Bull Selection Survey

This survey is targeted at beef producers that make the selection decisions on buying bulls and/or semen; if you do not meet this criterion, please do not complete the survey. Please provide your email address so we can invite you to a special webinar for all participants in the survey to discuss the survey results and bull selection strategies! The Beef Improvement Federation (beefimprovement.org) will provide five $100 gift cards that will be selected by a random drawing of those that complete the survey and have provided us with an email so that they can be contacted. Not providing your email will not eliminate you from participating in the survey, but you will not be eligible for the gift card drawings. Please print the survey, fill it out and mail to the address listed at the end OR fill out the survey online at: https://corexmsd9bfwdhxgbhmw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eFqYgoQpZMJLRLE.

Email: _____

1.   What type of beef operation do you own or operate? (all that apply)

        A. Seedstock (sell **registered/registerable** bulls)   B. Commercial Cow/Calf

2.   If Commercial Cow/Calf, how would you describe your crossbreeding program?
        (1 = straightbred/do not crossbreed; 10 = major focus on high heterosis) _____

3.   How important is profitability in your bull selection decision?
        (1 = Minimal, just enjoy cattle; 10 = Extremely, basically the only criteria) _____

4.   Which of the following best describes the available labor on your operation?

        A. Part-time producer with limited/no hired labor

        B. Part-time producer with some hired labor when needed

         C. Part-time producer with full-time hired labor

        D. Full-time producer with limited/no hired labor

        E. Full-time producer with some hired labor when needed

         F. Full-time producer with full-time hired labor

5.   How many of the following do you **sell annually**? (average of past 3 years; approximate weights and ages)

        Number of Registered/registerable bulls _____

        Number of Cull Cows _____   Average Weight _____lbs.   Average Age ____years

        Weaned feeder calves _____   Average Weight _____lbs.   Average Age _____days

        Backgrounded feeder calves _____ Average Weight _____lbs.   Average Age _____days

        Number of Finished cattle/carcasses _____

                Average Live Weight _____lbs. and/or Average Carcass Weight _____lbs.

6. What is the average weight of your cows that are 5 to 10 years old at Body Condition Score 5 (average flesh)? _____lbs

7. Currently, what percentage of females would you put in each age group?

    2-year-olds _____%

    3-4-year-olds _____%

    5-10-year-olds _____%

    Over 10-year-olds _____%

    Total   100%

8. Which best describes how you replace your females. (Select all that apply)

    A. Keep heifers from own calves   B. Purchase replacement heifers

    C. Purchase replacement cows

9. What percentage of your females do you typically replace each year?

    A. >20%   B. 15-20%   C. 10-15%   D. <10%

10. What is the typical calving percentage of your females that are exposed for breeding?

    A. >90%   B. 80-90%   C. 70-80%   D. <70%

11. What percent of your females exposed for breeding typically wean a calf?

    A. >90%   B. 80-90%   C. 70-80%   D. <70%

12. What is the percentage makeup of the most prevalent breeds of your herd (maximum 3 breeds)? If you have straightbred cattle, then place 100% by that breed. If your breed(s) is not listed write out the full name in the space provided. Total should equal 100%.

Angus _____%   Red Angus _____%

Beefmaster _____%   Santa Gertrudis _____%

Brahman _____%   Shorthorn _____%

Brangus _____%   Simmental _____%

Charolais _____%   Other 1 _____ _____%

Gelbvieh _____%   Other 2 _____ _____%

Hereford _____%   Other 3 _____ _____%

Limousin _____%   Total   100%

13. Select breed(s)/hybrids of bull do you plan to purchase in the next 3 years (select all that apply)? If your breed(s) is not listed write out the full name in the space provided.

