



41st Annual Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale



Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs)

EPDs offer beef cattle producers the best predictor of genetic value of a bull. EPDs combine a bull's individual performance with that of his ancestors and related progeny into a single estimate of how a bull's progeny should perform compared to the average of his breed. There will be a total of six different traits evaluated for EPDs in the sale.

EPDs are given for the production traits of birth, weaning, yearling and maternal milk. In addition there are two different carcass traits evaluated with EPDs with these including marbling score/%IMF, and Ribeye Area.

In addition to EPDs there will also be accuracy levels (from .00 to .99) which express how much a trait can deviate from a specific number. The accuracy level is dependent upon the amount of performance information available to make the estimate. All yearling and two-year-old bulls will have similar accuracy levels. Research studies have shown an EPD to be up to six times more accurate in predicting progeny performance than adjusted weights. EPDs are within breed comparisons. Producers should not compare the EPD values across breeds.