Understanding EPDs

With the Canadian Angus Association

What are EPDs?

Expected progeny differences (EPDs) are genetic selection tools that provide producers a measure of an animal's genetic merit for traits that are economically relevant to their operation. Basically, EPDs are a measure of how an animal's progeny can be expected to perform, on average.

An animal's genetics will contribute in part to how it performs. A portion of that performance is also dictated by the environment provided to that animal. The environment includes weather, disease, feed, stress, handling, vaccination protocols, maternal environment, housing, and the animal group dynamics. The environment differs for each herd as geography and producer management plays a large role in environment. EPDs remove the environment from all traits measured and provide producers with an estimate of the genetics that contribute towards each trait.

For more information on EPDs, visit:

www.cdnangus.ca/adding-value/angusone-epd-genetic-evaluations/

EPDs: are a universal way of describing the genetic potential of progeny from breeding stock

EPDs: are a genetic selection tool that can help producers reach a breeding selection goal for their herd

EPDs: can help you maintain the traits that you want to keep in your herd

EPDs: can help you avoid traits that you might not wish to use on your cow herd and introduce into your herd

EPDs: are a great way to describe the high quality Canadian Angus genetics that you raise to your customers

EPDs: are the only fair way to compare breeding stock across herds and different environments