



Profit-A-Bull Times

LEACHMAN CATTLE OF COLORADO

Volume 3 • December 2006

Now is the Right Time for the Right Sized Cow



With drought and near record feed prices, it is time to make sure your cows are efficient. Cattlemen across the country are talking about culling their oversized cows. More and more are looking to moderate cow size by buying the right

bulls. The tide is starting to turn – don't be left behind with cows that are too big, too high in cost, and too inefficient.

Don't buy bulls simply because they are "called" moderate. Make sure that your bulls have the traits that you need. **For starters, if the seedstock breeder does not weigh his cows then all of the rest is just lip service.** If he does weigh the cows, then he will have mature cow weight EPD's. You've probably never seen those before. I only know of a couple of breeders that show them in their catalogs. Every Leachman bull has a mature cow weight EPD that predicts the weight of his daughters.

Don't assume that small framed bulls will produce small cows. There are lots of five frame and lower bulls out there that come from cows that weigh over 1500 pounds. You'll like the type and kind of these high performing, moderate framed, deep bodied bulls. Just don't be surprised when they produce high performing, moderate framed, deep bodied cows – cows that weigh too much, eat too much, cost too much, and don't raise enough pounds of calves to pay for their way.

Maximize Profits by Eliminating the Balanced Bull

Sound crazy? The balanced bull tries to do it all. He does, but he does not do it all well. Either he produces moderate sized cows or he maximizes carcass weight. You can't do both. Instead of trying to do the impossible, we are raising specialists. Our Angus, Red Angus, and Stabilizer bulls are maternal specialists. Our Charolais and Simmental bulls are terminal specialists. Breeding a smaller, efficient cow to a larger terminal cross bull is the best way to MAXIMIZE

PROFIT. If you have 500 or more cows, you can raise your replacements out of your 1 – 4 year old cows and terminal cross your 5 year old and up cows. If you're smaller, you need to make a decision – Maternal or Terminal. If you opt for the Maternal route, then use our maternal bulls and capitalize on the market for replacement females. If you opt for the Terminal route, then use our terminal bulls and buy maternal replacements from our maternal bull customers.

Stay Tuned – We'll be bringing the greatest minds in the cattle business into your home each week. Soon we will be offering a weekly web cast program every Thursday Night at 7 pm MST. Sign up at www.leachman.com.

Leachman Cattle of Colorado

Cooperator News

Major Angus Expansion

Osborne Cattle Co. joins Leachman Cattle of Colorado as a cooperator. Osborne Cattle Co., based in Paxton, NE, is owned by Gene and Lynn Osborne. In the Spring of 2006, they joined LCoC as a carcass test herd. As the relationship grew, it was clear that together we could do far more than just test sires. In the mid Spring, Gene decided to implant a number of LCoC Angus embryos. By fall, he knew he wanted to move into the registered business quickly. Osborne's purchased

over 300 yearling registered Angus heifers from Leachman breeding herds. In November, Osborne's negotiated the private treaty purchase of the entire Spear U mature cowherd bred and raised by Greg and Lori Shearer. This 500 cow herd is the home of Rito 616. The cows know how to earn a living on tough South Dakota rangeland. The goal of the Osborne herd will be to select for efficiency using the Leachman selection objectives and evaluation systems.

You might not be able to afford to buy a genetic reputation...

But You Can Afford Reputation Leachman Bulls!

10% Off All Remaining Bulls

Or

Free Delivery in the Continental US

With the rise in corn prices and the downturn in calf prices, we thought that our customers deserved a break on superior bulls.

Call today to take advantage of this limited time offer.

Offer expires 12/31/2006.

Stabilizer Composites – The Crossbreeding Solution

Hybrid vigor adds \$75 / cow to your bottom line. This number comes from controlled scientific studies comparing crossbred cows to straight bred cows. The benefits come in a variety of areas:

- 1) Crossbred cows have a higher pregnancy rate.
- 2) Crossbred cows' calves have a higher survival rate.
- 3) Crossbred cows produce more milk and wean heavier calves.
- 4) Crossbred cows live longer and produce over 1.5 extra calves in their lifetime.

Unfortunately, crossbreeding has two major limitations – complexity and marketability. We've solved both of these problems with our Stabilizer composite.

