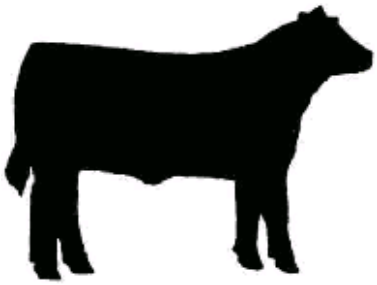

TCSCF
Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity Cooperative

In cooperation with
IBC Iowa Beef Center

2009 Observations of the Iowa Sire Profit Comparison Project

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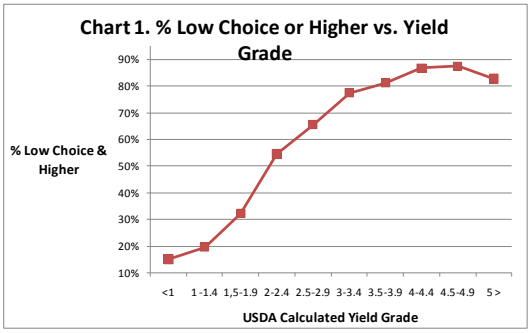
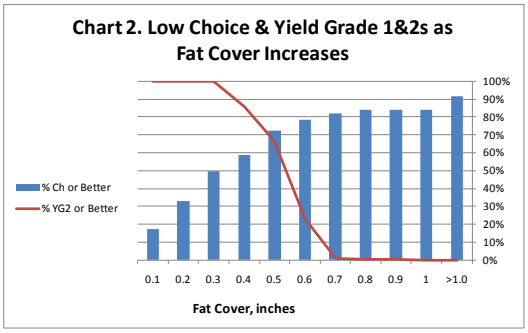
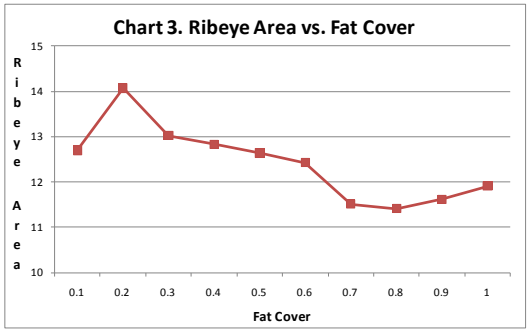
The popularity of the Tri-County Sire Profit Analysis is evidenced by the major increase in sires evaluated in 2009, a total of 1087 sires were included! As in the past, sires are included if they have 5 progeny or more that have complete data. 2009's analysis evaluated over 43,250 head of cattle.

In past observation reports a correlation table was given, but things of importance to profit have not changed. Growth, dressing percent, carcass quality (% Ch- and higher), acceptable muscling and health in the feedlot continue to be mainstay traits.

Many questions come into Tri-County concerning why things are done the way they are, for instance, the sort routine. The goal is to maximize Quality Grade (QG) without severe discounts due to Yield Grade (YG) problems and over-weight carcasses. It's a fine line that the TC crew walks, but the success rate is exceptional. Notice in chart 1 that once cattle reach the YG3 mark 89% of the maximum QG distribution has been attained and this keeps them away from YG discounts. The main driver in YG determination is fat cover, so look at chart 2. By the time cattle reach .45" to .5" fat cover they have reached 86% of their genetic potential to grade Ch- or better, again without pressing on YG discounts, but notice the percent YG 1&2s is plummeting. One more observation that the TC data shows is that fatter cattle have less muscle (see chart 3), another reason not to push for a fatter sort level.







So as one looks to improve his cattle, finding sires that walk this fine line may be a defined goal for your program. For instance, in the top 25% ranking Angus sires in the TC summary there are 48 bulls with progeny yielding below average fat cover (less than .45") with over 80% Ch- and better for QG. Quite possibly there are a couple of sires in that group which might meet other selection parameters in your operation. It is important not only to study the data on your cattle, but one needs to look beyond and see what exists in other herds to maximize your chances of profitable improvements. As stated in the past, perfection in a sire is nearly impossible, so improving your program is a matter of plugging weaknesses one hole at a time. Best wishes in the upcoming new decade!

Comparison of Top Profit Bulls to Bottom Profit Bulls: 2004-2009

	Sire Groupings		
Trait	**Top 25%**	**Bottom 25%**	**All Sire Average**
Number of Sires ==>	272	272	1087
Feedlot Performance			
Delivery Weight	676	640	657
SPA Calf Value	$512	$493	$502
Ave. Disposition Score	1.73	1.79	1.77
Overall ADG	3.30	3.07	3.18
Adjusted Final Weight	1221	1163	1188
Feed to Gain	6.79	6.94	6.87
Feed Cost/cwt of Gain	$50.95	$52.02	$51.53
Health Performance			
Individual Health Treatment Costs	$3.74	$9.94	$6.46
Carcass Performance			
Hot Carcass Weight	754	710	730
Dressing Percent	61.8%	61.0%	61.4%
Fat Cover	0.45	0.45	0.45
Ribeye Area	12.8	12.3	12.5
Ribeye Area/cwt. Of Carcass Weight	1.69	1.73	1.71
Yield Grade (calculated)	2.83	2.84	2.85
% Low Choice or better	79.2%	50.5%	64.7%
% Upper Choice or better	21.3%	8.3%	13.9%
Profitability			
Average Lifetime Profitability	$188	$98	$144