Update on $Fescue

Patrick Wall
ISU Extension Beef Specialist
The Fescue Belt?
This Relationship is Consistent Across Herds (80-700 cows per herd)
This Relationship is Consistent Across Years

Adjusted Weaning Weight

2011 (N=200)  2012 (N=771)  2013 (N=852)  2014 (N=309)

Star Score of Dams:
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
This Relationship is Consistent Across Breeds*

*Breed as defined by owner; cows were not registered
How did we get $Fescue?

• Assumed Fescue Score as a permanent progeny record
  – Treated like WW EPD
• The effect of Fescue Score (T-Snip™) is linear
  – Across breed, year, and location
• Assigned a monetary value to each point of Fescue Score
  – (pounds of WW X price $/lbs.)
• Used $BMI as the base
  – Backed out a portion of WW to minimize double-counting
• $Fescue = $BMI + $$$*T-Snip™ - x*WW
  – Remember, you won’t see $Fescue unless you test for T-Snip™
How do we use $F$escue?

- Treat this like $BMI$ in a toxic fescue environment
- Marketing tool for cattle moving zip codes
- Nothing in the test selects for hair shedding
- Assume the heritability of the trait is “0” until we find out otherwise
  - Don’t bet the farm just yet.
- Acclimation periods, legumes, management, etc. are still important
- Like other genomic tests, expect updates/improvements
What can we infer from the data we have, if anything at all?

• Deerpark Leader 18th – T-Snip™ Score of 38
  –“Easily the most maternal bull of the Irish imports.”
  –Recorded progeny EVERY SINGLE YEAR from 1976-2001
What can we infer from the data we have, if anything at all?

• Saskvalley Imerative 33x– T-Snip™ Score of 4
  – We don’t know everything!
  – Eats only toxic fescue, stays fat, daughters perform well
T-Snip™ Testing for Fescue Tolerance

Find out More
To find out more, view the video or click here to learn more about Fescue Toxicosis
**Sample Results:**

![Image](www.agbotanica.com)

### T-Snip™ Test Results

Joe Customer  
111 Route BB  
Your Town, MO 12345  
(573) 555-5555  
JoeCustomer@email.net  
June 11, 2016

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<th>Barcode</th>
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<th>Tolerance Index</th>
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| AG100744246 | 4G9218038638    | 48              | ★★★★★

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What’s Next?

• Feed Intake
  – Dry Matter Intake EPD, NO RFI or RADG!
  – Incorporate into $Feedlot

• Chicken: <1:1

• Swine: <2.6:1 (wean to finish)

• Beef: <4:1 (90-day post-weaning test)

• Our advantages: Cows eat grass!
  – Beef doesn’t taste like chicken.
Breed Genetic Trends: $F
Breed Genetic Trends: $B

![Graph showing Breed Genetic Trends](image-url)
Breed Genetic Trends: RADG
Breed Genetic Trends: F.I.
Feed Efficiency Testing

- Werner Feed Efficiency Testing Center – Diagonal, IA
  - Roughly 10 years of selection (not intense)
  - Angus Bulls turning 3.5-4.0:1 consistently
  - Do their dams have a “look?”
  - “I hate to even say this out loud, but their mothers are BIG.”
  - Are their any indicators on paper to help you find them?
  - “Not really, $B or $F sure won’t help you locate them.”

- At 8.0:1, 600lbs. of gain costs $570
- At 3.5:1, 600lbs. of gain costs $250
- That’s $5,600 in your pocket on every semi load.
  - (35 head X $160)
## MARC Cycle VII Post-weaning Growth and Carcass Traits

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<tr>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Mature Cow weight</th>
<th>ADG</th>
<th>Slaughter Weight</th>
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Thank You
Are there any questions?

www.iowabeefcenter.org