

---

**0288 Premium beef semen on dairy calculator.** G. Lopes\*<sup>1</sup> and V. Cabrera<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>*Accelerated Genetics, Baraboo, WI*, <sup>2</sup>*University of Wisconsin Madison, Madison*.

Producers are searching for alternatives to increase net income of their operations. Genetic companies are partnering with livestock sales companies and offering premium alternatives for crossbred calves when using beef semen. Our objective was to develop a decision support tool to analyze the net income of switching inseminations from conventional or sexed sorted dairy semen to beef semen. This partial budgeting calculation is performed considering the genetic value of animals to be inseminated and the expected premium to be received for crossbred offspring. The tool was conceived as an aid to help producers in their decision-making regarding the use of beef semen. Inputs from the herd such as herd size and herd structure, culling rate, pregnancy rate, number of virgin heifers inseminated with female sex-sorted semen, percentage stillborn, and calf mortality are used to calculate the number of replacements needed to maintain herd size and to determine the number of eligible animals for the beef program. Different prices of semen (conventional dairy, sex-sorted dairy, and conventional beef), and different prices paid for the offspring (dairy and beef crossbred) are taken into consideration. Animals are grouped according to parity (nulliparous, first, second, and greater than two lactations), and then further sub-divided according to the number of inseminations to receive (one, two, three, and greater than three). The selection of animals could be made in two different ways: (1) by genetic merit or (2) by reproductive performance. After selection, the tool calculates and shows the number of replacements that will remain in the herd to maintain herd size. Further, the tool estimates the profitability of selling crossbred calves at a premium price, presenting the dollar net return for the crossbred animals, and the net return for the herd as a whole. Herds using beef semen strategies enhance their genetic gain by generating future replacements from genetically superior heifers and cows. The tool will soon be freely available from the UW-Dairy Management Website (DairyMGT.info).

**Key Words:** premium, beef, dairy

---

**0289 A decision support tool to estimate the economic potential of SCC hot sheet data.** D. T. Nolan\* and J. M. Bewley, *University of Kentucky, Lexington*.

A DHIA hot sheet ranks cows from the highest to lowest percent of bulk tank somatic cell count (BTSCC) based on their SCC and milk yield. The objective of the Southeast Quality Milk Initiative (SQMI) Hot Sheet Dashboard was to develop a farm specific tool that producers could use to make economic decisions from DHIA hot sheet data. Producers enter production information for the top SCC cows from the DHIA hot sheet including: milk production (kg/d), and percentage of the BTSCC, and herd based inputs including: amount of

milk shipped/d, BTSCC, current milk price, and bonus opportunities for milk quality. Producers also determine whether they want to discard or ship milk from a cow with a high percentage of the BTSCC. Results are displayed to show how the current BTSCC and the economic opportunity would change depending on which cows' milk was discarded. An example scenario is presented in Table 0289. The net opportunity for this herd is \$24.05/d. This value represents the difference in economic opportunity when milk from the top 2 cows is being shipped compared to being discarded. The price was higher when the cows' milk was discarded because the producer received the bonus opportunity for having a lower BTSCC. The SQMI Hot Sheet Dashboard can be beneficial to producers by allowing producers to make economic decisions from their DHIA hot sheet data. The Southeast Quality Milk Initiative project is supported by Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grant no. 2013-68004-20424 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

**Key Words:** decision support tool, SQMI, hot sheet

**Table 0289.** Example herd inputs and results generated from the SQMI Hot Sheet Dashboard for a 100-cow herd, shipping 3402 kg of milk per day, with a BTSCC of 492,000 cells/mL and a current milk price of \$0.41/kg, with a bonus opportunity of \$0.01/kg\*

	Cow Information		Decision	BTSCC after decision (cells/mL)	Bonus Opportunity (\$/L)
	Milk Yield (kg)	% BTSCC			
Cow #1	19.1	25.6	Discard	284,376	.005
Cow #2	13.7	15.9	Discard	171,708	.01
Cow #3	37.0	10.1	Milk	171,708	.01
Cow #4	28.4	6.8	Milk	171,708	.01
Cow #5	36.9	5.9	Milk	171,708	.01

Economic Opportunity  
\$24.05/d\*\*

\*Bonus opportunity will increase with a decrease in BTSCC depending on producer inputs.

\*\*Net opportunity does not assume discard milk is used as milk replacer substitute.

---

**0290 The Kentucky Master Stocker Program.**

J. W. Lehmkuhler\*<sup>1</sup>, W. R. Burris<sup>2</sup>, S. R. Smith, Jr<sup>1</sup>, G. Halich<sup>1</sup>, K. Burdine<sup>1</sup>, M. Arnold<sup>1</sup>, S. F. Higgins<sup>1</sup>, A. Gumbert<sup>1</sup>, and K. Laurent<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>*University of Kentucky, Lexington* <sup>2</sup>*University of Kentucky, Princeton*.

The upper Mid-South is home to a large number of farms that utilize available forage and feed resources to add weight to lightweight feeder calves. With the change in the market conditions, it was evident that an outreach program was needed to provide this segment of the industry information related to management of feeder calves. An interdisciplinary team was assembled to develop curriculum related to all aspects of the feeder cattle industry. A total of eight sessions comprised the curriculum including: enterprise budgeting, economic risk management, health, nutrition, handling and welfare, forages, marketing and environmental management. The program was