

Real World 101

Showcases True Beef Profitability

Recently, more than 260 people had an opportunity to see, in a real world setting, the direct relationship between feed efficiency, carcass cutability and profitability. The Iowa Limousin Association, Wulf Cattle, Morris, Minnesota, and Iowa State University, Animal Science & Meat Lab hosted an innovative and unique educational seminar during the National Junior Limousin Show and Congress.

For the third year in a row, Wulf Cattle participated in the University of Minnesota Carcass Merit Program. This year, three steers were selected from the 2012 Wulf group of 40 head that were fed at the Rosemount Research and Outreach Center, Rosemount, MN. A Limousin steer sired by Primestar, Lim-Flex (50% Limousin X 50% Angus) and an Angus steer sired by a Genex AI sire were visually appraised for optimum phenotypic breed characteristics and uniformity. The steers were

harvested and a side from each carcass was fabricated into individual boxed beef. Participants had a “front-row” seat as each carcass was evaluated and compared for red meat yield, quality grade, carcass weight and waste.

Dr. Stephanie Hansen, Assistant Professor, Animal Science, ISU, a ruminant nutritionist whose research addresses nutritional challenges facing midwestern beef producers, presented the results of the overall feed efficiency study. Jim Venner, Iowa Limousin breeder and chairman of the Real World 101 project, compared the carcass results, ultimately illustrating true profitability by factoring feed efficiency and value of retail product. Mike



Holtzbauer, Meat Laboratory Manager, ISU, used market pricing for the week to determine the total value of saleable product as well as cost of carcass waste and inefficiency.

Results from this project and other combined industry research indicates Limousin cattle, on average, have a \$45 per head feed cost advantage and a dressing advantage of 1-2%. Further data indicates each increase in dressing percentage equates to an additional \$25 per head. For example, the average Limousin steer in this study, based solely on feed efficiency and yield, returned an additional \$95 per head.

Other speakers throughout the day included Dr. Stephen Lonergan, Dr. Brad Skaar, and Dr. Howard Tyler.

Those in attendance were presented the real world beef industry challenge to consistently breed a beef animal with the genetic potential to efficiently convert less feed to more, high-quality lean red meat.

	Angus	Lim-Flex	Limousin
Yield Grade	3.2	1.5	1.5
Quality Grade	Avg. Choice	High Select	Low Select
Total Cut Weight (lbs.)	175.20	202.40	192.90
Total Fat Weight (lbs.)	78.20	39.60	38.70
Total Lean Trim Wt. (lbs.)	97.45	108.30	102.35
Total Bone Wt. (lbs.)	61.50	68.25	72.95
Total Value of Side (\$)	\$761.11	\$758.89	\$712.13
Total Value (\$/cwt)	\$183.93	\$181.21	\$174.71
Total Cost of Gain	\$570.00	\$510.00	\$522.00

