Virginia Cooperative Extension
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University

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College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

VSU VIRGINIA STATE

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Livestock Update

Beef - Horse - Poultry - Sheep - Swine

November 2011

This LIVESTOCK UPDATE contains timely subject matter on beef cattle, horses, poultry, sheep, swine, and related junior work. Use this material as you see fit for local newspapers, radio programs, newsletters, and for the formulation of recommendations.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Scott P. Greiner, Extension Project Leader
Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences

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Dates to Remember

BEEF

NOVEMBER

17 Beef Quality Assurance Cattle Handling. Washington County Fairgrounds. Abingdon.
Contact: Washington County Extension Office, (276) 676-6309.
RSVP by November 11th

18 Beef Quality Assurance Cattle Handling. Rockingham County Fairgrounds. Harrisonburg.
Contact: Augusta County Extension Office, (540) 245-5750.
RSVP by November 11th

DECEMBER

6 VT Beef Webinar. ***Contact:*** Mark McCann, (540) 231-9153, email: mark.mccann@vt.edu

10 VA BCIA Culpeper Bull Sale. Culpeper Ag Enterprises. Culpeper.
Contact: Scott Greiner, (540) 231-9159, email: sgreiner@vt.edu

MARCH

18 VA BCIA Southwest Bull Test Open House. Hillswinds Farm. Dublin.
Contact: Scott Greiner, (540) 231-9159, email: sgreiner@vt.edu

24 VA BCIA Southwest Bull Test Sale. Wytheville. ***Contact:*** Scott Greiner, (540) 231-9159, email: sgreiner@vt.edu

4-H LIVESTOCK

DECEMBER

3 Virginia Youth Livestock Leadership Forum. VA Tech. Blacksburg.
Contact: Paige Pratt, (540) 231-4732, email: pjpratt@vt.edu<mailto:pjpratt@vt.edu>

3 Livestock Judging and Stockman's Coaches Workshop (Adults Only). VA Tech. Blacksburg. ***Contact***: Paige Pratt, 540-231-4732, email: pjpratt@vt.edu<mailto:pjpratt@vt.edu>

SHEEP

DECEMBER

3 VSPA Fall Bred Ewe Sale. Rockingham County Fairgrounds. Harrisonburg.
Contact: Scott Greiner, (540) 231-9159, email: sgreiner@vt.edu

JANUARY

7 Sheep Symposium. Alphin-Stuart Arena. Blacksburg. ***Contact:*** Scott Greiner, (540) 231-9159, email: sgreiner@vt.edu

November Beef Management Calendar

Dr. Scott P. Greiner
Extension Animal Scientist, VA Tech

Spring Calving Herds

- Secure winter feed supply!
- Body condition score cows, separate thin cows and provide nutritional management to improve BCS prior to calving
- Market calves to your best advantage
- Background calves for sale in December, if possible
- Feed replacement heifers to gain 1.5 - 1.75 lbs per day
- Cull open, old and very thin cows; check feet and legs, udders and eyes
- Consider alternative marketing strategies for cull cows to take advantage of seasonality in cull cow price
- Test hay for nutrient quality
- Get list of bull sales coming up early winter and spring

Fall Calving Herds

- Secure winter feed supply!
- Finish calving
- Check cows 2 to 4 times per day, heifers more often - assist early if needed
- Keep calving area clean and move healthy pairs out to large pastures 3 days after calving
- Ear tag and dehorn all calves at birth; castrate male calves in commercial herds
- Keep good calving records so that calves may be marketed as age/source verified
- Give selenium and vitamin A & D injections to newborn calves
- Feed cows extra energy after calving; stockpiled fescue will take care of needs. Cows calving at BCS < 5 should receive special nutritional attention.
- Test hay for nutrient quality
- Look for opportunities to secure low-cost feed supplies of bulk feeds or commodity feeds
- Keep high quality, high magnesium, high selenium minerals available
- Begin breeding replacement heifers late this month; try AI on heifers
- Get breeding soundness exams done on all bulls
- Purchase new herdsires at upcoming bull sales

Ten Steps to Buying the Right Bull

Dr. Scott P. Greiner
Extension Animal Scientist, VA Tech

1) **Identify Herd Goals-** Herd goals serve as the foundation for sire selection and provide guidance as to traits with the most relevance. Defining the production and marketing system, along with management strategies and environment, are key factors that warrant consideration:
   Will the bull be used on heifers, mature cows, or both?
   Will replacement females be retained in the herd?
   How will the calf crop be marketed (at weaning?, backgrounded?, retained ownership? sell females?)
   What are the labor and management resources available?
   What are the feed resources and environmental conditions of the operation?

