

NEWS RELEASE

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Southern Carcass Improvement Project Update

Igenity Results On Target With Genetic Predictions for Southern Carcass Improvement Project

ASHLAND, KANSAS, JULY 14, 2009—DNA genetic profiles returned on the 20 embryo donors, Southern sires and Angus sires confirm the known genetic predictions of cattle selected for the Southern Carcass Improvement Project (SCIP). As shown in the table below, the Igenity® scores are significantly higher for the Angus bulls than for the Southern sires. Profiles include Marbling, Percent Choice based on Quality Grade, Average Daily Gain and Yield Grade.

*Igenity DNA Scores	MarbScore	%Choice	ADG	Yield Grade
Southern Sires Average	5.0	5.0	4.4	4.9
Angus Sires Average	8.3	8.3	5.7	6.0
Southern Dams Average	5.5	5.6	4.5	5.9

* Igenity DNA results report the scores (1-10) obtained from analysis of multiple gene markers related to carcass composition and feed efficiency.

The 20 Southern origin females from Georgia, Mississippi and Texas are being alternately flushed and bred to (1) proven Angus bulls with excellent growth and carcass traits, and (2) Southern sires representing 9 different breeds with varying percentages of bos indicus influence. The calves resulting from the Angus sires X Southern cows will be identified as the test group. Calves resulting from the Southern sires X Southern cows mating will be identified as the control group.

Calves will be born in the spring of 2010 and placed on feed at Triangle H Feedyard early in 2011. The calves will be harvested at 15-16 months of age at National Beef. Complete feedlot performance and carcass data will be collected on both groups, enabling a direct comparison of how the two groups performed under industry-typical management through the feedlot and onto the packer's rail. The actual feedlot and carcass data will be compared to sire EPDs, ultrasound and DNA profiles to determine the optimum thresholds necessary to make significant carcass improvement in a particular population of beef cattle.

“We appreciate Igenity’s cooperation in working with us on this beef improvement project,” says Mark Gardiner, Gardiner Angus Ranch. “The DNA scores reveal the importance of mating cattle that are known to excel in economically important traits as compared to just producing average cattle with little understanding of their genetics.”

Gardiner Angus Ranch, in collaboration with Kansas State University and Virginia Tech, launched the SCIP this spring to determine just how much carcass improvement can be made in one generation, using high carcass value Angus bulls on typical cows found in the southern U.S. The SCIP addresses the beef industry's long-standing need for higher quality grades and better overall carcass traits in Southern U.S. packing plants.

Gardiner Angus Ranch is a family-owned Angus ranching operation located near Ashland, Kansas. Gardiner Angus is dedicated to the production of quality beef from gate to plate. The Gardiners use their experience in beef cattle breeding, with state-of-the-art technology and data management, to produce Angus cattle that make documented contributions to the beef industry. The Gardiner operation registers more than 2,000 head of Angus cattle each year through the American Angus Association and encompasses more than 40,000 acres in southwest Kansas. The ranch is a founding member of U.S. Premium Beef, LLC.