

by *Shane Bedwell*

The Results Are In

Review the National Reference Sire Program results from 2017-born calves in the Olsen Ranch test herd.



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Below are the National Reference Sire Program (NRSP) results from 2017-born calves at Olsen Ranch in Harrisburg, Neb. The cow base used at Olsen Ranch for the NRSP is a commercial Hereford herd, and this year is the ranch's 20th anniversary of providing phenomenal results. Because of the American Hereford Association's (AHA) partnerships with various test herds like Olsen's, breeders can make better-informed decisions relative to traits of interest. This test evaluates reference sires

to further validate their values and to compare those young sires with the Hereford population. Ultimately the AHA's goal is to identify young sires that can positively affect the marketplace and give seedstock and commercial breeders alike proof Hereford genetics are profitable.

2017 Olsen Ranch results

Table 1 lists the phenotypic averages by sire group for dry matter intake (DMI) and average daily gain (ADG), along with calculated feed conversion (F:G) results. The adjusted F:G ratio takes body weight into account. Likewise, Table 2 lists the complete performance results from birth to harvest by sire group. It is important to note the two distinct groups were analyzed separately, as the first calf heifers were managed differently from the mature cows. Consequently, two separate contemporary groups were formed, and data should only be compared within each group.

Table 3 showcases the phenotypic averages of each group to complement tables 1 and 2. In regards to the progeny averages, both groups of cattle performed extremely well on their 70-day feed test. Also, each group had very impressive marbling score averages. The progeny out of the heifers averaged 634 (high Choice), while the progeny out of the cows averaged 589 (top-end average Choice). In fact, 77 percent of the 253 steers evaluated graded a remarkable upper-two-thirds Choice and higher. These impressive marbling achievements are attributed to the

strict selection emphasis of Olsen Ranch and are a true testament to the progress made in the breed! Both groups of cattle offered more-than-acceptable carcass weight and ribeye area but were pushed a little past their optimum end points based on their backfat measurements.

Table 4 shows the improvements in accuracy as a result of collecting actual carcass data. Prior to the test, there were 11 sires that did not have carcass progeny data, but after participating in the NRSP, these sires saw a valuable increase in carcass accuracy values. This increase confirms the value of enrolling young sires in the NRSP, as the program proves the genetic merit of these up-and-coming sires as well as identifies bulls that truly check the boxes at the given data points.

Table 5 displays the expected progeny differences (EPDs) for the sires used in the Olsen test and are reflective of the genetic evaluation released Jan. 28, 2019. All phenotypes measured are included in this genetic evaluation release. Regardless, I encourage you to study the genetic profiles of the sires used to find a bull that will work in your program. In my opinion, there are several bulls that will satisfy multiple economically relevant traits (ERTs).

If interested in participating in the NRSP, please refer to the nomination form or visit Hereford.org/NRSP. Nominations are due March 1. **HW**

Table 1: 2017 Olsen feed efficiency

Sire name	Reg. no.	No. progeny	Avg. DMI	Rank	ADG	Rank	F:G	Rank	Adj. F:G	Rank
Bulls used on heifers										
BRP REVOLUTION X51 553	43660599	15	28.4	4	4.46	4	6.43	5	6.19	4
CSU RAM DOMINATOR 4203	42531422	7	26.5	2	4.33	5	6.23	3	6.20	5
EFBEEF X651 TESTED A250	43440096	10	27.5	3	4.63	1	5.98	2	5.89	2
PERKS C&L 4B HOME SOLUTION ET	43609053	5	28.9	5	4.56	2	6.37	4	6.09	3
SHF IMPACT 001A C63	43587229	13	25.2	1	4.53	3	5.63	1	5.75	1
Bulls used on cows										
/S JBB/AL Boom Town 44608	43567160	18	26.6	10	5.55	1	4.81	2	4.76	3
BEHM 100W CUDA 504C	43636764	20	26.9	11	5.41	2	4.98	8	4.89	6
H H FAST FORWARD 2268Z ET	43327600	10	26.2	9	5.33	4	4.92	6	4.72	1
HH ADVANCE 5044C ET	43578992	19	26.9	13	5.09	9	5.29	13	5.36	13
INNISFAIL WHR X651/723 4013 ET	43541960	15	26.9	12	5.29	6	5.12	10	5.06	9
JDH 13Y 33Z CHAMP 45B ET	43469543	18	25.2	3	5.05	11	5.03	9	5.15	10
K&B SENTINEL 0042X	43110745	13	25.8	6	4.98	13	5.24	12	5.28	12
MOHICAN THM EXCEDE Z426	43292949	18	25.6	5	5.25	7	4.89	5	4.87	5
OR 3575 HUSKER N162 ET	43268578	10	25.2	2	5.33	5	4.74	1	4.76	2
RMB 918 WHITLOCK 592A	43559619	16	25.2	1	5.08	10	4.95	7	4.96	7
SHF CHARGER A191 C202	43587128	9	25.9	8	5.05	12	5.13	11	5.20	11
SHF CONSULTANT Z210 C36 ET	43603225	16	25.2	4	5.24	8	4.83	4	5.00	8
WVU FORESIGHT 1017 506C	43560774	25	25.8	7	5.35	3	4.83	3	4.80	4