2) **Assess Herd Strengths and Weaknesses-** Fundamental records are necessary to identify herd strengths and weaknesses. Basic performance parameters such as calving percentage, weaning percentage, weaning weights, sale weights, carcass merit, feed usage, etc. are necessary to serve as the basis for assessing areas of strength and those needing attention.

3) **Establish Selection Priorities-** Concentrate on those factors which stand to have the largest impact on profitability. Remember that income is derived from performance (sale weight, % calf crop weaned, carcass merit, etc.). Performance is a function of both genetics and environment/management. Superior genetics can be negated by poor management, which emphasizes the importance of separating the impact of management (nutrition, health program) from that of genetics when specific priorities for the herd are established. Considering both the genetic and management influences on various traits is important. Focus on the handful of priority traits rather than attempting to change many traits simultaneously. Establishing the few traits to focus on is the key factor.

4) **Utilize Selection Tools-** Once selection priorities have been established through close examination of herd goals and current status, a number of useful tools are at the disposal of beef producers to assist in making genetic improvement. Genetic differences across breeds have been well established, and utilization of different breeds in a complimentary fashion through structured crossbreeding plans provides the opportunity for improvement in multiple traits. Most importantly, heterosis attained through crossbreeding has been shown to have significant favorable impacts on traits such as reproductive efficiency and cow longevity which are critical for herd profitability. The limited ability to select for reproductive traits in the form of EPDs further emphasizes the importance of capturing the value of heterosis.

   EPDs are available for many traits of economic importance. The introduction of economic indexes which combine several related traits and their economic values into one EPD are available to assist with simultaneous improvement in multiple traits which impact areas such as carcass merit and post-weaning profit. Again, with the large number of EPD tools available, the critical step is to determine the EPDs which are most important and establish benchmarks relative to each.

5) **Establish Benchmarks-** Several tools can be utilized to assist in the determination of EPD specifications. EPD values for current and past sires can be used as benchmarks. With these benchmarks, EPD specifications can be set to reflect the desired increase or moderation in performance for a particular trait. As an example, establishing a benchmark for milk EPD can be

determined through the relationship between previous sires' genetics for milk and the performance of his daughters in the herd.

6) **Find Source-** With the above defined, we can now begin to look at individual bulls. There are many sources of bulls that warrant consideration- production sales, test stations, and private treaty sales. Of critical importance is that the bull be from a reputable source which will stand behind their product. It may be necessary to look at several sources in order to find the correct bull.

7) **Do Your Homework-** The first step to doing so is to evaluate the sale catalog, performance pedigree, and data. By examination of the bull's performance record, determine which bulls meet the EPD and other specifications that have been established (and likewise eliminate those that do not meet the specifications). Be prepared to make trade-offs, as the perfect record may not be attainable. Do not be surprised or alarmed when the bulls you have highlighted appear scattered throughout the sale order. Remember to stick to the selection criteria and qualifications/specifications that have been established. All this can and should be accomplished prior to departing for any sale.

8) **Take a Look-** Once the list has been narrowed to only bulls which meet the criteria, these bulls can be further evaluated and selection refined. Having a list of suitable bulls prior to arrival at the auction or farm will not only save time, but also assist in making sure the right bull for the situation is purchased. Upon narrowing the potential candidates on paper, the bulls can be evaluated for suitability of phenotypic traits and the potential candidate list shortened even further. Not all relevant traits have EPDs (examples include disposition, foot soundness, fleshing ability, etc.), and therefore must be evaluated visually.

9) **Make a Sound Investment-** For many cow-calf producers, purchasing a new bull is a relatively infrequent occurrence. This emphasizes the importance of selecting the right bull, particularly in single sire herds. The value of the right bull cannot be underestimated. Investments in good genetics will pay dividends both short and long-term through the influence the bull has on each calf crop as well as his daughters that are retained in the herd.

