



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



### Production Trait EPDs –

For **BIRTH WEIGHT EPD**, those bulls with **Low numerical (01-30) percentile rankings** would be expected to sire calves with the **LIGHTEST** birth weight. Bulls with **Moderate numerical (31-70) percentile rankings** for birth weight are MODERATE for their breed, while **High numerical (71-99) percentile rankings** will result in calves with the **HEAVIEST** birth weight and should be used on mature cows. Remember that EPDs are within breed comparisons, and breed calving differences should be considered.

**CALVING EASE EPDs** are used for the Illinois Heifer Development Program (IHDP) for breeding heifers and based on the “Missouri Show-Me-Select Program.” The requirement from Missouri is based on the “Current/ Active” % Ranks for different breed groups from the following table:

<b>Active Sire Percentile Ranking Requirements</b>	
<b>Breed Group</b>	<b>Percentile Requirements</b>
Angus	Upper 35%
American	Upper 20%
British	Upper 30%
Continental	Upper 15%
Hybrid	Upper 20%

Thus, to qualify as an IHDP sire (Spr. 2012) they will need the following EPDs:

Service Sire Breed	Max. Birth Weight EPD	Min. Calving Ease EPD
Angus		+7.0
Hereford		+1.8
Simmental Pure		+10.0
Simmental Hybrid	-2.3	
Red Angus		+9.0
Accuracy values for AI bulls must be a minimum of 0.6		

For **WEANING and YEARLING WEIGHT EPDs**, those bulls with the **Low numerical (01-30) percentile rankings** would be expected to sire calves with the **HEAVIEST** weights. Bulls with **Moderate numerical (31-70) percentile rankings** are MODERATE for their breeds, while **High numerical (71-99) percentile rankings** will result in calves with the **LOWEST** weight gains.

For **MATERNAL MILK EPDs** it is important that the level of milk you need in your herd must **MATCH THE ENVIRONMENT** (level of NUTRITION and MANAGEMENT). If your calves are light at weaning due to a lack of milk production in the cows then one might want to consider selecting a bull with a higher level of maternal milk. On the other hand if cows are thin and you have difficulty-breeding females (especially 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> calf heifers) then one might want to select a moderate or lower maternal milk bull. Milk EPDs are ranked

from the **MOST milk** (Low numerical percentile rankings - 01-30) to **LEAST milk** (High numerical percentile ranking - 71-99), with neither of these being desirable for ALL situations.

**BREED EPD differences** – Each breed established their own EPDs. Therefore, Moderate percentile rank in one breed (for a trait) does not equate to the same number of pounds as a Moderate percentile rank in another breed. This may be the most pronounced in the maternal milk traits since some of the continental breeds like Simmental will have a higher level of milk production than the British breeds. However, it is important to point out that a Moderate for a trait in one breed (for example Angus) does mean that bulls fall into the same percentile ranking as all the Moderates in the same breed.

Also, when evaluating the EPDs in the Sale Catalog please keep in mind the AVERAGE EPDs for the various breeds. Do NOT COMPARE EPDs across breeds as they work from a different base. This is why we use EPD Percentile Rankings so you know where a bull falls within their breed for the various traits. However, for buyers who would like to know the average EPD for the four production traits they are as follows:

<b><u>Breed</u></b>	<b><u>YR(*)</u></b>	<b><u>CED</u></b>	<b><u>BW</u></b>	<b><u>WW</u></b>	<b><u>YW</u></b>	<b><u>MM</u></b>
Angus	Spr. 12	6	1.8	47.0	86.0	22.0
Sim-Pure	Spr. 12	7.5	0.7	30.8	56.3	3.4
Sim-Hybrid	Spr. 12	--	-0.6	25.7	52.0	2.1
Hereford	Spr. 12	0.5	3.6	45.0	74.0	18.0
Red Angus	Spr. 12	5	-0.2	33.0	62.0	17.0
(*) This is the breed's bull birth year Percentile Breakdown where the figures were evaluated for breed average.						