A Simple Way to Crossbreed

With the Stabilizer composite you can crossbreed as easy as straight breeding. You can use Stabilizer bulls on crossbred females. Then come back with a different Stabilizer bull on the heifers that result. Keep breeding to Stabilizers and you'll end up with a "pure" herd of Stabilizers – plus you'll keep your hybrid vigor.

You simply have to avoid line breeding just as you do with pure breeds. LCoC makes this easy by offering a number of different Stabilizer sire lines. Forget about trying to implement complicated rotational systems that don't work in the real world.

Retained Hybrid Vigor

Extensive research done at the Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, NE shows conclusively that a four breed composite, like the Stabilizer, retains over 75% of the F1 hybrid vigor in successive generations of crossbreeding. This is far more than the 50% retained by the use of two breed hybrid bulls like Sim/Angus and Balancer bulls. Here is how it works. The Stabilizer composite is composed of four breeds including approximately

25% each of Angus, Hereford, Simmental, and Gelbvieh. When you mate the Stabilizer bull to the Stabilizer cow, the genes from the various breeds recombine according to the breed percentages. Sixteen possible recombinations exist. Four out of the sixteen, or 25%, of the recombinations have genes from the same breed coming together. In these cases, no hybrid vigor exists. In 75% of the cases, hybrid vigor does exist – thus Stabilizers retain 75% of the F1 heterosis.

Cow Breeds		A	H	S	G
Sire Breeds		A	H	S	G
A		AA	AH	AS	AG
H		HA	HH	HS	HG
S		SA	SH	SS	SG
G		GA	GH	GS	GG

*Grey boxes on diagonal = 25% with no Hybrid Vigor.
Other boxes are hybrid so 75% Retained Hybrid Vigor.*

Uniformity & Marketability

A recent market study in Arkansas showed that only two breed types consistently earned premiums – Angus and Charolais. We all want our calves to top the market, so we must produce uniform, marketable calves. Most crossbreeding programs led to mongrelization and loss of uniformity. Stabilizers ensure uniformity and marketability.

Every Stabilizer bull is solid black or red with an occasional blaze face. The breed has been selected to mirror Angus in its type and kind. Our long-time composite bull customers have been using our bulls for over a decade. Their cowherds are uniform in type and color.

Solid black or red, mostly polled Stabilizer calves

consistently top markets whether sold on Superior, in the country, or at a local market. Feeders across the country recognize that Leachman Stabilizer genetics will perform well in the feedlot.

Unique High Marbling Genetics

With high corn prices and the large spread between Choice and Select beef, marbling is more important than ever. Most Continental breeds marble far below Angus, resulting in lower percentages of choice grading carcasses. The Stabilizer population is one of the highest marbling Continental cross gene pools in the industry. Why? Because we have selected them that way. We have consistently sought out and used the highest marbling hybrid and composite genetics that the industry can offer as identified by their ultrasound scores. Our gene pools include the highest marbling bulls in the Angus, Simmental, and Gelbvieh breeds.

Genetic Predictability

Many producers ask about the predictability of a multi-breed composite. Clay Center calculated the variability of three different composites with over 10,000 animals evaluated. Their data confirmed that the composites produced no more variability than did purebreds. Furthermore, the heritability of traits within the composites was the same as that of the pure breeds. Science tells us that the Stabilizer composite will produce no more variability than purebreds – our experience confirms these results.

We have sold over 8,000 Stabilizer bulls – most to repeat buyers. Our database of over 200,000 animals allows us to calculate EPD's on all of our bulls. We calculate EPD's on our Stabilizers for birth, weaning, yearling, milk, mature size, scrotal, marbling, ribeye area, and retail yield. We also calculate an EPD for profit -- \$Profit. You can rely on the genetic predictability of our Stabilizer composites.



5100 ECR 70 • Wellington, CO 80549
Exit 281 on I-25 • 15 miles N of Fort Collins
Horton Research Center

Quote of the Month

Ultrasound is like taking a group of middle aged men and making them stand naked in a row. It may not be pretty, but what you see is what you got! - Dar Giess

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Our Upcoming Spring Sale Dates:

Tuesday, March 27th, 2007 – 650 Bulls

Wednesday, March 28th, 2007 – 1000 Females

Mark Your Calendar:

December 5th, 2006 - Wyoming Stock Growers, Casper, WY

January 8th – 16th, 2007 - NWSS, Denver, CO

January 31st – Feb 3rd, 2007 - NCBA, Nashville, TN



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