an efficient selection strategy by quantifying how an animal's genotype relates to profit.

What are selection indexes?

Economic selection indexes refer to the predicted profitability of an animal's progeny performance at a specific stage of production. The numerical value is expressed as the difference of genetic potential in actual dollars. Economic selection indexes are calculated by combining genetic information from the weekly cattle evaluation with economic assumptions. The basic equation for economic selection indices includes - the sum of a group of EPDs that are relevant to a breeding objective, multiplied by their respective economic weighting.

How to use economic selection indexes?

Economic selection indexes are designed with an intended area of application. American Gelbvieh Association (AGA) economic selection indexes are constructed as 'generalized indexes'. Generalized index models hold corresponding input cost and product pricing contributing to the economic weighting of each trait constant across the population. This allows for the direct comparison (ranking) of animals on a breed-wide basis. From a broader perspective, each AGA

Tennessee, Arkansas & Oklahoma Breeders







index classifies into one of two intended usage categories: terminal or maternal. In order for one to use the appropriate index for his/her operation, they need to align their breeding system (terminal vs maternal) and marketing objective with the index. Using a terminal index for selecting sires of replacement females is not recommended. This practice will likely result in females with larger mature weights, lower body condition scores, and reduced reproductive efficiencies.

How do genomics impact selection indices?

The primary impact of genomics on selection indices is through the increased accuracy of the EPD predictions that contributes to the selection index. The improved predictive power of the EPD therefore enhances index reliability.

The AGA provides three indexes to aid cattlemen in profitable decision making across their economically relevant breeding objectives. Each index is unique to the AGA since it's comprised of EPDs specific to the AGA. Although other breeds provide terminal and maternal indices, the index itself is not comparable across breeds.

\$COW, FPI™ (Feeder Profit Index), and Efficiency Profit Index (EPI) are expressed as dollar value per animal. The computation of economic indexes is often complex, however the interpretation is quite simple. Across all AGA indexes the higher values are more favorable.

FPI[™] (*Feeder Profit Index*): An economic selection index designed to aid producers in selecting sires whose progeny will perform in the feedlot and are sold on grade and yield. Well-ranking sires for FPI have higher marbling scores and more carcass weight than their contemporaries.

STAFF EDITORIAL

\$Cow: An economic index that represents the genetic value in dollars of profit of an animal when retained as a replacement female relative to other animals in the herd. A higher number represents more profitable genetics for maternal productivity. \$Cow serves producers that are selecting bulls that will sire daughters with stayability and reproductive efficiency. \$Cow also includes traits influencing profitable production systems such as: milk, calving ease, moderate mature weight and pre-weaning growth. A female's genetics influence the performance of her calves in the feedlot and at slaughter, so traits such as feed efficiency and carcass value are also included in \$Cow. (Maternal Index)

Efficiency Profit Index (EPI): An economic selection index developed to aid producers in selecting for more feed efficient cattle that still have acceptable amounts of gain. EPI provides slight negative pressure on intake, while keeping gain at a constant value. By selecting on this index, producers will be able to find animals that gain the same amount as their contemporaries while eating less.

In bull evaluation, economic selection indices are designed to be tools that help cattlemen rank and sort potential sires based on their expected impact on an operations profitability. Producers that capture the most profit per rate of genetic gain select on the economic indexes that aligns with their market endpoint. With consistent use of economic selection indices over time, cattle producers can expect to encourage production efficiencies, increase net profits, and ensure the future of their cattle operation. **

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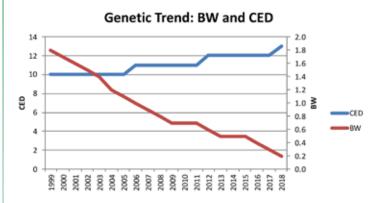
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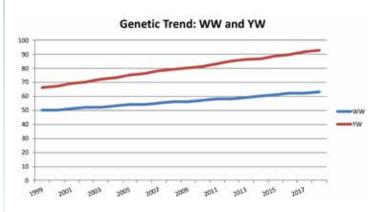
Annual Bull and Female sale in March with the Southwest Iowa Gelbvieh Group

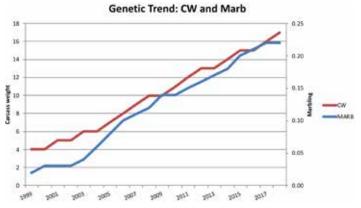
TRENDS

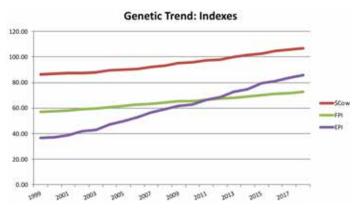
Where are Gelbvieh and Balancer® Genetic Trends Going?

The graphs below illustrate the genetic trends for the ■ Gelbvieh and Balancer breed. It's amazing to see the genetic progress that has been made by an AGA membership dedicated to improving Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle. Lowering birth weight, increasing calving ease, and increasing marbling are just three examples of traits that have been improved by years of work. Figures within the graphs charted here are representative of both the Gelbvieh and Balancer popluation combined. **









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Symposium 1:30 p.m.

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EDITORIAL

Global Uncertainty and Growing Supplies

By Tanner Aherin, CattleFax Analyst

rade uncertainties, African Swine Fever, and ▲ higher corn prices have created extreme volatility in the cattle markets this year. As of August 1, the U.S. Congress has yet to ratify the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which is similar to the former North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The trade dispute between China and the U.S. has turned into a war, with no resolution expected in the short-term. Negotiations continue with Japan, but a bi-lateral agreement is likely months away from finalizing, so the tariff disadvantage will remain in place for the U.S.

There's no doubt the U.S. beef cowherd has slowed its rate of expansion. Since the 2014 lows, inventories have grown 2.7 million head to 31.8 million at the beginning of 2019 - driven by profitability and improved grazing and forage conditions. CattleFax expects beef cow numbers to reach a January 1 peak near 32 million head within the next few years.

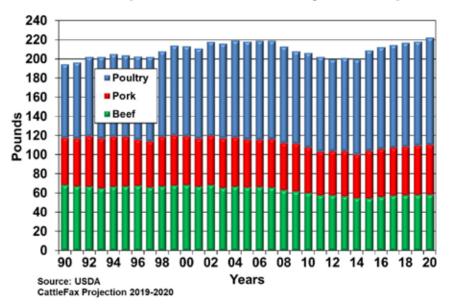
The growing cowherd has increased the number of cattle in the pipeline, and as a result, fed steer and heifer slaughter is expected to be up 300,000 head versus last year. An additional 300,000 head is possible in 2020, totaling approximately 26.8 million, which would make it the largest fed slaughter since 2010. Combine the increase in slaughter with carcass weights that have been on a steady uptrend throughout history, and record commercial beef production is projected in 2019 at 27.2 billion pounds, followed by 1 to 2 percent growth the next few years. Beef exports and imports will likely be steady compared to 2018, and the U.S. will be a net exporter for the second consecutive year. This equates to domestic per-capita supplies growing 0.8 percent to 57.6 pounds per person in 2019 and could increase another 0.5-pound next year.

In general, beef demand has performed well during the expansion phase of the cattle cycle. Wholesale and retail prices continue to grind higher despite more supply. The main driver has been the positive state of the U.S. economy, which is on the longest growth

> cycle since the 1990s. With the stock market trading near all-time highs, a low unemployment rate, and other constructive signals, consumers remain confident in the economy. Since the recession low, U.S. wholesale beef demand has increased 18 percentage points, basis 2019 forecasts. However, experts continue to speculate about a potential recession in the next 12 to 24 months. Should this occur, beef demand would certainly falter.

Beef is not the only protein with record production forecast this year and next. Pork production is expected to grow 4 percent in 2019 followed by a modest increase in 2020 - resulting in the sixth straight year of recordlarge production. Broiler supply is projected to be nearly 2 percent larger

U.S. Per Capita Red Meat & Poultry Consumption



continued on page 34

Program Genetics with Influential Herdsires & Donors



VLK Yong Gun C503

Homozygous Black Homozygous Polled 38% Balancer

Young Gun was the 2017 Reserve Balancer National Champion in Denver and he is proving to be an equally impressive breeding bull as well. His 1st two calf crops data of 99 BW, 100 WW indicates he's a low he's a low birth, growth bull and our eye tells us they have his eye appeal, rib shape, muscle and structural correctness to go with his impressive data. Watch for more bulls selling sired by Young Gun C503 in our 2020 sale.



 CED
 BW
 WW
 YW
 MK
 TM
 CEM
 YG
 CW
 REA
 MB
 FPI
 EPI

 12
 0.9
 82
 130
 18
 59
 8
 -0.16
 23
 0.57
 0.50
 89.64
 124.89

Post Rock Distinguished 164F8

Homozygous Black Homozygous Polled 50% Balancer

Distinguished 164F8, a son of Distinguished C136 sold to Mathews Farms in our 2019 Sale. In a Data driven world his sire, Distinguished C136 has few equals. We purchased Distinguished C136, an Angus sired Discovery son out of the performance strong Thorstentson herd in South Dakota as the high selling, high ratioing bull in the 2016 sale. His sire groups in our Cowman's Kind Sale have been the highest sought after sire group the past 2 years. We are selling another C136 sire group in 2020 that looks to be the best to date.

