



44th Annual Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale



EPDs – What Are They?

Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) -

EPDs offer beef cattle producers the best predictor of genetic value of a bull. EPDs combine a bull's individual performance with that of his ancestors and related progeny into a single estimate of how a bull's progeny should perform compared to the average of his breed. There will be a total of seven different traits evaluated for EPDs in the sale.

In addition to EPDs there will also be accuracy levels (from .00 to .99) which express how much a trait can deviate from a specific number. The accuracy level is dependent upon the amount of performance information available to make the estimate.

Actual EPD Percentile Rankings -

For the 2012 IPT Bull Sale the ACTUAL EPD PERCENTILE RANKING from 01 to 99 will be provided on nine different traits. This is being done for implementation of the scoring system and sale order ranking (**Power Score**) that is based on six traits.

The important thing when evaluating EPDs is to emphasize those traits that you would like to correct in your herd. Selecting a bull to be used on first calf heifers will have totally different EPDs than one to be used as a terminal sire with all offspring going to market. Thus, you must spend as much or more time evaluating your own herd's strong points and deficiencies prior to considering which bulls to purchase.

To make sure you understand where a bull falls within the various traits and their "Percentile Ranking" the following table is provided:

| EPD PERCENTILE RANKING | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Numerical Percentile Ranking | Birth Weight | Growth Weaning & Yearling | Maternal Milk | Marbling & Ribeye |
| 0-30 | Lightest | High | Most | Most |
| 31-70 | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| 71-100 | Heaviest | Low | Least | Least |