



by Jack Ward, chief operating officer and director of breed improvement

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Olsen NRSP Test Results Announced

I'm excited to include in this column the final report on the 2008-born calves at Olsen Ranch, Harrisburg, Neb. As most of you know, the Olsen Ranch has been instrumental in working with the American Hereford Association (AHA), along with several other commercial ranches, to test young sires as part of the National Reference Sire Program (NSRP).

This program was developed to confirm the value of Hereford genetics in the commercial industry while proving younger sires. The 2008-born calves performed exceptionally well at Olsen's. Below you will find the

performance of the progeny from nine young sires compared to two reference sires. A reference sire is one that has actually been through the sire test program previously.

In addition, EF Beef Schu-Lar S604-009K G824 ET was used at both Stahly Ranch and Olsen's to provide some linkage between the two test herds.

The steers were harvested in mid-November and the entire group graded more than 90% Choice. This group had one less implant at the end of the feeding period versus other years. So, we might have seen a slight increase in grade.

The cattle were on feed for 20 fewer days than the previous year and the live weight was about 40 lb. less. If you remember, the report on the Stahly data (see November 2009 issue, Page 6) was that we had more than 70% Choice cattle in the 2008-born calves.

All data on the Olsen cattle, except the harvest data, will be included in the new genetic analysis, and the spring 2010 expected progeny differences (EPDs) will be reflective. The harvest data will be part of the fall 2010 run. This is due to the harvest time of the Olsen steers.

Please remember that we are beginning to take nominations for the

2010 National Reference Sire Program. You can find that nomination form below, or you can contact me at 816-842-3757 or jward@hereford.org.

Circle A Ranch, Iberia, Mo., is testing 23 natural service sires in its fall commercial cow herd. The bulls were delivered in November and are working in single-sire pastures.

I personally would like to thank everyone who participates in these programs, which have been very influential in the increased demand for Hereford genetics in the commercial industry. **HW**

Table 1: 2008-born calves at Olsen Ranch

Sire name	Steer Harvest Data					Heifer Ultrasound			Sire EPDs																											
	Carcass Wt.	Marb Score	REA	FAT	CYG	BW	WW	YW	FAT	REA	%IMF	CE EPD	CE Acc	BW EPD	BW Acc	WW EPD	WW Acc	YW EPD	YW Acc	MM EPD	MM Acc	M&G EPD	MCE EPD	MCE Acc	SC EPD	SC Acc	FAT EPD	FAT Acc	REA EPD	REA Acc	MARB EPD	MARB Acc	BMI \$	CEZ \$	BII \$	CHB \$
BRP 807R	102	110	102	109	103	105	104	105	119	104	109	3.2	0.10	5.1	0.65	54	0.38	84	0.35	16	0.13	42	5.0	0.08	1.4	0.10	0.02	0.11	0.10	0.14	0.30	0.10	28	20	25	29
BRP R5 of P26 5N ET	100	95	101	92	96	102	99	102	108	103	108	5.9	0.15	3.0	0.72	57	0.47	90	0.41	14	0.13	42	4.4	0.11	1.8	0.15	0.02	0.26	0.09	0.27	0.53	0.24	36	24	32	36
CL Advantage M326 225 ET	105	101	104	105	101	104	105	104	105	103	104	0.0	0.16	3.6	0.62	56	0.33	93	0.33	22	0.20	50	2.7	0.14	1.7	0.19	-0.01	0.22	0.53	0.23	0.10	0.22	26	17	24	29
EF Beef SCHU-LAR Proficient N093	100	90	102	102	100	98	103	100	98	100	100	5.8	0.28	0.8	0.81	58	0.7	87	0.72	17	0.34	46	6.0	0.23	0.8	0.59	0.06	0.48	0.68	0.49	0.26	0.46	24	21	18	31
EF Beef SCHU-LAR S604-009K G824ET	100	101	99	118	109	100	101	102	105	99	90	2.0	0.12	1.8	0.64	52	0.37	84	0.37	20	0.19	46	1.8	0.11	1.1	0.27	0.00	0.28	0.71	0.28	0.23	0.26	24	17	21	30
CSU Ram Dominator 4203	96	103	98	86	94	98	97	97	79	94	96	3.2	0.28	-0.3	0.82	42	0.73	70	0.76	16	0.2	37	1.4	0.21	1.1	0.38	-0.01	0.64	0.28	0.66	0.30	0.70	25	19	24	26
Innisfail 774 4R ET	103	100	99	98	103	102	104	102	99	99	103	2.0	0.13	4.0	0.66	51	0.43	81	0.38	18	0.19	43	2.2	0.12	1.7	0.17	0.03	0.23	0.02	0.25	0.39	0.21	30	19	28	29
JDB 434 Magnum R105	99	97	96	110	108	98	100	97	93	95	99	3.6	0.10	-0.1	0.69	42	0.46	63	0.45	17	0.15	38	3.4	0.08	0.9	0.27	0.05	0.26	0.13	0.26	0.03	0.23	19	19	17	15
DS Beef 9059	102	98	108	91	89	98	101	99	100	102	109	2.5	0.33	2.2	0.87	41	0.83	68	0.85	14	0.66	35	-0.2	0.31	0.9	0.59	-0.04	0.72	0.74	0.75	0.17	0.78	23	18	22	26
R&R Prime Cut 6378 ET	108	121	97	130	122	103	104	108	107	90	109	5.5	0.21	1.4	0.6	44	0.35	63	0.35	12	0.23	34	7.3	0.19	1.6	0.21	0.06	0.31	-0.35	0.30	0.43	0.28	32	25	30	23
UPS Domino 5216	98	99	99	110	103	101	98	97	97	99	92	6.0	0.22	2.1	0.79	49	0.59	83	0.57	30	0.15	54	1.7	0.14	1.2	0.32	0.08	0.32	0.12	0.33	0.28	0.30	21	20	17	24