Post Rock Cattle Co. Cowman's Kind 2020 February 29, 2020



EGL Game Changer D136

Homozygous Black Homozygous Polled Balancer

We are really excited about the first Game Changer progeny. He was purchased in 2017 as one of the most sought after and high selling bulls in the breed. He has developed into a most impressive sire that combines actual data, EPD strength, pedigree strength and unmatched phenotype into a game changing package. His first sons sold in 2019 and were among our high selling sire groups. The 2020 sire group will be equally as impressive.



Post Rock Wilma 294Z8 ET

Homozygous Black Homozygous Polled 75% Balancer Donor

Post Rock Wilma 294Z8 sold in our 2018 Cowman's Kind Sale to Mathews Farms in Tennessee. What an amazing physical specimen and awesome production and breeding tool she has become, producing back to back Supreme Champion Bred-and-Owned females at Junior Nationals and producing high selling bulls in our production sale. Look for progeny selling in 2020 Cowman's Kind sired by Pay Weight 1682, Young Gun C503, Game Changer D136 and Sandhills 0065.



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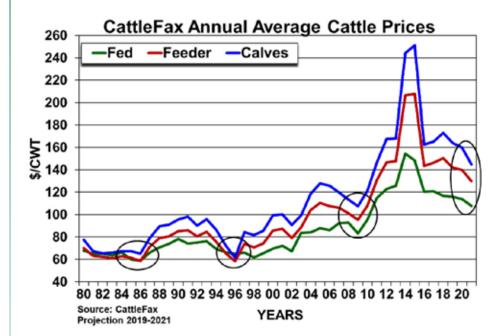
"Where calving ease, performance and eye appeal come together"

thought for the month In school you are taught a lesson and then given a test. In life you are given a test from which you learn a lesson.

EDITORIAL

continued from page 32

in 2019 and another 4 percent will be produced in 2020. Expanding harvest capacity is fueling record competing protein production. The hog industry has increased processing capacity by 10 percent since 2015, and new chicken plants will increase capacity by 6 to 7 percent by mid-to-late 2020 compared to 2018.



during the expansion phase – giving the packing segment more bargaining power over cattle feeders. Historically large margins will incentivize packers to move cattle through the system. As the industry moves through the current cattle cycle, the feeder-fed and calffeeder price spreads are expected to narrow as leverage shifts amongst the different segments. In addition, calf and feeder cattle markets have already, and will likely

> continue, to feel more pressure from extreme volatility in the corn complex created by so many unknowns.

> Don't let greed and emotion drive decisions in a down trending market. Capitalize on opportunities when they present themselves. Producers need to closely follow the seasonal patterns when buying and selling cattle. Risk management strategies via forward contracting, using futures or options, or utilizing value-added programs will be critical to protect margins. **

Visit CattleFax.com to become a member and receive the latest market news and analysis.

African Swine Fever will move a portion of the growing supply off the domestic market to fill the global protein gap. Pork and poultry exports will benefit the most due to the price comparison versus beef. Currently, U.S. pork faces a large tariff implemented by China, and U.S. poultry is banned. A trade agreement would be a major positive for both industries. However, exports are still expected to pick up the pace in the fourth quarter and gain momentum into next year. Although, increasing exports will not be enough to offset all the growth in production as record U.S. per-capita pork and poultry supplies are forecast for 2020 - a price limiting factor for beef.

As a result of larger cattle numbers and protein supplies, the overall trend is lower for cattle markets. Also, harvest capacity has not been able to keep pace

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Lucian Jordan, NC - "This is the best thing since sliced bread. No more fighting the cow, no rush getting the tag in or band on. This is the safest low stress tool on the farm."

Cole Kilpatrick, IA- "It has made handling calves much easier and safer. Our cows, for the most part, are docile, but knowing we have the added safety of the Safety Zone Calf Catcher has truly allowed us to operate more efficiently. Hands down the best customer service I have had in years."

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DEALER INQUIRY INVITED

FEATURE

Making the Match Between the Cow and Forage Resources

By Laura Handke

Today, producers have more tools at their fingertips L than ever before. With technologies like sexed-semen, embryo transfer and decades of expected progeny difference data, herd improvement and genetic merit gains have never been more in-reach for all producers.

But what does that selection look like and where are we headed as an industry in terms of phenotype?

David Lalman, Oklahoma State University, weighs in, sharing that we are seeing the result of these technology advancements; in calving ease, growth rate, carcass size, and carcass quality. As these traits are progressing, he says it is important to keep an eye on the match between the cow and forage resources on the ranch.

"Today, we have the capability to modify herd genetics that will improve the match between cow characteristics and forage resources and, at the same time, select for postweaning traits that are known to improve feedlot profitability and carcass quality."

For example, simply selecting for increased weaning weight, yearling weight or carcass weight is a sure way to increase cow size over time if there are no constraints placed on cow size. Larger cows consume more forage and require more land area per animal unit.

A dominant trend in the Gelbyieh breed, as U.S. Meat Animal Research Center data shows Gelbvieh females have the most moderate mature cow size of the four major Continental breeds and was the only breed in the USMARC study to reduce cow size.

Records Make Prolific Herds

Accurate and up-to-date records are the cornerstone of building a prolific herd; you can't make progress if you don't know your starting point."Some would have the capability to weigh and condition score their cows at weaning time. Perhaps consider consistently weighing one age group, or one pasture that is close to facilities with a scale. If those are not possible, track your cull cow weights over time," Lalman says. "If we hope to increase income in a commercial cowcalf herd, one reasonable way to do that is by producing a bigger calf with a smaller cow."

Another simple tool to check on the "match" is to monitor cow body condition at the end of the grazing season, over time. In a springcalving operation, consistently thin cows at weaning time (end of summer/early fall) is an indication that your cows may have too much genetic potential for milk and/or may be too big. Be careful to avoid increasing inputs to fix this. Kansas State University economic



David Lalman, Oklahoma State University

research shows that spending more money to make bigger calves or avoid reproductive failure is a breakeven proposition at best.

"Rather than modifying the environment (spending more money) to keep the cows that we like, it makes a lot more sense to modify the cows to fit the environment," Lalman says.

Do you know what your weaning weight trend looks like over the last 10 years? There will be ups and downs in weaning weight averages, but over many years, you should be able to determine if weights have gradually increased, or if they are essentially flat over the past several years.

If the weaning weight trend is flat in the face of herd sire selection with increased genetic merit for weaning weight, this is an indication that it may be time to shift the focus to reducing cost.

Working with Superior Livestock and Kansas State University, Lalman recently reported that weaning weights are flat over time in commercial cowherds in some areas of the country.

"If weaning weights aren't increasing, producers need to focus on other avenues to profitability. If you can't market more beef, the next logical production focus should be lowering inputs," and this area, Lalman says, is where a moderate framed cow can prove her potential.

FEATURE

Lalman suggests a "job description" that describes his version of the "perfect cow":

- 1. Wean a calf every 365 days
- 2. Do number 1 above for 10 consecutive years
- 3. Problem free. No extracurricular handling or treatment for medical problems or disease
- 4. Requires minimal protein or energy supplementation
- 5. Utilize all of your country; able to travel and forage where the grass, weeds, and brush haven't been grazed
- 6. Gets fat in the good years and maintain reasonable body condition in tough years
- 7. Produces a calf with the capacity to gain on grass, convert in the 5's in the feed yard, gain 4 pounds a day and never need treated, produce calves with large, highquality carcasses: a product that has the potential to build your ranch reputation

For Gelbvieh producers, many of the criteria can be checked off at a glance, thanks to the research and breed improvement focus the Association and seedstock producers have provided.

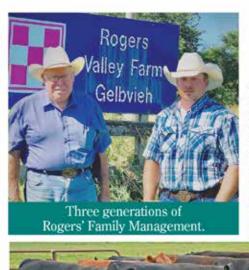
Today, Gelbvieh-sired females have the lowest five-yearold cow weight, allowing for puberty to be reached at an

earlier age, creating opportunity for an earlier first breeding and earlier calving in the season; the formula for producing more pounds of beef. Additionally, the stayability EPD gives producers the confidence to invest in the time and cost of retaining or purchasing replacement heifers, knowing that those females will stay in the herd longer.

Lalman suggests considering another key trend over time: pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed to breeding the previous year.

"This metric combines fertility and growth. Consider that, given cow size and body condition are in check and the environment is not being extensively "artificially modified", then if this ratio is increasing over time there is a high likelihood that your profitability is also improving."

"The industry as a whole hasn't made a lot of progress in fertility over time," he says, "However, the stayability EPD has been around in Gelbvieh cattle now for 17 years. Like other traits that have been advanced as the industry adopted effective selection tools, fertility and longevity is progressing in the Gelbvieh breed." **



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JUNIOR EDITORIAL



The Smart Choice

By Grace Vehige, American Gelbyieh Junior Association President

Tust like the agricultural industry is the backbone of America, the commercial industry is the backbone of Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle. We've all heard our slogan: Smart. Reliable. Profitable. It was coined to be representative of what Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle have to offer producers trying to be competitive in the market.

I think that when you step back and analyze the market, it's no doubt that Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle will be major players in the commercial industry. The questions at hand are simple: how do we convey to the industry that this is the case? How do we advocate that Gelbyieh and Balancer cattle are made to serve the industry? If you ask me, it's as simple as stating facts.

There are three common topics that are associated with Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle:

- 1. Maternal Influence
- 2. Heterosis Utilization
- 3. Meeting Modern Industry Demands with Genetics

These topics are commonly displayed in our AGA communications outlets. They are the foundation of our outreach. Each topic provides insight to benefits of Gelbvieh and Balancer traits and influence, and they make perfect examples of how we can best communicate our strengths to the rest of the industry.

