

# "Integrating DNA Information into Beef Cattle Production Systems"

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# Expert Predictions

***"We believe DNA marker profiles will become widely used in livestock in the near future as the cost decreases and the benefits increase. In fact, a major research objective may be to make best use of this DNA data in commercial animal production"***

Goddard, M. E., and B. J. Hayes. 2007. Genomic selection. *Journal of Animal Breeding and Genetics* 124: 323-330.



# ***"How do you make cost-effective use of DNA information in commercial animal production?"***



**GOAL: Determine how DNA-based information is best incorporated into commercial cattle production systems**

- 1. Which of several incorporation methods is best?**
- 2. Which is feasible for commercial ranches to use?**
- 3. Which provides the most/any economic benefit?**

- **Research objectives:** Determine association between breed-association genetic predictions (EPDs), and DNA-based genetic predictions (stars, scores, MBVs, MVPs, GEPDs) and evaluate their ability to predict the genetic potential of 125 commercial sires based on the performance and carcass records of their offspring
- **Extension objectives:** Develop and deliver educational materials to a national audience on the integration of DNA information into beef cattle selection programs.

# Ranch resources/collaborators on “Integrating DNA information into beef cattle production systems”

Four ranches on this project (UC Davis and  
3 commercial cooperators in Siskiyou Co.)

- Cowley 900 (550 Spring; 350 Fall) **45**
- Kuck 500 (200 Spring; 300 Fall) **16**
- Mole-Richardson 700 (Fall) **40**
- UC Davis 300 (Fall) **26**

*Approximately 125 Angus bulls, and 2,400  
cows per year on project*

# Happy Cows come from Siskiyou County



# Cowley Ranch



# Kuck Ranch



# Mole-Richardson Farms





# UC Davis – Sierra foothills





# Work flow and collaborators

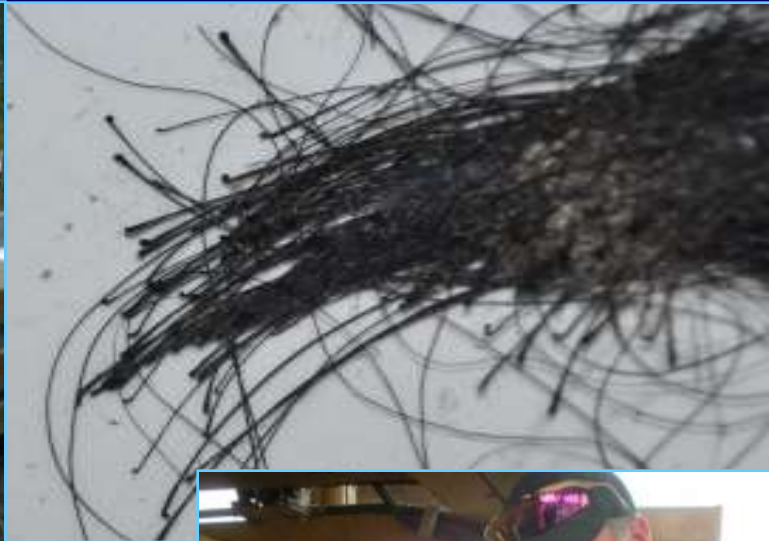


- DNA on all bulls goes for 50K whole genome scan – collaboration with **Jerry Taylor (MO)** and **John Pollak (Meat Animal Research Center (NE))**
- Molecular breeding value (MBV) prediction of genetic merit based on MARC training data set – collaboration with **Dorian Garrick (IA)** and **Mark Thallman, U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (NE)**
- Ranch data including sire groupings, birth dates and weaning weights on all calves, all EIDed, and “DNAed” for parentage determination – collaboration with **Dan Drake and producers (CA)**
- Steer feedlot in weights, treatments, and carcass traits (Hot weight, grading information and meat sample collected in the processing plant – collaboration with **Harris Ranch (CA)**
- Compile data and compare three sources of genetic estimates: breed EPDs (bEPDs), commercial ranch EPDs (rEPDs), and MBVs, **Kristina Weber, UC Davis, PhD student**





# Commercial ranch applications





# Problems experienced included





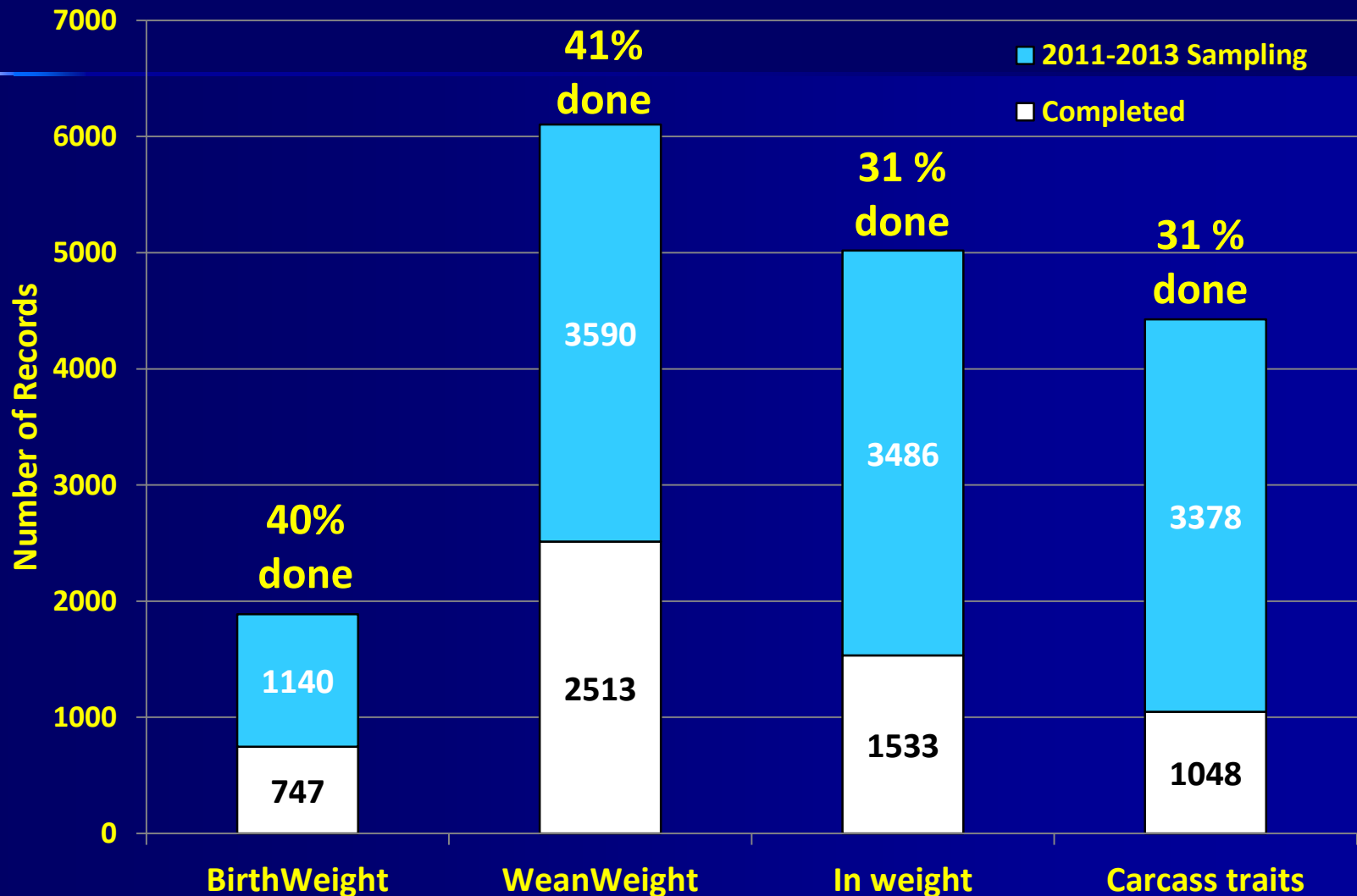
# Sampling Summary by Herd: Data Collected to date