Table 2: Performance and carcass results for 2017-born steer calves at Olsen Ranch

Sire name	No. progeny	BW ratio	WW ratio	YW ratio	No. harvested	% Choice	% Upper 1/3 Choice	% Prime	Marb score	Marb ratio	HCW	HCW ratio	REA	REA ratio	Fat	Fat ratio	CYG	CYG ratio
Bulls used on heifers																		
BRP REVOLUTION X51 553	28	106	100	103	15	100	100	33	680	107%	982	104%	14.84	104%	0.83	100%	3.94	98%
CSU RAM DOMINATOR 4203	12	103	102	100	7	100	100	0	615	97%	940	99%	13.50	95%	0.91	110%	4.43	111%
EFBEEF X651 TESTED A250	27	97	103	102	10	100	70	50	634	100%	940	99%	14.02	99%	0.83	100%	4.06	101%
PERKS C&L 4B HOME SOLUTION ET	15	102	102	102	6	100	40	0	487	77%	986	104%	14.15	99%	0.94	114%	4.47	112%
SHF IMPACT 001A C63	32	99	96	94	14	100	79	43	651	103%	902	95%	14.10	99%	0.75	90%	3.68	92%
Bulls used on cows																		
/S JBB/AL Boom Town 44608	36	97	101	98	15	100	84	16	623	106%	853	102%	12.82	100%	0.77	106%	4.02	103%
BEHM 100W CUDA 504C	39	96	101	100	19	100	95	15	607	103%	856	102%	13.02	102%	0.65	89%	3.69	95%
H H FAST FORWARD 2268Z ET	36	95	105	103	10	100	50	10	525	89%	865	103%	13.44	105%	0.77	106%	3.88	100%
HH ADVANCE 5044C ET	42	101	99	100	19	95	76	5	570	97%	822	98%	12.38	97%	0.79	109%	4.12	106%
INNISFAIL WHR X651/723 4013 ET	40	103	103	102	16	100	95	24	654	111%	845	101%	12.56	98%	0.79	109%	4.18	108%
JDH 13Y 33Z CHAMP 45B ET	39	103	96	99	16	88	53	6	530	90%	827	99%	12.66	99%	0.74	101%	3.90	100%
K&B SENTINEL 0042X	29	97	96	97	13	92	77	15	578	100%	833	99%	13.29	104%	0.68	93%	3.58	92%
MOHICAN THM EXCEDE Z426	39	100	98	99	17	94	61	17	556	94%	839	100%	12.62	99%	0.71	98%	3.91	100%
OR 3575 HUSKER N162 ET	22	98	99	99	10	100	100	40	708	120%	828	99%	13.17	103%	0.77	106%	3.83	98%
RMB 918 WHITLOCK 592A	36	104	101	101	16	98	68	5	532	90%	838	100%	12.85	101%	0.70	96%	3.80	98%
SHF CHARGER A191 C202	32	102	103	101	10	100	92	31	659	112%	817	98%	13.59	106%	0.71	97%	3.49	90%
SHF CONSULTANT Z210 C36 ET	34	100	96	98	15	100	87	27	619	105%	838	100%	12.78	100%	0.77	106%	3.98	102%
WVU FORESIGHT 1017 506C	45	102	101	100	25	100	72	3	560	95%	830	99%	11.99	94%	0.66	91%	3.94	101%

