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eBEEF newsletter No. 1: June 2015

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What is eBEEF?

eBEEF.org is the beef genetics/genomics community of practice within eXtension (the interactive learning environment delivering research-based information emerging from America's land-grant university system).

Our mission is to foster research and outreach community, engage beef cattle producers and ag professionals through trainings and publications, and support research and outreach projects.

Why was eBEEF developed?

eBEEF was developed in an attempt to consolidate information about beef breeding and genetics into a single site rather than in the disparate collection of sites that currently houses a lot of beef genetics and genomics information, especially that associated with the various USDA AFRI-funded beef projects.

Who is involved in eBEEF?

The team of extension educators that are participating in eBEEF originally came together under the auspices of the educational arm of the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium (NBCEC). The NBCEC was an organization of researchers, educators, producers and industry leaders focused on the genetic evaluation of beef cattle that were funded by a Special Research Grant authorized by Congress and administered through Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service from 7/1/2001-6/20/2012. These geneticists and extension educators decided to continue their productive e-collaboration and to develop eBEEF as a place to continue education and outreach about beef cattle genetics, genomics and genetic evaluation.



The eBEEF team (left to right):

Megan Rolf, Oklahoma State University

Matt Spangler, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Jared Decker, University of Missouri

Alison Van Eenennaam, University of California, Davis

Bob Weaber, Kansas State University

Darrh Bullock, University of Kentucky

What is available at eBEEF?

Fact Sheets

The first set of [fact sheets](#) that are available on eBEEF are listed below. All of the fact sheets have been through a peer-review process, and are available both in a web browsable format, and as a downloadable pdf for printing. We aimed to keep all fact sheets less than or equal to 4 sides of text (2 printed pages).




[Home](#) [About Us](#) [eXtension](#)

List of eBEEF Fact sheets

1. [Beef Sire Selection Recommendations](#)
2. [Value of Collecting Phenotypes](#)
3. [The Random Shuffle of Genes: Putting the E in EPD](#)
4. [Genetic Practices to Improve Beef Cattle Reproduction](#)
5. [Mating Systems in Commercial Beef Cattle Operations](#)
6. [Color Patterns in Crossbred Beef Cattle](#)
7. [Selection Indexes](#)
8. [How to use the sire summary](#)
9. [Genetic Defects](#)
10. [Managing Genetic Defects](#)
11. [Decreasing Generation Interval to Increase Genetic Progress](#)
12. [How DNA Testing Will Affect the Accuracy of EPD Information](#)
13. [Initial Genome-Wide Association Study of Feed Intake Related Traits in Beef Cattle](#)

eBEEF YouTube Channel

The [eBEEF.org YouTube Channel](#) features a variety of videos. View the “What is eBEEF?” video for a brief overview of eBEEF’s purpose and goals. Full length recordings from the Bovine Respiratory Disease Symposium 2014: New Approaches to Bovine Respiratory Disease Prevention, Management and Diagnosis, which was held in Denver, CO, July 30-31, 2014, are available on the eBEEF YouTube Channel and listed under the BRD Symposium 2014 playlist. Additional content includes relevant presentations given by the eBEEF team at various events. New videos are added regularly, so check in regularly for updated material.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The eBEEF team has developed a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and videotaped answers to those questions. The current list of FAQs includes:

- What is genomics?
- When are genomic tools useful?
- What is a SNP?
- How do SNP chips predict genetic merit?
- What is an EPD?

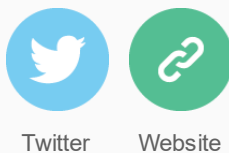
- Why should producers use genomically enhanced EPDs?
- How is a selection index calculated?
- What is breed complementarity?
- Do crossbred calves qualify for breed-specific branded beef programs?

Future plans for eBEEF

The internet definition of "ebeef" is "an electronic beef", meaning "*a disagreement or problem between two or more people over the internet.*" We hope to make eBEEF a go-to resource for people who are looking for clarification or to solve a problem that has to do with the use and application of genetic information in beef breeding.

We hope you will sign up and join the mailing list to receive the quarterly eBEEF newsletter.

Yours sincerely,
The eBEEF team



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