Herd	Season	Birth Weight	WeanWeight	In weight	Carcass traits
Cowley	1/4/2006	--	--	--	Completed
	9/1/2006	--	--	--	Completed
	1/1/2007	--	--	--	Completed
	9/1/2007	--	Completed	Completed	Completed
	1/1/2008	--	Completed	Completed	Completed
	9/1/2008	--	Completed		Completed
	1/1/2009	--	Completed		Scheduled 1/24/2011
	9/1/2009	--	Completed	Completed	
	1/1/2010	--	Completed		
	9/1/2010	--			
	1/1/2011	--			
	9/1/2011	--			
Kuck	1/1/2009	Completed	Completed	Completed	
	10/1/2009	Completed	Completed		
	1/1/2010	Completed	Completed		
	9/1/2010				
	1/1/2011				
	9/1/2011				
Mole-Richardson	9/1/2009	--	Completed	Completed	
	9/1/2010	--			
	9/1/2011	--			
UC Davis	8/15/2009	Completed	Completed		--
	8/15/2010				--
	8/15/2011				--



# Sampling Summary by Herd: Total Number of Records





# **“Integrating DNA information into Beef Cattle Production Systems”**

## **USDA Integrated Grant Collaborators**



- Dr. Darrh Bullock, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky, KY
- Dr. Leslie “Bees” Butler, Extension Marketing Specialist, UC Davis, CA
- Dr. Daniel Drake, University of California Cooperative Extension Livestock Advisor, CA
- Dr. Dorian Garrick, Professor, Iowa State University, IA
- Dr. John Pollak, Professor, Cornell University, NY
- Dr. Mark Thallman, US Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, NE

### **Graduate Students**

- Kristina Weber, Ph.D. Candidate, UC Davis, CA and Krista Coopriker, MS Candidate, UC Davis, CA

### **Producer Collaborators:**

- Jack Cowley, Cowley Rancher, Siskiyou County, CA
- Dale, Greg, and Richard Kuck, Kuck Ranch, Siskiyou County, CA
- Matt Parker and Scott Dutcher, Mole-Richardson Farms, Siskiyou County, CA

### **Processor Collaborators:**

- Harris Ranch Beef Company, Coalinga, CA
- Los Banos Abattoir, Los Banos, CA

### **Software Collaborators:**

- Jim Lowe, Cow Sense Herd Management Software, NE

### **Other Contributors/Collaborators**

- Dr. Jerry Taylor, University of Missouri, MO
- Dr. Mike Goddard, University of Melbourne and Victorian DPI, Australia





# DNA-based tests for cattle

## ■ What is working well

- Identification of genetic defects
- Parentage

## ■ What is not working well (at present)

- Genetic markers for quantitative traits
- Genomic selection in beef cattle

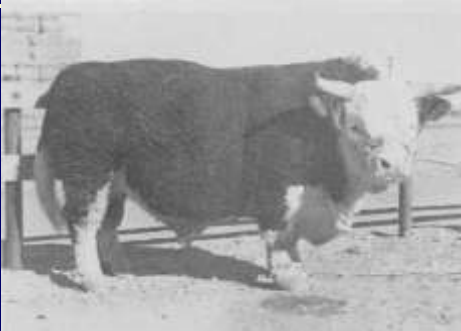




# Genetic Defects in Cattle

Images from an article by David S. Buchanan, Department of Animal Sciences, North Dakota State University

<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/williamscountyextension/livestock/genetic-defects-in-cattle>





# Compare dwarfism response in th 50s to the response to curly calf (AM)



An early '50's advertisement that superimposed a measuring stick in the picture of this bull who was nick-named "Short Snorter." Based upon his height and age, he was less than a frame score 1. The choice of a nick-name in this instance was unfortunate because "snorter" dwarfism would soon devastate the purebred beef industry.

Image from <https://www.msu.edu/~ritchieh/historical/shortsnorter.jpg>



**In 2008, September 8 – November 3 researchers identified genetic problem causing curly calf, developed AM test prototype, and released carrier status of 736 bulls by the end of the year!**

- In the 10 months following the release of the test, the AAA posted the results of tests for AM on about 90,000 cattle.
- Of these, almost 5,000 bulls and more than 13,000 heifers have tested as carriers of AM. That leaves more than 22,000 bulls and more than 50,000 heifers which tested as free of AM.
- These tests generally cost less than \$30. While the total cost is substantial it is miniscule when compared with the cost of simply eliminating all descendants of the widely-used GAR Precision 1680 (AA Reg. No. 11520398), and his grandsire Rito 9J9 of B156 7T26, (AA Reg. No. 9682589) from the Angus breed.





# AM test can be done at the following labs



The following labs are authorized for AM

### AgriGenomics

2399 N. 1000 E. Rd.  
Mansfield, IL 61854  
217-762-9808

<http://www.agrigenomicsinc.com>

[Click here for Important Notice about Genetic Testing with MMI](#)

### MMI Genomics

1756 Picasso Avenue  
Davis, CA 95618  
(800) 311-8808 ext 3016

<http://www.mmigenomics.com/AM.html>

### Pfizer Animal Genetics

333 Portage Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-4931  
1-877-BEEF DNA  
1-877-233-3362  
Fax: 269-833-1197

<http://www.pfizeranimalgenetics.com>

### IGENITY

4701 Innovation Drive, CB 101  
Lincoln, NE 68521  
1-877-IGENITY  
1-877-443-6489

<http://www.igenity.com>

### GeneSeek

4665 Innovation Dr. Suite 120  
Lincoln NE 68521  
402-435-0665

[www.geneseek.com](http://www.geneseek.com)

The following groups collaborate with GeneSeek, Inc., to collect and provide samples for AM testing:

- SEK Genetics  
Don Coover  
9525 70th Rd.  
Galesburg, KS 66740  
[don@sekgenetics.com](mailto:don@sekgenetics.com)  
Phone: 800-443-6389

- Stockman's Resource Center LLC  
2371 330th Street  
Eddyville, Iowa 52553  
[stockmansresource@hotmail.com](mailto:stockmansresource@hotmail.com)  
[www.stockmansresource.com](http://www.stockmansresource.com)  
Office phone: 641-969-4111  
Mobile: 641-660-0771
- Genex Cooperative, Inc.  
Headquarters:  
100 MBC Drive  
Shawano, WI 54166  
Phone: 888-333-1783  
Fax: 715-526-3219  
[info@crinet.com](mailto:info@crinet.com)



# From a breeding standpoint there are different possible scenarios when considering this mutation



If both parents are carriers (AMC) **AMC x AMC = 1/4 affected (AMA): 1/2 carriers (AMC): 1/4 AM free (AMF)**

If only one parent is a carrier, then all of the offspring will be normal appearing, but half of them will be carriers  
**AMC x AMF = 1/2 carriers (AMC): 1/2 AM free (AMF)**

If neither parent is a carrier, **AMF x AMF = all AM free (AMF) even if have Precision in pedigree!**