_____ Angus   _____ Lim-Flex

_____ Balancer   _____ Red Angus

_____ Beefmaster   _____ Santa Gertrudis

_____ Brahman   _____ Shorthorn

_____ Brangus   _____ Simmental

_____ Charolais   _____ SimAngus

_____ Gelbvieh   _____ Other 1 _____

_____ Hereford   _____ Other 2 _____

_____ Limousin

14. How do you use Expected Progeny Differences (EPD) in your bull selection decisions for the traits they are available?

A. Primary source of information   B. Important source of information

C. Limited source of information   D. I do not use EPD

15. When selecting for calving ease in a bull, what information do you use in your selection decision (select all that apply)?

A. Calving Ease Direct (CED) EPD   B. Birth Weight (BW) EPD

C. Actual calving ease score   D. Actual birth weight

E. Head and Shoulder Size and Shape   F. Let bull provider decide

G. Other _____

16. When selecting for growth traits (weaning weight, yearling weight, carcass weight) in a bull, what information do you use in your selection decision (select all that apply)?

A. Growth EPD   B. Actual weights

C. Let bull provider decide   D. Other _____

17. Of the following traits, approximately how much emphasis do you place on each? If you do not use a trait in your selection decision, then leave blank or use 0. We have included two spaces to list other traits that you select for, please write out the trait. Total of all traits/indexes should be 100%.

Calving Ease Direct _____%

Calving Ease Maternal _____%

Birth Weight _____%

Weaning Weight Direct (growth) _____%

Weaning Weight Maternal (milk) _____%

Yearling Weight _____%

Carcass Weight _____%

Ribeye Area _____%

Fat Thickness _____%

Marbling Score _____%

Feed Intake _____%

Mature Weight _____%

Stayability (Sustained Cow Fertility) _____%

Heifer Pregnancy _____%

Other _____ _____%

Other _____ _____%

Total   100%

18. How do you use Selection Indexes (i.e. $M, $B, All Purpose Index (API), Baldy Maternal Index (BMI), HerdBuilder, etc.) in your bull selection decisions?

   A. Primary source of information   B. Important source of information

   C. Limited source of information   D. I do not use Selection Indexes

   If answer A, B or C then: Please list all indexes that you use. _____

19. When purchasing young bulls (1-2 year-olds), how important is it that they have been genomically tested? (1 = not important; 10 = extremely important) _____

20. Which best describes your need for revenue in the short- and long-term? (This helps us determine how far in advance you should be focused when making your selection decisions. We understand and respect if you choose not to answer this question.)

   A. Equally important

   B. Need to emphasize revenue in the short term

   C. Revenue in the short term is adequate; more concerned about long-term revenue

21. How would you describe your nutritional management (choose the most appropriate, if unsure between two, choose the higher level)

A. High Input – Manage forages at a high level (fertilize appropriately, rotationally graze, inter-seed clover when appropriate, etc.), feed high quality hay and/or feed supplemental feed regularly, cows are typically body condition score 6 or greater.

B. Somewhat High Input – Manage forages at a relatively high level (do some of the following - fertilize appropriately, rotationally graze, inter-seed clover when appropriate, etc.), feed good quality hay and/or supplemental feed when required, cows are typically body condition score 5 or greater.

C. Moderate Input – Manage forages at a moderate level (try to use smaller pastures and move cattle when needed), feed decent quality hay and/or supplemental feed when required, cows are typically body condition score 5 or greater, but some may fall below by weaning time.

D. Somewhat Low Input – Very little management of forages, feed lower quality hay only supplement when body condition gets critically low, cows are typically body condition score 5, but some may be lower.

E. Low Input – Cows work for a living. Very little pasture improvements, with very limited supplementation of hay or supplemental feed, try to keep cows in body condition score of 5, but typically have several that do not meet that level.

22. How many cows do you expose for breeding annually? (3 years average) _____

23. What state(s) are your breeding females located? _____

24. Please provide any other relevant information about your management or selection decisions that were not included in the survey. _____

Please mail to:

Bull Selection Survey
c/o Darrh Bullock
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Lexington, KY 40546