American Hereford Association National Reference Sire Program

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEST HERD:

- Select from nominated bulls
- Contact bull owner for semen shipping instructions
- Breed 55-60 cows at a random mating across genotypes
- Breed 30 cows to one reference sire that has been tested in previous years (at the cost of the test herd, semen and shipping at a commercial rate)
- Provide complete data on NRSP forms
- Breeding data: Cow ID, specific breed makeup (based on percent), age of cow at breeding time, date bred and sire used
- Birth data: Calf ID, date of birth, weight and calving ease score
- Weaning data: Calf ID, date weaned and weight
- Interim data: Calf ID, date, weight
- Carcass data: Calf ID, carcass weight, marbling score, fat thickness, ribeye area, internal fat and yield grade
- Test herd must provide at least 55% conception rate
- Test herd must retain ownership or partnership at 50% or greater on cattle until they have been harvested

TEST HERD COST:

- All costs will be covered by test herd
- Test herd will pay for the reference sire semen for the 30 cows, and shipping semen will be priced at a commercial rate, data collection will be paid by test herd on all cattle

RESPONSIBILITIES OF BULL OWNER:

- Nominate bulls for test sire
- Nominate bulls to AHA by March 1, 2010
- Furnish 60 straws of semen and pay shipping cost to test herds
- Pay fees as required

BULL OWNER COST:

- Semen and shipment of semen
- Pay the test herd fee per bull tested when semen is shipped — contact Jack for details.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AMERICAN HEREFORD ASSOCIATION:

- Receive data and report all data back to bull owner and to test herd

AMERICAN HEREFORD ASSOCIATION COST:

There will be no cost to the test herd or the bull owner for the data reporting done by the American Hereford Association

2010 National Reference Sire Feedlot and Carcass Testing Program

Sire Nomination Form

Ranch Name _____ Contact person _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____ E-mail: _____

Test Bull Information: Name and Registration No. _____

Name and Registration No. _____

Name and Registration No. _____

Sire Nomination Deadline: March 1, 2010

* I acknowledge that any information or samples I provide to the AHA or through AHA programs may be used by the AHA for any purpose. _____ Signature

BENEFITS OF TEST SIRES:

1. Obtaining high accuracy carcass EPDs.
2. Obtaining performance data compared to other sires tested in herd contemporaries
3. Opportunity to market semen as a reference sire in the National Reference Sire Feedlot and Carcass Testing Program, after nominated and selected
4. Opportunity to test sires next to the top Hereford genetics in the breed

Send application to:

AMERICAN HEREFORD ASSOCIATION
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