

The ABC's of EPD's

May 2015

No doubt you have received your fair share of bull sale catalogs in your email inbox this year. And if you took the time to scan through them, they all have one feature in common: EPD's. And while EPD's, or Expected Progeny Differences, are as common in the cattle industry today as de-wormers and ear tags, they are not used by the Galloway breed.

To answer some basic questions, consider the following information from a University of Minnesota Extension publication.

What are EPD's?

"Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) can indicate the genetic value of one specific animal compared to another specific animal of the same breed, regardless of the age or location of the herd."

How are EPD's generated?

"EPDs are calculated using performance record information, with a complex algebraic formula in the National Cattle Evaluation Computing Centers at the University of Georgia and Iowa State University."

What can EPD's tell me?

"Use EPDs to compare two animals of the same breed in terms of their genetic merit for that trait. *The actual measurement of an animal is controlled by many factors such as management, environment and genetics.*"

"I have never in my life learned anything from any man who agreed with me."

– Dudley Field Malone

The ABC's of EPD's	1
Galloway Cattle	2
Vaccinating your Herd	3
A Weighty Matter	7
Stuff You Ought to Know	11
"Why Galloway?"	12
Western Progress Sale	13
Meet the Directors	15

Galloway Cattle

The Galloway breed has been in North America for over 150 years. At one time it populated the Plains states, back in the days when cattle were exposed to the rigors of the environment with little assistance from their owners. The breed thrived in these circumstances, because that is the story of the breed's development. They were the cattle on the British Isles that were left on their own in the roughest of locales



The Galloway is today recognized as the oldest and purest breed of beef cattle from the British Isles. The Shorthorn breed tapped the Galloway gene pool to improve their stock, and subsequently the Angus breed tapped the Shorthorns for improvement. The Red Poll breed drew on the Galloway gene pool as well. But interestingly enough the Galloway was maintained as a pure breed. They populated the Southern Lowland regions of Scotland, an area hammered with hard, moisture-laden winds, poor soils and poor grazing. Possibly in response to this environment, the Galloway adapted with a double haircoat. The long silky outer hairs may reach 6 inches in length, and shed great amounts of moisture, while the soft, downy undercoat traps heat. The haircoat sheds in summer, either completely or to a nap of felt that frustrates biting insects including flies. They also adapted by becoming non-selective grazers. Any owner of

Galloway Cattle, cont. from pg. 2

Galloway cattle will attest to their willingness to consume undesirable forages, weeds and some browse.

Historically the Galloway breed has been known for its performance on the butcher's block. And in light of today's current stalled beef improvement (choice carcasses having plateaued out at around 60%), it would seem that an infusion of some 'old blood' might be just what the beef industry requires at this juncture in its history.

VACCINATING FOR A HEALTHY HERD

Chances are you already vaccinate your cows and calves as a means of preventing disease and abortion in your herd. Vaccination recommendations vary somewhat by region, but what follows is a list of some of the more common diseases vaccinated against by today's cattle producers.

Clostridium, commonly called Blackleg disease. A 7-way vaccine is very common, and a variant that includes pinkeye protection is available as well.

BVD, or Bovine Viral Diarrhea. Several vaccine manufacturers produce these in both killed and modified-live forms, so it is possible to vaccinate pregnant females as well as opens. Care must be used in vaccinating calves that are still on their dams to prevent BVD-PI (persistently infected) calves being born.

IBR, or Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis. Vaccines are available in both killed and modi-



(See pg. 9)

(EPD's continued from pg 1)

What are EPD limitations?

- “1. EPDs cannot compare animals accurately that are from different breeds.
2. EPDs cannot predict outcomes. For example a +40 weaning weight EPD does not mean that an additional 40 lbs. will be added to the weaning weight of your calves.
3. An EPD of zero does not necessarily mean the individual is average for the breed for that trait.
4. EPDs are not constant. As more information is obtained on an animal's EPD, the EPD may change, particularly as more progeny information is recorded. This does not mean that the bull's genetic make-up changes as he ages, but that ability to predict the bull's EPDs is improved, as more information becomes available. Therefore, it is impossible to predict whether an animal's EPDs will go up or down.
5. EPDs do not make up for poor management. Calves sired by a bull with a lower EPD for weaning weight can weigh heavier at weaning than calves sired by a bull with a higher weaning weight EPD if they are exposed to a more favorable environment (bred to a heavier milking cows, higher nutritional program, etc.).”

