Feedlot Merit Index

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To compliment the current Maternal Productivity Index (MPI), the CHA's Breed Improvement Committee enlisted the assistance of Dr. Mike MacNeil to develop a Feedlot Merit Index (FMI). Indices like our MPI and the new FMI enable producers and commercial customers to use one number, which encompasses many traits, to aid in their selection decisions. This selection strategy also avoids the danger of single-trait selection. Like MPI, differences in FMI are standardized to a mean of 100, and a standard deviation of 25. A difference in FMI between bulls represents a difference between the **progeny** of those bulls to be more profitable feeder cattle.

The goals of the FMI are to monitor and keep costs reasonable for the cow/calf and feedlot producer, while still deriving the best returns from carcasses, keeping in mind the price discrimination that occurs based upon carcass merit and the predominant breed composition of the Canadian commercial cow herd. This index is designed for use in terminal situations only (i.e. no replacements retained in a herd).

Dr. MacNeil is one of the leading experts on economic indices of this type. He identified the economically relevant traits affecting profitability as follows: calving ease, weaning weight, average daily gain, feed intake, yield grade, and marbling score. A number of simulations were run to arrive at the proper economic weightings which would place positive pressure on the traits that provide profitable carcasses. Weaning, growing, and finishing phases, along with calf survival and related costs were all incorporated into the model. The genetic co-variances between the economically relevant traits listed above and the EPDs we currently publish were determined as well, to allow the weightings to be correctly applied to our published EPDs.

The new FMI is an excellent tool to increase the carcass potential of the progeny of bulls that are sold into terminal sire programs. Moderate and balanced selection for both MPI & FMI will produce progeny with desirable maternal and carcass traits.

Feedlot Merit Index Trait Leader List

Bulls on this list must have had 1 calf reported in the past two years, have an FMI EPD in the top 20% of the breed, and have an FMI accuracy of at least 0.60

Name	Registration #	FMI EPD	FMI ACC
BRL CALL 100L	PC02839142	210.9	0.64
REMITALL ONLINE 122L	PC02789138	197.6	0.80
K 64H RIBSTONE LAD 157K	C02764939	197.5	0.68
SCHU-LAR 5N OF 9L 3008	PC02905817	196.7	0.62
RU DUSTER 60D	PC02586971	196.0	0.62
REMITALL EMBRACER 8E	PC02612879	186.8	0.76
NS KENO 005	PC02805543	182.7	0.61
KCF VICTOR 08N X4	PC02698363	181.8	0.75
VPI LIMITED EDITION J921	PC02823173	181.6	0.62
CIRCLE-D WRANGLER 832W	PC02337915	178.1	0.77
REMITALL GOVERNOR 236G	PC02676840	177.8	0.77
REMITALL KOOTENAY 9K	PC02762777	177.1	0.69
SHF RIB EYE M326 R117	PC02910420	170.2	0.65
HUTH PROSPECTOR K085	PC02842052	168.9	0.62
GH RAMBO 279R	C02870714	166.9	0.61
AGA 121G STANMORE 20J	C02738219	162.6	0.64
REMITALL KEYNOTE 20X	PC02356049	161.7	0.81
CS BOOMER 29F	PC02749227	160.9	0.80
LAGRAND RELOAD 80P ET	PC02892255	160.4	0.64
SNS SILVER PRAIRIE 50B	C02509999	160.1	0.66
REMITALL PATRIOT ET 13P	PC02851748	159.4	0.61
LPG BONANZA 52G	C02681341	158.3	0.66
GH NEON 17N	C02827131	157.8	0.62
MC RANGER 9615	PC02710083	157.7	0.73
NJW 1Y WRANGLER 19D	PC02693158	152.8	0.83
RU 20X BOULDER 57G	PC02682477	152.3	0.70
RVH SILVER 50B 26E	C02618437	149.9	0.70
VLSF DELUXE ET 220W	PC02306952	148.4	0.61
REMITALL HIGHWAY ET 157H	PC02705782	148.1	0.63
RLOA R271 DYNASTY ET 37U	PC02276629	145.5	0.65
BOYD HEAVY HITTER 4007	PC02644774	144.6	0.72
AGA 13G GENERAL 114L	C02795506	142.7	0.60
FELTONS 517	PC02501951	141.3	0.85