When I think of Gelbvieh cattle, I think of maternal influence. Maternal influence encompasses stayability, efficiency and calving ease. With sustainability a popular trend in the beef industry, stayability plays an important role. Females that stay in the herd longer are more profitable in the end. The longevity of Gelbvieh and Balancer females is impressive, which decreases herd turnover rate and helps reduce cost of purchasing or developing replacement females. Other important categories of maternal influence are efficiency and calving ease. U.S. Meat Animal Research Center data

shows Gelbvieh females have the most moderate mature cow size of the four major Continental breeds. The reduced mature cow-size opens the door for a variety of benefits. It allows for puberty to be reached at an earlier age and for calving to take place earlier in the season, leading the cow to produce a heavier calf at a younger age. What's truly amazing is that calving ease is not threatened. In fact, the Gelbvieh breed has continuously worked to lower birth weights.

elbvieh and Balancer genetics are the smart choice because of increased productivity, added growth, and maternal influence, all of which make us stand out in comparison to our

Heterosis utilization is the second major topic associated with Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle. Crossbreeding has been going on for many years now, and its application has only continued to increase. Studies show that a crossbred female is 30 percent more productive over her lifetime than a purebred. Introducing hybrid vigor to a herd has benefits for cow, calf and producer. Females exhibit maternal heterosis, which allows for continued advancement in performance over time. Individual heterosis allows for improvement in performance for the crossbred animal. The producer benefits because a higher percentage of their cowherd will breed back on the first cycle, which can help save money in the long run. Introducing heterosis in your herd is a no brainer. It will bring better cow productivity, increased performance of calves, and a greater profit.

When it comes to the commercial industry, cattle must be able to perform well at a faster rate. Meeting modern industry demands with genetics boils down

to three things: adding pounds, making the grade, and delivering value. At the end of the day, these are all basic steps for any producer, but if an operation is feedlot focused, they become even more prominent. It's no surprise that producers favor cattle with predictable performance, especially when it comes to feedlots because it's important to rely on what's being fed and what's being processed. At the end of the day, Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle are known for their maternal strengths and growth abilities. Our breed can produce more pounds of calf at weaning and still increase a greater herd longevity. Bulls continue to increase fertility and help produce heavier carcass weights.

Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle offer benefits for everyone in the commercial business. Thinking back to our slogan of "Smart. Reliable. Profitable.", it all makes sense. Gelbvieh and Balancer genetics are the smart choice because of increased productivity, added growth and maternal influence, all of which make us stand out in comparison to our British counterparts. Gelbvieh and Balancer genetics are reliable because performance can be better monitored and overall more uniform. Both occurrences allow for greater profitability. Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle are great investments in an operation that is competitive in the beef industry, and this includes commercial cow/calf operations and carcasses on the rail. The studies and facts are at our fingertips. Now it's our turn to advocate for the deliverables, which are no doubt displayed in Gelbvieh and Balancer herds across the country. Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle are unarguably made to serve the industry. **



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GENETICS

Advancing Herd Genetics One Decision at a Time

By AGA Staff

1. Thought-out Bull Selection

The majority of the genetic improvement in a commercial herd is the direct result of sire selection. In fact, 87.5 percent of the contributions to an animal's pedigree come from the last three sires. Such a blunt figure makes it very clear that genetic selection decisions are very important. The first steps in bull selection: utilize expected progeny differences (EPDs), EPD accuracy, percentile rank, and genomicenhanced EPDs (GE-EPDs).

Unlike raw performance data, EPDs can be used to compare animals across different years in the same herd, and even across animals in various years in different herds. EPDs also include not only the animal's own performance but that of all closely linked relatives, including parents and siblings. The additional information used to compute EPDs makes them a great genetic selection tool to help minimize risk.

Accuracy is another valuable tool that bull buyers can use to help reduce risk in selecting animals for their bull battery. Accuracy is often published below its corresponding EPD and is defined as the strength of the relationship between an EPD and a sire's true genetic value. In other words, accuracy is an indicator of the reliability of an EPD.

Percentile ranks compare an animal's EPDs to similar

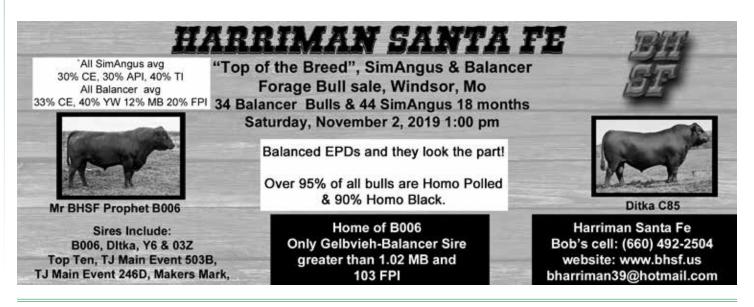
animals, such as all Gelbvieh or Balancer non-parents for yearling bulls. These rankings can be incredibly useful for a potential buyer to see how a sale animal ranks against other animals they might be considering. Rankings range from 1-100, with 1 being more desirable.

Seedstock producers utilize genomic testing to add reliability to selection tools for their customers. The addition of genomic data to an EPD calculation is comparable to adding another source of information, like progeny or pedigree records. Specifically on young animals with very little information, genomic data has the potential to greatly increase the accuracy of an EPD prediction. Confidence in an animal's EPDs earlier in life means that buyers can more reliably predict the performance outcomes of using unproven animals in their breeding herd. Increasing accuracy on animals used for breeding stock is a great way to speed the rate of genetic progress in any herd.

2. Implement a Crossbreeding Program

Now more than ever, producers are trying to maximize outputs and herd performance all while reducing costs. One tool that has been utilized in the beef industry for several years, and one that has evident value in beef production is crossbreeding.

Crossbreeding provides increased performance with minimal, if any additional costs to the producer. Through the



practice of crossbreeding, heterosis (or hybrid vigor) is achieved. When valuing heterosis, you essentially gain a dual advantage: individual heterosis and maternal heterosis.

Individual heterosis results in an increase of calf survival to weaning. along with increased growth. Through crossbreeding, calves have been seen to have a 3.9 percent increase in weaning weight and a 2.6 percent increase in average daily gain, all which translates to increased profits.

Maternal heterosis provides improved fertility, increased calf survivability, greater cow longevity, and more pounds of calf produced.

A crossbred cow has been shown to have a 16.2 percent increase in longevity and has proven to stay in the herd longer than a straight-bred cow. She also has a 30 percent improvement in lifetime productivity and annual income improvement from heterosis of 23 percent.

Utilizing crossbreeding systems also allows for the opportunity to capitalize on breed complementarity. This is the assessment of strengths and weaknesses of each breed type and applying those that complement each other. Breed complementarity is one of the best ways to describe the benefits of Balancer® cattle.

Balancer animals are 25 to 75 percent Gelbvieh with the balance of Angus or Red Angus. They combine the Gelbvieh growth, muscle, leanness, fertility, longevity and low yield grading ability with the carcass qualities of Angus to make an animal that meets today's modern industry demands.

Balancer hybrids offer a simple and powerful way to maintain hybrid vigor and the proper combination of British

and Continental genetics in your cowherd in a straightforward and easy crossbreeding system.

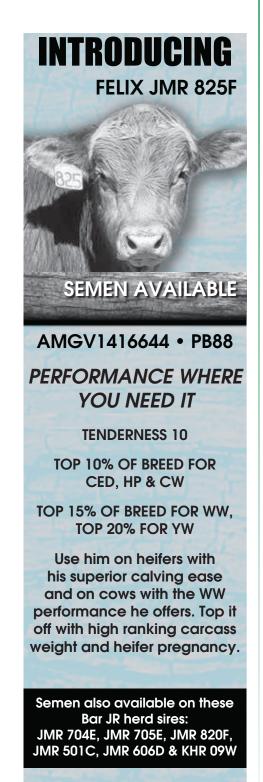
Gelbvieh are also an ideal fit for a crossbreeding program because of their superior maternal characteristics such as longevity and fertility. Gelbvieh females are known for reaching puberty at an earlier age and remaining in the herd longer.

3. Manage Herd Data

Smart Select Service, a data management system from the AGA, is built primarily for the commercial producer to identify strengths and weaknesses in their cows to make breeding decisions for genetic improvement.

Smart Select Service helps commercial herds become more efficient and successful. Efficiency is becoming more important and crucial to the success of any cattle operation. Inefficiencies are identified by taking measurements and then utilizing the data, and Smart Select Service identifies that. Managing data can sound intimidating at times, but that is where the AGA comes in to help. The program does the data management, and the AGA staff is there to discuss the data and understand it.

Users of Smart Select Service can track the data of their cowherd to assist them in making selection decisions with the goal of retaining the best females possible. At just \$1 annual fee per head with no breed restrictions, it's a cost-effective way to better understand and track the performance of individual animals and on a herd basis. **





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GUEST EDITORIAL

Does Gelbvieh Have a Legit Place in the Industry?

By Jared Wareham, Top Dollar Angus

That is the Gelbvieh and Balancer breed's place or V role in the beef industry? What will it look like over the next several decades?

There is no doubt that Gelbvieh genetics deliver a powerful maternal punch, a fact that is widely recognized throughout the industry. This breed easily made friends early on with cattlemen and women for their ability to thrive in a multitude of environments, raise extra pounds, and get bred back. That's the fastest way to any rancher's heart.

