American Angus Association

$Value Indexes

$Values are multi-trait selection indexes expressed in dollars per head, to assist commercial beef producers by adding simplicity to genetic selection decisions. A $Value has meaning only when used in comparison to the $Value of another animal. For example, just as with EPDs, variation in $Values between animals indicates average expected differences in the relative value of progeny if random mating is assumed and the calves are exposed to the same environment.

$Values			
$W	**$F**	**$G**	**$B**
+21.28	**+13.60**	**+12.53**	**+25.32**

Weaned Calf Value ($W): an index expressed in dollars per head, is the expected average difference in future progeny performance for preweaning merit. $W includes both revenue and cost adjustments associated with differences in birth weight, weaning direct growth, maternal milk, and mature cow size.

Feedlot Value ($F): an index expressed in dollars per head, is the expected average difference in future progeny performance for postweaning performance compared to progeny of other sires.

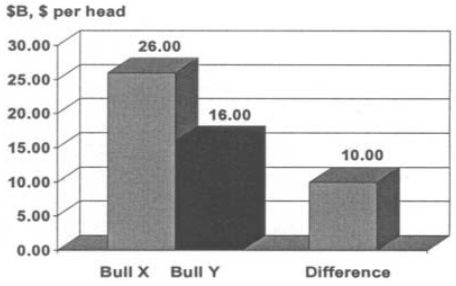
Grid Value ($G): an index expressed in dollars per head, is the expected average difference in future progeny performance for carcass grid merit compared to progeny of other sires.

- **Quality Grade ($QG)** represents the quality grade segment of the economic advantage found in $G. $QG is intended for the specialized user wanting to place more emphasis on improving quality grade. The carcass marbling (Marb) EPD, which is influenced by carcass marbling scores and ultrasound percent intramuscular fat (% IMF) measurements, contribute to $QG.

- **Yield Grade ($YG)** represents the yield grade segment of the economic advantage found in $G. $YG is intended for the specialized user wanting to place more emphasis on red meat yield. It provides a multi-trait approach to encompass ribeye, fat thickness and weight into an economic value for red meat yield.

Beef Value ($B): an index expressed in dollars per head, is the expected average difference in future progeny performance for postweaning and carcass value compared to progeny of other sires. The $B value combines the contributions of $F and $G.

$Values have meaning when used in comparing the relative merit or ranking of two individuals. For example, Bull X has a $B value of +26.00, and Bull Y has a $B value of +16.00. If these bulls were randomly mated to a comparable set of females and the calves were exposed to the same environment, on the average you would expect Bull X's progeny to have a +10.00 dollar per head advantage in postweaning performance and carcass merit over Bull Y's progeny (26.00 - 16.00 = +10.00 per head)



How to Use $Values

$Values should be used to complement the criteria that producers already use when selecting bulls. Different management situations may require varying emphasis on the genetic selection "tools" offered. For instance, one producer might have historically sold calves at weaning, and rarely used the carcass EPDs in bull selection decisions. First he needs to meet his birth weight EPD/calving ease EPD requirements, depending on whether heifers are to be bred. Then selections can be made on Weaned Calf Value ($W) which characterizes revenue and costs associated with the preweaning phase. He would use $W to capture preweaning dollar differences when comparing two sires of interest.

In addition, he may want to begin making general progress in improving end-product value to create more predictability in his calves, or he may choose to retain ownership in the future. In this case, the $B could be used in concert with the selection criteria he has used in the past, such as $W, to make directional change in postweaning and carcass merit.

The $Values are not designed to be driven by a single trait, as an index is multi-trait by design. These selection tools are the result of the application of industry-relevant market values to Angus genetics for preweaning, feedlot, and carcass merit.

Keep in mind that selection for an individual trait may be an effective option for some producers. In this case, he might sell fed cattle and have significant carcass data on past groups of steers. This detailed data would allow him to identify the specific trait in need of improvement. In this case, $B might not be used where the individual end-product EPDs could better assist him in achieving the desired genetic change. The producer still has the opportunity to use $B as a tool in maintaining the balance between feedlot and carcass traits.

The $W, $F, $G and $B values on individual animals and the *Sire Evaluation Report* may be viewed at *www.angus.org*.

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