

STATION #5: KEEP-CULL REPLACEMENT HEIFERS

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STATION PURPOSE:

Team members will learn to evaluate the merit of performance data along with visual appraisal in order to select animals that will best fit a production scenario.

STATION STRUCTURE:

This is a live cattle station. Teams will evaluate performance data and visually appraise eight heifers. Teams will be given a scenario that addresses the objectives and marketing scheme of the operation along with other management information. Production data on each heifer will also be available. The team will select four of the eight heifers to keep for the respective scenario. Teams will also be asked questions about the set of heifers that they have chosen to keep or cull and their respective genetic/performance figures. The team will be scored on the appropriate selection of the heifers along with their responses to questions.

In the case of a three-member team, only two members will participate, the third will be an observer.

AREAS OF STUDY:

Sample scenario:

You are a purebred Angus seedstock producer. Your cattle are located in south central Iowa. Feed resources and labor at calving are adequate. Your primary source of income comes from the sale of bulls and replacement heifers to commercial cattlemen.

Sample questions:

- Which heifer appears to be the easiest fleshing?
- Between 2 and 3 which heifer is more correct on her feet and legs?
- Which heifer would we expect to provide the most yearling growth to her progeny?
- If mated to the same bull which heifer would potentially have the largest calf at birth?
- Between 4 and 8 which heifer is the nicest balanced?

Production data may include but is not limited to these areas:

- Birth Weight EPD
- Weaning Weight EPD
- Milk EPD
- Yearling Weight EPD
- Frame Score
- Pelvic Area
- ADJ Backfat
- ADJ Ribeye Area
- ADJ% IM Fat
- 205 ADJ Weight
- Birth Weight Ratio
- Weaning Weight Ratio
- Total Maternal
- Dam MPPA
- Stayability
- Bioeconomic Indexes