

PHENOTYPES REMAIN KING IN THE GENOMIC ERA

SHEATH AND NAVEL SCORING SYSTEM

Management of sheath and navel scores can have an impact on reproductive performance, but, also, can have an impact on your herd from an economic standpoint. Cattle with excessive underlines are not as marketable to the packers and feedlots and therefore may receive discounts.

Reproductively, bulls with excessive or undesirable sheath designs are more susceptible to damage of their reproductive organs. Sheath and navel scores are valued from one to five in both bulls and females.

- 1 = Excessively clean, English type
- 2 = Optimum; Brahman influence indicated, but not excess leather in navel area. Sheath hangs at a 45° angle and is well controlled.
- 3 = Acceptable; leather in navel slightly in excess of desirable amounts. Any excessively clean or optimum sheath which opens at a 90° angle to the body wall should be scored as a three. Leather may run length of underline.
- 4 = Marginal; excessive loose leather in navel area, slightly pendulous sheath.
- 5 = Unacceptable; extremely pendulous sheath. Also includes all bulls with large prepuceal openings.

See examples below for proper sheath and navel scoring.



Sheath Score 1



Sheath Score 3



Sheath Score 5



Navel Score 1



Navel Score 3



Navel Score 5

Phenotypic (performance) data is as important today as it's ever been. Current, correct and accurate collection of phenotype data is the best way to take advantage of an animal's genotype data. The combination of pedigree, performance and genotype data submission and evaluation will lead to improvements in accuracy of prediction in current selection tools such as EPDs, selection indexes, etc. The collection and submission of phenotypic information

by breeders will only make our traditional selection tools better or may even lead to new discoveries for faster genetic gain through selection. In other words, genomics merely adds to the strength of our sire summary when it is backed by sound performance data.