Table 3: Grand averages of progeny

	Bulls used on heifers	Bulls used on cows
DMI	27.3	26.0
ADG	4.53	5.24
F:G	6.03	4.97
MARB score	634	589
% Choice	100	97
% Upper 1/3 Choice	78	76
% Prime	25	18
HCW	945	838
FAT	0.83	0.73
REA	14.22	12.76
CYG	4.00	3.89

Table 4: Average carcass trait accuracy of 11 sires

	Avg. No. harvested	CWT ACC	FAT ACC	REA ACC	MARB ACC
Prior to Olsen test	0	0.25	0.30	0.25	0.26
After Olsen test	16	0.47	0.45	0.45	0.46
Avg. accuracy increase	N/A	0.22	0.15	0.20	0.20

Table 5: EPDs for 2017 NRSP bulls tested at Olsen Ranch

Reg. no.	CE EPD	CE ACC	BW EPD	BW ACC	WW EPD	WW ACC	YW EPD	YW ACC	DMI EPD	DMI ACC	SC EPD	SC ACC	SCF EPD	SCF ACC	MM EPD	MM ACC	MG EPD	MCE EPD	MCE ACC	MCW EPD	MCW ACC	UDDR EPD	UDDR ACC	TEAT EPD	TEAT ACC	CWT EPD	CWT ACC	FAT EPD	FAT ACC	REA EPD	REA ACC	MARB EPD	MARB ACC	BMI	BII	CHB
Bulls used on heifers																																				
43660599	2.7	0.44	3.0	0.62	59	0.52	100	0.55	0.5	0.40	1.4	0.33	18.5	0.16	19	0.22	49	1.5	0.21	109	0.32	1.2	0.40	1.1	0.41	95	0.43	0.047	0.41	0.94	0.41	0.59	0.43	441	547	141
42531422	9.1	0.61	0.2	0.90	31	0.85	51	0.86	-0.2	0.77	1.0	0.57	8.9	0.40	25	0.73	41	0.0	0.52	22	0.74	1.1	0.81	1.2	0.82	26	0.79	-0.053	0.76	0.06	0.77	0.22	0.78	199	248	61
43440096	12.2	0.54	-0.6	0.86	65	0.78	97	0.77	0.5	0.60	1.3	0.53	17.3	0.22	23	0.31	56	10.1	0.30	67	0.40	1.6	0.56	1.5	0.56	76	0.64	0.087	0.61	0.32	0.62	0.58	0.63	384	499	106
43609053	-0.4	0.41	2.7	0.63	57	0.53	86	0.53	0.4	0.22	1.4	0.34	12.9	0.18	33	0.23	62	-5.8	0.23	98	0.34	1.2	0.41	1.3	0.42	78	0.31	0.097	0.32	0.39	0.29	-0.08	0.31	288	349	98
43587229	9.6	0.48	0.2	0.79	48	0.69	71	0.68	-0.4	0.36	1.1	0.52	18.1	0.15	26	0.24	50	6.6	0.23	79	0.37	1.3	0.45	1.4	0.45	38	0.46	-0.033	0.45	0.52	0.43	0.29	0.44	377	452	85
Bulls used on cows																																				
43567160	9.5	0.52	0.2	0.82	57	0.74	85	0.73	0.3	0.46	1.6	0.61	12.2	0.21	26	0.27	55	1.0	0.28	91	0.40	1.2	0.49	1.2	0.50	74	0.51	0.077	0.50	0.42	0.49	0.47	0.50	310	405	106
43636764	14.1	0.43	-1.4	0.79	66	0.68	112	0.68	0.4	0.44	1.6	0.52	18.0	0.21	33	0.25	66	12.1	0.24	98	0.35	1.1	0.44	0.9	0.44	85	0.49	-0.013	0.46	0.65	0.46	0.33	0.48	414	510	138
43327600	12.5	0.45	-1.2	0.78	55	0.69	92	0.69	0.0	0.44	0.9	0.39	19.2	0.23	19	0.33	46	7.2	0.29	83	0.37	1.2	0.51	1.1	0.52	73	0.49	0.097	0.47	0.46	0.47	-0.03	0.48	389	455	112
43578992	5.0	0.49	2.5	0.81	68	0.72	106	0.72	0.5	0.45	1.0	0.51	11.9	0.18	24	0.26	58	4.6	0.25	107	0.33	1.5	0.47	1.6	0.48	80	0.50	0.067	0.50	0.46	0.49	0.14	0.49	295	379	112
