

BEEF CLASS STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Structural problems in cattle have a substantial effect on both the reproductive and growth performance of a beef herd. It is widely recognized that structural problems in sires have determined effects on conception rates, calving patterns and thus profitability. Similarly, females with inadequate structural characteristics are more prone to weaning lighter calves or conceiving later in the breeding season than their more functional counterparts. These structural problems are filtered through the supply chain resulting in reduced income for the producer, feedlot and thus reducing the overall productivity of the Australian Beef industry.

The current trend for improving consistency and quality of product has shifted producers' focus towards selecting seedstock on carcass and growth genetic traits (EBV's). Whilst, this selection has been, and will continue to be pivotal in developing the Australian beef industry, we must not forget the fundamentals of livestock breeding.

The Beef Class Structural Assessment System was designed by the MLA, the BIA and several breed societies to address structural problems in the beef industry. Detailed analysis of three thousand animals in genetically linked herds indicated that structural characteristics such as leg and foot structure were moderately to high heritable.

AN EXPLANATION OF THE BEEF CLASS STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The Beef Class Structure Assessment System uses a 1-9 scoring system for feet and leg structure:

- A score of 5 is ideal;
- A score of 4 or 6 shows slight variation from ideal, but this includes most sound animals. An animal scoring 4 or 6 would be acceptable in any breeding program;
- A score of 3 or 7 shows great variation but would be acceptable in most commercial programs. However, seedstock producers should be vigilant and understand that this score indicates greater variation from ideal;
- A score of 2 or 8 are low scoring animals and should be looked at cautiously and inspected very closely before purchasing;
- A score of 1 or 9 should not be catalogued and are considered immediate culls.

STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENTS ON PROGENY OF Sires

Page	Sire	Progeny	FFC	RPC	FPA	RRA	RLside	RLhind	Fat	Capacity	Sheath	Udder Even	Udrear Act	Test Size
3	Androssan Connection X15	12	6.6	5.6	6.0	5.8	5.3	5.8			4.2			
15	KNK Alliance 187	20	6.0	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.5	2.4	4.7	4.6			
	4 Point of Ironwood	16	5.6	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.4	2.4	4.5	4.1	4.0	3.6	4.6
18	Box View New Design 878	4	6.3	5.5	5.0	6.3	6.5	7.0		4.3				
20	Connealy Lead On	20	6.2	5.3	5.5	5.0	5.4	5.8	2.2	4.3	4.8			
21	Vermilion Dateline 7078 WRD	5	5.8	5.8	5.4	4.8	5.2	5.6	2.4	4.0	4.6			
	Gardens Highmark	11	6.0	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.4	5.3	2.2	4.1	4.8	4.1	3.8	5.0
14	HA Power Alliance	5	5.0	5.0	5.2	6.0	5.6	5.0	3.0	4.7	5.0	4.6	4.6	4.2
22	Ironwood New Level	30	6.1	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	2.0	3.7	4.4	4.7	3.7	5.0
6	Kenny's Creek Eclipse W111	44	6.5	5.5	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.4						
11	Myty In Focus	18	6.7	5.8	5.3	5.9	5.4	5.3	2.3	4.7	4.7	4.3	4.0	5.0
41	ROMN Justice	16	6.8	6.6	6.8	6.4	5.6	5.0	2.0	4.4	4.9	5.5	3.3	5.0
	Vermilion Pawweight	10	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.6	6.3	6.7	2.0	4.5	5.0	4.8	3.9	5.0

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENTS														
3	Androssan Connection X15	individual	6	6	6	6	5	5			4			(Jan 2007)
1	Androssan Admiral A2	individual	6	6	6	6	6	5			4			
8	Mallah Might & Power Z26	individual	6	5	6	5	5	5	3	4	5			(Nov 2006)
8	Androssan Maternal Power ABC	individual	6	5	6	6	6	6			5			
14	HA Power Alliance	individual	5	5	7	6	6	5	3	5	4			
6	Kenny's Creek Eclipse W111	individual	6	6	6	6	6	5	3	5	5			(Nov 2006)
24	Perry Power Design 715	individual	5	5	5	5	6	5	2	5	2			
6	Mallah Exceed & Excel Z8	individual	6	6	6	6	6	5	3	4	5			(Nov 2006)
35	Telonia Red Label	individual	6	5	5	5	6	5	2	3	5			(Nov 2006)
43	Pine Hill Glenfern A595	individual	6	6	5	5	4	4			5			(Jan 2007)
45	Caribbean Outback	individual	3	5	6	5	6	5	3	5	3			(Nov 2006)
2	Hidden Valley Fineout A45	individual	6	6	6	5	4	5			5			(Dec 2006)
5	Henryles Byron B595	individual	6	6	6	6	6	6			4			(Jan 2008)
4	Telonia Better Beef B177	individual	6	5	6	6	5	5			5			(Jan 2008)
10	Androssan Equinox 875	individual	6	6	6	5	5	6			5			(Dec 2007)

