

The Lincoln Letter

Utilizing Science to Aid in Selection

Dennis and Mary Hoffrogge, Sleepy Eye, MN are taking selection to a new level by utilizing DNA profiling from IGENITY, a business unit of Merial, Ltd. DNA profiling shows a multiple of economic traits that help cattlemen make decisions earlier in the life of the animal. For Dennis and Mary, it helped point their cattle breeding operation in the right direction quicker. DNA profiling is ideal for replacement heifers and bulls. Some operations are starting to market their cattle with this data. After all, it is more profitable to buy a bull or a heifer with a higher potential for tenderness and a better than average score for maternal calving ease.




It is simple to have cattle DNA profiled. Producers need to submit a sample of hair, ear tissue or a straw of semen. Results take about two weeks. After samples are analyzed, the IGENITY profile gives a score ranging in value from 1 to 10. Higher scores indicate the animal has greater potential to express that individual trait. Not necessarily is a score of 10 always a good thing. For example, a score of 10 in the area of fat thickness would indicate the potential for an extremely fat animal.



Below is a copy of the profile for Lady in Red, the heifer pictured with Dennis and Mary. It is exciting to see that Lady in Red scored very well on tenderness, ribeye area, and traits that are valuable for a breeding heifer. Also, it is nice to see that science is backing up what so many Lincoln Red breeders already know.

We all want to raise the best beef possible and DNA profiling can be a valuable management tool. It can directly affect your breeding decisions and increase your bottom line. Progressive breeders, Dennis and Mary Hoffrogge, have shown that they strive to raise the best cattle and the best Lincoln Reds.

For more information on DNA profiling your own cattle, please visit IGENITY's website at www.igenity.com.



Phone: 1-877-IGENITY
e-mail: IGENITY_SUPPORT@meril.com

HOFFROGGE, DENNIS
44097 CO HWY 4
SLEEPY EYE, MN 56085

IGENITY® Profile

Date 12/30/09
Customer ID USA11726

Animal ID	N/F	Breed	Breed Reg.#	Sample Barcode#	Residual Feed Intake Induced	Residual Feed Intake Bas Taurus	Average Daily Gain	Tenderness	Marbling Score	Percent Choice	Yield Grade	Fat Thickness	Ribeye Area	Heifer Pregnancy Rate	Stayability	Maternal Calving Ease	Dodility	Homozygous Black?	Ham-Polled	Nyastatin	BVD-PI	
DHM LADY IN RED	F	LR		390000169681		3	4	7	6	6	3	3	7	7	7	6	6					

Visit our website at www.lincolnred.org

The Lincoln Letter

Publisher-North American Lincoln Red Association

Fall 2010

Secretary's Note: *Over the years, I have stayed in contact with one of my professors who also raises cattle. Dr. Nusbaum has always made comments that are thought provoking and I asked him to share them with us. Sarah Pedelty*



Low Stress Weaning

Bob and Amanda Nusbaum; Bonus Angus Farm; Potosi, WI 53820

I think that there are almost as many weaning strategies as there are cattlemen and women. This is the third year we have used a combination of several proven techniques that has really made stressful weaning almost completely avoidable. These techniques include weaning at earlier ages, fence-line weaning and using nose plates (flaps) to prevent nursing prior to the actual separation of the cow and calf.

How early can you successfully wean a beef calf? A friend of mine in Australia routinely weans his Brahman calves at 10 to 12 weeks of age (usually less than 200 pounds) with excellent success. He started doing it because of extreme drought, as there wasn't enough grass to support the pair. Rather than have the cow and calf compete for the same grass, he weaned the calf onto the best grass. This was better for the calf but also allowed the cow to begin cycling so she could be rebred. Once pregnant, she was put on a maintenance diet. He liked the results so well that he continues to do it.

Our calves this year were mostly born in April and we weaned them on September 13th. The age range was from 120 to about 150 days. We feel that these younger calves wean more easily than those over 7 months of age and our cows stay in better condition. Also, it seems that the nicer weather is more constant in September. October weather can vary from nice and sunny to cold and wet overnight, which complicates weaning.

The traditional weaning process is generally difficult for the cow and the calf because of physical and psychological stresses to both. The cow experiences an uncomfortable udder and she misses her calf. The calf is generally locked in a lot without grass, is forced to eat an unfamiliar diet and misses mom. This causes lots of noisy bawling. The calves also pace constantly and generally don't feel like eating. This sudden change in lifestyle usually results in weight loss and, sometimes, sickness. So how can the stress be minimized?