However, despite all of its maternal strengths, the breed has seen some limited opportunities to make more fans nationwide due to some challenges with end product value, specifically marbling. Trust me, this isn't a Gelbvieh bashing article that focuses solely on deficiencies. On the

contrary, it should serve to illustrate that there is a clear place in this industry for Gelbvieh genetics due to their strengths and adaptability to modern ranching systems and the more regimented infrastructures that exist today. Not to mention, the significant advantages offered in growth and yield. Cattle that excel for gain, cost of gain, ribeye and carcass weight the way Gelbvieh and Balancer genetics can, naturally possess traits that serve as the building blocks for good feeders.

For those of you that aren't aware of Top Dollar Angus and our team's growing role in the industry, this may present a great opportunity to touch briefly on what we do since we share customers. Our team works with seedstock producers all over the country to provide pass through service to their customers, while acting as facilitators for cattle buyers and feeders. Our mission is to use the verification platform to provide added value continued on page 44



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GUEST EDITORIAL

continued from page 42

to the ranch and risk mitigation to the feeder through comprehensive third-party insights into genetic potential as it relates to feeding margins and end product.

The Top Dollar program requires a minimum 50% Angus or Red Angus genetic base, which leaves the opportunity open to work with other higher value breeds. Gelbvieh is one of those breeds. We currently have customers that utilize Gelbvieh and Balancer-influenced genetics in their ranch's strategy for promoting maternal efficiency with added growth and yield. They then balance the genetic combination by using Angus or Red Angus to add the end product components necessary for greater fed cattle profitability. And, do so with tremendous success!

The use of Black and Red Angus genetics is the most logical match. They offer the greatest amount of market driven pull through demand, as well as, general acceptance industry-wide. Their ability to consistently excel for economically relevant traits and marketing channel access, like CAB, make their presence in any group of feeders requisite.

This is precisely why the Balancer program has been so successful over the past few decades. Those cattle embody the best of each breed. The San Simeon Creek Ranch cattle that sell as Top Dollar Verified illustrate this to a "T". There is value captured at each segment due to the highly disciplined use of multiple breeds.

Crossbreeding has a well defined purpose and benefit in each agriculture production system, plant and animal. Conversely, we have learned that it is not a tool to be wielded haphazardly and can erode product value substantially if mismanaged. You can't crossbreed just because you heard it was the "thing" to do or someone made a #crossbreed post. Have a purpose and a strategy. Make cattle that work for you and the next guy that'll own them.

The Gelbvieh breed finds itself in a truly unique position due to its innate genetic qualities that are so strongly tied to ranch profits. That should keep the breed well leveraged as a viable option in most precision crossbreeding systems into the future. Our shared customers are a shining example. **



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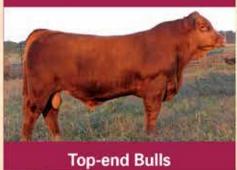
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NEWS

Study Shows Premium in Cattle from BQA Certified **Producers**

Thile producers have traditionally participated in Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) because it's the right thing to do, there is sound research that indicates BQA certified producers can benefit financially as well.

According to a recent study by the Beef Checkofffunded BQA program and conducted by Colorado State University (CSU), results show a significant premium for calves and feeder cattle sold through video auction markets.

The research study "Effect of Mentioning BQA in Lot Descriptions of Beef Calves and Feeder Cattle Sold Through Video-based Auctions on Sale Price," led jointly by CSU's Departments of Animal Sciences and Agricultural and Resource Economics, was conducted to determine if the sale price of beef calves and feeder cattle marketed through video auction companies was influenced by the mention of BQA in the lot description. Partnering with Western Video Market, CSU reviewed data from 8,815 video lot records of steers (steers, steer calves or weaned steers) and heifers (heifers, heifer calves or weaned heifers) sold in nine western states from 2010 - 2017.

The result was a premium of \$16.80/head for cattle that had BQA listed in the lot description. This value was determined by applying the \$2.71/cwt premium found in CSU's statistical analysis to the average weight



of cattle in the study data. When the BQA premium was constant on a per head basis, it implied higher weightbased premiums for lighter cattle (for example \$3.73/cwt at 450 lbs/head) and lower premiums for heavier cattle (\$2.24/cwt at 750 lbs/head).

"This study was a first of its kind opportunity to utilize advanced data analysis methods to discover if there was a true monetary value to participate in BQA," said Chase DeCoite, director of Beef Quality Assurance. "Study results clearly show that participation in BQA and BQA certification can provide real value to beef producers. It means that the initiatives within the industry are rewarding cattlemen and women who take action to improve their operations and our industry."

Additional study findings show that over the past 10 years, consistent frequency of BQA mentions have been included in the lot descriptions of cattle selling via video auctions. In some states, like Montana, the frequency of mentions has been fairly sizable and upwards of 10 percent or more of all lots of calves/yearlings offered for sale. Even without documentation of a premium in the past, the results imply that over time many producers have proactively chosen to highlight and emphasize their participation in BQA when marketing their cattle.

"The value of a seller being BQA Certified can really only be captured when information is shared between seller and buyer, which is consistently done via the sale of cattle by video auction companies," said Jason Ahola, Ph.D. and professor of animal sciences at CSU. "By sharing the BQA status of the owner or manager of a set of cattle, the buyer can access information that is generally otherwise difficult to find in traditional marketing channels. This was a big reason for us to conduct the study, as it became clear that data on sellers' BQA status were available on a large number of cattle sold through video auctions as well as other traits associated with the cattle. This information affected the ultimate selling price of the cattle."

Continued on page 48

Kansas Gelbvieh Association's

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Farmers and Ranchers Livestock Market Salina, Kansas Saturday, November 30, 2019

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Schedule of Events

Friday, November 29

12:00 p.m. Cattle available for viewing

7:00 p.m. KGA Social

8:00 p.m. KGA Aannual Meeting

Saturday, November 30

8:00 a.m. Cattle Available for Viewing

1:00 p.m. Pick of the Herd Sale



NEWS

Continued from page 46

The results of the BQA value study emphasize the importance of transferring information from sellers to buyers as well as the importance of collecting BQA certification information during the auction process. Daniel Mooney, Ph.D. and assistant professor of agricultural and resource economics at CSU said a lot of information is transmitted from buyers to sellers in video auctions which made it ideal for the analysis.

"In addition to the BQA mention, our study controlled for other factors – such as lot characteristics. cattle attributes, and value-added practices like age/ source verification and natural certification - that also influenced beef calf and feeder cattle sale prices. Importantly, the BQA premium existed even after accounting for these influential variables," Mooney said.

"Our cow-calf and stocker consignors represent family operations from throughout the western United States who make their living in the cattle business. Profit margins in these sectors can be very marginal.

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Finding ways to enhance the marketability of cattle by adhering to best practices is a low-cost means of improving the quality and consistency of the cattle they market," said Holly Foster, video operations manager of Western Video Market. "By sharing our historical data with researchers at CSU, we felt it would help our sales representatives and consignors as they try to understand the different attributes that cattle buyers are looking for to meet end user requirements."

For more information on the study or to complete online BQA training, go to www.bqa.org/certification. For more information on the BQA program, contact Chase DeCoite at cdecoite@beef.org ◆◆

Source: National Cattlemen's Beef Association



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FEATURE

Gelbvieh Goes West

How Gelbvieh and Balancer® not only survive but thrive in one of the nation's hottest regions.

By Malerie Strahm

Trom the ponderosa pine-covered mountains in the north Γ to the cactus-filled Sonoran desert in the south, Arizona is a state where Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle succeed. Tough, unforgiving and vast land is what these ranchers face every day. Fortunately the strengths of the Gelbvieh cow, like fertility and longevity, make her an ideal fit for the Arizona desert. Rain isn't always plentiful, so it takes an efficient, hardy cow to make an Arizona ranch work.

"All of our ranching operation is in southern Arizona and the climate is tough, it's all arid and semi-arid for sure. And some years we get rain, some years we don't. A lot of years we might go for ten or twelve months and not have a rain," said Kyle Best of Tucson, Arizona.

With the environmental restrictions, it takes a cow that can grow and perform well under pressure. Arizona ranchers are finding Gelbvieh genetics to fit their programs and their climate.

"The Gelbvieh influence on our cows I think has been a good one, they are good milkers even under tough conditions. They do pretty well and the calves do much better. They're uniform which is nice. You don't have tall ones and short ones; they seem to make a real uniform bunch of calves. We really like them," said Kit Metzger of Winslow, Arizona.

"We like the crossbred cow immensely, she has got the hybrid vigor and she's got a little more longevity than a straightbred. It's very important to us to try to keep our cows in the herd as long as we can," said Gary Wilson of Seligman, Arizona.

When it comes to building a herd, selecting the right bull is just as important as selecting the right females. Southwest ranchers appreciate Gelbvieh and Gelbvieh-influenced bulls for their ability to not only handle the environment, but also to improve calving-ease within the herd. Because these ranchers have to have more land per cow, it can be hard to check every female during calving season.

"The number one thing that we have to have in this country is calving-ease. If we get too big of a calf, we can't ride hard enough and far enough to make sure we get all our cows looked at," said Wilson. "The next thing we look for in our bulls is good feet and legs. We don't want them overly fat. It seems like whenever you get an over-fat bull, usually he's short on age and has a lot of extra weight and they seem to go to pieces a lot faster than moderate-fleshed bulls."

In addition to claiming superior bulls and females, Gelbvieh and Balancer-influenced cattle are also working well in the feedyard. A rancher's reputation in the feeder cattle market can significantly impact a buyer's decision. The Balancer-influenced feeder calves these ranchers are raising have been attracting repeat buyers and performing in the feedyard. Their postweaning gain and quality have made these calves sought-after and they're boosting the reputation of these Arizona ranchers.

