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*The CLA office is
open on Friday's
again beginning
Friday,
September 7th.*

*The office is
closed on Monday,
September 3rd
for Labour Day.*

**Single-Step Genetic Evaluation Powered by BOLT Producing
Weekly EPD Updates**

The Canadian Limousin Association has now gone live with the new single-step multi breed genetic evaluation powered by BOLT. You will notice that the EPD tab on animal's in DigitalBeef has updated and will continue to update on a weekly basis from now on.

Key features of the multi-breed genetic evaluation powered by BOLT:

- Faster, more automated system allowing for weekly genetic evaluations
- Improved use of genomic data with single-step
- Improved methodology for prediction of all traits
- More accurate accuracy

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Animals I genotyped no longer have yellow highlighted EPDs, why?

A: Previously, when you genotyped an animal only that animal's EPDs were affected. Now, with single-step methodology, genomic information on tested animals affects all of their relatives, up, down and across their pedigree. This means you are getting more bang for your buck when you genotype an animal. As always, if genomic testing was performed on an animal you can see that by clicking on their DNA tab in DigitalBeef.

Q: Does that mean I no longer need to genotype my animals?

A: No, exactly the opposite. Genotyping your animals is the best way to improve their EPD accuracy and contribute your cattle's genotype information to improve the accuracy of the evaluation on your genetics. This is why we especially recommend, if nothing else, at minimum consider genotyping prolific animals such as herd sires, AI sires, donor cows, etc. that affect many progeny.

Q: Do I still need to submit phenotypic records?

A: Yes!!! The genetic evaluation is useless without accurate, hard data that goes into it. This includes birth, weaning and yearling weights, calving ease codes, scrotal measurements, docility scores, ultrasound records and a number of other data items you can enter in DigitalBeef. It is also important to properly contemporary group your calves (only split out ones that have been managed/ fed differently, otherwise DigitalBeef does all of the further splitting for you).

Q: If BOLT is supposed to have more accurate accuracy, why did my animal's accuracy values drop?

A: Accuracy was, in some cases, overestimated in the previous evaluation. While this does mean the accuracy value may have dropped on your animals it is still true that the accuracy associated with BOLT EPDs is more accurate. Genotyping your animals and progeny will increase their accuracy values.

Single-Step Genetic Evaluation Powered by BOLT Producing Weekly EPD Updates

Calving Ease (Direct and Maternal) – Substantial updates were made that caused some re-ranking for CEM and CED.

1) Contemporary groups with no variation: In the past, if calving scores were submitted on heifers and there was no variation in the scores (all unassisted, for example), the performance information on those calves was not used. Now, with single-step EPDs powered by BOLT technology, data on animals in contemporary groups without phenotypic variation can be used. For CED and CEM, calving scores from contemporary groups in which none of the heifers required assistance can be used. This means there is more information available for genetic prediction in the BOLT-powered EPDs, which means less bias.

Growth Traits (BW, WW, YW, MK)

1) Breed Contrast updates: Previously, Meat Animal Research Center breed contrast estimates were used. Now with BOLT, IGS-partner data (12 breed associations) is used for breed contrasts.
2) It is believed that MK (milk) was being over-estimated by the past evaluation methodology. Comparatively across the breeds the numbers make better sense now.

Docility - Until now, Docility has been one of the traits evaluated by Colorado State instead of IGS. Here are the key differences:

1) IGS Multi-Breed Evaluation: Previously, CLA & NALF data was run on its own twice a year. Now, CLA & NALF data will be combined with docility scores from all of the other partner breeds for a true multi-breed evaluation.
2) Threshold model to linear model: Previously, docility was evaluated with a threshold model that combined 1's and 2's into a category called "acceptable" and 3-5 were combined into a category called "unacceptable." Now, a linear model is used whereby 1-6 are used as recorded, therefore the extremes will have more impact
3) Yes, docility numbers appear to have gone down but in fact it is due to the base shift. Docility is now 12 versus 19 in the BOLT evaluation. **Limousin actually ranks number 1 in the across breed docility evaluation now** given the progress the breed has made but the base shifts will require breeders to adjust to the new EPDS.

Carcass Traits - Major updates to the carcass traits include:

1) True multi-trait evaluation: Previously, carcass EPDs were simply an index of the carcass trait and its corresponding ultrasound trait. Going forward, a true multi-trait evaluation with all carcass and ultrasound traits plus weaning weight and post-weaning gain will be used.
2) Updated correlations between carcass and ultrasound traits.
3) The standard deviation is smaller on the new EPDs for marbling and carcass weight, instead of just looking at an animal's EPD, also look at the animal's percentile ranking.

Birth Weight, Calving Ease, Stayability, Yield Grade & Ribeye

As a breed, Limousin has had favourable changes in these traits!

Bottom Line

- Weekly EPD updates, therefore, submit your data to the Association as soon as possible, there are no longer two 'deadlines' per year.

