

Red Navigator Identifies Cow-Making Females

Ranchers make daily decisions that impact the profitability of their ag businesses for years down the road. Education, experience and common sense factor into these economic choices, but foreseeing the future of unpredictable markets and weather patterns still pose obstacles.

With the help of the Red Angus Association of America's Red Navigator commercial female DNA test, ranchers can alleviate some of that risk when choosing which replacement heifers will develop into the most productive cows.

The Red Navigator genetic profile identifies those females predisposed to remain in production long term and ultimately provide a positive return on investment. By testing heifers before breeding, ranchers can make keep-cull decisions earlier in the production cycle, retaining only those females that will advance their cowherd. They can then market the bottom-end heifers as feeders, generating cash flow with less feeding, breeding and pasture expenses.

Scientifically Sound

Powered by the ultimate combination of the Red Angus database and a GeneSeek reduced-panel DNA profile, Red Navigator provides vital genomic information on tested Red Angus-influenced commercial females. Red Navigator-



tested females are percentile ranked in comparison to all Red Angus animals in the database.

Red Navigator ranks females based on RAAA's HerdBuilder and GridMaster Indices and all EPD traits, plus verifies the heifer's paternal parentage if the potential sires have been tested with the RA50K test (50K or HD-80K). The culmination of information delivered through the Red Navigator provides commercial producers with an unmatched tool for guiding their selection decisions.

Due to the fact that DNA tests are breed specific – meaning the test works best on the breed it was developed for – Red Navigator should only be used on females that are at least 75 percent Red Angus breed composition. For example, the Red Navigator test will accurately predict the genetic potential of females that are sired by a registered Red Angus bull and have a registered Red Angus maternal grandsire.





Management Choices

Ranchers who elect to use Red Navigator in a move to expedite genetic progress should test females prior to breeding since once the females are bred, the options to market the genetically inferior females are limited.

Weaning is the optimal time to collect DNA samples for Red Navigator testing, affording cattlemen with a wider variety of marketing options for their heifers by identifying which heifers are replacement quality – either for in-herd retention or to market as such – and which heifers are most profitable in the feedlot.

Producers can also run the Red Navigator prior to the final pre-breeding cull, ensuring they are breeding the top maternal genetics in their herd.

Regardless of when heifers are tested through Red Navigator, the added knowledge of females' genetic makeup can greatly assist producers in reaching the goals of their operation.

Flexible Marketing

Not only does Red Navigator assist Red Angus stakeholders in replacement heifer selection, but the genomic test can also add value at marketing time.

Since Red Navigator provides genetic predictions for the GridMaster Index, test results identify which heifers will excel in carcass and growth traits. Therefore, ranchers also receive valuable data on females culled from the replacement group and, if the culled females have favorable carcass traits, the producer may elect to retain ownership of the heifers in the feed yard.

For those who market replacement-quality heifers as a major component of their operation, Red Navigator provides a genetic assessment of the marketed females to potential buyers. Customers are more likely to pay a premium on a group of replacement heifers that have an average Herd-Builder Index ranking in the top 25 percent.

RAAA recognizes the increasing expectations of commercial producers, and stands ready to provide cutting-edge tools to better enable the success of all producers who use Red Angus genetics.

Red Navigator delivers valuable guidance to the most demanding, profit-minded producers who understand the reward of foresight and knowledge to capitalize on their Red Angus genetic investments. ■



To order the Red Navigator test, producers must complete and submit the DNA order form found at redangus.org/genetics/dna-tools or call the National Office at (940) 387-3502. Blood cards will be provided free of charge. Producers ordering Red Navigator tests must own at least one registered Red Angus bull, and the bull(s) must be transferred to the ordering producer. Take advantage of the special introductory price of \$25 per female by ordering your Red Navigator tests today.