# Early extension education about dwarfism explaining carriers and inheritance



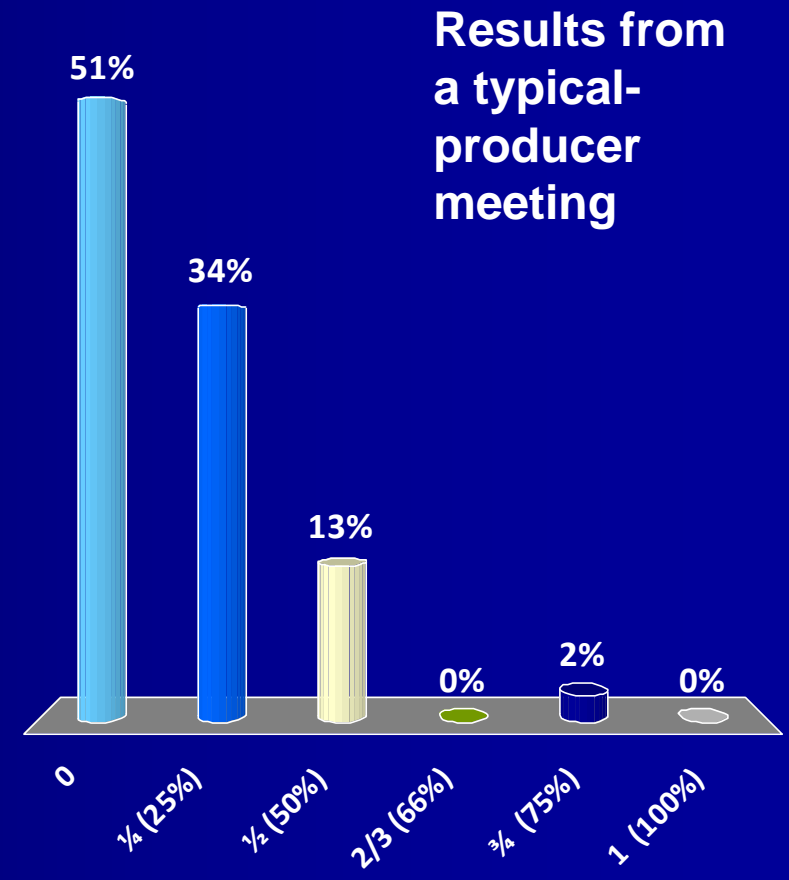
Image from Special Collections University Libraries, Virginia Tech:  
<http://spec.lib.vt.edu/imagebase/agextension/boxseven/screen/AGR3618.jpg>





**If you breed a curly calf carrier cow (AMC) to an curly calf free bull (AMF), what is the chance that the offspring will be stillborn as a result of being curly calf?**

1. 0
2. 1/4 (25%)
3. 1/2 (50%)
4. 2/3 (66%)
5. 3/4 (75%)
6. 1 (100%)







# DNA-based tests for cattle

## What is working well

- Identification of genetic defects
- **Parentage**

## What is not working so well (at present)

- Genetic markers for quantitative traits
- Genomic selection in beef cattle





# Benefits of DNA-based parentage identification

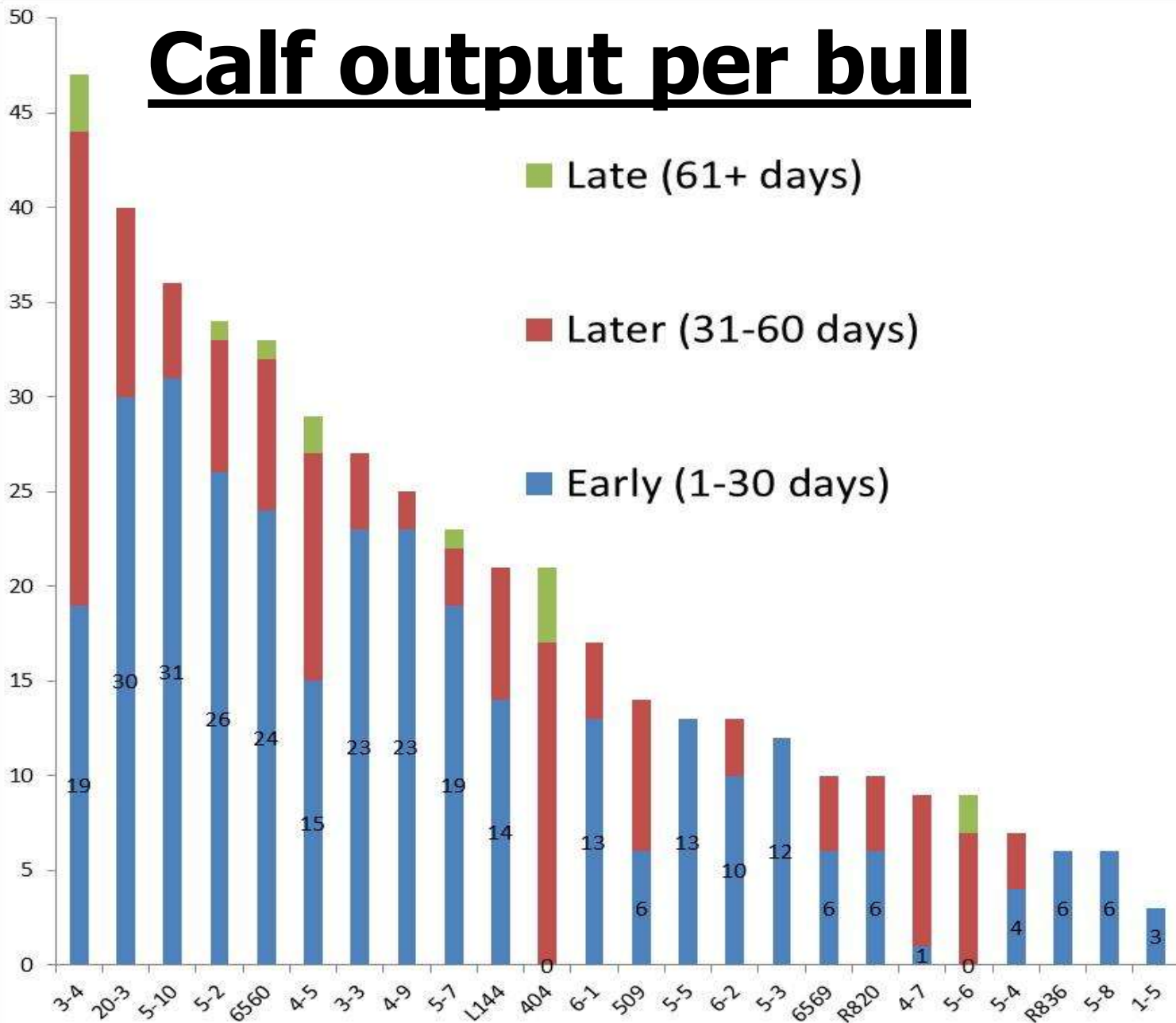


- Correct pedigree errors so improve the rate of genetic gain
- Enables the use of multi-sire breeding pasture
  - Higher fertility
  - Elimination of sire failure
  - Tighter calving season
- Reduces the need for different breeding pastures
  - Allows for better pasture management
  - Less sorting and working of animals into different groups
- Reduces the need to disturb newborn animals
  - Labor savings so can focus on concentrate on offspring survival
  - Worker safety improvement
  - Better bonding of offspring with dam
  - Can determine which bull is causing calving problems
- Enables the development of commercial-ranch genetic evaluations



