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

jward@hereford.org

Stahly NRSP Results Announced

Jack Ward

Included here is the final report on the progeny performance from Stahly Ranch, Cavour, S.D., on the spring 2011-born calves.

Mike and Judy Stahly have participated for years in the National Reference Sire Program (NRSP), utilizing young Hereford sires in their commercial herd.

Even though there were only three bulls tested at Stahly Ranch, we used one bull common to both Stahly and Olsen Ranches Inc. in order to tie the two NRSP test ranches together.

In addition to the traditional data of birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight and carcass, the Stahly steers were put on GrowSafe test at Olsen's to gather individual feed intake.

This test is really important as the American Hereford Association (AHA) has been able to supply feed intake information on all young sire test animals to be used in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) feed efficiency grant to look at genetic markers for efficiency.

The first steers from Olsen's have been genotyped, and the Stahly steers are in the process. Dorian Garrick, Iowa State University Lush Chair in animal breeding and genetics, has run an evaluation on the first set of calves. In addition, Mike MacNeil, research geneticist at Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory, is working on a trait for efficiency in Hereford cattle.

If any breeders have collected some individual feed intake information on cattle and would like to share it with Mike for the development of a feed efficiency trait, contact me.

Genomics update

In addition to the young sire test report, I would like to give you another update on genomics and AHA's genomic-enhanced expected progeny differences (GE-EPDs). Many breeders have inquired about how we will handle pedigree estimates on calves that have parents with GE-EPDs.

Remember that the genomic information today is not part of the regular genetic analysis and does not affect animals up and down the pedigree. So, with that said, when a calf has a parent with a GE-EPD, the calf's EPD will not be reflective of the average of the EPD with GE-EPD added but will be reflective of the base EPD of that parent. This will be the case until we have added the genomic information to the analysis.

I also want to remind breeders of the cost sharing that the AHA Board has budgeted in order to add as many high accuracy sires to the training as possible. It is our goal to add another 1,000 sires in order to build correlations and make the panel stronger.

If you have a bull that does not have a GE-EPD, has a weaning weight accuracy of better than .50 and was born in 2001 or after, contact Toni Shapiro at the AHA office, and AHA will pay $40 of the test cost. If you have a bull that is slightly less than .50 accuracy for WW and has seen very heavy use, contact me at jward@hereford.org or 816-842-3757.

Finally, just a reminder to breeders who would like to utilize the GE-EPD prior to production sales that they need to allow enough time to get the animals tested. If they want the information reflected in their sale catalogs, getting that information takes even more planning. It will take about three weeks for results from the lab after it receives the samples. **HW**

Table 1: 2011-born calves at Stahly Ranch

Sire Name	Reg. No.	BW Avg.	Ratio	WW Ratio	HCW Ratio	MB Ratio	REA Ratio	Fat Ratio	DM F/G	Ratio
Bar-H Ideal 40W	43051117	92	100	98	97	96	98	103	5.3	103
R Legend 2218	42913915	90	98	103	104	103	102	122	5.3	103
K&B Tailor Made 9017W ET	43004885	94	102	99	99	101	100	75	4.8	94

Table 2: EPDs of bulls used at Stahly Ranch

Sire Name	BW EPD	BW ACC	WW EPD	WW ACC	YW EPD	YW ACC	MILK EPD	MILK ACC	MG EPD	MCE EPD	MCE ACC	MCW EPD	MCW ACC	SC EPD	SC ACC	FAT EPD	FAT ACC	REA EPD	REA ACC	MARB EPD	MARB ACC	BMI EPD	CEZ EPD	BII EPD	CHB EPD
Bar-H Ideal 40W	3.2	0.71	54	0.58	77	0.58	18	0.14	45	0.8	0.09	85	0.32	0.8	0.31	0.028	0.35	0.52	0.36	-0.20	0.31	15	14	13	18
R Legend 2218	3.8	0.68	68	0.54	119	0.53	22	0.17	56	2.5	0.13	117	0.33	0.4	0.23	0.039	0.29	0.75	0.31	0.15	0.27	14	13	7	34
K&B Tailor Made 9017W ET	4.8	0.61	52	0.51	92	0.50	32	0.20	58	1.5	0.15	88	0.32	1.0	0.22	-0.023	0.29	0.44	0.30	0.24	0.26	19	14	15	31