10) **Manage the New Bull Properly-** Of equal importance is the care and management of the newly acquired bull. Proper management and nutrition are essential for the bull to perform satisfactorily during the breeding season. With most new herd sires purchased as yearling bulls- management prior to, during, and after the first breeding season is particularly important. Plan ahead by acquiring a new yearling bull at least 60 to 90 days prior to the breeding season so that ample time is available to allow for adjustment to a new environment, commingling with other bulls, and getting the bull in proper breeding body condition.

VT Beef - Winter Webinar Series to Kick-Off December 6th

Dr. Mark A. McCann
Extension Animal Scientist, VA Tech

Dr. Lawton Stewart, Beef Extension Specialist at the University of Georgia will be the featured speaker for the first Beef Webinar sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension and scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 6th. He will discuss "Effective, Efficient and Economical Strategies for the Cow Herd this Winter". Dr. Stewart received his PhD from Virginia Tech in ruminant nutrition and his research/extension program focuses on forage-based nutrition options for Georgia cattlemen. Participants in the on-line meeting will have the opportunity to ask questions through an on-line chat box or over the telephone using a number provided during the program.

Check with your local Extension Agent about accessing the program at your local office. Producers with high speed internet service can access the meeting at home. Webinar information and meeting links will be available on the VT Beef Extension webpage http://www.vtbeef.apsc.vt.edu/ . From the VT Beef Extension site, you can click on the meeting link and go directly to the meeting.

In addition to the December meeting, future webinars are scheduled for :

January 10th – Market Outlook
February 7th – Beef Cattle Finances
March 6th. – Forages

If you have questions please contact Mark McCann at 540-231-9153 or mark.mccann@vt.edu

BCIA Culpeper Senior Bulls Sell December 10

Dr. Scott P. Greiner
Extension Animal Scientist, VA Tech

The 54th annual sale of the Virginia BCIA Culpeper Senior bulls will be held Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 12:00 noon at the Culpeper Agricultural Enterprises located on Route 29 just south of Culpeper, Virginia.

The sale will include approximately 60 fall-born yearling bulls representing the top end of the 88 bulls developed. Currently, Angus, Gelbvieh, Polled Hereford, and SimmAngus bulls are on test. Only bulls which meet stringent BCIA criteria will sell. BCIA has made some significant changes to the program which has been brought about through feedback from commercial bull buyers. Highlights include complete breeding soundness exams (including semen evaluation), volume buyer discounts, and an enhanced soundness and fertility guarantee on all bulls selling.

The majority of the bulls selling are sired by trait-leading, highly proven AI bulls of each breed. All bulls selling meet minimum genetic requirements (EPDs) to sire calves for the VQA Purple Tag Feeder Calf Program. Bulls have been screened for reproductive and structural soundness, and offered as guaranteed breeders. Complete performance information will be available on all bulls, including growth, maternal, and carcass EPDs, detailed test performance information, and ultrasound data.

Beef producers and others who are interested are invited to visit Glenmary Farm to view the bulls. Glenmary Farm is located at Rapidan, VA and operated by Tom and Kim Nixon.

For catalogs and detailed information on the bulls visit the website http://bcia.apsc.vt.edu, or phone VA BCIA at 540-231-9163 or Glenmary Farm at 540-672-7396.

Strong Support at the 2011 Hokie Harvest Sale

Dr. Dan Eversole
Dept. of Animal and Poultry Sciences

Despite the cold, inclement weather, the 2011 Livestock Merchandising Class at Virginia Tech entertained a standing-room-only crowd of over 600 supporters and friends in the Livestock Judging Pavilion at the 17th Annual Hokie Harvest Sale on Friday, October 28th. As many of you know, the Hokie Harvest Sale has developed a significant reputation for selling high quality, university-owned livestock. Since 1995, which was the inaugural year of the Hokie Harvest Sale, there have been 1160 students enrolled in this merchandising class and a grand total of 362 horses, 46 pigs, and 728 head of beef cattle have been offered at public auction, totaling $1,921,042 in gross revenue.

