Data Reporting for Beef

IGS Data Counts 2022

Pedigree
BW
WW
YW
CE
Docility
UFAT
UREA
UMAR
Genotype
CW
MARB
REA
FAT
U. S. BEEF SUPPLY

Dairy
16-20%
Millions of embryos sold

2017 to 2021

30% decrease in dairy semen sales
255% increase in beef semen sales

NAAB, 2022
Economic Incentive

As the beef breed cow herd contract, feeder calf prices go up

- Records Highs: $2.46/cwt (cwt = 45kg)
- Supply & Demand

Create opportunity for dairies:
- Day old calves (CoBank Report 2023)
  - Straight Dairy: $85 - $125/hd
  - Beef x Dairy: $200 - $400/hd
- Today’s Market: est. $500 - $600/hd

Average Discounts as of May 13, 2024:
- Straight Dairy: -$28.61/cwt
- Beef x Dairy: -$2.29/cwt
- CAB Premium: $4.74/cwt (only BxD)

https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/Cattle_Contract_Library
Feedlot & Carcass Performance

- Intermediate performance from straight beef & dairy
  - Intermediate in efficiency
  - Produce more Yield Grade 2 (less YG 3 & 4)
  - ADG worse than beef but better than dairy
- Considerable variability in performance
- Challenge for feeders to manage BxD compared to straight bred
  - Behavioral & Health
- Liver Abscesses: 40-60% for BxD
  - 50-80% for straight dairy
  - 15-30% for beef breeds
  - **Abscess issue needs to be addressed!**

Basiel and Felix (2022)
Foraker et al. (2022)
Rezac et al. (2014)
Beef Semen Use in Dairies

Percentage of dairy farms according to the criteria of beef bull semen selection reported by Helfman and Sterry (2019). Survey respondents had the option to select more than one response.

Percentage of dairy herd

- Semen cost: 51%
- Conception rate: 49%
- Calving ease: 44%
- Solid black hair coat: 24%
- Mating service selects bull: 24%

- Marbling EPD: 15%
- Ribeye EPD: 10%
- Other: 6%
Genetic Evaluation

- IGS – BxD doubled carcass records
- Considerations
  - Breed differences and heterosis
  - Contemporary Grouping
    - Selection bias
    - Differences in systems (i.e. weaning ages)
  - Single sire CG
  - BIF Guidelines
What’s Missing?

- Abscess Issue
- Early calf development?
- Is there a genetic component?
- Genomic Testing
- Dairy breed contribution to feedlot and carcass performance
- Genetic Parameters are lacking
- Heterosis
Things are changing...

- Dairy producers seeing value in BxD calves
  - Better early calf care (Sterry et al., 2022)
- Seeing more dairies feed BxD calves
For more information

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Selection of Dairy Cows for Beef Semen

Adapted from Pereria et al., 2022 and Halfman and Sterry, 2019. Survey respondents had the option to select more than one option.