



## 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale



### Carcass Trait EPDs

The two carcass trait EPDs reported in the IPT Bull Sale are Marbling Score or %IMF (Intramuscular Fat) and Ribeye Area. The numerical values and EPD percentile rankings are only for within a breed and CANNOT be compared across breeds. A definition of the various EPD traits include the following:

**Marbling Score EPD (MB)** – is an expression, as a fraction, of the difference in subjective USDA marbling score of a sire's progeny at a given point.

**Ribeye Area (REA)** – is a predictor of the differences in square inches of ribeye area of a sire's progeny compared to the progeny of other sires.

The average EPDs (Spr. 2012) for carcass/scan traits include the following:

<b><u>Breed</u></b>	<b><u>Marbling</u></b>	<b><u>REA</u></b>
Angus	+0.39	+0.30
Sim-Pure	+0.17	+0.19
Sim-Hybrid	+0.37	+0.05
Hereford	+0.03	+0.25
Red Angus	+0.08	+0.08

In most breeding situations the “**LOWER**” the numerical percentile ranking is the more desirable . This would mean that a **higher numerical EPD** or **lower numerical percentile ranking** (closer to 1% RNK) indicates the following for the carcass EPD traits -

- **Marbling Score and/or Intramuscular Fat** - Sire with higher numerical values should produce offspring with a more desirable USDA Quality Grade.
- **Ribeye Area** - offspring calves should obtain a larger Ribeye area.