CANADIAN LIMOUSIN ASSOCIATION

PERFORMANCE DATA COLLECTION QUICK GUIDE

Performance Information to Collect

We encourage you to provide all performance information as follows:

At Birth	Birth Weight	This information is used for the calculation of the birth weight EPD
	Calving Ease	U = Unassisted / Unobserved; E = Easy Pull; H = Hard Pull, M = Malpresentation; S = Surgical
	Dam's Udder Score	See performance code sheet for scoring
At Weaning	Weaning Weight	This information is used for the calculation of the weaning weight EPD
(100 - 310 days of age)	Calf's Temperament	See performance code sheet for scoring. This information is the backbone of our unique Limousin docility EPD
	Dam's Body Score	See performance code sheet for scoring.
At Yearling	Yearling Weight	This information is used for the calculation of the yearling weight EPD
(270 - 500 days of age) Minimum 60 days post weaning	Scrotal Circumference	This information is important to secure accurate SC EPD.
	Carcass Ultrasound	Must be done by a certified technician and analyzed by an approved lab in order to be included in EPD calculation

Docility Scoring - Chute Side

The docility score provided below is designed to subjectively evaluate differences in disposition when animals are processed through the squeeze chute. Because an animal's behavior can be influenced by past experiences, scoring should be conducted at weaning or yearling ages. This will reduce the extent to which current behavior has been influenced by prior handling experiences. Scores should be collected while calves are restrained with headgates but without having motion restricted by squeeze.

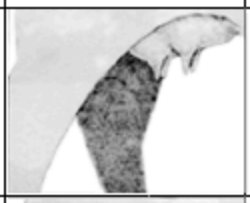
Docility Score	Definition
1	Docile. Mild disposition. Gentle and easily handled. Stands and moves slowly during processing. Undisturbed, settled, somewhat dull. It does not pull on headgate when in chute. Exits chute calmly.
2	Restless. Quieter than average, but maybe stubborn during processing. May try to back out of chute or pull back on headgate. Some flicking of tail. Exits chute promptly.
3	Restless. Quieter than average, but maybe stubborn during processing. May try to back out of chute or pull back on headgate. Some flicking of tail. Exits chute promptly.
4	Flighty (Wild). Jumpy and out of control, quivers and struggles violently. May bellow and froth at the mouth. Continuous tail flicking. Defecates and urinates during processing. Frantically runs fence line and may jump when penned individually. Exhibits long flight distance and exits chute wildly
5	Aggressive. May be similar to Score 4, but with added aggressive behavior, fearfulness, extreme agitation, and continuous movement which may include jumping and bellowing while in chute. Exits chute frantically and may exhibit attack behavior when handled alone.
6	Very Aggressive. Extremely aggressive temperament. Thrashes about or attacks wildly when confined in small, tight places. Pronounced attack behavior

Docility Scores and the Genetic Evaluation

If an animal has both a weaning and yearling docility score then the weaning score is used. The contemporary group is included as the group at weaning (if a weaning observation) or yearling (if a yearling observation).. Only chute scores are used in genetic evaluations.

Udder Suspension and Teat Size Scores. Udder and teat quality are among the most important functional traits of beef females. Unsound udders and teats are associated with reduced productive life and inferior calf performance, and poor udder and teat conformation is a major reason why cows are culled from the breeding herd. The scoring system described below is designed to help producers evaluate differences in udder and teat quality of beef cows.

Udder suspension and teat size scores are numerical values that reflect differences in udder and teat quality. Udder suspension scores are subjective assessments of udder support and range from 9 (very tight) to 1 (very pendulous). Teat size scores are subjective assessments of teat length and circumference and range from 9 (very small) to 1 (very large). Udder and teat scores should be taken within 24 hours after calving, preferably by one person and on the weakest quarter.

	Udder Suspension		Teat Size	
Score	Description		Description	
9	Very tight		Very small	
7	Tight		Small	
5	Intermediate / moderate		Intermediate/ moderate	
3	Pendulous		Large	
1	Very pendulous, broken floor		Very large, balloon-shaped	

BIF Guidelines

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	BCS	Description
Thin	1 Emaciated	No palpable fat over spinous processes, transverse processes, hip bones, or ribs. Tail head and ribs project quite prominently.
	2 Poor	Tail head and ribs are less prominent. Individual spinous processes are still sharp to the touch, but some tissue cover on dorsal portion of ribs.
	3 Thin	Ribs are individually identifiable but not as sharp to the touch. Obvious palpable fat along spine and over tail head with some tissue cover on dorsal portion of the ribs.
Optimum/moderate	4 Borderline	Individual ribs are no longer visually obvious. The spinous processes can be identified individually on palpation but feel rounded rather than sharp. Some fat cover over ribs, transverse processes, and hip bones.
	5 Moderate	Cow has generally good overall appearance. On palpation, fat cover over ribs feels spongy and areas on either side of tail head have palpable fat cover.
	6 High Moderate	Firm pressure required to feel spinous processes. A high degree of fat is palpable over ribs and around tail head.
Fat	7 Good	Very spongy fat cover over ribs and around tail head. "Pones" beginning to be obvious. Some fat around the vulva and in crotch.
	8 Fat	Cow very fleshy and over-conditioned. Spinous processes almost impossible to palpate. Cow has large fat deposits over ribs and around tail head, and below vulva. "Pones" are obvious.
	9 Extremely Fat	Cow looks patchy and blocky. Tail head and hips buried in fatty tissue and "pones" of fat are protruding. Bone structure no longer visible and barely palpable. Animal's mobility might even be impaired by large fatty deposits.

Richards et al., 1986. J. Anim. Sci. 62:300