- Less extreme changes from week to week (versus the previous genetic evaluation that only updated EPDs twice per year) due to the frequency of the evaluation.

- We need your help to educate your bull buyers and direct them to DigitalBeef to view the most up to date EPDs on animals... let us know how we as the Association can support you in doing this.

- Continue to submit phenotypic data to the Association and continue to genotype your animals.

Upcoming Events



**Limousin Voice
Fall Show & Sale Issue Deadlines**
Booking: September 20
Material: September 30
Camera Ready: October 5

[Pinnacle View Limousin Open House](#)
September 8
Quesnel, BC

[Lindsay Exhibition](#)
September 19-23
Lindsay, ON

[Markham Fair](#)
September 27-30
Markham, ON

[Olds Fall Classic](#)
October 5-7
Olds, AB

[Manitoba Ag Ex](#)
October 24-27
Brandon, MB

[Stockade Roundup](#)
November 1-3
Lloydminster, SK

[Royal Agricultural Winter Fair](#)
November 2-11
Elite All Breed Sale November 3
Limousin Show November 4
Toronto, ON

[Farmfair International](#)
November 7-11
Limousin Show November 8
Edmonton, AB

[Canadian Western Agribition](#)
November 19-24
National Limousin Show & National
Limousin Sale November 22
Regina, SK

**Limousin Voice
Christmas Issue Deadlines**
Booking: November 20
Material: December 1
Camera Ready: December 19

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR LIMOUSIN TAGS YET?

Order online from the CCIA Webstore
www.canadaid.ca or by phone 1.877.909.2333

Show Point Reminders

Please remember that in order to qualify for Masterfeeds Limousin Show Cattle of the Year points **all animals born in 2016 or later must have a Limousin CCIA tag**. Please Note: if your animals already have an approved (generic) CCIA tag, tampering with and/or cutting them out, is prohibited by Canadian Food Inspection Agency regulations. The CLA show point rules begin with 2016 born calves and beyond. Older animals, already identified with a CCIA tag, will earn points as before, without having a Limousin tag.

Submit show points to tverbeek@limousin.com

Please submit marked show program along with the following form:

[POINTS SHOW QUALIFICATION FORM](#)

[SUPREME POINTS FORM](#)

Promote your operation to 1,100 commercial buyers of Limousin bulls and 400+ members & subscribers

Contact Tessa Verbeek by September 20th to book your advertising in the Limousin Voice

tverbeek@limousin.com or 403-636-1066

Sire Verification Required for All National Sale Cattle

***** IMPORTANT REMINDER *****
IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING CONSIGNING CATTLE TO THE NATIONAL LIMOUSIN SALE AT CANADIAN WESTERN AGRIBITION

As per CLA 2017 Amended By-Laws:
All animals consigned for sale at the Association's national Limousin sale must be sire verified in order to sell.

Testing must be requested through the CLA office

Basic SNP Parentage Verification costs \$30 plus tax and requires a minimum of 2 weeks to return results from the time the sample arrives at the lab.

GGP-LD Parentage Verification costs \$30 plus tax and GGP-HD Parentage Verification costs \$35 plus tax and both require a minimum of 4 weeks to return results from the time the sample arrives at the lab.

Free Promotion of Limousin Influence Calves for Sale

Are you selling Limousin influence calves this fall?
Do your bull buyers have calves selling this fall?

Please list your calves, and help your bull customers to do the same, on our FREE commercial calf listing service on the CLA website.

<http://limousin.com/sale-barn/list-commercial-calves/>

These listings will be shared on a regular basis with order buyers, as well as on our Facebook and Twitter pages. It only takes 5 minutes of your time to post an ad and it will be seen by interested buyers. A photo can also be submitted with your ad and should be e-mailed to: tverbeek@limousin.com

BREEDERS & EXHIBITORS

Please remember all Limousin animals ***must be registered*** in order to show.

Hotel Room Blocks for National Show & Sale at Canadian Western Agribition

Block of rooms booked under "Canadian Limousin Association" for November 17-25, 2018 at the following hotels:

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Conference Centre Regina

1975 Broad St, Regina, SK

306-525-6767

2 queen beds in each room

\$142.26 + tax / night

Confirmation number: 80879167

MUST BE BOOKED BY OCTOBER 26, 2018

Quality Hotel Regina

1717 Victoria Ave, Regina, SK

306-569-4656

2 double beds in each room

\$109 + tax / night

Confirmation number: 3456267

MUST BE BOOKED BY OCTOBER 26, 2018

These hotels are just across the street from each other, about 3 km from the Agribition grounds. There is courtesy transportation available from both hotels (ask for an Agribition shuttle wristband at check-in) and they are near many great restaurants including The Diplomat Steakhouse.

ORDER YOUR LIMOUSIN SHOW SHIRTS

Prism Embroidery - Lindsay, ON

Phone: 705.328.2823

<http://www.prismembroidery.com/>

