

Names

Bull Selection Lab

4/8/08

Objectives:

Apply the information discussed in lecture regarding selection and crossbreeding.

Discuss other things that people consider in making selection decisions.

Review some of the selection and crossbreeding information in preparation for the final.

If bred to a herd of straight Angus cows, which pen of bulls will provide the most maternal heterosis in the females they sire? Circle 1 correct answer.

1 2 4 5

If the **only information** you had about the bulls was the % **Angus and % Simmental**, which **pen** of bulls would likely sire steer calves with the highest yield grade (closest to 1)? Circle 1 correct answer.

1 2 4 5

If the **only information** you had about the bulls was the % **Angus and % Simmental**, which **pens** of bulls would likely sire the highest % of mid choice (or higher) carcasses? Circle 2 correct answers.

1 2 4 5

Which 4 Angus bulls would likely sire the highest percentage of steers to grade mid-choice or higher?

OVER

Scenario A – You own a large herd of crossbred females and are shopping for some bulls to breed to your yearling heifers. The amount of labor available at calving time is limited. You keep the top 40% of the heifer calves as potential replacements and then sell the remaining heifer calves and all the steer calves at weaning time. Your family’s standard of living depends on how much money you make on the cow herd.

Be prepared to tell the class how your group reached a decision.

List the 4 bulls that are least likely to cause dystocia when bred to yearling heifers.

If all of the bulls were priced the same, which bull would your group buy? _____

Scenario B You depend on a herd of commercial crossbred cows and finish cattle for a major part of your income. The cows are a mostly Gelbvieh x Angus and Simmental x Angus crossbreds. You keep the top 40% of the heifer calves as potential replacements and then feed the remaining heifers and all of the steers and sell them on a the grid that gives a sizable bonus for carcasses that grade mid choice or higher. Having a functional cow herd is important too. You are shopping for bulls to breed to your cows 3 and older.

Be prepared to tell the class how your group reached a decision.

List the Angus bull that you would buy if they were all priced the same. _____

List the SimAngus bull that you would buy if they were all priced the same. _____

Scenario C You own 40 cows on your ranchette and like to produce a few calves for the neighbor kids to show at the county fair or achievement days. You AI your cows to club calf sires one time and then turn in a “clean up” bull.

If all of the bulls fit your budget, which 1 or 2 bulls would be at the top of your list to purchase?

Be prepared to tell the class why your group picked those bulls.
