

Select EPDs For Optimum Birth, Weaning, Yearling Weights

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) can be used to help select a number of important traits in cattle, but can be especially beneficial to select optimum birth, weaning, and yearling weights for your herd.

Information used to calculate an animal's EPDs includes performance data from individual and relatives such as parents, siblings, other close relatives and most importantly, progeny. Performance information of the animal's contemporaries is also used to help calculate EPDs.

Dr. John Hough, education and research director for the American Polled Hereford Association, said that while birth and weaning weights are important for cattlemen, EPD selection should be based on many traits. Some breeds furnish accuracy ratings of EPDs to help in your selection for optimum, economical traits.

"Before you begin using any EPDs, remember you cannot compare open breed's EPDs with those of another," Hough said. "EPDs can only be compared within a single breed."

Birth weight is important because of its relationship to calving ease. It is measured by the differences in birth weights of calves

born within a contemporary group.

"For example, a sire with a birth weight EPD of +3.0 pounds will generally produce heavier calves at birth, as compared to a bull with an EPD of -2.0 pounds," Hough said.

Extra weight at weaning can be achieved by selecting sires with higher weaning weight EPDs. If

you compare a sire with a weaning weight EPD of +12.0 pounds to a sire with an EPD of -10.0 pounds, you should expect calves on the average to be 22.0 pounds heavier at weaning from the first bull when out of comparable cows. This same calculation can also be used for yearling weight or any other EPDs. There will be however, variations between individuals within a calf crop.

"Before selecting a trait covered by EPDs, keep your long-term goals in mind and consider the environmental and management conditions on your place," Hough said.

"Selecting for the whole animal to fit your needs is more important than selecting for one trait, or even depending solely upon EPDs. Visual appraisal of all traits such as soundness of feet, legs, or mus-

cling should be considered along with other factors such as breeding soundness exams on bulls when available," Hough said.

Hough says cattle operations can profit by understanding EPDs. EPDs are an additional management tool that can assist with visual selection and the animal's own performance data to help measure the genetic potential of breeding stock.

Beef Council Reports On Mid-Year Meeting

PHILADELPHIA — Harry Stambaugh of Green Park represented the Pennsylvania Beef Council at the U.S. Meat Export Federation's (USMEF) board of directors meeting and foreign buyers conference in Philadelphia recently. The event attracted nearly 400 board members, foreign buyers, guests, and news media representatives.

"USMEF forecasts that U.S. beef, veal, pork, lamb and variety meat exports will reach \$5.8-7.1 billion (\$4.1-5.36 billion for beef and \$1.7 billion for pork) by the year 2000. This poses tremendous opportunity for growth," said Stambaugh.

In 1991, exports contributed an additional \$1.78 per hundred (85.23 per head) to the price of fed

cattle and an additional \$1.78 per hundred weight to the price of market hogs. These calculations are based on current levels of production and consumption in the U.S.

According to Stambaugh, the purpose of the USMEF mid-year board of directors meeting was to review current events in international trade and make foreign market development policy decisions.

The results of a study projecting the impact of U.S. beef and pork exports on the U.S. industry through the year 2000, given varying growth scenarios, were released. The study showed that if U.S. beef exports triple between 1991 and the year 2000, the amount of beef exported will be

equal to 13.3 percent of total domestic production by value, excluding variety meat exports.

Meat buyers from Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, other Asia Pacific countries, the Caribbean, the European Community and Russia, participated in the Foreign Buyers Conference. The conference featured USMEF's third annual product showcase, an event which brings foreign buyers and U.S. suppliers together to sample U.S. meat products and discuss foreign market needs.

Total U.S. beef, veal, pork, lamb, and variety meat exports

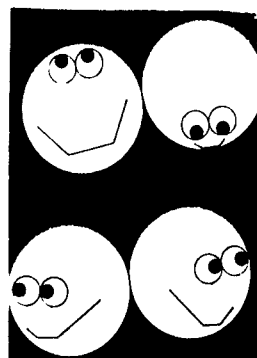
have increased 208 percent since 1985, totaling a record \$2.6 billion in 1991. This represents an increase of 18 percent as compared with 1990. (U.S. beef, veal and variety meat exports in 1991 hit an all time high of \$2.1 billion, up to 200 percent since 1985. U.S. pork and variety meat exports have increased 252 percent since 1985, reaching a record \$405 million in 1991.)