# of calves born/bull – Spring 2009 calving

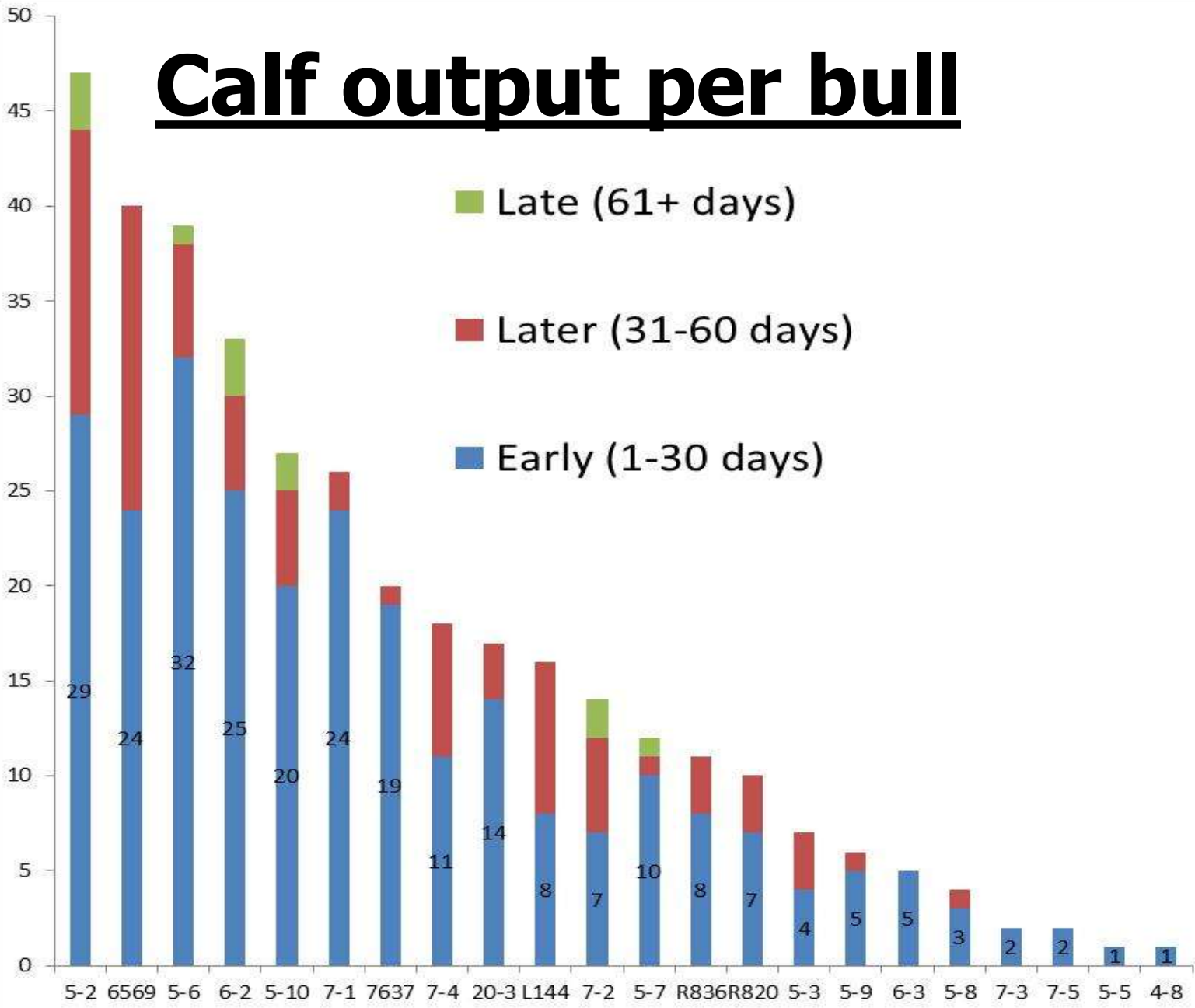
# Calf output per bull





# of calves born/bull – Fall 2009 calving

