Stahly Releases NRSP Results

Stahly Ranch sees another successful year of sire testing.

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Below are the National Reference Sire Program (NRSP) results from 2019-born calves at Stahly Ranch in Cavour, S.D. Mike and Judy Stahly, along with their family, have been a part of the NRSP since 1999. Each year, Mike selects three sires to use in his program; one of these sires is also used in the Olsen Ranch NRSP herd to link data and to accurately compare young and proven sires.

Through the American Hereford Association's (AHA) partnerships with various test herds like Stahly's, breeders can make better-informed decisions relative to traits of interest. Ultimately, the goal is to identify young sires that can positively affect the marketplace and give seedstock and commercial breeders alike proof that Hereford genetics are profitable. Likewise, proven sires are evaluated in this test to further validate their values and to give the young sires comparison with the Hereford population.

Findings

Table 2 shows the ratios and phenotypes from birth to harvest for the 2019 Stahly-born calves. These data will be added into the system and will be reflective in the Pan-America Cattle Evaluation (PACE) that was released Sept. 14, 2020. Table 1 shows the expected progeny differences (EPDs) for the respective sires with these data included.

In most cases the phenotypic data aligned very well with the EPDs of sires, but not perfectly; however, they are not out of line. It is important to remember that EPDs are the best indicators of potential performance, but it is only when progeny data are added that we begin to realize the genetic potential, particularly of young sires.

In summary, the 43 cattle evaluated on test excelled quite well in the feedlot phase by gaining on average 3.9 pounds per day. This winter was a stark difference from last year's, and the

cattle fed accordingly. Much like many of the cattle on feed during this period, this pen of steers got caught up in the backlog of processing and, as you can see, were pushed past their optimum harvest endpoint. With this though, they did grade exceptionally well with the group average being right over the high-Choice line. As a group, this set of steers went 88% upper two-thirds Choice and 24% Prime. Although the exceptional feeding conditions and health of the cattle during the feeding period contributed to these quality grades, Mike's emphasis on marbling in his sire selection is the biggest contributing factor.

Figure 1 shows a five-year trend of the phenotypic marbling score average by calf-crop year. As you will note, encouraging progress has been made. During this five-year period the average marbling EPD of the sires used is 0.20. This average further highlights the idea of consistent selection as the heifer mates to the 2015-born steers are now producing progeny which are a part of the NRSP.

Genetics that work

Stacking genetics with predictability and consistency pays off. The Stahlys have participated in the NRSP for over 20 years and have used Hereford genetics as part of a rotational cross on a primarily black cow base. Over the years, retaining baldy females and then breeding them to Hereford bulls produces progeny more Hereford-like in appearance. There is certainly nothing wrong with this breeding system and, as you can tell by the trend and data tables, these cattle perform and grade quite well.

However, there is still a perception that Hereford cattle or Hereford-marked cattle do not grade. The referenced data certainly does not support this perception; on the contrary it validates the strength of the Hereford breed and the undeniable progress that has been made. Think about it — we are talking about genetics that can work in the feedlot, on the rail and, most importantly, in the pasture as cows. There's a lot of opportunity in this business today, and I'm more excited than ever about what Hereford genetics provide to the industry. Don't you think it's time to Come Home To Hereford? **H**W

Figure 1: Phenotypic marbling score trend for Stahly Ranch 2015-2019
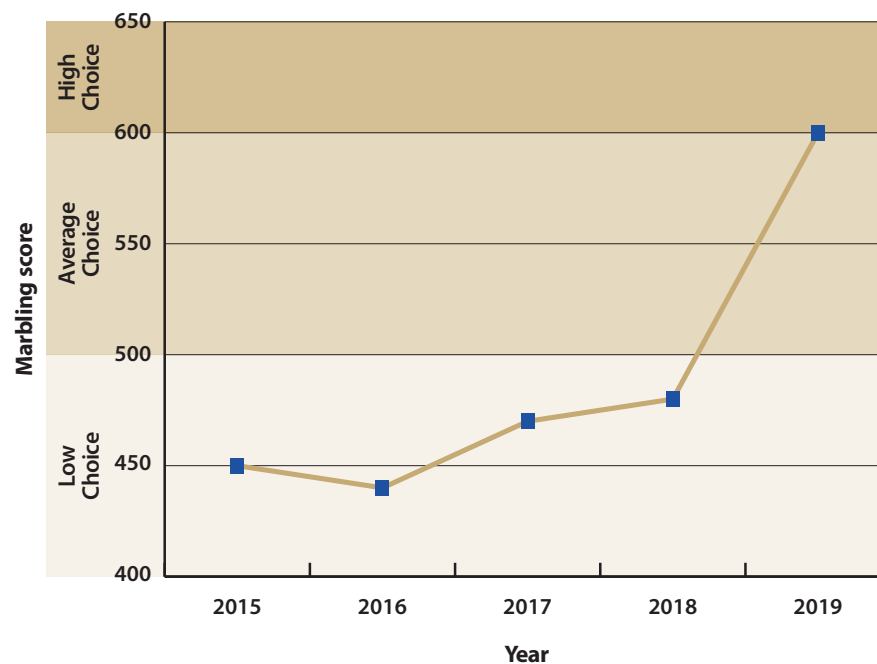

Table 1: EPDs for 2019 NRSP bulls tested at Stahly Ranch (as of 9/14/20)

Sire name	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
Whitehawk Natural 290E	43763389	3.7	0.46	4.3	0.76	81	0.63	136	0.58	1.3	0.18	1.8	0.44	21.4	0.29	36	0.26	76
KCF Bennett Homeland C34	43601153	-3.7	0.58	4.7	0.84	64	0.75	108	0.73	0.7	0.20	1.2	0.54	26.1	0.34	25	0.35	58
NJW 160B 028X Historic 81E ET	43829334	6.6	0.56	-0.9	0.82	52	0.67	78	0.65	0.2	0.19	0.9	0.49	27.8	0.37	40	0.31	66

Sire name	Reg. no.	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
Whitehawk Natural 290E	43763389	7.4	0.30	131	0.34	1.3	0.41	1.3	0.42	111	0.38	-0.007	0.40	0.50	0.37	0.35	0.37	470	586	150	☑
KCF Bennett Homeland C34	43601153	-1.7	0.40	101	0.44	1.5	0.54	1.5	0.54	66	0.41	0.013	0.45	0.40	0.38	0.02	0.40	476	557	93	☑
NJW 160B 028X Historic 81E ET	43829334	3.4	0.37	61	0.39	1.4	0.50	1.5	0.50	69	0.40	0.043	0.42	0.88	0.37	0.20	0.39	531	611	106	☑

Table 2: Performance and carcass results for 2019-born steer calves at Stahly Ranch

Sire name	Reg. no.	No. head	BW ratio	WW ratio	YW ratio	ADG	No. harvested	HCW avg.	HCW ratio	REA avg.	REA ratio	BF avg.	BF ratio	MARB avg.	MARB ratio	% Choice	% Upper 2/3 Choice	% Prime
Whitehawk Natural 290E	43763389	32	104	103	104	4.2	18	932	104	11.9	99	0.82	98	MD 18	102	100	94	39
KCF Bennett Homeland C34	43601153	41	100	99	99	3.7	14	866	97	12.0	99	0.83	99	MT 75	95	93	79	14
NJW 160B 028X Historic 81E ET	43829334	29	95	97	96	3.9	11	877	98	12.5	103	0.89	106	MD 24	103	100	91	18

Table 3: Group averages

HCW	896
REA	0.84
BF	12.1
MARB	MD 06
% Choice	98
% Upper 2/3 Choice	88
ADG	3.9