RED
RIGHT. NOW.

The Red Angus female is the rancher favorite for replacements that deliver real profitability.

An independent university study compared six years of Superior Livestock Auction data, revealing Red Angus-sired heifers commanded from $5 to $9/cwt. more than females of all other breed types.

Ranch Tested. Rancher Trusted.

Red Angus

Red
NAVIGATOR

Contact a member of the Commercial Marketing Team or visit redangus.org to learn how the Red Navigator DNA profile can add value to your commercial Red Angus females.

Red Angus DNA Scores Align with Carcass Results

Producers frequently ask if DNA scores are truly predictive of phenotypic results. The table below presents a recent example in which Igenity® DNA scores accurately predicted carcass weight, marbling score and overall carcass value in a group of high-percentage Red Angus steers harvested earlier this year.

The cattle were raised and owned by Bob and Elaine Yackley of Onida, South Dakota, and fed at a custom feed yard. A total of 91 head of 2015-born steers comprised the group that was DNA tested with Igenity Silver (a test panel similar to Red Navigator that is marketed under a different trade name) and followed through harvest to obtain carcass data on each individual animal.

Next, the top 25 head with the highest DNA scores for Average Daily Gain (ADG) and marbling were compared to the bottom 25 head which exhibited the lowest combined DNA scores for the same two traits. Summarized results for the two groups are shown in the table below.

This comparative analysis reveals that the top-DNA-scoring steers produced heavier carcass weights as a result of faster rates of gain (21-pound advantage). They also had higher average marbling scores and higher quality grades, with notably more upper-two-thirds Choice grade carcasses.

Even in a softened fed-cattle market, the difference in value between the two groups was $50.60 per head favoring the high-DNA-scoring steers. Weight and marbling make a big difference when selling cattle on a grid.

"These cattle had the right combinations of genetics and management in addition to being fed to the correct endpoint," explained Gary Fike, RAAA director of commercial marketing. "The fact that out of the 50 head in this comparison, there was only one Yield Grade 4 in the low-DNA group and none among the top-DNA steers, is a testament to that."

Fike, who organized and conducted the field study, further noted that these results demonstrate how DNA can be successfully used in commercial operations.

"This is real-world data," he said. "By using DNA testing and eliminating low-scoring animals for the traits of interest, producers can be confident they are building superior genetic value into their herds. That is why we recommend testing all replacement heifer candidates and culling low-scoring females before breeding." ■

DNA Scores and Actual Carcass Results

	Top 25 Head	Bottom 25 Head
DNA Scores	Average	Average
Igenity ADG Score*	8.0	5.5
Igenity Marbling Score*	6.1	3.7
Igenity ADG & Marbling Average*	7.0	4.6
Actual Carcass Results	Average	Average
Carcass Weight (pounds)	857	836
Marbling Score	568	512
Ribeye Area (square inches)	14.3	13.7
Backfat (inches)	0.54	0.55
High Choice	68%	48%
Low Choice	28%	48%
Select	4%	4%
Yield Grade	2.9	3.1
Value Per Head	**$1,634.46**	**$1,583.87**
Value Advantage Per Head	**$50.60**	

Scale is 1 to 10, with higher scores being more favorable.