# Red Angus Guide to EPDs

**HB** ..... HerdBuilder Index – Need bulls for developing a profitable cowherd and maximizing the value of marketed progeny? Select a bull with a high HB value.

**GM** ..... GridMaster Index – If you market all of your calf crop and want to increase the value of that calf crop, select a bull with a high GM value to maximize your profit.

**CED** ..... Calving Ease Direct – Breeding Heifers? Select bulls with a high CED to increase the probability that the heifers will calve unassisted.

**BW**..... Birth Weight – Predicts differences in birth weight. BW is included in the CED EPD, so simplify your decisions by selecting bulls based on CED instead of BW.

**WW** ..... Weaning Weight and **YW** ....Y earling Weight – Predicts differences in weight at weaning and yearling. While selection based on these growth measures can increase your payweight, be cautious what the bull's other EPDs are.

**Milk** .... Milk – Predicts differences in weaning weight of daughter's progeny due to milk production.

**ME** ..... Maintenance Energy – Selecting bulls with a lower ME EPD will decrease the amount of feed his daughters will require to maintain body weight.

**HPG**..... Heifer Pregnancy – Retaining heifers? Select bulls with a high HPG to increase the percentage of exposures that result in a calving observation.

**CEM** .... Calving Ease Maternal – Another number to pay attention to if you are retaining heifers. Selecting bulls with a high CEM will increase the probability of those daughters calving unassisted.

**STAY**.... Stayability – The most important trait if your goal is developing cows that stay productive, thus increasing your profitability. Bulls that have a high Stay EPD are expected to sire daughters that remain productive in the herd until at least 6 years of age.

**MARB** .. Marbling Score – Select bulls with high MARB EPD to increase the number of progeny that grade Choice or Prime.

**YG** ..... Yield Grade – Marketing calves on a grid? Placing selection pressure on YG EPD will decrease the number of YG discounts on grid-marketed progeny.

**CW**..... Carcasss Weight – Selecting bulls with a high CW EPD will increase the weight of the hanging carcass, which directly impacts revenue.

**REA** ..... Rib Eye Area – Need to add muscle? Select bulls with a high REA EPD to increase rib eye area, which favorably increases Yield Grade.

**FAT** ..... Backfat – Need to reduce waste in carcasses? Select bulls with a low FAT EPD to reduce backfat, which favorably increases Yield Grade.

**Ranch Tested. Rancher Trusted.**

# Red Angus

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***For more information on EPDs, visit redangus.org.***