"You've got to introduce some new genetics to keep that hybrid vigor in there and if you don't you'll start losing the weight of your calves. I've seen it happen many times being in the market business like I have. Even in the cows we'll see out here on the ranch are being able to utilize that dry grass and not having to eat as much to get the job done. Then their calves are able to gain really well on grass or go to wheat pasture or the feedlot. They're using less feed to produce the pounds. I think it's going to be more important as time goes on and the world population gets larger we're going to have to have more efficient cattle to get the job done," said Dan Major of Prescott, Arizona.

There's no doubt that marketing these cattle in the Southwest can be successful and source and age verification programs can help producers feel even more comfortable about selling their cattle.

"Everything that makes sense in the cattle business, we grab ahold of it. All of these programs that have come along in the last few years, we have been able to get certified and made it work. There's a lot of things that are happening now in the cattle business that it's a new world all the time so yeah, we'll be part of it," said Wilson.

"We have a natural program plus an age verification and other credentials that go along with these cows like GAP and NHTC so these calves, whether we retain ownership or sell them, they've got all of the paperwork behind them and we feel very comfortable with what we're producing," said Major. ◆◆



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STAFF EDITORIAL

AGA Registry-Not Just for AGA Members

By Sarah Dannehl

ontrary to popular assumption, the American Gelbvieh Association (AGA) Online Registry Service isn't just a tool for AGA members with registered Gelbvieh and Balancer® animals. There are also aspects of the registry that commercial producers can benefit from utilizing without needing an AGA account login. It offers ways to learn more about Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle and the people who raise them. Here are a few ways that commercial producers can utilize this resource. The AGA Online Registry Service can be found on Gelbvieh.org by going to Registry

Search Tools

Login under the Registry tab.

The search tools on the home page of the registry are a great way to search for active members, animal information, and EPD criteria.

Ranch Search: look for contact information for a specific breeder or to find a breeder in a specific area by entering a herd prefix, member ID, name, city, or state.

Search Animal: Search an animal by sex (bull, female or both), registration number, tattoo, name or EID.

EPD Search: Customize a search for animals with a desired set of EPDs. The function can be used to find animals with genetics to meet the goals of your breeding program. All of the AGA EPDs and indexes are search options. Enter a minimum and maximum EPD value for one or multiple EPDs. Accuracy levels can also be added to the search. The button selection in the right hand column of the EPD search tells the system by which EPD to sort the resulting list. The search can also sort search results by sex, so if it's a bull that's needed, the results generated will depict that criteria.

Breeder Map: Although AGA registry users can search by state in the simple search tools for members, the breeder map is another great tool offered to members and non-

members for locating Gelbvieh and Balancer genetics. The Breeder Map can be found on the top gray bar of the AGA Online Registry Service home page. This will bring up a map and a list that displays all members who have provided mapping coordinates for their address and is a great tool to help customers locate breeders. Clicking "map" next to the members name will take you to their location with the option to view their profile.



Breeder Map

continued on page 54

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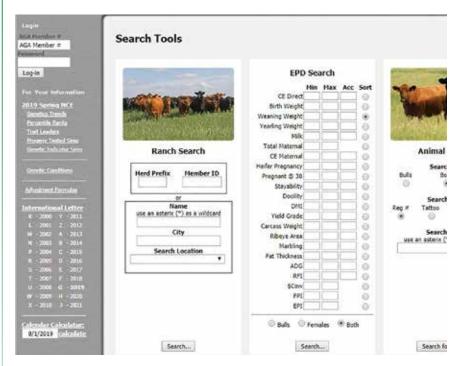
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STAFF EDITORIAL

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Informational Documents

On the left-hand side of the registry home page, members and non-members have the ability to download and view documents regarding current Gelbvieh and Balancer information.



Genetic Trends: Outlines EPD trends throughout the past 20 years.

Percentile Ranks: This chart breaks down the EPD as it ranks on a percentage basis in relation to the breed. Example: a weaning weight (WW) EPD of 75 for a Gelbvieh non-parent animal ranks them in the top 5% of the breed.

Trait Leaders: This lists the top 40 sires in each EPD parameter.

Progeny Tested Sires: To qualify for this list, sires must adhere to these criteria:

1) Achieve Active Sire status. This means they have produced a calf born between January 1, 2016 and the current date.

- 2) Achieve accuracy on WW EPD greater than 0.65.
- 3) Hold an AMGV prefix.
- 4) Be owned by (or in partnership with) an active AGA member (junior, regular or lifetime).

Genetic Indicator Sires: Same requirements as Progeny Tested sires except these sires are only required to achieve accuracy WW EPD accuracies between 0.46 and 0.65 to qualify as a Genetic Indicator Sire.

> **Adjustment Formula:** This is a great tool to use to view the adjustment fomulas used within the registry to gain more knowledge regarding important traits such as birth weight adjusted, average daily gain, frame score, etc.

Calendar Calculator: Quickly calculate future dates for calving, heat cycle, conception, weaning, yearling, and ultrasound window when a specific date is entered into the date field.

There are many benefits that the AGA Online Registry can offer Gelbvieh and Balancer commercial producers. Before you purchase your next Gelbvieh or Balancer animal, or if you simply want to learn more about Gelbvieh and Balancer genetics, remember to check out the AGA Online Registry Service! Also, please don't hesitate to call the AGA office at 303-465-2333 for more information. **

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EDITORIAL

The Implications of this Year's Rains on Next Year's Calf Crop

Karla H. Wilke, UNL Cow/Calf Systems and Stocker Management

snowy/rainy spring gave way to above average Arainfall for the summer in much of the midsection of the country. While most of us know better than to complain about rain, the moisture has sure presented challenges for this year's hay crop.

Abundant moisture resulted in rapid growth and maturity in forages. The continued rain delayed cutting the forage, adding to the maturity of the crop, and unfortunately, a lot of hay has been rained on between cutting and baling. This combination is most certainly going to result in poor quality hay, even if tonnage is adequate.

Even forages that are intended for late summer, fall, or winter grazing are likely to be lower in protein and energy than usual due to the rapid and abundant growth which resulted in a lot of stem and seed head production and not as much leaf material.

While it is always a good practice to test the nutrient content of forages and hays, this is going to be a very important year to test it and to feed or graze accordingly based on the nutrient content of the forage and the nutrient requirements of the cattle at various stages of production.

For example, research has shown that a greater percentage of cows will conceive when they are on an increasing plane of nutrition rather than on a decreasing plane of nutrition. Therefore, May calving cows and heifers may need supplemental protein and energy during the breeding season even though grass is abundant this summer.

Early spring calving cows typically graze deferred forages in the winter and receive hay and supplement from calving time until green grass is available, again. If the winter forage is lower in quality than most years, this could result in lower body condition of the cows coming into calving. Once calving ensues, the energy needs of the now lactating cow doubles, making this a difficult time for the cow to gain weight if necessary. Cows calving in a body condition score below 5 (1-9 scale) are less likely to rebreed and also have reduced immunoglobulins to pass onto the newborn in the colostrum. Therefore, maintaining a body condition score of no less than 5 on mature cows and no less than 6 on heifers during the winter is important and should be closely monitored this winter, due to forage maturity and quality.

Sending forage and hay samples to a commercial laboratory is an economical way to know what hay to feed at each production segment as well as how much supplement to feed to ensure requirements are met without overfeeding costly supplement. **

Source: University of Nebraska-Lincoln



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EDITORIAL

The Future of Business Intelligence in the Beef Industry

By Dustin Aherin, AGA Board Member

Dusiness intelligence (BI) refers to the act of gathering, **D**managing, analyzing, and refining business-related data into actionable information. Typically, BI incorporates a technology infrastructure for easy data collection with statistical methods and graphical representation to condense a mass of data into a readily interpretable form. Most all major companies utilize BI for both tactical and strategic decision-making through either an in-house team or outside consultants. The beef industry's application of such methodology varies across entities and industry segments with the ability to apply technology often arising as the limiting factor.

Useful BI requires matching data collection with interpretation. Farming has undergone a precision agriculture movement through the complement of GPS and on-machine data collection. However, many in farming argue that precision agriculture hasn't reached its BI potential because methods for managing and interpreting the data haven't kept pace with the ability to collect data. Thus far, the beef industry has kept relatively in-step with data evaluation, largely because the time and resources required for data collection has limited its availability. Considering expected progeny differences (EPDs) as a form of BI (although more could be done to associate EPDs with true business and financial outcomes regarding optimization of inputs and outputs), the seedstock industry has excelled in refining heaps of individual and contemporary group data into actionable, meaningful numbers. Currently, collecting beef industry data is the expensive and demanding piece.

Advancements in technology and its integration into the Internet of Things (IoT), devices and monitoring systems connected through networks, will allow beef industry BI application to grow by leaps and bounds in the next five to ten years. Using the aforementioned BI definition, individual feed intake measurement may represent the beef industry's most effective implementation of BI through IoT to date. However, the first versions of several beef industry specific BI type technologies are currently being explored by early adopters.

Smart ear tags and other wearable devices for cattle, similar to the popular trend in smart watches, lead the way in beef industry IoT. While applied in the dairy industry for several years, the larger spaces and less-intensive management associated with beef cattle require enhanced connectivity and durability for such tags.

The initial versions currently in use or under development are capable of monitoring body temperature, activity, rumination, and GPS location. Algorithms applied to the collected data can be used to determine health status, detect estrus, and assess grazing patterns among other things.

