U.S. Genetic Trends, Production Numbers and Discussion on How Breed Associations May Need to Adapt

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Economic Impact of U.S. Beef Industry

- Cattle Sales
- Business Activity

EPA
Total Cow Inventory & Commercial Beef Production

Source: USDA
Projected 2008
Genetics

Health

Nutrition

Management
1999 CHAROLAIS SIRE SUMMARY

EPIs derived from data including performance information from the American-International Charolais Association and the Canadian Charolais Association.
Genetic Trends for Birth Weight, lb

Adapted from Spring 2012 Genetic Trends from Breed Associations and 2012 AB-EPD factors – Larry Kuehn, MARC
Genetic Trends for Weaning Weight, lb

Adapted from Spring 2012 Genetic Trends from Breed Associations and 2012 AB-EPD factors – Larry Kuehn, MARC
Genetic Trends for Yearling Weight, lb

Adapted from Spring 2012 Genetic Trends from Breed Associations and 2012 AB-EPD factors – Larry Kuehn, MARC
Genetic Trends for Maternal Milk, lb

Adapted from Spring 2012 Genetic Trends from Breed Associations and 2012 AB-EPD factors – Larry Kuehn, MARC
Challenges Facing Beef Breed Associations
Association Membership Profile

- Most US Beef Breeds have opted for a inventory based program
  - Charolais
  - Less than 5% of our membership accounts for 50% plus of the total registrations
  - 53% of our membership opts for a registration only program (non-performance) – and accounts for 8% of the registrations
Decreasing Beef Cow Inventory and it’s Impact on U.S. Beef Breed Budgets

- The industry needs approximately 400,000 fewer bulls today than it did in 1975.
- The decreasing size of commercial beef cow numbers is the direct cause for a loss of approximately 430,000 registrations for U.S. Beef Breed Associations from 1975.
- This accounts for a direct loss of income to breed associations of approximately $11,000,000 annually.
Genetic Evaluation Services

- Beef Breed Associations in cooperative efforts with a few Land Grant Universities have been the driving force behind genetic evaluations.

- More responsibility in recent years has been shifted to the industry to support the development of genetic evaluation tools and take on the responsibility of identifying new genetic evaluation service providers.
Data complexity
The question whether to use genomic Information will be replaced by how to use it efficiently.  I. Misztal, 2010
Summary

- Continue to measure, report and expand the capture of phenotypes for existing and new traits that will keep our industry competitive
Summary

- Support research and education initiatives into technology that address sustainability, efficiency, production and healthfulness of beef to better characterize the genetics of our beef populations
Summary

- Identify and adopt synergies between associations and between researchers to reduce duplication
- Domestically and Internationally