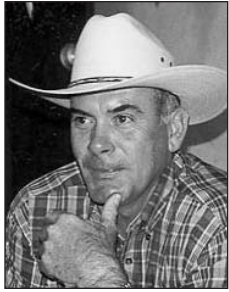


VIEWPOINT

By Trustee Mike Mallett, Lampasas, TX



Progress —
1) to move forward
2) to develop to a higher, better, or more advanced stage
Through —
by means of
Performance —
fulfillment of a claim

Are we as SimGenetic breeders (Full-blood, Purebred, Hybrid, Simbrah) producing cattle that follow these guidelines? I think most are; EPDs and genetic evaluations support this. What about the breeders who are not progressive and are not concerned about or use any type of performance? What do these breeders contribute to the breeds? What is contributed to breeds from producers who focus on progress and performance?

One of the most accurate breeding decision tools we have at our disposal is

EPDs. Is this tool utilized to its potential? If not, why not? Are planned matings developed using EPDs? Could we as SimGenetic breeders do a better job of submitting data to ASA to enhance the accuracy of EPDs, and make greater strides of progress through performance? The ASA and members are sitting in a positive position to benefit the beef industry, and we need to do all we can to be progressive and not be complacent. Also, we should not permit apathy to dictate our decisions or lack of decisions.

At the 2009 National Simmental Show, a Progress Through Performance (PTP) show, concern was expressed by some as to whether EPDs and the PTP format were followed as it should have been. Certainly there are differing opinions as to what the best animal is, but in this type of show should not EPDs be utilized to a greater extent in the showing placing?

The founding ASA "Fathers" had great insight and outlook in founding a cattle breed association which focused on per-

formance. I believe this philosophy was put in place so our breeds would endure. Hopefully, SimGenetic breeders will consider the goals of our Association founders as breeding decisions are developed.

As you look through this issue of *the Register* take note of what the advertisers have to offer in the line of genetics that will assist you in your operation. There are numerous bull sales promoted where breeders have put forth effort in providing genetic tools to assist all cattle producers. The strength of these offerings from the American Simmental Association members will develop the type of cattle that will improve an operation's bottom line.

The American Simmental Association continues to look to the future for ideas and ways to improve selection tools for its members to move forward their breeding programs. If you have any questions about the American Simmental Association and its programs, feel free to contact the ASA office or any Trustee. ♦

By Dan Rieder, Editor, *the Register*



Over the past 50 years, crossbreeding has played an increasingly prominent role in beef production. In fact, despite alarmed cries of "mongrelization," and "lost identity" by

many in the beef business, primarily breed association executives, the practice continues to gain momentum.

Crossbreeding has been particularly beneficial to the American Simmental Association. Simmental genetics have been widely crossed with Angus, both red and black, to produce SimAngus™ — arguably the most productive and most-in-demand of all commercial beef animals today. The two breeds are unequalled in their complementarity, with Simmental providing muscling, milk, and docility, while the Angus side of the pedigree brings marbling and calving ease.

Almost without exception, bull sales featuring SimAngus genetics are topping the market. Commercial breeders have learned the hard way that the lighter weaning weights and decreased vigor of

straight-bred calves are taking cash out of their pockets. It has been shown time and again that crossbred calves outweigh and are superior to straightbreds in virtually every measurable trait.

Crossing the two breeds furnishes that well-known extra "pop" in the form of heterosis, or hybrid vigor, the closest thing to a free lunch that exists in the world of beef production. Heterosis has been termed "the most fundamental principle in reducing costs and enhancing productivity."

Dr. Scott Greiner of Virginia Tech probably summed it up best when he recently said: "Crossbreeding beef cattle offers two primary advantages relative to the use of only one breed. Crossbred animals combine the strengths of the breeds used to form the cross and crossbred animals also exhibit heterosis."

Progressive commercial cattlemen are well aware that no single breed excels in all areas affecting profitability, and realize that they can engineer breed combinations to comply with environmental constraints while meeting their marketing goals. Longevity in the herd, prompt rebreeding and calf survivability are all management issues that can be effectively addressed through wise crossbreeding.

It is widely accepted throughout the beef industry that commercial breeders who do not crossbreed are not using every tool at their disposal. Those who continue to produce straightbred feeder calves are leaving money on the table. Purebred breeders who continue to advocate a single breed or straightbred agenda are doing their commercial customers, and themselves, a great disservice. ♦



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