

2018 LIVESTOCK SKILL-A-THON GROUP THINK QUESTION JUNIOR TEAM

While evaluating livestock, many factors can be taken into consideration, based on the animal's physical appearance alone. But when EPD's are an additional source to consider, things can either become clearer on how to rank the livestock or they can become more confusing, depending on a lot of things.

Generally, every set of expected progeny differences include the following information; a scenario, a birthweight figure, a weaning weight figure, a yearling weight figure, and a milk figure (*see example set of EPD's below*). Of these things, what is the most important category in your opinion? Which one deserves the most of your attention when you are analyzing EPD's? Is it the scenario, the birthweight, the weaning weight, the yearling weight or the milk figure?

Charolais Bulls EPD's

ID	BW	WW	YW	MILK	REA	MARB	Actual Scrotal Circumference
1	-1.9	20.1	28.8	16.4	.11	.11	36.0
2	2.1	12.7	21.0	8.0	.14	.00	38.6
3	3.1	12.1	23.3	11.7	.04	-.02	37.8
4	1.7	25.1	38.1	17.3	.20	.08	37.2
Breed Ave.	1.6	14.2	24.2	8.7	.09	.00	

SCENARIO

These bulls are to be used on first calf heifers running in large pastures in the western United States. All offspring will be retained through the feedlot and marketed on a grid that favors choice, yield grade 1 & 2 carcasses.