



# AHA Releases Carcass Weight EPD



With the release of the spring 2016 Pan-American Cattle Evaluation (PACE), you will notice an additional trait reported by the American Hereford Association (AHA).

Carcass Weight (CW), expressed in pounds, is a predictor of the differences in hot carcass weight of a sire's progeny compared to the progeny of other sires at an age constant endpoint. It is a moderately heritable trait (.18), which means that changes within CW in a herd can be made through selection. However, the heritability for CW is a bit lower than for other end product traits.

Also, please remember that carcass traits are reported in a real carcass measure and not on an ultrasound measure. Ultrasound is a great indicator for carcass traits, and we see the correlation up in the .8 range, but the true economically relevant

trait is real carcass endpoint such as marbling and not the percent of IMF (intramuscular fat).

The ideal CW EPD (expected progeny difference) for sires will depend on the cows to which they are mated as well as the calf feeding system. As with most traits, avoiding extremes would be the most logical approach until the most optimum CW can be determined for your herd. CW will be highly correlated to Yearling Weight (YW) at .80, so for herds that have big YW cattle, they will obviously produce some bigger CW.

The AHA gets a significant amount of real carcass data reported each year through the National Reference Sire Program (NRSP) and research projects and through the submission by breeders who feed cattle and collect individual carcass

results. Visit [Hereford.org](http://Hereford.org) and click on "Records/TPR" on the top menu and then "Nat'l Ref Sire Program" tab on the left side for more information or see the NRSP information and nomination form below.

As we move forward, I would like to encourage breeders to submit as much real carcass data as possible as just a few additional head evaluated can make a big change in the accuracy of the end product traits. If you would like to submit harvest data on cattle with at least known sires, then please contact the AHA and we can provide you with the proper forms.

You will find the new CW EPD lined next to the other carcass EPDs as seen in Table 1. This new trait will also be utilized in the updates of the \$Indexes as we move forward. **HW**

Table 1: Example of EPDs with new Carcass Weight trait

CE EPD	CE ACC	BW EPD	BW ACC	WW EPD	WW ACC	YW EPD	YW ACC	MM EPD	MM ACC	MG EPD	MCE EPD	MCE ACC	MCW EPD	MCW ACC	UDDR EPD	UDDR ACC	TEAT EPD	TEAT ACC	SC EPD	SC ACC	CW EPD	CW ACC	FAT EPD	FAT ACC	REA EPD	REA ACC	MARB EPD	MARB ACC	BMI	CEZ	BII	CHB
3.5	0.77	2.7	0.95	67	0.93	107	0.92	23	0.86	57	0.5	0.69	109	0.87	1.49	0.89	1.5	0.88	1.0	0.85	82	0.83	0.029	0.76	1.01	0.78	0.15	0.74	22	17	16	35

## 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 National Reference Sire Program (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 American Hereford Association (AHA) by **March 1, 2016**
- 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 Shane Bedwell for details

### Responsibilities of AHA:

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

### AHA Cost:

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

### Benefits of Test Sires:

- Obtaining high accuracy carcass EPDs (expected progeny differences)
- Obtaining performance data compared to other sires tested in herd contemporaries
- Opportunity to market semen as a NRSP reference sire, after nominated and selected
- Opportunity to test sires next to the top Hereford genetics in the breed

## 2016 National Reference Sire Feedlot and Carcass Testing Program Nomination Form

### Sire Nomination Form

Ranch Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Test Bull Information: Name and Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

\*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

Send application by **March 1, 2016** to:  
 American Hereford Association  
 Shane Bedwell  
 P.O. Box 014059  
 Kansas City, MO 64101-0059

For more information, visit [Hereford.org/nrsp](http://Hereford.org/nrsp) or contact Shane Bedwell at 816-842-3757 or [sbedwell@hereford.org](mailto:sbedwell@hereford.org).