This year's sale grossed $97,275 and featured 44 lots of purebred and commercial beef cattle and five bred gilts. Since the equine warm-blood program moved to the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center in December, 2009, there were no horses offered in the 2011 student-run sale. There were 171 registered buyers from New York, Illinois, Tennessee, Maryland, Missouri, Ohio, North Carolina, West Virginia, and Virginia, who attended the sale which was broadcasted live over the internet by Mr. Aaron Ray Tompkins, Cowbuyer LLC of Mt. Airy, NC. The beef cattle sale featured 13 head of commercial bred cows and 41 animals representing three different purebred breeds – Angus, Hereford, and Simmental.

There were 10 spring-calving pairs in the cow/calf division, which averaged $3,420. Lot 4 was the sale topper at $4,400. This four-year-old Angus cow is a daughter of SAF Strategy and ranks in the top 10% among current dams for $B at $58.88. She has recorded progeny ratios of IMF @ 105, REA @ 103, and YWR @ 103. Both she and her phenomenal January heifer calf sired by GAR Progress sold to Mike and Tim Wells of Rocky Mount, VA for $2200 each.

In the Hereford division of four cow/calf pairs and two breeding-age bulls, Lot 26 commanded the highest bid at $3,100. This stout, yearling bull, sired by SHF Rib Eye M326 R117, ranks in the top 10% for BW and the elite 3% for CHB$. Both spring-calving cow/calf pairs were maternal half-sisters sired by Gerber Watchfire 117F and each pair sold for $3,000.

Lot 15 was the top-selling lot in the Simmental breed. Round Meadow Farm from Meadows of Dan, VA purchased the SimAngus cow by G 13 Structure at $1,900 and her January ¾ Simmental bull calf sired by SVF/NJC Built Right N48 sold to ACE Livestock, Allison and Andrew Echols of Gap Mills, WV for $1,550.

The breeding-age bull division of 10 yearling bulls was topped by Lot 21 at $3,100. This Angus yearling bull is sired by SS Objective T510 0T26 and out of a daughter of TC Total 410 and our featured donor cow, HHF Alli Rita 704 317. This popular herd-sire prospect ranks in the elite 1% of non-parent sires for WW and YW EPD, top 2% for $F, and upper 4% for $B. Wilson Cattle Company of Abingdon, VA is the new owner.

The 13 lots of young, commercial cows, mostly Angus or SimAngus breeding, drew considerable interest among cattlemen and averaged $1,511. Moreover, five pregnant gilts were sold via live auction and grossed $2,075.

The 69 students did a superb job of preparing for the sale. They gained 'hands-on' experience in sale management, budgeting, cataloging, advertising, livestock photography, clerking, and health requirements. Special thanks are extended to Col. Ken Brubaker of Brubaker Sales and Marketing, Harrisonburg, VA for serving as the sale consultant and auctioneer. Students Will Fiske, Greenville, VA; Haydon Garland, Callao, VA; Evan Jeuck, Dublin, VA served as bid-takers for the sale while Daniel Fleishman, Dayton , VA worked the ring. Alyssa Elliott, Harrisonburg, VA served as the student clerk in the block.

(L to R): Student clerk Alyssa Elliott, Dr. Dan Eversole and auctioneer Ken Brubaker welcome the enormous crowd.

(L to R): Beef clerks Mary Elmer, Garrett Cook, Amber Crews, Shasta Sowers and Kayla Chittum are poised and ready for settlement.

Lot 9: A popular Hereford cow/calf pair is auctioned off.

The Food and Beverage Committee, with assistance from the Block and Bridle Club in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, served a complimentary BBQ dinner to nearly 600 guests. Their support and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Interest in the Hokie Harvest Sale continues to be overwhelming in favor of hosting future student-run livestock sales. However, purebred animal inventory numbers have dwindled in recent years which make it difficult to continually offer quality livestock at public auction. We are hopeful to host the 18th Annual Hokie Harvest Sale on Friday, October 26, 2012.

