



41st Annual Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale



Actual Percentile Rankings

ACTUAL EPD PERCENTILE RANKINGS

For the 2009 IPT Bull Sale the ACTUAL EPD PERCENTILE RANKING from 01 to 99 will be provided on the production traits. This is being done for implementation of the new scoring system and sale order ranking (**Power Score**) that is based on six traits.

The important thing when evaluating EPDs is to emphasize those traits that you would like to correct in your herd. Selecting a bull to be used on first calf heifers will have totally different EPDs than one to be used as a terminal sire with all offspring going to market. Thus, you must spend as much or more time evaluating your own herd's strong points and deficiencies prior to considering which bulls to purchase.

To make sure you understand where a bull falls within the various traits and their "Percentile Ranking" the following table is provided:

EPD PERCENTILE RANKING			
Numerical Percentile Ranking	Birth Weight	Growth Weaning & Yearling	Maternal Milk
0-30	Lightest	High	Most
31-70	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
71-100	Heaviest	Low	Least

For BIRTH WEIGHT EPD, those bulls with **Low numerical** (01-30) **percentile rankings** would be expected to sire calves with the **LIGHTEST** birth weight. Bulls with **Moderate numerical** (31-70) **percentile rankings** for birth weight are **MODERATE** for their breed, while **High numerical** (71-99) **percentile rankings** will result in calves with the **HEAVIEST** birth weight and should be used on mature cows. Remember that EPDs are within breed comparisons, and breed calving differences should be considered.

Illinois Heifer Development Program (IHDP) acceptable sire EPDs for breeding to heifers.

Service Sire Breed	Max. Birth weight EPD	Min. Calving Ease EPD
Angus		+7.0
Hereford		+1.3
Simmental		+9.6
Simm/Angus	-1.2	
Accuracy values for AI bulls must be a minimum of 0.6		

For WEANING and YEARLING WEIGHTS, those bulls with the **Low numerical** (01-30) **percentile rankings** would be expected to sire calves with the HEAVIEST weights. Bulls with **Moderate numerical** (31-70) **percentile rankings** are MODERATE for their breeds, while **High numerical** (71-99) **percentile rankings** will result in calves with the LOWEST weight gains.

For MATERNAL MILK it is extremely important that the level of milk you need in your herd must MATCH THE ENVIRONMENT (level of NUTRITION and MANAGEMENT). If your calves are light at weaning due to a lack of milk production in the cows then one might want to consider selecting a bull with a higher level of maternal milk. On the other hand if cows are thin and you have difficulty-breeding females (especially first and second calf heifers) then one might want to select a moderate or lower maternal milk bull. Milk EPDs are ranked from the **MOST milk** (Low numerical percentile rankings - 01-30) to **LEAST milk** (High numerical percentile ranking - 71-99), with neither of these being desirable for ALL situations.

It is also extremely important to remember that there are differences between BREEDS. Therefore, Moderate percentile rank in one breed (for a trait) does not equate to the same number of pounds as a Moderate percentile rank in another breed. This may be the most pronounced in the maternal milk traits since some of the continental breeds like Simmental will have a higher level of milk production than the British breeds. However, it is important to point out that a Moderate for a trait in one breed (for example Angus) does mean that bulls fall into the same percentile ranking as all the Moderates in the same breed.