How many EPD measurements are there?

Birthweight	Weaning Weight	Yearling Weight	Milk	Mature daughter weight and height
Scrotal Circumference	Direct Calving Ease	Maternal Calving Ease	Gestation Length	Yearling Height
Carcass Weight	Marbling	Ribeye Area	Fat Thickness	Percent Retail Cuts
Docility				Stayability

How Accurate are EPD's?

Well, there's an APP for that. Actually, an ACC (Accuracy value). Young bulls with no progeny will have low accuracy EPD's, but as their progeny's data begins to hit the system, the expanding data pool further enhances the *likelihood* that the EPD value for a given trait is more accurate....but again, no guarantees. Accuracy is an indication as to whether the value is based on cold, hard data, or on not much more than an educated guess.

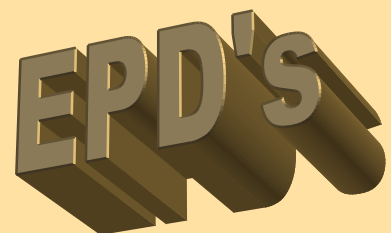
What are the units associated with EPD values?

The weight values (birth, weaning, yearling) are in pounds.

Scrotal Circumference is in CM

Ribeye area and fat thickness are in inches.

Marbling is expressed in degrees



(Vaccinations, cont. from pg 3)

red urine, abortions, and in calves, red urine (blood), high fever and death in as little as 3-5 days. Potential infective sources include streams and ponds. Vaccinations are used to increase resistance to the disease.

Vaccinate!

Protect your herd. Protect your Bottom Line.

Grant
GALLOWAYS
GALLOWAYS SINCE 1966

**Visitors Always
Welcome!**

Jim and Kathy Grant
1934 E. 400 South
Hazelton, ID 83335
208.825.5215
208.420.3977 (cell)
jimggrant@myway.com



**P
r
o
v
e
n**

**On Grass
and
In the
Feed Yard**

(EPD's continued from pg 4)

Docility is based on a scoring system of 1 through 6, where 1=Very Docile and 6=Very Aggressive

Milk is an expression of the daughter's contribution toward weaning weight as attributed to weaning weight.

"Will my new bull with a +.30 marbling score sire progeny with more marbling than my old bull who was a .0 for marbling?"

No guarantees...but given the same cowherd, there's a very good chance that the progeny will bump up about 30 points, or degrees of marbling.

"Will my new bull with a +25 weaning weight give me heavier calves at weaning than my old bull with a 0 weaning weight EPD?"

Again, no guarantees, but the calves should average 25 pounds more at 205 days of age than the progeny of the previous bull with his .0 EPD for weaning weight.

EPD's have been a useful tool to producers in many of the more common breeds of cattle, in part because of the volume of data available for collection and submission. While EPD's are now being enhanced using the wealth of DNA markers discovered to date, every EPD begins with hard data being collected and entered into the National Cattle Evaluation Computing Centers database. A commitment to collecting and submitting data is vital to any breed's EPD program.

(The information in this article comes largely from the source listed in the box at right).



Producer Requirements for breeds with EPD's

- ⇒ Weigh all calves at birth
- ⇒ Weigh all calves at weaning
- ⇒ Weigh all calves as yearlings (when possible)
- ⇒ Submit carcass data for marbling, fat thickness and REA; ultrasound data accepted.
- ⇒ Measure scrotal circumference on all bulls



<http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/beef/components/homestudy/mlesson3.pdf>

A Weighty Matter

A calf's birthweight is important data to have on hand in a seed stock operation. Customers, especially bull buyers, need to have an idea of where on the spectrum of birth weights the bull(s) you are offering for sale, fall.

There are three main methods used by producers today for collecting calf birth weight.

First, there is the calf sling and hanging scale ensemble sold at many farm stores and farm supply outlets online. (It does go a lot smoother with two people.) This method yields an accurate weight. One must make sure the scale is zeroed out each time before weighing.