43541960	0.6	0.38	3.4	0.81	79	0.70	126	0.70	0.4	0.48	1.4	0.49	16.3	0.18	21	0.24	61	1.8	0.23	99	0.39	1.6	0.50	1.6	0.51	86	0.51	0.097	0.48	0.51	0.50	0.72	0.49	403	539	129
43469543	2.8	0.37	3.5	0.73	53	0.63	101	0.63	0.0	0.46	1.2	0.30	20.5	0.15	32	0.21	59	4.7	0.19	92	0.31	1.3	0.40	1.4	0.43	70	0.50	0.047	0.48	0.37	0.48	-0.13	0.48	407	464	116
43110745	6.6	0.52	2.1	0.86	54	0.80	90	0.80	-0.1	0.64	1.4	0.62	18.3	0.35	26	0.59	53	6.4	0.46	77	0.64	1.6	0.73	1.5	0.74	65	0.66	0.017	0.63	0.48	0.64	0.24	0.65	395	475	115
43292949	5.1	0.58	-0.4	0.87	57	0.78	96	0.74	0.1	0.44	1.3	0.43	19.6	0.25	31	0.38	59	-1.7	0.33	101	0.36	1.3	0.60	1.3	0.61	76	0.48	0.037	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.13	0.48	415	493	121
43268578	11.1	0.37	0.6	0.79	54	0.70	95	0.71	0.3	0.62	1.4	0.32	13.8	0.15	27	0.26	54	7.4	0.20	107	0.38	1.1	0.49	1.1	0.50	90	0.63	0.137	0.60	0.86	0.62	0.88	0.62	385	504	137
43559619	-0.7	0.34	3.7	0.68	64	0.57	99	0.60	0.0	0.44	0.8	0.34	18.4	0.13	29	0.20	61	-1.7	0.15	84	0.32	1.5	0.45	1.5	0.46	78	0.48	0.027	0.46	0.55	0.46	-0.01	0.47	394	468	121
43587128	-2.0	0.38	3.7	0.74	53	0.64	86	0.66	0.2	0.39	2.0	0.50	15.2	0.14	23	0.21	50	3.0	0.2	74	0.35	1.5	0.42	1.4	0.42	69	0.50	0.017	0.48	0.99	0.49	0.54	0.49	372	465	115
43603225	4.3	0.43	1.3	0.77	52	0.66	88	0.67	0.0	0.42	1.2	0.48	14.3	0.12	25	0.19	50	5.2	0.17	61	0.33	1.4	0.40	1.2	0.40	62	0.52	0.077	0.50	0.44	0.51	0.36	0.51	328	413	101
43560774	3.9	0.32	2.8	0.69	60	0.58	92	0.60	0.1	0.53	1.2	0.35	18.5	0.11	30	0.19	61	1.3	0.13	70	0.31	1.3	0.38	1.3	0.38	63	0.54	-0.033	0.51	-0.03	0.52	-0.05	0.53	365	434	101

American Hereford Association National Reference Sire Program

Responsibilities of Test Herd:

- Select from nominated bulls
- Contact bull owner for semen shipping instructions
- Breed 60 cows at a random mating across genotypes
- 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, 2019**
- **Furnish 70 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 expected progeny differences (EPDs)
- Obtaining performance data compared to other sires tested in herd contemporaries
- Opportunity to market semen as an NRSP reference sire, after nominated and selected
- Opportunity to test sires next to the top Hereford genetics in the breed

2019 National Reference Sire Feedlot and Carcass Testing Program 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, 2019** to:
American Hereford Association
Shane Bedwell
11500 N. Ambassador Dr., Ste. 410
Kansas City, MO 64153

For more information, visit Hereford.org/nrsp
or contact Shane Bedwell at 816-842-3757
or sbedwell@hereford.org.