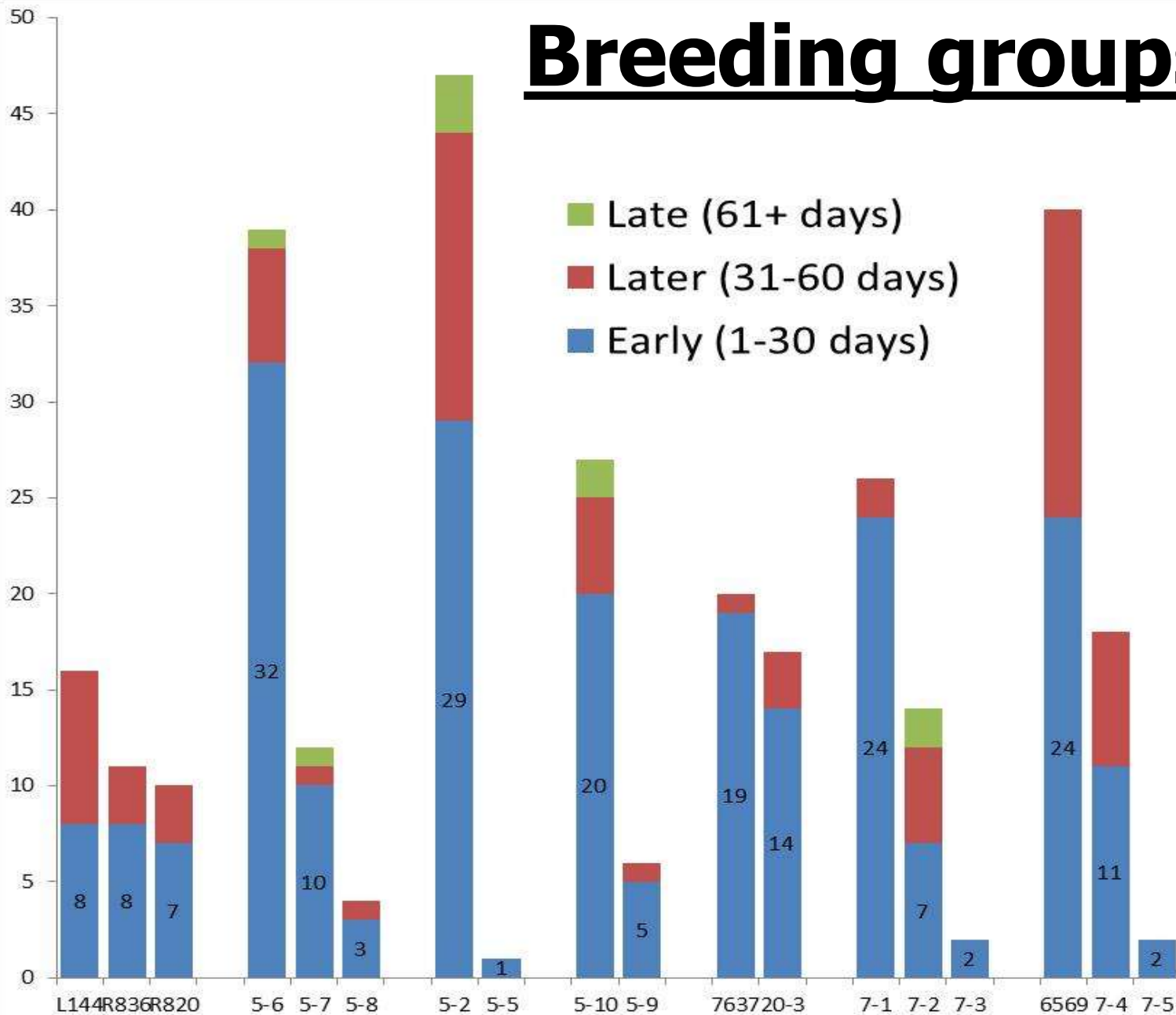
# Calf output per bull





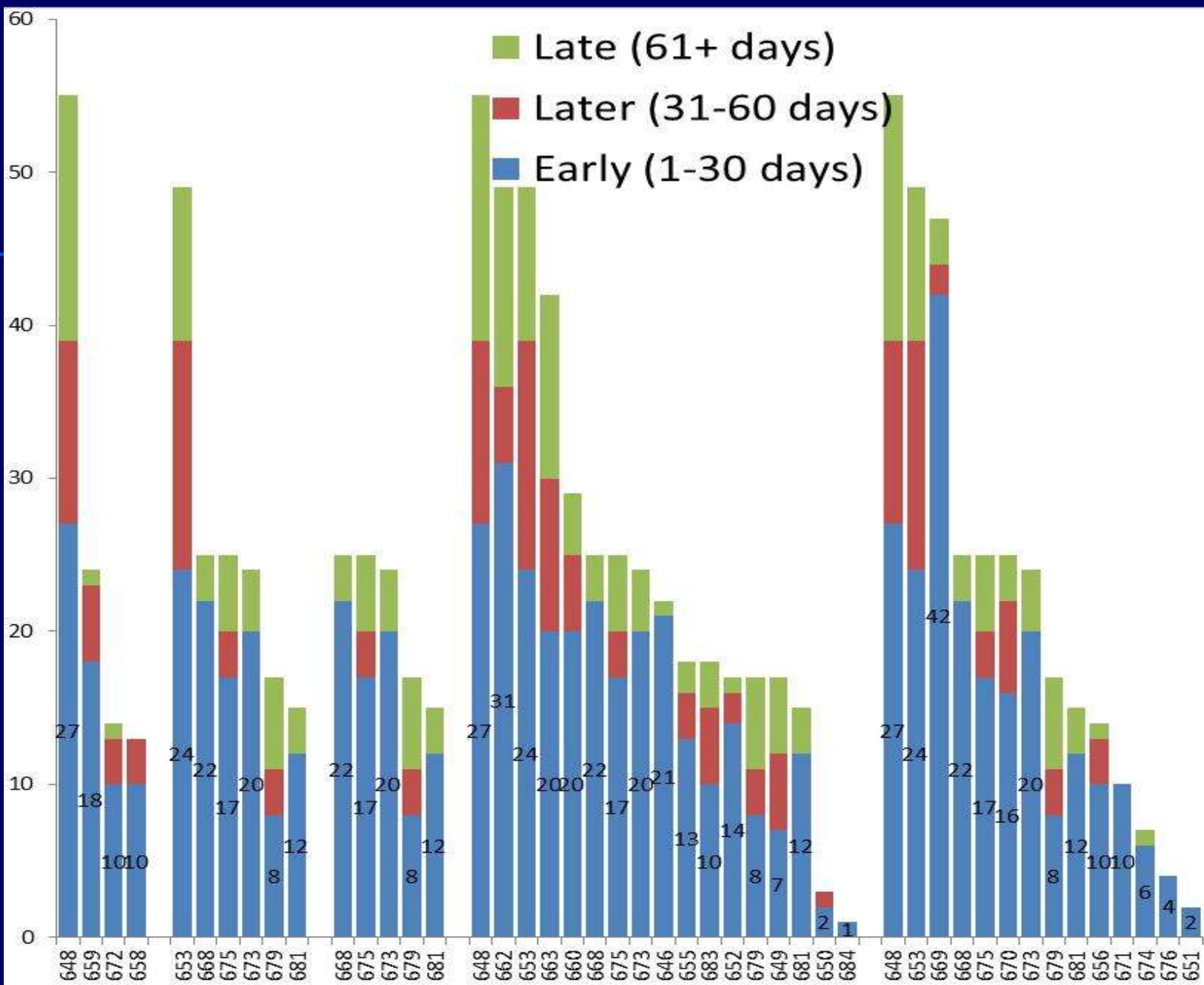
# of calves born/bull – Fall 2009 calving