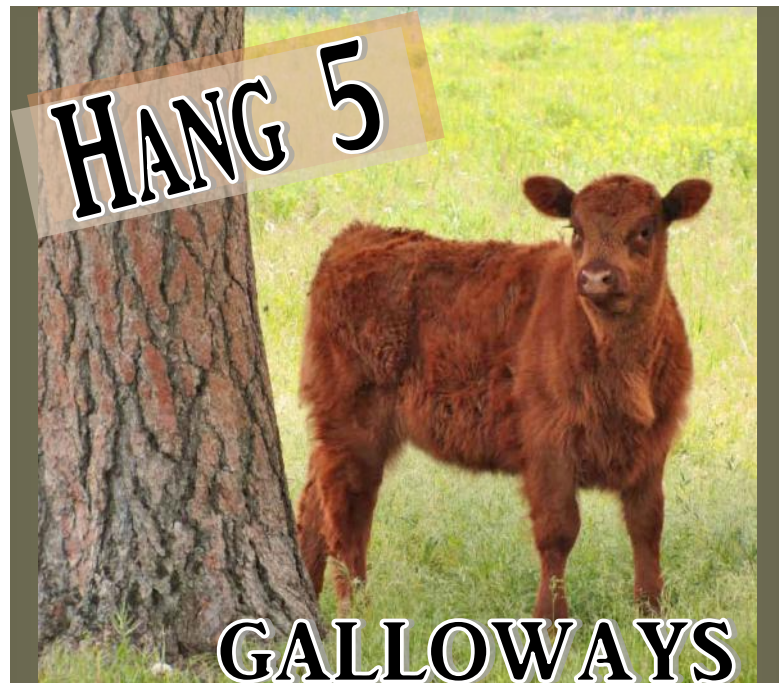
Second, there is the hoof tape, sold at the same outlets as above. It is calibrated to either heifer calves or bull calves, depending on which side of the tape you read. It is placed right at the junction of coronary band and hairline on a front hoof. The directions indicate that the weight is accurate to within +/- 7 pounds. However, when reading through forums about the use of the hoof weight tape, producers who do both methods, scale and tape, as a means of testing accuracy of the tape, say that there can be a lot of variation at times between actual weight and the weight indicated by the hoof tape.



Thirdly, there is the bathroom scale method, which seems to be a favorite among some producers as well. Most note that it is important to

have a firm board beneath the bathroom scale to facilitate accurate readings.

So, what's **your** preferred method of weighing your calves?



Genetics you can count on to grow from a low birthweight calf to a top grass finished carcass.

Breeding Stock Available

Hang 5 Galloways, Parkman, WY

307-752-7457

hang5ranch@msn.com

HONEST ABE

**Champion
Carcass Bull
2015**

National Western

Abe at 19 months

18.07 Ribeye Area (Large)
 .52 Ave. Ribeye (Excellent)
 4.13 Ave. IMF (+++Marbling)
 .28 Ave. Fat (Great Yield)
 .20 T score (Tender)

2015 NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW



**Semen
Available
NOW**

Registered Galloway

WILLOW VALLEY ABE A4

Born: May 30, 2013



**Abe at 7 months old
Reserve Grand Champion
Galloway Bull
2014 National Western**



**Abe at 4 months and
Dam: Kaehler's Mill Xena
3 yrs old of the foundation
Daphne Cow Family**

**We've got a fresh
approach to one of
the oldest & purest
foundation breeds
in the world.**

**Semen Available on Abe's Sire
RFLTD Yankee
Sire of overall Grand Female
& Champion Get of Sire
At 2015 NWSS**



*Willow Valley
Galloway*

**P.O. Box 1537
Chickasha, Okla.**

Jon & Shelli Brown 405-785-9115

jonbrown1159@yahoo.com

Will & Nicole Wheeler 405-274-1799

wheelerfarm87@aol.com



Mora, Minnesota - 612-390-2249

**Home of Real World
Meat and Potatoes Cattle.**

**Get ready for breeding season.
Call us for Embryos, Semen, Bulls.**

**Semen on hand from 3 bulls and embryos from a
number of different mating's. Dams include those
pictured at right, as well as Helen of Trapper 1S.
Some Embryos are exportable!**

ELI BERRY

Give us a call, or send email to eberryranch@gmail.com



(Vaccinating, cont. from pg 3)

fied-live forms. It is recommended that calves be vaccinated at 4 to 6 months of age, which is when passive immunity begins to diminish.

Vibriosis, or Campylobactor. Causes abortions, poor conception rates, long calving interval. Uterine infection possible. Spread by infected bulls, vaccines are highly effective for cows.

