

**Subcommittee Report:
Standardization of EPD for
Carcass Traits**

Ad Hoc Subcommittee

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co-chairs**

Current Status

- Three current approaches
 - Calculate carcass and ultrasound separately
 - Multi-trait models that combine carcass and ultrasound data, print results on carcass scale
 - Similar models, but print results on ultrasound scale

Why Standardize?

- Simplify and increase accuracy of selection for commercial producers
- Allow investigation of across-breed EPD adjustments for carcass traits
- Necessary for multi-breed evaluation

Ad-hoc Subcommittee

- Larry Cundiff
- Keith Bertrand
- Dorian Garrick
- Lauren Hyde
- Dan Moser
- Sally Northcutt
- Janice Rumph
- Robert Williams
- Dale Van Vleck

Current Guidelines Statement

“Carcass traits are presumed to be measured on an age-constant basis. Carcass measures could be from slaughter data, live animal data (ultrasound, etc.), or a combination of both data types.”

BIF Guidelines, Chapter 5, page 51

Suggested Replacement

“Whenever possible, carcass data from harvested fed cattle and ultrasound measurements from yearling breeding bulls and heifers should be jointly analyzed with multiple trait models. ...

(continued)

Suggested Replacement

... Such an evaluation would provide genetic predictions for both carcass and ultrasound measurements, but since the carcass measurements are the economically relevant traits, the carcass trait predictions and their associated accuracy values should be published for use in selection. ...

Suggested Replacement

... Both carcass and ultrasound measurements should be evaluated on an age-constant basis.”

Next Steps

- Further input
- BIF Board votes on change
- Implementation is up to individual breed association leaders