

ASA Presentation Notes Lesson 7.2

Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs).

- Use performance data from an animal and all relatives (living and dead).
- More accurate than ratios.
- Expressed in pounds, inches, or days.
- Used to compare animals to each other or to a breed average.

Common Beef EPDs.

- **BW = Birth Weight.**
 - Listed in pounds .
 - Lower numbers indicate the offspring from that animal should be smaller at birth and have less birthing difficulty .
 - Producers prefer lower birth weights.
- **•WW = Weaning Weight.**
 - Listed in pounds .
 - Higher numbers indicate the offspring of the animal should be heavier at weaning time .
 - Producers prefer heavier weaning weights because calves are usually sold on a cents-per-pound basis.
- **•YW = Yearling Weight.**
 - Listed in pounds .
 - Higher numbers indicate the offspring of the animal should be heavier at one year of age .
 - Producers prefer heavier yearling weights because yearling cattle are usually sold on a cents-per-pound basis.
- **•MM = Maternal Milk.**
 - Listed in pounds of calf weaned by the daughters of the animal resulting from the daughter's milk production.
 - In general, high milk EPDs are preferred for the same reasons high weaning weight EPDs are preferred.
 - However, if daughters will live on poor range conditions with minimal feed resources, high milk EPDs should be avoided.
 - When feed resources are low, excessive milk production can cause cows to become thin and fail to rebreed.

Common Swine EPDs.

- **BF = Back Fat.**
 - Listed in inches of back fat .
 - Paid more money for leaner pigs, so lower EPDs are preferred for this trait.
- **Days = Days to 250 Pounds.**
 - Listed in days .
 - Need to grow as quickly as possible and take fewer days to reach 250 pounds .
 - Therefore lower numerical EPDs are preferred for this trait.

EPD Example.

- Cattle – Birth weight EPD (Note: Low birth weights are preferred).
 - Bull A Birth weight EPD = +0.8
 - Bull B Birth weight EPD = +3.6
- Expect – Calves from bull B to weigh an average of 2.8 pounds more at birth than those of bull A.
- Swine – Days to 250 EPD (Note: Fewer days to 250 are preferred).
 - Boar A EPD = +2.5
 - Boar B EPD = -1.1
- Expect – Offspring of boar B to reach 250 pounds 3.6 days faster than those of boar A.

List 5 key points that are important to remember from this presentation.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

List 3 ideas or concepts that this new information has in common with previous things learned.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List questions or ideas that remain unclear about the information presented that should be asked for clarity at the appropriate time.