


**Can we select for structure? Foot Score EPD**

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**Where do we see it?**



**Building them from the ground up**

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**A path to better feet.....**



- 2016**: Foot score collection began.
- 2017**: Research on foot score database commenced.
- 2018**: Research groups identified to collect mature cow phenotypes.
- 2018**: Research EPD release to membership.
- 2018**: Additional research EPD releases.
- 2019**: Research EPD release for Foot Angle and Claw Set.

6,046 scores from 160 members have been reported since.

Approximately 4,000 scores on mature cows.

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**Building a system that will be utilized**


1. Simple
2. Self explanatory
3. Pinpoint the issues
4. Useful for genetic evaluation




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**American Angus Association® FOOT SCORE GUIDELINES**

**Foot angle (5 is ideal)**




**Claw Set (5 is ideal)**



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**Guidelines**






1. Score prior to hoof trimming.
2. Score the worst foot.
3. Yearling bulls and heifers (earliest point to capture) – 320 and 440 days of age
4. Older females (repeated measures accepted)
5. Large groups of 18-month or 2-year-old bulls can also be submitted, if available.

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### Recommendations during data collection



- Feet should be evaluated on a concrete/hard surface
- All 4 feet should be evaluated independently
  - In an alleyway or pen for close inspection
  - Naturally standing and able to view movement
  - NOT IN A CHUTE
- Bulls – at least a year of age to point of sorting
- Females – ideally at least twice
  - As yearlings then again as young cows



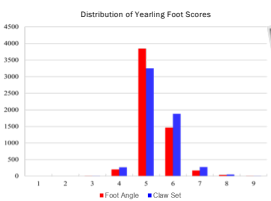






### Will it work?



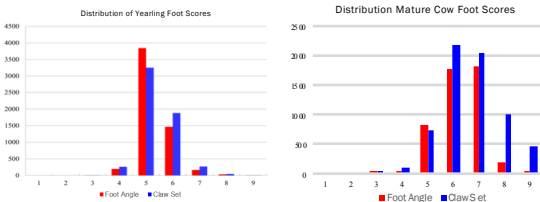



### Initial research efforts were promising






### More variation captured in older females




Heritability of both traits is 0.25 = moderate






### Understanding the tools released



**Foot angle (5 is ideal)**



**Claw Set (5 is ideal)**








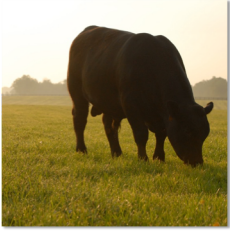
### EPDs reported in scoring units

	No. of Records	Average	Min	Max
Claw Set	19,538	0.50	0.15	0.97
Foot Angle	18,174	0.51	0.06	1.17








## Comparing EPDs among sires




	Claw Set EPD	Foot Angle EPD
Sire A	0.74	0.80
Sire B	0.29	0.34
	0.45	0.46



*On average Sire B will have progeny that score, approximately, half a score better for Claw Set and Foot Angle.*





## Producers stepping up to the plate

- Additional scores being added to the database
- Increased attention during selection
- Inclusion of foot score EPDs in \$M





## Questions & Discussion

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*Thank you for the opportunity to visit!*