With each \$1 billion in U.S. value-added exports providing an estimated 22,000 jobs, some 57,200 Americans earn their livelihoods supplying foreign markets with U.S. meat products.

Intensive Pasture

CHAMBERSBURG (Franklin Co.) — Interest in intensive pasture grazing systems by dairymen has increased over the past several years. Franklin County Cooperative Extension is sponsoring an educational meeting at 7:30 p.m. on July 30 to look at this topic in more detail. Penn State program participants include Extension agronomist Dr. Marvin Hall and Dr. Larry Muller, Dairy Cattle nutritionist. If you have an interest in intensive grazing or just utilizing more efficiently the pastures you have, this educational meeting is for you.

The meeting will be held in the conference room of the Franklin County Human Service Building which is located just north of the Extension Office along Franklin Farms Lane between the county Courthouse and prison. For more details call 724-9226.



DON'T LOOK ANY FURTHER!

YOU'LL FIND IT IN LANCASTER FARMING'S CLASSIFIEDS

2 WEEK SALE-

July 4th Thru July 18th

20% OFF!

30" Extra-Quiet CIRCULATING FANS

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

YOU WON'T BEAT OUR PRICES & SERVICE

LAPP'S BARN EQUIPMENT

5935 OLD PHILADELPHIA PIKE, GAP, PA 17527

PHONE: 717-442-8134

WE SERVICE WHAT WE SELL

— Radio Dispatched Trucks —



Improve your tobacco yield with Royal MH-30®



Royal MH-30 is the industry standard for providing dependable, economical control of tobacco suckers. Just one application of Royal MH-30 at mid-to-full bloom can control suckers through to harvest, with no carryover concerns.

So use Royal MH-30 on your tobacco crop for dependable sucker control you can rely on.



P. L. ROHRER & BRO., INC.

Smoketown, PA

PH. 717-299-2571

MILK AMERICA'S HEALTH KICK

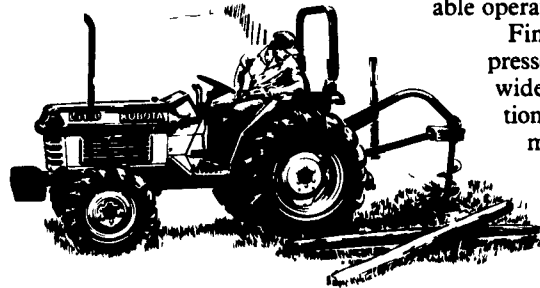
WE'LL GROW ON YOU



Kubota's new L-Series tractors have so many advanced functions for farming and agricultural needs, you may not appreciate all of them at once. But they'll grow on you.

To start, you'll notice the "Ever Clutch", an innovative Kubota first—a wet-type clutch designed to work long and hard without mechanical failure or even much maintenance, and, it's guaranteed for 3 years/1500 hour clutch warranty.

Then, you'll discover other strong features in the L-Series—power ranging from 23-49 PTO HP, direct-injection, liquid-cooled diesel engines, shuttle transmission, power steering and comfortable operator area.



Finally, you'll be impressed with the L-Series wide range of functional farm performance matched implements.

Try a new L-Series from Kubota and get growing fast.

Kubota

YOUR FULL LINE KUBOTA PRODUCT HEADQUARTERS
• INVENTORY • PRICE • KNOWLEDGEABLE SALES STAFF
• SERVICE EXPERIENCE

OVER 100 NEW KUBOTA TRACTORS IN STOCK!

KELLER BROS. KUBOTA

FINANCING OR CASH DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

WE SHIP PARTS UPS DAILY

TRACTORS & EQUIPMENT
Serving Central PA Since 1921

CALL FOR DETAILS ON LEASING

LEBANON

Rt. #7 Box 406, Lebanon, PA 17042
Rt. 419 1 mile West of Schaefferstown

717-949-2000

STORE HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:30-5:00
SATURDAY 7:30-12:00

2 Locations

LANCASTER

1950 Fruitville Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601
At Route 30 & Fruitville Pike

717-569-2500

PENNSYLVANIA'S LARGEST KUBOTA DEALER