

A Historical Account

BIF Live Animal, Carcass and
End Product Committee

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American Angus Association

Historical Account

- ❑ BIF Organized January 12, 1968
Cosmopolitan Hotel, Denver
 - ❑ A Federation of organizations...
to standardize performance recording
in beef cattle
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Historical Account

- 1969 Technical Committee #3
Beef Carcass Evaluation
 - 1971 Beef Carcass Data Committee
 - 1975 Carcass Evaluation Committee
 - 1978 Live Animal Evaluation Committee
 - 1987 Live Animal and Carcass Evaluation
Committee
 - 1998 Live Animal, Carcass and End Product
Committee
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First meeting in 1969 - Assumptions

- ❑ The beef product is the end point of all
beef cattle improvement programs.
 - ❑ Quality of product and quantity of
edible portions are basic measures of
carcass merit.
 - ❑ The relative value of quantity and
quality are subject to consumer
demand.
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Technical Committee #3 Recommended:

- ❑ Carcass Evaluation follow the
standards of the American Meat
Science Institute.
 - ❑ Specifics - the committee
recommended that USDA Quality and
Yield Grades be standards for
comparison.
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Early 1970's

- ❑ USDA adopted a new program called
Beef Carcass Data Service
 - ❑ Unique ear tag - orange USDA shield
 - ❑ Gave rise to BIF Beef Carcass Data
Committee
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Mid 1970's

The Committee Resolved...

- ❑ Progress in beef cattle breeding could only result from logical, scientific sound breeding programs.
- ❑ Selection must be for heritable traits.
- ❑ Selection must be for traits of economic value. For example, trimness, muscling, frame and soundness, sex and breed character

Mid 1970's

- ❑ Ad-hoc linear measurements committee was formed.
- ❑ Concluded linear measurements were being used extensively.
- ❑ Must standardize methods for gathering data: hip height, shoulder height
- ❑ Board rejected – no scientific basis

Late 1970's

Name changed to Live Animal Evaluation Committee

- ❑ Frame race in full bloom
- ❑ Sub-committee appointed to evaluate frame and make a frame score chart

Early 1980's

- ❑ Committee of two appointed to finalize frame score chart Massey and Schalles
- ❑ Approved in 1984
- ❑ Revised 1985 to include Frame 9
- ❑ Revised 1992 in curvilinear fashion
- ❑ Revised 1995 to extend to 24 months

Also in Early 1980's

Committee began to look at...

- ❑ Scrotal measurements and adjustment factors
- ❑ Udder scoring
- ❑ Disposition

Late 1980's

Live Animal and Carcass Evaluation Committee; Albuquerque 1988

Focus on Ultrasound

Dr. Jim Stouffer
Dr. Patsy Houghton
Dr. Lorna Pelton
Dr. Bob Long

Early 1990's

- ❑ Instrument grading
 - ❑ Refinement of ultrasound process
 - ❑ Adoption of standards for technician certification
 - ❑ Standards for evaluating body composition
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Mid 1990's

- ❑ Explored centralized ultrasound processing concepts.
 - ❑ Considered ways to use ultrasound to measure %IMF.
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Early 2000's

Live Animal, Carcass and End-Product committee

- ❑ Worked on methodology for determining boxed beef value.
 - ❑ Recommended guidelines for the use of ultrasound in determining harvest end points in feed yard.
 - ❑ Related research on relationship between disposition and tenderness.
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Early 2000's (Continued)

Live Animal, Carcass and End-Product committee

- ❑ Explored avenues for the use of DNA technology for determining carcass merit.
 - ❑ Examined ways to gather data and analyze feed efficiency.
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Mid 2000's

- ❑ Examined research related to measuring tenderness.
 - ❑ Further refined the ultrasound certification process.
 - ❑ Review systems for evaluating ultrasound hardware and software.
 - ❑ Examined relationship between phenotypic and genetic trends in carcass traits.
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