

by *Shane Bedwell*

Validating Our Strengths

Simplot continues to increase its use of Hereford genetics while adding value to the breed.



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When I wrote last month's column, we had a stretch of "normal" fall weather, and I certainly bragged about the nice weather. Little did I know fall would be short lived and the weather would turn so cold, so soon. My conclusion is the crazy weather is about par for the course with how crazy 2019 has been — and maybe I should stick to talking about Hereford business. The good news is 2019 is on the short rows, and I have a great cup of cheer to share with you going into 2020.

The National Reference Sire Program (NRSP) continues to be a strong catalyst for proving the value of Hereford genetics and for strengthening the American Hereford Association's genetic evaluation. Below are the results of the 2018-born calves at Simplot Livestock Co. in Grand View, Idaho. The 2018 calf crop marks 10 years Simplot has been involved with the NRSP, and the increased use of

Hereford genetics in the entire Simplot cow herd is a strong testament to the breed and breeders.

The data set below show many of the core strengths of the breed when used in a commercial setting. Through artificial insemination, the four sires listed in Table 1 were used on predominantly black commercial heifers. Phenotypes on those progeny were collected from birth to harvest, including feed intake data. Table 2 displays the expected progeny differences (EPDs) for the sires used and reflects the 2018 calf crop phenotypes.

As a group the steers graded 97% Choice, 74% upper 2/3 Choice and 7% Prime with a 920-pound carcass weight average. This group of cattle was fed a little longer, but they still converted at a 5.7:1 feed:gain (F:G) ratio, which further validates the efficiency of the breed.

Merry Christmas! **HW**

Table 1: 2018-born calves at Simplot Livestock Co.

Reg. No.	Sire Name	Count	BW ratio	WW ratio	YW ratio	DMI count	DMI ratio	ADG	F:G	Carcass count	HCW	HCW ratio	Marb	Marb ratio	REA	REA ratio	BF	BF ratio	YG	YG ratio	
43667631	/S Tested 55576	26	105	103	101	21	20.9	104	3.6	5.9	19	929	101	MD 30	104	13.9	101	0.80	104	4.1	101
43715321	Churchill TSC First Rate 6206D	24	103	101	99	15	19.7	97	3.5	5.6	13	912	99	MT 70	96	13.9	101	0.67	87	3.7	90
42426386	UPS Domino 3027	33	98	97	99	19	19.6	97	3.6	5.5	19	929	101	MT 98	100	13.8	100	0.76	100	4.0	100
43595083	KCF Bennett Devout B716 ET	23	95	100	100	15	20.2	101	3.5	5.8	14	907	98	MT 95	99	13.4	97	0.81	106	4.2	103

Table 2: EPDs of Hereford bulls used at Simplot (as of 11/18/19)

Reg. No.	Sire Name	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
43667631	/S Tested 55576	9.3	0.50	1.0	0.77	53	0.66	84	0.67	0.5	0.38	1.3	0.53	19.0	0.18	30	0.20	57
43715321	Churchill TSC First Rate 6206D	10.8	0.56	1.5	0.79	58	0.70	97	0.69	0.3	0.33	1.2	0.58	10.4	0.14	37	0.23	66
42426386	UPS Domino 3027	11.8	0.80	-0.8	0.94	46	0.91	76	0.91	0.1	0.71	1.1	0.84	26.6	0.75	38	0.87	61
43595083	KCF Bennett Devout B716 ET	11.8	0.53	-0.4	0.76	60	0.65	90	0.64	0.2	0.35	1.7	0.50	21.5	0.24	37	0.30	67

Reg. No.	Sire Name	MCE EPD	MCE ACC	MCW EPD	MCW ACC	UDDER EPD	UDDER ACC	TEAT EPD	TEAT ACC	CWT EPD	CWT ACC	FAT EPD	FAT ACC	REA EPD	REA ACC	MARB EPD	MARB ACC	BMI	BII	CHB	GE-EPDs
43667631	/S Tested 55576	5.7	0.22	79	0.38	1.4	0.41	1.3	0.41	77	0.46	0.099	0.45	0.64	0.46	0.56	0.46	413	515	106	Yes
43715321	Churchill TSC First Rate 6206D	9.4	0.25	63	0.38	1.4	0.44	1.4	0.45	73	0.45	-0.001	0.46	0.61	0.44	0.39	0.45	291	378	121	Yes
42426386	UPS Domino 3027	6.7	0.80	56	0.85	1.4	0.90	1.5	0.91	69	0.70	0.039	0.69	0.44	0.69	0.43	0.69	519	610	110	Yes
43595083	KCF Bennett Devout B716 ET	5.2	0.32	40	0.40	1.5	0.51	1.7	0.51	63	0.45	0.049	0.46	0.37	0.45	0.41	0.45	432	532	98	Yes