Sheep Management Tips - Late Fall

Dr. Scott P. Greiner
Extension Animal Scientist, VA Tech

Breeding to 6 Weeks Before Lambing

1. Mature ewes in average to good body condition should be fed to maintain or slightly increase their bodyweight during the first 3 ½ months of gestation. This is the time to take advantage of lower quality pasture. If this period occurs during the winter, hay will normally supply the necessary nutrients, with no supplemental grain required.
2. Thin ewes should be fed separately and supplemented with 1 to 1.5 lbs of grain per day to gain 10 to 15 lbs by 6 weeks before lambing.
3. Pregnant ewe lambs should be fed separately from mature ewes. They should gain approximately 25 lbs from breeding to 6 weeks before lambing. Attempts to cause large weight gains in ewe lambs during late gestation may lead to lambing problems. Conversely, underweight ewe lambs and/or poor body condition have low birth weight lambs and poor survivability and lower milk production.
4. If pregnant ewes are to be brought into the flock, keep these ewes separate from the main flock through lambing when feasible. This will diminish the risk of introducing abortion and other diseases into the main flock. Consult with your veterinarian regarding health management protocols for these newly received ewes.
5. Shear ewes if facilities are available to shelter ewes appropriately during winter months.
6. Test hay for nutrient content to facilitate proper and economical diet formulation.

6 Weeks Before Lambing

1. Start feeding 0.5 lb of grain per head daily as a preventative for pregnancy disease. Grain may be in the form of whole shelled corn or barley. Even if ewes are on good quality pasture, they still require the extra grain. During the winter or when on poor quality pasture, feed approximately 4 lbs of hay in addition to grain.
2. Supplementation of tetracycline pre-lambing has been shown to reduce the incidence of abortions. Consult with your veterinarian on a flock health management protocol.
3. Make sure there is plenty of feed trough space so that ewes do not crowd each other at feeding time.

4 Weeks Before Lambing

1. Shear the wool from around the head, udder and dock of pregnant ewes. If covered facilities are available, shear the ewes completely. Sheared ewes are more apt to lamb inside, facilities stay drier because less moisture is carried in by the ewes, sheared ewes require less space, and environment Is cleaner for newborn lambs and the shepherd. Sheared ewes must have access to a barn during cold, freezing rains, and they must receive additional feed during periods of extremely cold temperatures.
2. Vaccinate ewes for overeating disease and tetanus. These vaccines provide passive immunity to baby lambs through the ewes' colostrum until the lambs can be vaccinated at 4 to 6 weeks of age.
3. Check and separate all ewes that are developing udders or are showing signs of lambing. Check and remove heavy ewes once a week during the lambing season. Increase the grain on all ewes

showing signs of lambing to 1 lb daily, and feed all the good quality grass/legume hay they will clean up.

4. Observe ewes closely. Ewes that are sluggish or hang back at feeding may be showing early signs of pregnancy disease. If so, these ewes should be drenched with 2 ounces of propylene glycol 3 to 4 times daily.
5. Shelter ewes from bad weather.

Shepherd's Symposium Scheduled for January 7

Dr. Scott P. Greiner
Extension Animal Scientist, VA Tech

The annual Virginia Shepherd's Symposium will be held Saturday, January 7, 2012 at the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. The one-day program will include educational sessions with a variety of production, management, and marketing topics. A lamb lunch will be included. The evening prior, open meetings of the Virginia Sheep Producers Association and the Virginia Sheep Industry Council will be held. Program details and registration materials will be available in mid-November. For more information, contact Scott Greiner at 540-231-9163 or visit Virginia Tech Sheep Extension
http://www.apsc.vt.edu/extension/sheep/index.html

2011 State Fair of Virginia Lamb Carcass Evaluation Summary

Dr. Scott P. Greiner
Extension Animal Scientist, VA Tech

This is the 13th year for the Lamb Carcass Contest held in conjunction with the State Fair of Virginia youth market lamb show. Since 1999, a total of 2344 lambs have been evaluated through the Lamb Carcass Contest held in conjunction with the youth market lamb show at the State Fair of Virginia. The program serves as an educational tool for exhibitors and breeders regarding factors that influence the production of lambs that fits industry and consumer targets.