# Breeding groups



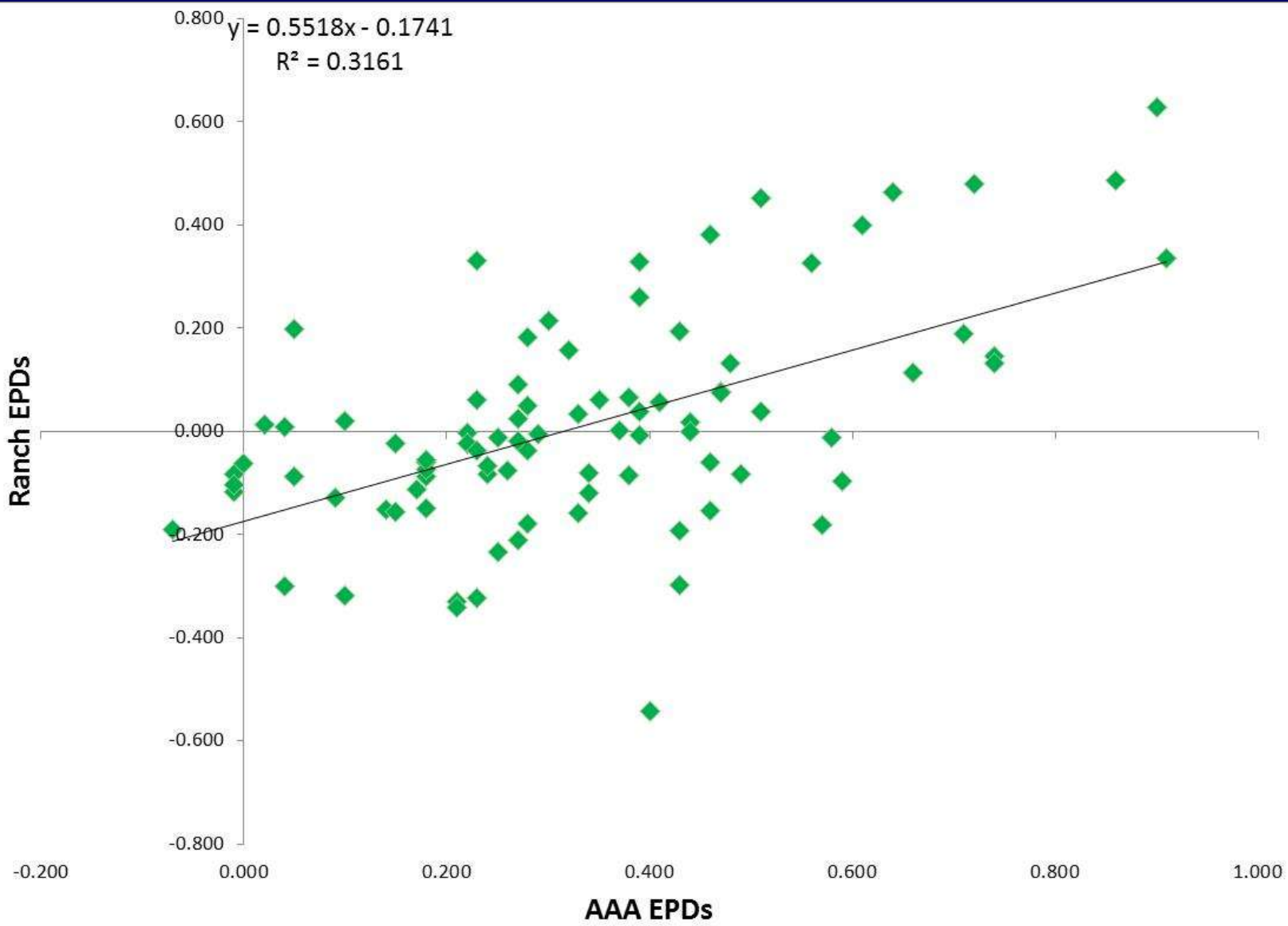


# # of calves born/bull – Fall 2009 calving





# Preliminary correlation of EPDs

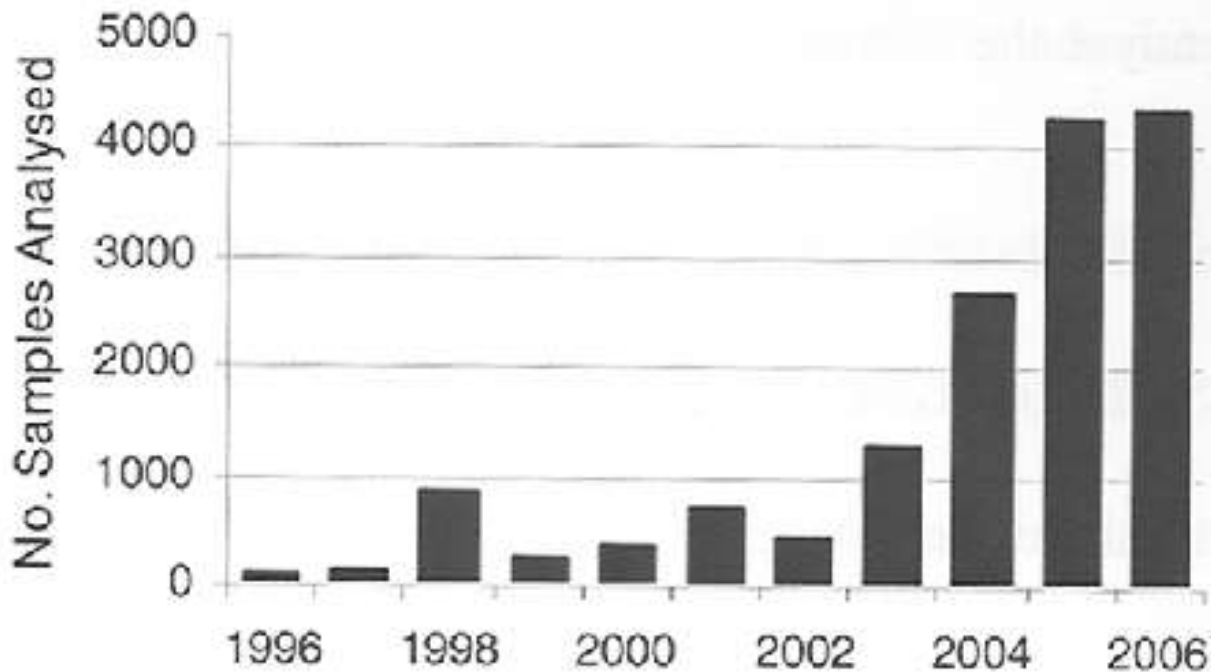




**In excess of 30% of animals in the sire breeding tier of some livestock industries in New Zealand are currently being DNA tested for parentage**



**Figure 1: Annual number of Cattle parentage tests.**



Crawford, A. M., R. M. Anderson, and K. M. McEwan. 2007. Uptake of DNA testing by the livestock industries of New Zealand. *Proceedings of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production* 67:168-174  
Animal Biotechnology and Genomics Education





# DNA-based tests for cattle

## What is working well

- Identification of genetic defects
- Parentage

## What is not working so well (at present)

- Genetic markers for quantitative traits
- Genomic selection in beef cattle



# The Power of the IGENITY<sup>®</sup> profile for Angus

The American Angus Association<sup>®</sup> through its subsidiary, Angus Genetics Inc.<sup>®</sup> (AGI), has a vision to provide Angus breeders with the most advanced solutions to their genetic selection and management needs.

Genomic-enhanced Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) can now be calculated for your animals using the highly predictable American Angus Association database along with IGENITY<sup>®</sup> profile results to provide a more thorough characterization of economically important traits and improved accuracy on young animals.

Using the IGENITY profile for Angus, breeders receive comprehensive genomic results for multiple, economically important traits.

1. Dry Matter Intake
2. Birth Weight
3. Mature Height
4. Mature Weight
5. Milk
6. Scrotal Circumference
7. Weaning Weight
8. Yearling Weight
9. Marbling
10. Ribeye Area
11. Fat Thickness
12. Carcass Weight
13. Tenderness
14. Percent Choice (quality grade)
15. Heifer Pregnancy
16. Maternal Calving Ease
17. Direct Calving Ease
18. Docility
19. Average Daily Gain
20. Feed Efficiency
21. Yearling Height



**ANGUS**  
THE BUSINESS BREED

# Lead Today with 50K

1. Birth weight
2. Weaning weight
3. Weaning maternal (milk)
4. Calving ease direct
5. Calving ease maternal
6. Marbling
7. Backfat thickness
8. Ribeye area
9. Carcass weight
10. Tenderness
11. Postweaning average daily gain
12. Daily feed intake
13. Feed efficiency (net feed intake)



Pfizer Animal Health  
Animal Genetics

50K SNP chip assays  
50,000 SNPs spread  
throughout genome

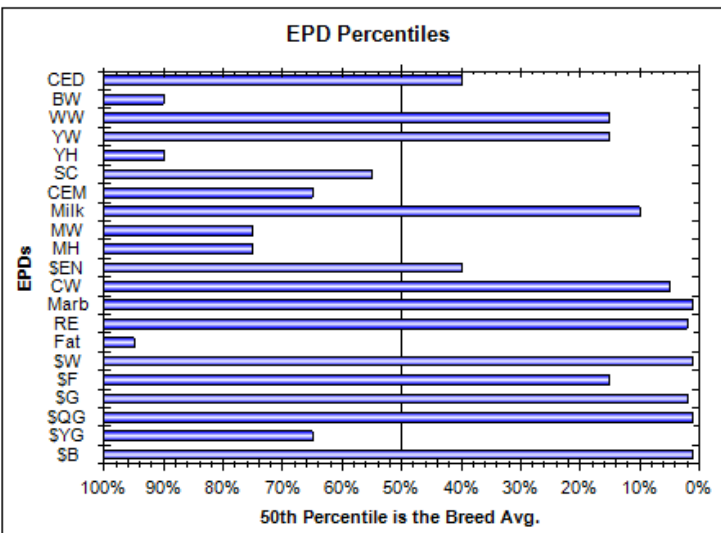


**Black Angus Sire**

**G A R Predestined**



Reg. No.: 13395344  
 Calved: 8/16/1999  
 Tattoo: 5899  
 Semen: \$25  
 Certificates: \$20  
 Spring 2010 EPD



**G A R Predestined:**

From start to finish--conception to carcass--no other bull in the beef business today adds as much real value to cattle as Predestined. Ranking as the #1 bull for \$B in the breed--our customers tell us that their Predestined-sired cattle return the most dollars to their pockets--they know that \$B works. Unlike any other 036 son, Predestined tones down size, adds depth of flank, superior feet and legs and a pleasant disposition to his offspring. His conception rate is high and he's been a standout in timed-AI programs. His progeny look good--his bulls are thick and his heifers are fancy--and they always display additional shape and capacity. He ended 2006 as our top-seller and rightfully so--Predestined's many talents for creating value are for real.