Leptospirosis. Manifests in two main types, Host-Adapted and Non-host adapted, meaning there are several varieties of the bacteria Leptospira and each one has its own maintenance host. In cattle, the adapted bacteria is L. hardjo, and is the least damaging to cattle. Other varieties include pomona, canicola, icterohaemorrhagiae, and grippotyphosa. These tend to cause a more severe illness. The illness in cows can include

RENAISSANCE FARMS LTD



The State meat inspector asked the owners of the processing plant "How do they get their cattle so fat on just grass?"

Answer: The RIGHT Galloway Genetics.

RFLTD Xenon

~Semen Available

620-343-6757

www.renfarms.com
galloway@renfarms.com

Bill and Judy Decker
Emporia, KS

BW 70 lb

AVAILABLE NOW:

Three fall 2014 bull calves, sons of Xenon. From the heart of our grassfed beef genetics.

Bulls and heifers available this fall.

Stuff you ought to know



SISKOWIT
GALLOWAY FARM

Matt & Jody Hipsher
22450 Siskowit Lake Rd • Cornucopia, WI 54827
715-742-3495 • cornykid@cheqnet.net
www.siskowitgalloways.com

AVAILABLE NOW:
TWO YEARLING
BULLS

2015 Breeders' Directories
are available now.
Contact Shawn Schumacher
406-799-0276 ckgalloways@itstriangle.com



It's a great big World Wide Web out there.
And if you don't have a website, it won't find you.

Get a Website!

AGBA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES
= \$80

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP DUES
= \$20

**DUES SHOULD BE PAID BY
JANUARY 1, 2015**

Mailing Addresses

Mail Registrations and Transfers to:

CLRC
2417 Holly Lane
Ottawa, Ontario K1V 0M7
CANADA

Mail Membership Applications and Dues
to:

Joyce Jones/AGBA Sec
395 Double J Lane
New Castle PA 16101

MAILING IN
REGISTRATIONS AND
TRANSFERS?
FIRST CLASS POSTAGE TO
CANADA IS:
\$1.15

Why Galloway?

An Interview with Dave Nebosis

As Galloway breeders, we all know that the breed is not as well known as many of the industry's mainline offerings. So when new breeders come into the fold, it's always interesting to learn their story.

Recently, Dave Nebosis, of Frazee, MN, purchased registered Galloway cattle. He was kind enough to answer some questions about his journey into the Galloway breed.

How did you learn about Galloway cattle?

"The first Galloway I came in contact with were at a farmer's near where I live. He had several bulls advertised on Craigslist so I called on them... they were already sold. So I asked about heifers and bought 5 from him. Two were Galloway crosses and they really stood out from the Angus/Lowline crosses. His cows were a lot of Galloway cross and all extremely tame. I then went on line and typed in *Galloway cattle for sale in North Dakota*. Blegen Galloways came up, and Harley's bull list. Looked them over and gave Harley a call and drove out there to look at the Baseline bull {although I already knew I was buying him.} When we drove in the yard I told my wife 'I'm buying that bull over there'; as it turned out that bull was Baseline. After seeing their herd of cattle I was sold, and purchased a heifer too. I let Harley know I was looking for a few more and a few days later he told me about Russ and Susan Waples. I called Susan and she e-mailed me pictures and I bought all the heifers they were willing to sell... 5. The best part of all this purchasing was the fact that Michelle Blegen worked out that way and would haul the cattle here on her next trip home. To me, what outstanding people to help someone they either had just met [Harley] and Michelle, who had never met us. Russ and Susan Waples shipped 5 head of cattle here and had to wait for the check to return with Michelle. Trust like that is rarely found today."

What made you decide to go with the Galloway breed?

"I think the cattle are of the temperament I like, and the thickness, depth, and conformation are what really convinced me this was a breed for us. I have raised Angus, Salers, Herefords and Highland cattle before. I've been in the cattle business from the time I was 15 years old ...now 62. About 5 years ago I had back surgery and sold all the cattle as I worked as a mechanic for a local trucking company. After selling hay for the last couple years I decided I missed my cows too much, and with a full recovery of the back the rest is history."