A simpler version of smart ear tags are radio frequency identification (RFID) tags. Discussions around the application of different RFID technologies have escalated in recent years with the re-established momentum behind cattle traceability. In April, the USDA announced its timeline to completely replace metal "Brite" tags with RFID tags as official cattle ID by January 1, 2023.

RFID tags not only allow for animal disease traceability, but the attachment of performance, management, and health information to each animal can create a digital history that follows that animal end-to-end through the production system. Successfully utilizing such end-to-end information requires cooperation across industry segments and a capable data management system. Several companies have set out to create powerful data management systems for specific industry segments, and a couple have created well-respected products. Still, the creator of a data management system that excels across each industry segment and can seamlessly incorporate an animal's history as it transitions through the production system will reap the greatest reward.

Once proper data systems are in place, analytics take the stage to generate actionable information. Several private entities, as well as consultants and universities, are already applying predictive analytics to cattle history and type to help project gain, health, grade, and ultimately closeout return at the cattle feeding level. Data quality and quantity, along with statistical skill and methods, determine the accuracy of such methods.

With the potential to apply improved data collection and data management systems in the near future, the beef industry has the opportunity for more efficient and informed decisionmaking by associating production strategies and management practices with both performance and business outcomes. Successfully combining modern technology with data analysis will allow beef producers to augment the "Performance Intelligence" of today's EPDs with the business intelligence required for the beef industry's long-term success. **

Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the July 2019 edition of Gelbvieh World.

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NEWS

AGA Past President Honored at Beef Improvement Federation Annual Meeting

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) presented L Steve Munger, Highmore, South Dakota, a BIF Continuing Service Award June 19 during the group's annual meeting and symposium in Brookings, South Dakota.

Continuing Service Award winners have made major contributions to the BIF organization. This includes serving on the board of directors, speaking at BIF conventions, working on BIF guidelines and other behind-the-scenes activities. As BIF is a volunteer organization, it is this contribution of time and passion for the beef cattle industry that moves BIF forward.

Munger is managing partner of Eagle Pass Ranch, which he and his wife, Debi, own in partnership with sons, Nate and AJ, and their wives. Eagle Pass Ranch has been supplying the beef industry with progressive beef

genetics for more than 25 years. The company annually markets more than 500 bulls and females to cow-calf producers across the United States, Canada and Mexico, along with commercial heifers, semen and embryos.

Munger served on the BIF board of directors, including a term as president in 2014-2015.

"Steve Munger is a leader in the beef cattle genetics business both locally and nationally," says Joe Cassady, South Dakota State University Animal Science Department professor and head. "He is an early adopter of technology for the measurement of phenotypic traits and a strong supporter of beef cattle production research. He's been a leader in selection for feed efficiency for beef cattle." **



Steve Munger (center), Highmore, South Dakota, receives the Beef Improvement Federation Continuing Service Award. Presenting the award are Lee Leachman (left), 2018-2019 BIF president, and Joe Cassady (right), South Dakota State University Animal Science Department professor and head. Munger was honored June 19 at the organization's 51st annual convention in Brookings, South Dakota.

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EDITORIAL

Are You Leaving Money on the Table With Your Calf-hood Implant Program?

Dr. Jason Smith, Assistant Professor, UT Beef Cattle Extension Specialist

There are very few (if any) growth-promoting L technologies that offer as much of a return on investment as an implant does. While the feedyard and backgrounding sectors of the beef industry continue to embrace this technology, its use in the cow/calf sector has waned over time. Even when put to use by cow/calf operations, an implant program's return on investment can be limited by the means in which this technology is used.

To use calf-hood implants as effectively as possible, it is important to first understand how they work. In a nutshell, implants consist of one or more pellets that contain a certain level of one (single) or two (combination) steroid hormones. Implants are designed to slowly release a certain amount of hormone into the animal's circulation over an extended period of time.

The amount released into circulation depends upon the implant's potency (level of hormone contained in the implant) and its duration of release. At a certain level, the additional hormone(s) provided by the implant alter(s) growth. Once the implant no longer emits the amount of hormone necessary to do so - or once the implant pays out – it provides no additional benefit.

Implants increase growth performance through increasing feed efficiency and feed intake. Just like a fire can be smothered by limiting its oxygen supply, an animal's performance response to an implant can be limited by its nutrient supply. If the animal isn't provided with enough nutrients to support the additional growth, the growth response is limited. That doesn't mean that the implant isn't doing what it's supposed to do, but rather that the magnitude of change in growth performance that can be attributed to the implant can be limited by the animal's plane of nutrition. If you generally wean heavy calves that are gaining

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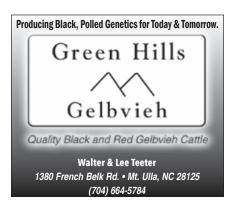
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EDITORIAL

continued from page 62

steadily at the time of weaning, expect a pre-weaning calfhood implant program administered at the appropriate time to net a double-digit increase in pounds at marketing. If you generally wean lightweight calves that are gaining slowly at the time of weaning, expect that yield to be considerably less.

As simple as it may sound, one of the most important pieces of advice that I have to offer in regard to calfhood implants is to always read the label. Become familiar with your implant options before determining what implant or combination of implants you should employ on your operation. Your implant program may not necessarily look the same from one year to the next, and that's okay if changing situations or management strategies call for changes or adjustments to your implant program. Above all, the program needs to be logistically feasible for your operation.

Keep in mind that not all implants are approved for use in suckling calves, and that some implants can only be administered to cattle that meet certain age or weight criteria. Some implants are only approved for steers or heifers, while others are approved for both. Be mindful of whether or not you intend to retain or market heifer calves as replacement females. Replacement heifers should NEVER be implanted as calves unless that specific implant is approved for use in replacement heifers. Even then, there is likely little to no value in implanting replacements. Weaned (or older) replacement heifers should NEVER be implanted with any type of growth-promoting hormone implant. The potential risk of altering normal reproductive development far outweighs any added growth performance from the implant, and for that reason, it is recommended to forgo implanting replacement heifers altogether. Similarly, NEVER implant bulls that will be retained or developed for breeding purposes, regardless of their age. Any heifer or bull that received an implant and will be marketed should be sold under a designation that identifies the cattle as having previously been implanted.

Implants are only effective when administered properly. While the implanting process is quite simple, take care to ensure that improper techniques don't unintentionally limit implant efficacy. Take time to ensure that the site of administration is relatively clean, and that the implant needle is also cleaned and disinfected before its first use, and between each animal thereafter. This will help to prevent

infection at the site of administration, and decrease the risk of transfer of blood-borne diseases between animals. A plastic container with a sponge that is soaked in diluted disinfectant can be worth its weight in gold on implant day. Be sure to administer the implant subcutaneously, and avoid imbedding the implant in the cartilage of the ear or crushing the implant during deployment. Intact implants can be easily felt beneath the skin. If you can't feel the implant, something went wrong. Improper administration will generally reduce implant efficacy, if not render it completely ineffective.

When designing an implant program, do not underestimate the importance of implant duration. Once the implant pays out, it stops working, and cattle will generally begin to compensate. When this happens, the benefit of the implant begins to decline over time. In other words, return on investment decreases as the duration of time beyond payout increases (without re-implantation). In this scenario, the benefit may not completely go away, but its magnitude may be far less than anticipated. For this reason, it is important consider anticipated marketing dates when designing and scheduling implant programs.

If the implant program consists of only a single 100-day implant, cattle should be marketed somewhere between 70 and 100 days following administration of the implant. This requires the implant to be administered 70 to 100 days prior to the date in which cattle will be marketed. On the flip-side, if that same implant goes in at 1 to 2 months of age, it will pay out long before the cattle are marketed. In that scenario, consider re-implanting after 70 to 100 days following administration of the initial implant. In an ideal situation where time and labor allow, schedule the initial 100-day implant to be administered 140 to 180 days prior to marketing, and the second implant (re-implant) to be administered 70 to 90 days prior to marketing. Alternatively, or if time and labor will not allow you to re-implant, consider a longer-duration implant that is administered at a time where payout coincides with marketing of the cattle.

While these are only a few of the major factors that contribute to success of a calf-hood implant program, a number of other resources are available that can help you to maximize return on an implant investment. Take the time necessary on the front-end to ensure that your calfhood implant program isn't leaving money on the table, and that your investment doesn't turn into an expense. **

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MANAGEMENT

The Fight Against BRD Starts in the Cow Herd

Reducing bovine respiratory disease (BRD) starts with preventing bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) in the cow herd

By Che Trejo, DVM, MS, Beef Technical Services, 7oetis

Tt's estimated that nearly 9% of beef cattle operations ▲ have a calf persistently infected (PI) with bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV). This might seem like a small percentage, but presence of BVDV can mean a risk for something more. Producers are 43% more likely to need to treat bovine respiratory disease (BRD) in feedlot calves exposed to a BVD-PI animal, a study found.