Production						Maternal					
CED Acc	BW Acc	WW Acc	YW Acc	YH Acc	SC Acc	CEM Acc	Milk Acc	MkH MkD	MW Acc	MH Acc	ENS
+7	+4.1	+53	+99	+0	+31	+6	+28	345	+13	+2	+5.24
.84	.97	.96	.94	.96	.95	.80	.85	1155	.81	.81	

Carcass					Usnd	SValues					
CW Acc	Marb Acc	RE Acc	Fat Acc	Grp Prog	UGrp UProg	Wean	Feedlot	Grid	SQG	SYG	Beef
+26	+1.07	+59	+046	47	4269	37.39	37.08	38.21	35.04	3.17	69.78
.82	.84	.82	.81	261	11990						

QG1	na	QG2	na	QG3	na	QG4	na	QG GPD	
T1		T2	0	T3	0	-	-	T GPD	-0.35
FE1	na	FE2	na	FE3	na	FE4	na	FE GPD	

**Current Sires Percent Breakdown**

As of 03/22/2010

Multibreed version 2008							
Registration #	Tenderness	Fat Thickness	Yield Grade	Ribeye Area	Carcass Weight	Percent Choice	Marbling
13395344	3	6	6	4	2	8	9

EPDs (CW, Marb, RE, Fat) are enhanced by genomic profiles generated by igenity.

**G A R Predestined**

**13395344**

	CED	BW	WW	YW	ADG	DMI	NFI	CEM	MA	CW	FAT	REA	MS	TND	\$B/\$MVP <sup>PL</sup>
EPD	7	4.1	53	99	-	-	-	6	28	26	0.046	0.59	1.07	-	69.78
ACC	0.84	0.97	0.96	0.94	-	-	-	0.8	0.85	0.82	0.81	0.82	0.84	-	-
EPD % Rank	30	85	15	15	-	-	-	55	10	4	90	2	1	-	1
MVP	13	1.0	37	-	0.45	0.97	0.04	8	33	55	0.07	0.92	1.52	-0.43	243
MVP % Rank	3	70	10	-	30	90	90	4	1	1	90	1	1	80	1



# DNA tests for selection

## Bad News

- Tests are breed specific – only Angus
- Data reporting is varied and hard to interpret
- No independent estimate of test accuracy

## Good News

- Larger SNP panel (700K) might help tests work across breeds
- DNA information is starting to get integrated into EPDs (Angus)





# Beef Improvement Federation (BIF)

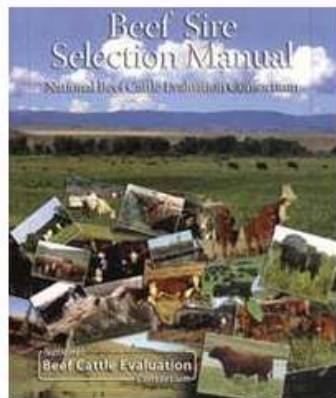
*"BIF believes that information from DNA tests only has value in selection when incorporated with all other available forms of performance information for economically important traits in NCE, and when communicated in the form of an EPD with a corresponding BIF accuracy."*



## Animal Biotechnology

Marker-Assisted Selection and Breeding

Alison L Van Eenennaam



[NBCEC Beef Sire Selection Manual](#) - National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium (2010)  
**UPDATED 2010**

[Commercially-available DNA Tests for Beef Cattle](#) (06/10) **NEW!**

[Value of DNA Information for beef bull selection](#) (6/10) **NEW!**

[Are DNA tests for you?](#) *Beef Magazine* (3/10) **NEW!**

[DNA markers... Revolution or Evolution?](#) *ABS Breeders Journal* (Fall/Winter 2009)

[Do DNA tests work?](#) *Beef Magazine* (10/09)

[Basics of DNA Markers and Genotyping](#) (6/09)

[DNA-Based Progeny Testing](#) (6/09)

[Fundamentals of Expected Progeny Differences](#) (6/09)

[Marker-Assisted Selection in Beef Cattle Handout](#) (6/09)

[The Value of Improving Accuracy of Yearling Bulls](#) (6/09)

[Validation of Marker Tests](#) (6/09)

[Whole Genome Selection](#) (6/09)

[2009 Beef Improvement Federation Conference Proceedings](#)

[Curly Calf Syndrome \(Arthrogyrosis Multiplex \(AM\)\) Update](#) (2/09)

Cattlemen to Cattlemen streaming [video](#) (5/08)

["No Bull" Discussion on Genetic Markers](#) (5/08)



HOME > GENETICS > ARE DNA TESTS FOR YOU?

### ARE DNA TESTS FOR YOU?

Mar 1, 2010 12:00 PM, By Alison Van Eenennaam

High-density genetic marker tests are now available. How do they fit in your operation?

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Recently, the DNA testing industry matured from marker tests involving a handful of markers explaining a relatively modest amount (0-10%) of the genetic variation in the target trait, to panels involving hundreds or thousands of markers. This is an exciting development because many of the production traits of interest to beef cattle producers are likely to be controlled by a large number of genes.

The proportion of genetic variation explained by these high-density panels provides producers with a way to quantitatively evaluate the merit of commercial products. Accurate estimates of this proportion should now be the focus of test-panel evaluations. Such estimates will also enable breed associations to incorporate DNA data into expected progeny differences (EPDs).

### BIF RECOMMENDATION

DNA tests can be used much more effectively when incorporated into and presented as EPDs as recommended by a recent Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) task force. The recent incorporation

### MOST RECENT

- [Rethinking Horse Slaughterhouses](#)
- [Texas Family Forced To Leave Border Ranch](#)
- [2011 Annual Meat Conference Workshops To Address Hot Topics](#)
- [Opinion: Prices We Didn't Expect To See](#)
- [Cattle Market Top Ten List For 2011](#)