MONTANANS ATTEND CANADA'S WESTERN PROGRESS BULL SALE

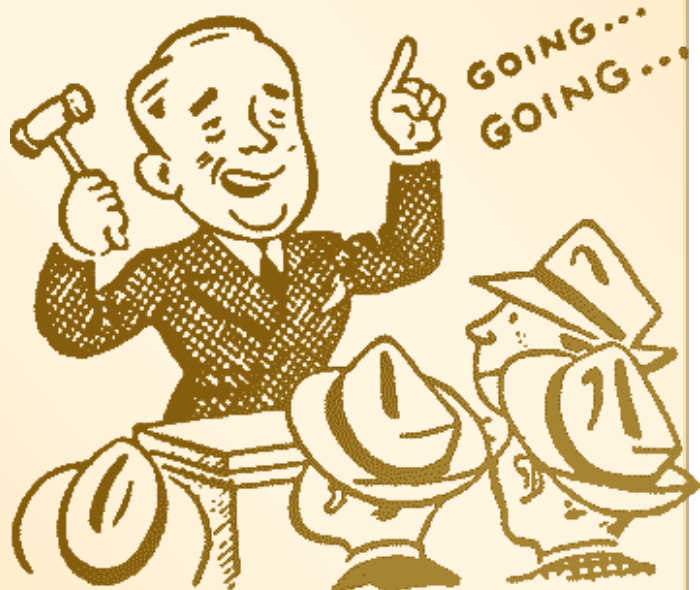



Three Montana Galloway breeders attended the March 17th Western Progress Bull Sale in Innisfail, Alberta, Canada. The sale was hosted by three Canadian producers: Alberta Plaid Galloway (Steve Schweer), Chickadee Farm (Jim King), and Tri R Way Livestock (Brian Robertson). The sale was live-streamed from the Innisfail Auction Market, Innisfail, AB. Bidding was both on site and via the internet.

Holli Hopkins, Superior, MT, Shawn Schumacher, Fort Benton, MT, and Susan Waples, Terry, MT converged in Red Deer county the day before the sale in order to tour Chickadee Farm's Galloway cattle and enjoy some social time over a wonderful meal at Jim and Laurel King's.

On Tuesday, in the hours before the start of the sale, Susan and Shawn were busy providing their excellent scouting services to me - Judy Decker (KS) - with regards to a particular bull.

When the dust settled, Canadian Galloway cattle were purchased by Brass Ring Galloways (Waples), Superior Cattle Company (Hopkins) and Renaissance Farms Ltd (Decker).



BRASS RING GALLOWAYS

TERRY, MT

406-635-2114

brgalwap@midrivers.com



Most of the calves here are on the ground now and ready to be seen! So if you can, come on over and see them. We wean in late October-right after the NILE. That would be a good time to pick up your sons and daughters of RFLTD Xenon, Brass Ring Ziegfield 36Z and Brass Ring Alec 32A.

Trapper Galloway Ranch

**Oldest herd of Galloway cattle in the
Western United States!**

**Semen and Embryos Available from
several sires and mating's!**

Floyd Smith www.trappergallowayranch.com
kit@trappergallowayranch.com
 307.765.2971



C

Is your tattoo letter for 2015

Stay Informed

The AGBA has an email list that is available for members to use to notify others about upcoming events such as field days, sales, shows, etc.

If you have never received an email from ***gallowaybreeders@yahoo.com***, chances are you are not on the list. SO...kindly send an email to myself, and I will see to it that you are added :)

Use this address please:
renfarms@osprey.net

Thanks!

Judy

Did You Know...

You can easily share this newsletter with your inquiry list by simply going to ***americangalloway.com***, click on More About Galloways tab, and then copy the link for The Galloway Dispatch into an email.

Meet Your Directors

This issue of the Galloway Dispatch features Joan Hoffman, Eastern Time Zone director, in the Meet Your Directors' column.

Hello from our farm in lower mid-Michigan of the eastern time zone, where along with Galloway cattle we produce corn, soybeans and hay.

In 1989 my husband Dale and I purchased our first Galloway, a purebred white bull, to use with our Angus/Holstein/Simmental cows. We were so impressed with the resulting calves we decided to focus on purebred white Galloways, so we purchased purebred heifers, and have built a herd base of around 40 brood cows. Most of our animals are white but we do have blacks, some commercial animals, and have a start up in dun.

White and dun cattle work very well with our weather conditions. Their winter coats allow them to thrive in sub-zero and icy circumstances; and their lighter color and shedding allows them to tolerate the high heat and humidity we have so often during the summer.

While we are not expanding our numbers, we do plan to continue raising and promoting Galloways as long as we are able.

We welcome phone conversations and visits any time!



J. Decker, editor
1800 E 18th
Emporia, KS 66801



THE GALLOWAY DISPATCH