

Abstract by Robert Williams - U.S. genetic trends, production numbers and discussion on how breed association may need to adapt.

Both, the U.S. beef cow inventory and U.S. breed registries reached their peaks in the 1970s with breed associations recording record numbers of animals. Declining U.S. beef cow inventories have created a shrinking demand for seedstock bulls since. Decreasing inventories of commercial beef cows is the direct cause for a loss of approximately 430,000 registrations for U.S. beef breed associations over the same period of time. This loss of registration numbers continues to strain association budgets for research and development as well as other services. Beef breed associations have benefited greatly from the research and development from USDA Animal Research Stations and Land Grant Universities among others. Development of new technology often takes a building-block approach where new discoveries are based on earlier discoveries and increased knowledge. New technology will offer more computing options and new genetic tools for traits which historically have been difficult to characterize in our populations. To meet this demand we must identify synergies and further evaluate the sharing of resources between associations.