Reducing exposure to BVDV is an important place to start in the battle against BRD:

- Step 1: Vaccinate the cow herd before breeding Only 28% of operations report vaccinating cows for BVDV. Yet, a non-vaccinated cow herd is like an uninsured driver out on the road. No contact, and you likely won't have any issues. But any contact, and you could have a costly disaster.
 - Modified-live virus (MLV) vaccination program: BVDV is most commonly spread by a PI animal acting as a carrier for the virus, so using MLV vaccines that offer protection against BVD-PI calves is the most effective way to protect the cow and unborn calf. Look for a specific statement on the vaccine label that the vaccine prevents calves from being persistently infected with BVD Types 1 and 2 viruses.
 - **Alternative vaccination program:** If you can't implement or maintain a pregnant cow MLV vaccination program, research demonstrates there's an effective alternative. Heifers can be given two prebreeding doses of Bovi-Shield Gold FP^o 5. This can be followed by either annual revaccination with the same MLV vaccine or CattleMaster Gold FP® 5, a combination inactivated BVD vaccine containing a temperature-sensitive infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) component. The study demonstrated effective protection against BVD or IBR exposure with both cow herd vaccination program options.

• Step 2: Test and remove PI calves.

While producers are generally aware of BVDV, a study shared only 4.2% of operations reported testing calves for persistent infection with the virus. However, 70% to 90% of BVD infections are subclinical — so most PI calves appear normal — but these animals continually shed the virus and pose a constant risk of exposure to nonprotected cattle.

- Test all calves before bull turnout and any incoming cattle, including heifers, cows, bulls and calves born from purchased pregnant cows or heifers. Dams of any positive calves also need to be tested.
- Step 3: Protect young calves from BVDV. Protecting the unborn calf with a cow herd vaccination program is step one. Another important step is implementing an effective young calf respiratory program that protects against bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV), IBR, parainfluenza 3 (PI₂), BVD Types 1 and 2 viruses and Mannheimia haemolytica. BRD has many causes and complexities, but BVDV Types 1 and 2 are two of the major viral causes of BRD. BVDV also suppresses the immune system, which can lead to secondary infections from BRD pathogens.
 - BRSV vaccination at birth with an intranasal vaccination followed by a booster vaccination at branding may have some disease-sparing effects during summer exposure to BRSV, according to a study in Montana.⁶
 - Vaccination on arrival at the feedlot alone with Inforce 3° and One Shot° BVD (no antibiotic on arrival) has been shown to significantly reduce (p = 0.01) second and third treatments for BRD when compared with another vaccination protocol.

These steps to help control BVDV in the cow/calf operation can reduce the potential of a BVD-PI animal, improve overall cattle health in your herd and help reduce the risk for BRD in the calves you sell.

For more information on controlling BVDV in your cow/calf operation, work with your herd veterinarian or visit FetalCalfProtection.com for information on a complete range of cow herd vaccinations from Zoetis. For more information and articles about managing BRD, visit BRD-Solutions.com/Insights. **

Source: Zoetis

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MANAGEMENT

What Livestock Owners Should Know About Vesicular **Stomatitis**

Russ Daly, Professor, SDSU Extension Veterinarian, State Public Health Veterinarian

D ecause it's not a common occurrence in most areas Bevery year, reports of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) in the media often raise questions among livestock owners. Here are answers to some of the more-common ones that may pop up:

BACKGROUND WHAT DOES VS DO TO ANIMALS?

The main feature of VS in affected animals is the formation of blisters (vesicles) inside the mouth, on the tongue, the area where the mouth meets the lips, and sometimes on the teats of adult females. Blisters can also appear at the junction of the hooves and skin (coronary band), causing lameness.

However, by the time affected animals show signs of a problem and are examined, the blisters have almost always ruptured, leaving behind raw sores (erosions and ulcers) in the mouth ("stomatitis"), on the tongue, and other affected parts of the body. These sores make eating and drinking temporarily very painful and difficult.

Within a given infected herd, VS usually only affects a relatively small percentage of animals (10-20%).

WHAT ANIMALS CAN GET VS?

VS is most commonly noticed in horses. Cattle and pigs can also be affected; it's very rarely seen in sheep, goats, and llamas.

HOW DO ANIMALS CATCH VS?

This disease is caused by a virus that's most commonly spread by insect bites. Small midges or black flies are insects within which the virus can survive and multiply well, so they're the most common culprits.

Once animals become affected with the illness, though, they become very important sources of virus for others. Virus is prevalent in the mouth and other affected parts

of the body: animals can catch VS by direct contact with an infected animal, or by indirect contact with feed, water, tack, or other items that were contaminated by an infected animal

CAN PEOPLE CATCH VS?

Interestingly, yes. In people, VS tends to cause an illness that tends to mimic influenza (headache, fever, muscle aches that resolve in a few days) rather than the blisters it causes in animals. It usually only affects those people in very close contact with the germ (i.e., people working very closely with affected animals).

WHERE AND WHEN DOES VS USUALLY OCCUR IN

Outbreaks of VS don't occur every year, but when they do, it's usually in the Western US (e.g. Texas, New Mexico, Colorado), and – because of the role of insects in its spread - during the summer months. The disease is not common at all in South Dakota, although a large number of farms in Western South Dakota were affected in 2015. That year, a particularly large VS outbreak affected 8 states, of which South Dakota was on the northeastern edge.

WHY IS VS SUCH A CONCERN FOR STATE AND FEDERAL VETERINARIANS?

Any disease that causes blisters in the mouth of livestock is a red flag for the veterinarians who work to keep our animals safe from foreign animal diseases. Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is the most concerning of these – a disease so contagious it could devastate the US livestock industry. Mouth blisters caused by VS can't be visually distinguished from those caused by FMD, so state and federal vets take time to ensure it's actually VS, and not something different - taking samples for confirmation once these signs are noted in an animal.

One big tipoff as to the diagnosis, however, is that horses are not affected by FMD. Still, state and federal vets work to quarantine VS-affected animals in order to limit the disease's spread.

continued on page 70

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MANAGEMENT

continued from page 68

TREATMENT AND CONTROL WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR ANIMALS **AFFECTED BY VS?**

Being a virus, there's no specific treatment available for VS. Good nursing care, including providing soft feeds, tending to sores, and watching for secondary bacterial infections (with appropriate antibiotic use) may help recovery. Luckily, VS is a self-limiting disease for which most animals recover fully over the course of 1-2 weeks.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY HORSES AND CATTLE FROM VS? IS THERE A VACCINE?

Unfortunately, no vaccine exists for VS. Managing animals, particularly horses, to minimize contact with biting flies may aid in prevention. This may include taking animals off pastures during times of peak insect activity, pasturing away from water sources, and appropriate use of insecticides.

IMPACT

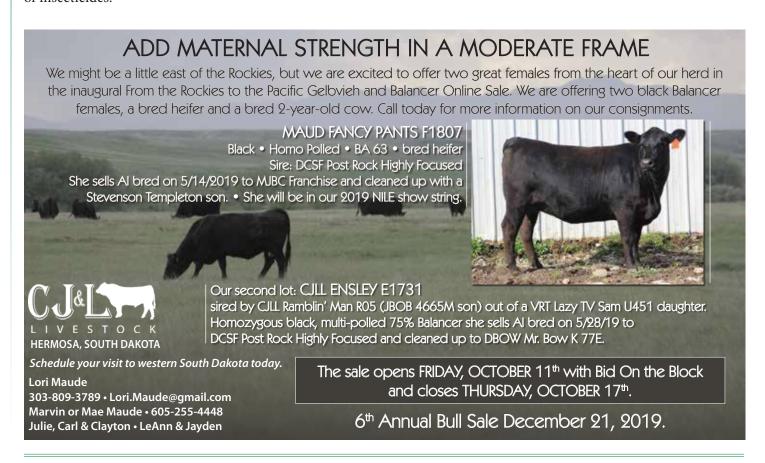
HOW MIGHT VS AFFECT ME EVEN IF IT'S NOT PRESENT IN MY AREA?

States may put restrictions on the movement of animals from areas that are currently undergoing VS outbreaks.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SUSPECT VS IN ONE OF MY ANIMALS?

Call your veterinarian. If VS is a suspicion, they'll contact the state veterinarian's office, who will follow up with you and your veterinarian. It's in the best interest of you, your animals, and your neighbors to determine whether VS might be present in your herd. **

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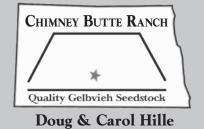


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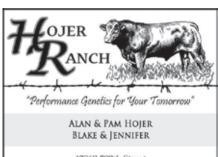
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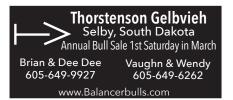


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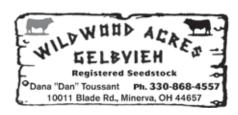
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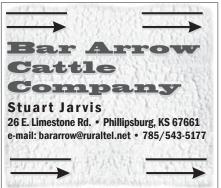
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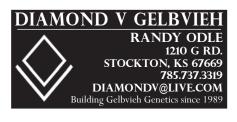
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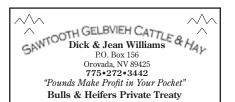
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Send all items to: Gelbvieh World 1001 S. 70th Street, Suite 215 Lincoln, NE 68510 lynnv@gelbvieh.org

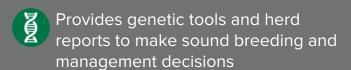


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EVENTS OF INTEREST

September 2019

- Sep. 2 AGA Office closed for Labor Day
- Sep. 14 North Dakota Gelbvieh Association Field Day, Gustin's Diamond D Gelbvieh, Mandan, ND