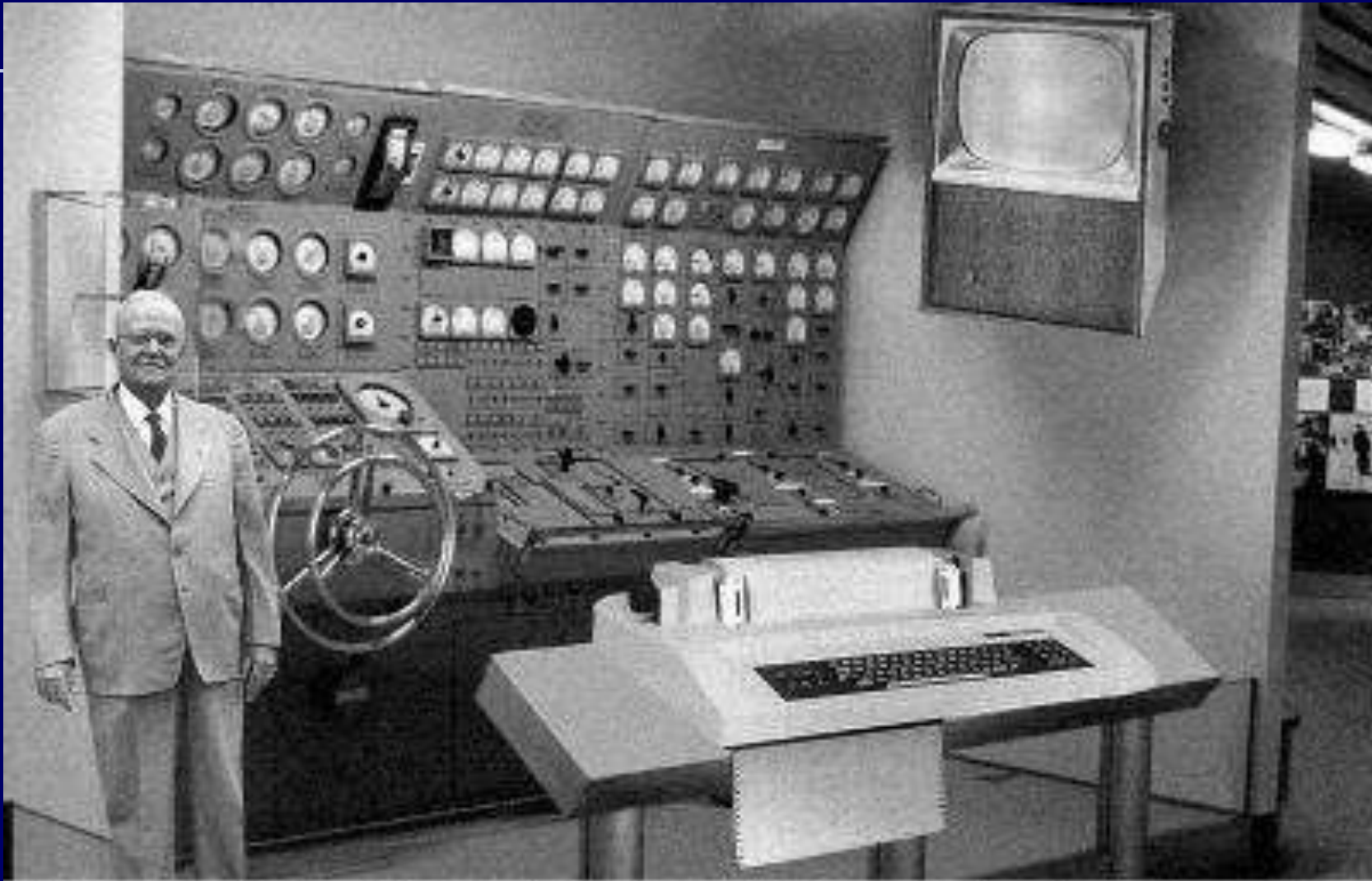
### ADVERTISEMENT



COW CALF WEEKLY

<http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/animalbiotech/Biotechnology/MAS/index.htm>

**“1954 version of what 'home computers' might look like in 50 years time (i.e. 2004)”**







# Wrong Expert Predictions

**I think there's a world market for about five computers.**

Thomas J. Watson, chairman of the board of IBM. 1943

**There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home.**

Ken Olson, president of Digital Equipment Corp. 1977

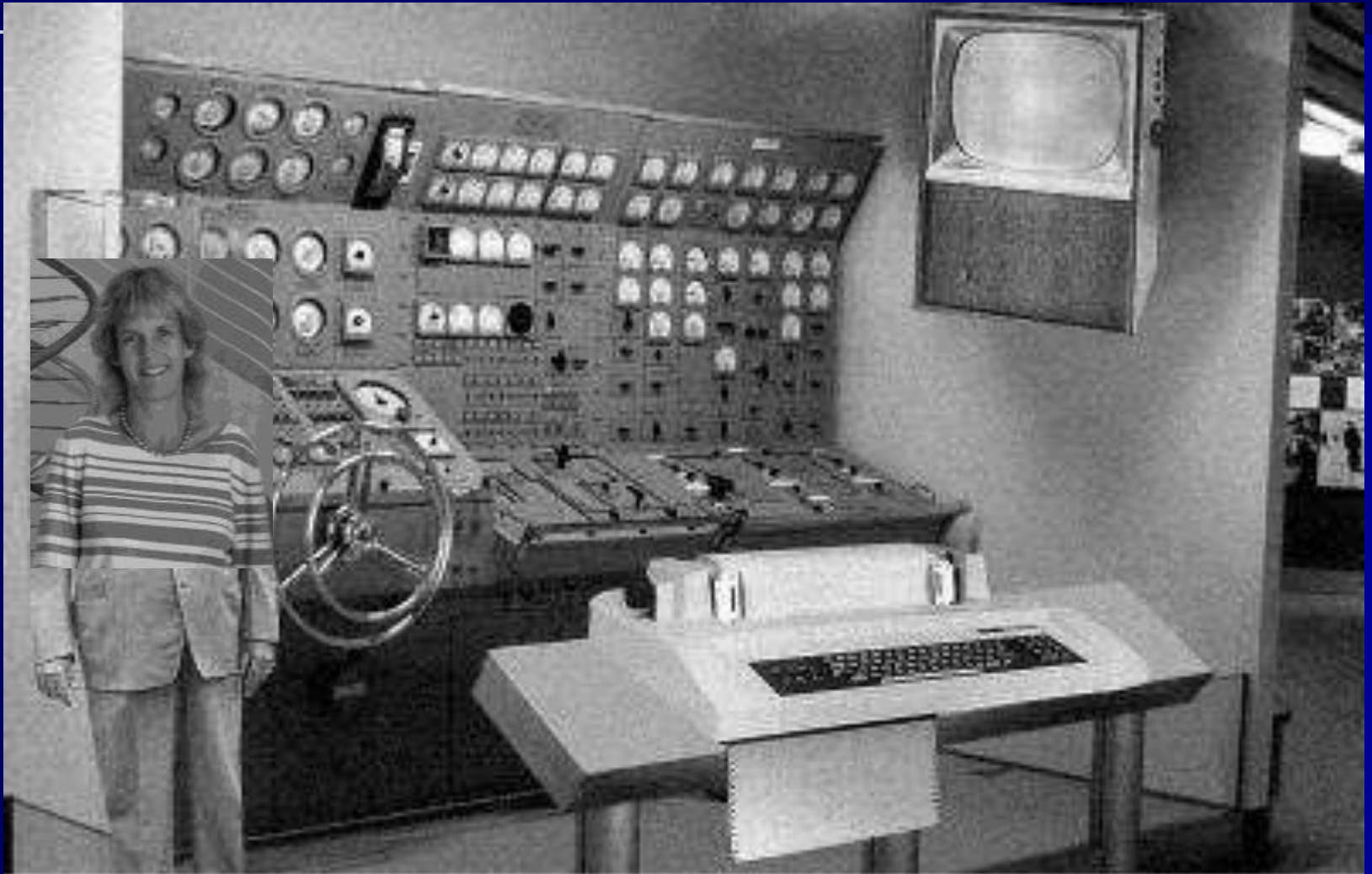
**The cost for a "large" genome scan (defined as 18 chromosomes\* 7 chromosome (i.e. 126 markers!) \* \$4/marker) = \$504**

Ben Hayes and Mike Goddard, 2003. Evaluation of marker assisted selection in pig enterprises. Livestock Production Science 81:197-211.





**“what escaped their vision was that science might come up with new and different ways of commercializing and using new technologies.”**







United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

**“This project is supported by National Research Initiative Grant no. 2009-55205-05057 from the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Animal Genome program.”**

# Come to Melbourne, Australia !!!

## 2-5 May, 2011



**Date Claimer**  
Applied Genomics for  
Sustainable  
Livestock Breeding

2-5 May 2011  
The Sebel Albert Park  
Melbourne

[www.smogenomics.org](http://www.smogenomics.org)  
[genomics-conf@jkconnections.com.au](mailto:genomics-conf@jkconnections.com.au)

# 2011





**Questions?**