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Balancer/ Hybrid Calving Ease and Calving Ease Daughter EPD Protocol

Currently there is not an across-breed adjustment factor for the Calving Ease (CE) and Calving Ease Daughters (CED) to adjust non-Gelbvieh animals in a pedigree to a Gelbvieh Blended Base EPD for these traits. As such offspring of calving ease Angus or Red Angus animals, particularly sires, are not getting enough credit in their EPDs for these favorable animals within their pedigree.

In order to address the concern expressed by AGA members that the CE and CED values did not adequately reflect the values of non-GV animals that were selected precisely because of this trait and thus have an inherent inaccuracy it was determined by the AGA board to pull off the CE and CED values on animals that did not have either 15 progeny or 15 daughters.

Making this change created somewhat of a backlash as many of our members felt that not having any value presented on a majority of our Balancer animals was doing the breed and the potential buyers a disservice. In April 07 the AGA BOD directed the staff to determine a protocol for display and printing of these values for these figures that took into account more than just progeny records.

Currently values presented are based on the progeny performance information in the AGA database. Initially the data on progeny of Angus and Red Angus sires was small but after 5+ years of recording these types of calves in contemporary groups these pedigrees are gaining increased accuracies in each analysis.

One advantage of the current method of calculating the CE and CED values (without any heterosis) is that by not putting significant weight on the native (Angus or Red Angus) Calving Ease value we do not mask the performance of those animals in this cross-breeding scheme. For example it is possible that a bull with a favorable calving ease scores from matings to primarily Angus cows would have a different result when bred to GV or GV influenced females. Thus the currently calculated EPD reflect performance in a Balancer/GV influence environment.

Birth weight is being adjusted for heterosis and the correlation between Calving Ease and Birth Weight is high (.74). So non-GV bulls with lower BW EPDs will be

favorably impacted in regards to the CE scores, albeit with a more indirect adjustment than having a value that could directly be applied to CE.

Current Protocol for publication of Balancer CE and CED values.

Applied to animals that are < 75% GV

CE will print on all paperwork and be displayed on the web search screen if the animal's individual value has an accuracy of $\geq .15$.

CED will print on all paperwork and be displayed on the web search screen if the animal's individual value has an accuracy of $\geq .1$.

In the event that the animal fails the above....

CE will print on all paperwork and be displayed on the web search screen if both the animal's Sire **and** Maternal Grand-Sire have accuracies for CE of $\geq .10$

CED will print on all paperwork and be displayed on the web search screen if both the animal's Sire **and** Maternal Grand-Sire have accuracies of CED of $\geq .10$

Failing both of the above the CE and CED values will not print on any materials or be displayed on the website.

This protocol for printing values and displaying values on the web will take effect with the EPDs produced for Fall 2007.