October 2019

- Oct. 12 Judd Ranch 29th Annual Cow Power Female Sale, Pomona, KS
- Oct. 12 SoKY Select Gelbvieh Sale, Bowling Green, KY
- Oct. 17 Inaugural "Rockies to the Pacific" Gelbvieh Online Female Sale
- Oct. 19 NILE Gelbvieh & Balancer® Open Show and Junior Show, Billings, MT
- Oct. 19 Seedstock Plus Fall Bull Sale, Carthage, MO
- Oct. 19 American Royal Gelbvieh & Balancer® Junior Show and Open Show, Kansas City, MO
- Oct. 25 T Bar S Cattle Company Focused on the Future Bull and Female Sale, Billings, MO
- Oct. 26 Flying H Genetics 23rd Grown on Grass Bull & Bred Heifer Sale, Butler, MO
- Oct. 30 Nov. 2 National FFA Convention, Indianapolis, IN

November 2019

- Nov. 2 Seedstock Plus Red Reward Fall Edition Bull and Female Sale, Osceola, MO
- Nov. 2 TJB Gelbvieh 8th Annual Bull Sale, Chickamauga, GA
- Nov. 2 B/F Cattle Company Fall Maternal Integrity Gelbvieh & Balancer Bull Sale, Butler, MO
- Nov. 2 Harriman Santa Fe "Top of the Breed" Bull Sale, Windsor, MO
- Nov. 9 Dobson Ranch Foundation Sale, Perkins, OK
- Nov. 9 C-Cross Cattle Company Annual Bull & Female Production Sale, Biscoe, NC
- Nov. 9 23rd Annual Show-Me Plus Gelbvieh & Balancer® Sale, Springfield, MO
- Nov. 15 Warner Beef Genetics "Genetic Opportunities" Female Sale, Arapahoe, NE
- Nov. 16 Gelbvieh Association in Nebraska State Sale, Arapahoe, NE
- Nov. 17 North American International Livestock Expo Gelbvieh & Balancer Junior Show, Louisville, KY
- Nov. 18-20 Range Beef Cow Symposium, Mitchell, NE

- Nov. 20 North American International Livestock Expo Gelbvieh & Balancer Open Show, Louisville, KY
- Nov. 23 The Best of Brandywine Farms & Seedstock Plus Showcase Sale XIV, Kingsville, MO
- Nov. 28 29 AGA Office closed for Thanksgiving
- Nov. 30 3rd Annual Boys from the South Bull Sale, Lebanon, TN
- Nov. 30 Kansas Gelbvieh Association's "Pick of the Herds" Sale, Salina, KS

December 2019

- Dec. 4-6 49th AGA National Convention, Billings, MT
- Dec. 6 Knoll Crest Farm, Inc. Total Performance Bull Sale, Red House, VA
- Dec. 7 SEGA Gelbvieh & Friends Fall Female Sale, Pierce, CO
- Dec. 21 CJ&L Livestock 6th Annual Bull Sale, Hermosa, SD
- Dec. 24-27 AGA Office closed for Christmas

January 2020

- Jan. 1 AGA Office closed for New Year's Day
- Jan. 9 NWSS Gelbvieh & Balancer® Hill & Yard cattle check-in, Denver, CO
- Jan. 11 NWSS Gelbvieh & Balancer® Junior Show, Denver, CO
- Jan. 11 NWSS Gelbvieh & Balancer® Bull Futurities, Denver, CO
- Jan. 12 NWSS Gelbvieh & Balancer® Bull & Heifer Pen Shows, Denver, CO
- Jan. 12 Gelbvieh & Balancer® National Sale, Denver, CO
- Jan. 13 NWSS Gelbvieh & Balancer® Open Show, Denver, CO

February 2020

- Feb. 3 Taubenheim Gelbvieh 31st Annual Production Sale, Amherst, NE
- Feb. 8 Prairie Hills Gelbvieh Annual Bull Sale, Gladstone, ND
- Feb. 14 Lemke Cattle 14th Annual Bull & Female Sale, Lawrence, NE
- Feb. 18 Cedar Top Ranch 42nd Annual Maternal Empire Bull Sale, Burwell, NE
- Feb. 20 Gustin's Diamond D Gelbvieh Annual Production Sale, Mandan, ND

Dear Cattle Enthusiast!

The decision was made in May to do a complete dispersal of the Brandywine Farms cow herd in November of this year. Due to health issues, age and wanting to do some travel this difficult decision was made. The plan was then to rent out the farm ground and pasture.

After we started the planning process and advertising/promoting the sale, an outstanding opportunity presented itself to me. An excellent young producer by the name of Carter Lee who has been doing custom farming for me, approached me about the possibility of purchasing the cowherd and leasing the entire farm. Needless to say this proposal was very appealing to me in that it enables a young producer to expand, it keeps the cowherd intact on the home farm, and it leases the entire farm to a good operator.

I decided to and have completed a deal with Carter for the cowherd and the lease of the farm. I have sold the entire cowherd to Carter except what I feel are the top 35 pairs that will sell in November.

I apologize to all interested buyers and to Seedstock Plus for this change in offering of the Brandywine herd but am convinced the positives of this decision outweigh any potential discomfort generated.

My hope is you will embrace my decision and join us to evaluate and purchase the best 35 pairs of Brandywine Farms. They represent the results of nearly 30 years of breeding quality Gelbvieh genetics. The Best of Brandywine Farms will sell in conjunction with the Seedstock Plus Showcase Sale on November 23, 2019 at Kingsville Livestock, Kingsville, MO. Sincerely;

Tom Scarponcini 'The Best of Brandywine Farms' & Seedstock Plus Showcase Sale XIV
November 23, 2019
Kingsville Livestock, Kingsville, MO



REQUEST YOUR CATALOG TODAY! 877-486-1160 john@seedstockplus.com

Seedstock Plus

EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Feb. 22 Swanson Cattle Company Annual Production Sale, Oxford, NE
- Seedstock Plus North Missouri Bull Sale, Feb. 22 Kingsville, MO
- Plateau Gelbvieh Annual Bull Sale, Brush, CO Feb. 27
- Feb. 28 29th Annual "Pot of Gold" Bull Sale, Montrose, CO
- Feb. 29 Post Rock Cattle Co. Cowman's Kind 2020. Barnard, KS

March 2020

- Mar. 2 28th Annual Hojer Ranch Production Sale, Lake Preston, SD
- Warner Beef Genetics "Genetic Investment" Bull Mar. 3 Sale, Arapahoe, NE
- Judd Ranch 42nd Gelbvieh, Balancer & Red Angus Mar. 7 Bull Sale, Pomona, KS
- SEGA Gelbvieh Annual Bull Sale, Pierce, CO Mar. 7
- Mar. 7 Seedstock Plus Arkansas Bull & Female Sale, Hope, AR
- Thorstenson's Lazy TV Ranch 39th Annual Mar. 7 Production Sale, Selby, SD

- Mar. 14 Seedstock Plus Red Reward Bull & Female Sale, Osceola, MO
- Mar. 19 Kicking Horse Ranch Annual Production Sale, Great Falls, MT
- Mar. 20 11th Annual Southwest Iowa Gelbvieh & Balancer Bull & Female Sale, Creston, IA
- Seedstock Plus South Missouri Bull & Female Mar. 28 Sale, Carthage, MO
- Mar. 28 Harriman Santa Fe "Top of the Breed" Bull & Bred Heifer Sale, Windsor, MO
- Mar. 29 Oklahoma Select Sale, Tulsa, OK

April 2020

- Apr. 2 & 3 Midland Bull Test The Final Sort Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
- Apr. 4 B/F Cattle Company Spring Maternal Integrity Gelbvieh & Balancer Bull Sale, Butler, MO
- Bar T Bar Ranches Inc. Annual Bull Sale, Apr. 11 Winslow, AZ

Visit the online version of Upcoming Events at Gelbvieh.org for additional dates on upcoming sales and more information on each event.

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T Bar S Cattle Company's

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Bull and Female Sale

Friday, October 25, 2019

Reach Out

761 State Highway 413, Billings, MO 65610 @TBarS1993 on Facebook and Instagram tbars1993@gmail.com

With questions and inquiries, contact Justin (573) 690-3813

Sale Details

Gelbvieh and Balancer genetics Free delivery on all purchases

Timeline

pproximately 50 head available Cattle available to view at 12:00 p.m. **Dinner served** Sale at 6:00 p.m.

Don't buy a bull. Buy a program.

Sale updates and listings will be released as sale time grows closer.



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AT THE RANCH NEAR OXFORD, NE

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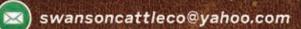


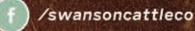
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- 10 Fancy heifer calves: Sired by the best bulls in the breed and with looks to make your mouth water!
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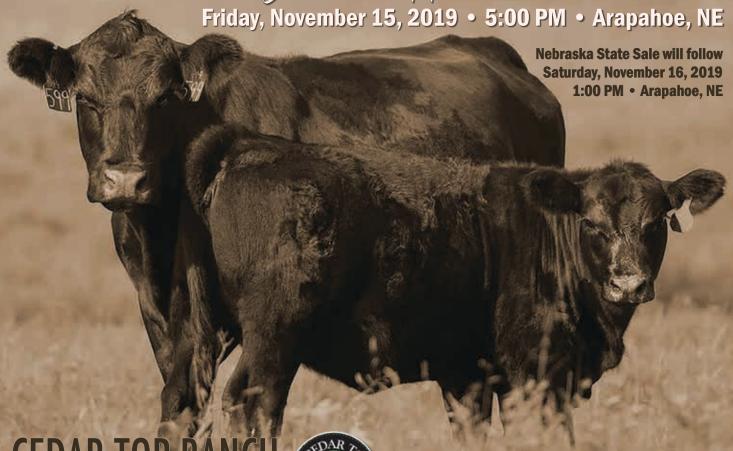


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