

eBEEF Newsletter

No. 6: July 2018

What's happening with eBEEF?

Since the last newsletter (July 2017), the eBEEF team has developed and posted another fact sheet and conducted a webinar series in partnership with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. The eBEEF team was heavily involved with the recent Beef Improvement Federation meeting in Loveland, CO and a summary of some of those activities is included below. We continue to add to our viewership and email subscriptions continue to go up; please inform your friends, neighbors and clients about the site and encourage them to explore the many available resources. As a reminder, all of the information on the website is meant for the public and we encourage its duplication and usage. We are continually trying to expand our library of videos that deal with frequently asked questions (FAQs), conference videos and tools; your ideas and suggestions are certainly welcome!

In this newsletter you will find:

- Fact sheets update
- Videos update
- NCBA Webinar Series
- Beef Improvement Federation Review



We have added another fact sheet to our library, bringing the total number of available fact sheets to 29. The latest fact sheet was written by Dr. Matt Spangler of the University of Nebraska and is titled: Recent Changes to National Cattle Evaluation. This fact sheet explains the changes that several breed associations have gone through in how they incorporate genomics information into their genetic evaluations. In addition, Dr. Spangler addresses some other key changes that have been made in both genetic evaluations and in other selection tools, such as improved accuracies and selection indices. View the fact sheet at: <http://169.237.28.91/eBeef/factsheets.html>.



We currently have 153 videos of various formats in our YouTube library. These include answers to FAQs, introductions to factsheets, extension educational presentations and scientific presentations. These videos can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw8zZL_EaBRC6Pa-4V0OYrA/videos.



National Cattlemen's
Beef Association

eBEEF Team Presented NCBA Webinar Series

The eBEEF team was pleased to partner with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) to present a series of interactive webinars which ran from January to April. Four sessions were presented, with participants challenged to test their new-found knowledge in the final webinar which presented real-world bull buying scenarios. If you missed any of the webinars, or want to revisit any of the information, all sessions are recorded and available both through eBEEF.org and NCBA.

January 18, 2018 "Fake News: EPDs Don't Work", Dr. Alison Van Eenennaam and Dr. Matthew Spangler. There is a lot of fake news out there, and the perception that EPDs don't work is one such piece of news. This webinar looks at the objective evidence supporting the fact that EPDs do work, and examines how their accuracy is impacted by pedigree, performance records, progeny data and genomic information. (watch [here](#))

February 22, 2018 "Show me the money! Are there EPDs for profit?", Dr. Darrh Bullock and Dr. Jared Decker. Join this webinar to better understand how Indexes can enable producers to select for multiple performance traits simultaneously based on how that animal will affect profitability in their management and marketing scheme compared to other animals in that breed. (watch [here](#))

March 22, 2018 "The 4 S's of crossbreeding: simple, structured, successful, and sustainable", Dr. Robert Weaber and Dr. Megan Rolf. Structured crossbreeding systems have been shown to have substantial impacts on the production efficiency of commercial cow-calf operations. This webinar discusses keys for successful and profitable crossbreeding systems that enhance profit and sustainability. Managed heterosis, simple breeding systems and breed complementarity are the key value drivers you'll learn about. (watch [here](#))

April 19, 2018 "Putting the tools to use: buying your next bull", the eBEEF team. The fourth and final webinar in the genetics webinar series puts all of the genetic concepts covered in the first three seminars to work as attendees go to a virtual bull sale and select the best bull from a sale catalog for two distinct production scenarios. Participants received a sale catalog via email and decided which bull to purchase for each scenario, and then compared results with all of the other participants on the webinar. (watch [here](#))



Beef Improvement Federation Summary

The 2018 BIF meetings were recently held in Loveland, CO, with over 600 people in attendance. This year's meeting marked the 50th anniversary of BIF. With this milestone came an opportunity to reflect back on accomplishments and give thought to the direction of activities going forward. One opportunity that was raised throughout several talks during the meeting was the need to collect phenotypes that are economically relevant but have largely only been collected in research settings. Examples include animal health, healthfulness of beef products, and sensitivity to environmental stress. Other phenotypes such as routine carcass data and female fertility have some available EPD, but additional phenotypes are critically needed. Discussion of the need to collect these data and the need to engage other sectors of the industry (commercial cow/calf, feedyards, packing plants) in genetic improvement of beef cattle were clearly identified as priorities. Dr. Dorian Garrick outlined a listing of traits that should receive focus going forward in his talk entitled *Focus On Traits Not Considered*. In his Thursday morning wrap-up talk, Dr. John Pollak charged BIF with the task of bringing new ideas relative to novel traits to fruition as the organization outlines goals for the next 50 years.

Several talks highlighted accomplishments of breeds that have now released "single-step" genomic evaluations for the first time. Interestingly, there was much discussion on shifting organizational focus to help make selection decisions simpler. One such talk was from Dr. Jason Archer who discussed a project in collaboration with the American Angus Association to combine economic modelling and survey information to inform selection index development.

As usual, there were many informative talks at the annual BIF meetings. Recorded talks can be accessed at www.bifconference.com. The 2019 BIF meetings will be held June 18-21 in Brookings, SD.

More

Additional information continues to be added to the website so please come back often and see what is new!