Five premium categories (Gold, Purple, Blue, Red, and Pink) have been established to rank lambs based on their combination of carcass merit and growth performance. The following standards were utilized, with carcasses failing to meet one or more of these qualifications placed in the Pink group:

Minimum fat thickness of 0.10 in.
Maximum fat thickness of 0.35 in. (maximum Yield Grade of 3.9)
Minimum LMA for carcass weight using formula: 1.4 + (0.02 x HCW)
Minimum Quality Grade of Choice-
Minimum carcass weight of 45.0 pounds

Carcasses meeting all of the above standards were ranked using carcass merit (determined by percentage boneless, closely trimmed retail cuts- %BCTRC) and live average daily gain (ADG). The formula to estimate %BCTRC utilizes carcass weight, fat thickness, body wall thickness, and loin muscle area and represents the predicted proportion of the carcass that is saleable retail product. Average daily gain is calculated for each lamb from the time of nomination in late June to the State Fair in early October (approximately 100 days). The average ADG of all lambs exhibited in the live show serves as the benchmark ADG value within year. Carcass premium categories were established as follows:

Premium Category	***Description***	***Carcass and ADG Parameters***
Gold	Lambs with both outstanding carcass merit and growth	$\geq$ 50.0 %BCTRC & $\geq$ 0.45 ADG
Purple	Lambs with superior carcass merit and desirable growth	$\geq$ 50.0 %BCTRC with ADG < Gold standard or 49.0-49.9 %BCTRC with $\geq$ avg. ADG
Blue	Lambs with desirable carcass merit	Carcasses not meeting Gold or Purple criteria with > 47.5 %BCTRC
Red	Lambs meeting carcass standards but have less desirable combination of leanness and LMA	All carcasses with %BCTRC < 47.5
Pink	Lambs which are over-finished or under-finished, and/or have small LMA relative to their weight	Carcasses failing to meet one or more of the standards listed above

The following table summarizes the carcass information since beginning the program. Over time, live weights and carcass weights of lambs have gotten heavier. Associated with this weight increase has been a corresponding increase in ADG, loin muscle area, and fatness. During the last three years (2009-2011), there has been an increase in the percentage of heavy lambs with heavy carcasses (> 85 pounds), as well as an increased proportion of overfinished, Yield Grade 4 lambs.

This year, there was a record number of Gold category lambs (those which combine desirable carcass merit and growth performance). Additionally, there were very few lambs which did not meet the minimum LMA standard. The lambs sold for a record price in 2011.

