

What Cattlemen Want ...

Editor's Note: We asked Angus Beef Bulletin Extra subscribers what they wanted from their seedstock producers. Here's what a few had to say:

First and foremost, we want honesty.

Next, we would like to see breeders who are independent thinkers, which means that they analyze the needs of the commercial breeder and provide seedstock accordingly.

Third, a seedstock supplier who follows up on the sale and stands behind what he sells — not just a mass market media sales pitch.

— **Ellis & Rhonda Boyd, Boyd Angus Ranch, Alder, Mont.**

I expect seedstock suppliers to have established a long track record of seeking quality genetics and adhering to long-standing principals of selection, rather than jumping on the latest "fad"!

Some of the traits important to me that are difficult to quantify: longevity, mothering ability, udder quality, docility and resistance to disease.

— **Glenn Eberly, Director,
Livestock Evaluation Center,
Pennsylvania State University**

I want all the data they can provide: EPDs, \$Value indexes, weights, ratios, ultrasound, frame score, etc.

— **Mark Mitchell**

Help in marketing the resulting offspring.

— **wburd@tc-coop.com**

My response to your question "What do you want from your seedstock supplier" is simply that I want HONESTY! I would like to be informed about test results for recessive genes. Currently AM is being vigorously tested, but before I buy any further semen I will require information about testing for NH (neuropathic hydrocephalus), FC (fawn calf syndrome) and any other recessive gene disorders that may arise in the future.

— **Dr. B. Ian Watson, Willow Fields Angus, Mount Compass, South Australia**

I just finished reading your article titled, "What Cowmen Want." My family owns and operates a registered Angus herd at high altitude. I thought you would find this interesting: The first item our bull customers look at is PAP score. They want a bull that has a score of 34-37. (Cattle at sea level will PAP no lower than 33; if they score lower they will most likely die within a week or two.) Most of our bull buyers won't even look at a bull that scores above 37. We began PAP-testing more than 20 years ago; at that time cattle that scored 33-41 were considered low-risk. As with everything that is given a number, today's customers are seeking to find the lowest scores available and choose to ignore the score range.

It is quite concerning that these scores can change. For example, a bull calf in our herd that scored 39 at 10 months of age recently scored 35 at 12 months of age. Typically, the score will go up with age. It's unfortunate that some exceptionally good bulls won't sell on the western slope of Colorado because they have a PAP score of 39, etc. We have a few customers who want the best bull they can buy and will overlook higher PAP scores. It has paid off for them because they bought bulls that had PAP scores from 45 to 75; these bulls are alive at 5 to 6 years of age and producing high-quality calves.

— **Kathi Creamer, Lazy JB Angus Ranch, www.lazyjb-angus.com**