STATE FAIR OF VIRGINIA LAMB CARCASS CONTEST SUMMARY 1999-2011

	2011	**5 year avg. (2006-2010)**	**2010**	**2009**	**2008**	**2007**	**2006**	**13 year avg. (1999-2011)**
Carcass Measurements:								
No. Carcasses	**191**	*743 total*	135	138	128	157	185	*2344 total*
Live Wt., lb.	**126.4**	*127.0*	129.0	128.7	126.6	127.2	124.2	*122.5*
ADG, lb./day	**0.39**	*0.39*	0.41	0.42	0.38	0.37	0.36	*0.37*
Carcass Wt., lb.	**71.6**	*71.8*	72.5	72.7	69.7	73.0	70.9	*68.6*
Dressing %	**56.6**	*56.5*	56.1	56.4	54.9	57.4	57.0	*55.9*
Adj. Fat Thickness, in.	**0.26**	*0.24*	0.28	0.24	0.22	0.23	0.22	*0.22*
Yield Grade	**3.0**	*2.8*	3.2	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.6	*2.6*
Loin muscle area, sq. in.	**3.23**	*3.23*	3.16	3.24	3.25	3.26	3.22	*3.11*
Leg Score (12 = Ch , 13 = Ch+)	**12.5**	*12.4*	12.3	12.4	12.3	12.5	12.6	*12.5*
% BCTRC	**47.7**	*47.9*	47.1	47.8	48.4	47.7	48.2	*48.2*
Quality Grade (11 = Ch-, 12 = Ch)	**11.6**	*11.5*	11.7	11.6	11.4	11.4	11.4	*11.4*
Carcass Price, $/cwt.	**$360.00**	*$202.76*	$270.00	$200.00	$200.00	$200.00	$160.00	*$177.06*
Live Value, $/cwt.	**$203.69**	*$114.32*	$151.44	$112.80	$109.71	$114.71	$91.23	*$99.20*
Carcass Contest Specifications:								
ADG standard for premium placings	**0.40**	*0.37*	0.41	0.41	0.37	0.35	0.34	*0.35*
< 0.10 in. Fat Thickness	**0 (0.0%)**	*0.1%*	1 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	*1.5%*
Yield Grade ≥ 4 (> 0.35 in. fat)	**39 (20.4%)**	*9.7%*	28 (20.7%)	16 (11.6%)	7 (5.5%)	12 (7.6%)	9 (4.9%)	*6.8%*
< minimum Loin Muscle Area	**9 (4.7%)**	*8.2%*	17 (12.6%)	18 (13.0%)	7 (5.5%)	9 (5.7%)	10 (5.4%)	*12.9%*
< Ch- Quality Grade (No Roll)	**0 (0.0%)**	*0.1%*	1 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	*0.1%*
Carcass weight < 45.0 lb.	**0 (0.0%)**	*0.3%*	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	*0.2%*
Gold Premium Category	**8 (4.2%)**	*1.5%*	1 (0.7%)	3 (2.2%)	5 (3.9%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.1%)	*2.0%*
Purple Premium Category	**27 (14.1%)**	*15.2%*	18 (13.3%)	14 (10.1%)	26 (20.3%)	16 (10.2%)	39 (21.1%)	*17.3%*
Blue Premium Category	**68 (35.6%)**	*30.6%*	33 (24.4%)	42 (30.4%)	40 (31.3%)	51 (32.5%)	61 (33.0%)	*31.4%*
Red Premium Category	**44 (23.0%)**	*35.1%*	39 (28.9%)	46 (33.3%)	41 (32.0%)	71 (45.2%)	64 (34.6%)	*29.2%*
Pink Premium Category	**44 (23.0%)**	*17.6%*	44 (32.6%)	33 (23.9%)	16 (12.5%)	19 (12.1%)	19 (10.3%)	*20.1%*
Carcass Distributions:								
Yield Grade 1	**29 (15.2%)**	*19.1%*	12 (8.9%)	29 (21.0%)	30 (23.4%)	31 (19.7%)	40 (21.6%)	*25.8%*
Yield Grade 2	**66 (34.6%)**	*43.5%*	41 (30.4%)	57 (41.3%)	56 (43.8%)	84 (53.5%)	85 (45.9%)	*45.3%*
Yield Grade 3	**57 (29.8%)**	*27.7%*	54 (40.0%)	36 (26.1%)	35 (27.3%)	30 (19.1%)	51 (27.6%)	*22.1%*
Yield Grade ≥ 4	**39 (20.4%)**	*9.7%*	28 (20.7%)	16 (11.6%)	7 (5.5%)	12 (7.6%)	9 (4.9%)	*6.8%*
Prime Quality Grade	**4 (2.1%)**	*0.7%*	1 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.8%)	2 (1.3%)	1 (0.5%)	*1.3%*
Choice Quality Grade	**187 (97.9%)**	*99.2%*	133 (98.6%)	138 (100%)	127 (99.2%)	155 (98.7%)	184 (99.5%)	*98.6%*
No Roll Quality Grade	**0 (0.0%)**	*0.1%*	1 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	*0.1%*
HCW < 45 lb.	**0 (0.0%)**	*0.3%*	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	*0.2%*
HCW 45-54 lb.	**14 (7.3%)**	*6.5%*	8 (5.9%)	7 (5.1%)	17 (13.3%)	6 (3.8%)	10 (5.4%)	*10.4%*
HCW 55-64 lb.	**33 (17.3%)**	*18.4%*	27 (20.0%)	29 (21.0%)	21 (16.4%)	24 (15.3%)	36 (19.5%)	*25.6%*
HCW 65-74 lb.	**58 (30.4%)**	*32.7%*	42 (31.1%)	36 (26.1%)	45 (35.2%)	53 (33.8%)	67 (36.2%)	*34.1%*
HCW 75-84 lb.	**68 (35.6%)**	*31.4%*	35 (25.9%)	48 (34.8%)	34 (26.6%)	59 (37.8%)	57 (30.8%)	*23.7%*
HCW > 85 lb.	**18 (9.4%)**	*10.8%*	23 (17.0%)	18 (13.0%)	9 (7.0%)	15 (9.6%)	15 (8.1%)	*5.9%*