About 1 month or so before actual weaning, we tattoo our calves and give them their first of two vaccinations. We use BoviShield Gold L5 FP and Vision 7. This year we also used Inforce, an intranasal vaccination that is supposed to really reduce respiratory problems. If calves are bound for a sale barn, they should be given a Pasteurella vaccine, too. Then we follow with a second vaccination about 1 week before weaning. Our second shot this fall was done on September 7th and we also took their official weaning weights for the American Angus Association. At that time, we also put a plastic nose plate in each calf. These are a little tricky to put in at first, but after 4 or 5 one is quite experienced and it takes only a second. Lots of information is available at the web site www.quietwean.com. They do not bother the calves although when they try to nurse their mothers the flap prevents them from it. After about 24 hours or less, the calves quit trying and as the flap allows them to eat and drink water normally, they adjust with almost no stress. Both the cow and calf are content as they are still together while the cow adjusts to her changing udder. Plan on leaving the plates in for 4 to 7 days. They don't need to be in longer and they might begin to irritate the nose. This year they were in on September 7th and taken out on the 13th (6 days). We lost 3 out of 36, which is normal to previous years, but they are bright yellow and I expect to find them later in the pasture when the grass is short.

They are relatively inexpensive. I paid a bit over \$2 each and they come 25 to a package. We have used the same ones for 3 years. Dealers are located on the web page mentioned.

On the day we weaned them (September 13th about 9am), all we did to the calves was to move them through the chute and remove the nose plate. They were put in a pasture with very good grass directly across from their mothers. We use a 5-strand, high tensile electric wire,

(Continued on next page)

Visit our website at www.lincolnred.org

The Lincoln Letter

Publisher-North American Lincoln Red Association

Fall 2010

but woven wire works, too. Barbed wire generally is not recommended alone, but it could be used with an electric wire on both sides. For the first several hours both groups grazed with almost no bawling. About 5 pm or so, both groups bawled, but not much. We had an adjacent pasture for the cows to go into, which many of them did. The ones that left came back to check on their calves periodically, but all of the cows seemed content to graze within view of their calves. The calves bawled less than the cows and constantly grazed. By noon the next day, there were only about 6 cows still in the pasture across from the calves and it was quiet, no bawling from either side. After 36 hours it was completely quiet.

On September 16th, 3 days after weaning, we randomly weighed 6 of the 36 calves to see if they had lost any weight during the whole weaning process of 9 days. All 6 of the calves gained weight and the range was from 12 to 43 pounds. The 6 calves had gained a total of 186 pounds over the 9 days, which was 31 pounds per head. That translates into an average daily gain of 3.44 pounds per

head per day. The calves were not creep fed and this gain was strictly from grass. We did, however, put 2 older steers in with the calves at weaning. The steers were being fed some grain twice a day and eventually, several of the calves began to follow the steers in from the pasture to try some of the grain. This is also a good way to start calves on a grain diet.

Each time we handle our calves in the head gate we give them a numerical disposition score of 1 to 3. One is quiet, (2) is restless and (3) is very restless. We've found that if they are a 2 or a 3 the first time we move them through the chute, they rarely improve. Three's almost never do while some of the 2's will improve with subsequent handling. If a bull calf gets a 3 more than once, he becomes a steer. A 3 heifer becomes a feeder calf. We've been doing this for several years and it does make a difference in your cowherd. Disposition is very heritable. This was our system this year and we were happy with the results. If you are interested in wanting any more information about it, feel free to call or email us. (608) 348-3284 or nusbaum@uwplatt.edu.

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE THAT SHOULD BE RECEIVING OUR NEWSLETTER?

or

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR LINCOLN LETTER ELECTRONICALLY?

Please send contact info to Sarah Pedelty at lspines@aol.com

or call Sarah at 507-867-9041

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Visit our website at www.lincolnred.org

The Lincoln Letter

Publisher-North American Lincoln Red Association

Fall 2010

From Brazil!

Agr. Jean Pierre Martins Machado

St. Fort. Lincoln Red herd in Scotland

Last June, after attending the 13th World Shorthorn Congress in UK, we had the opportunity to do some extra touring of the herds of other breeds that we also use in southern Brazil. Of course, one Lincoln Red breeder was on my plans. On my first time to the UK I visited Lincoln Red breeders in Lincolnshire, seeing very good cattle, so this time I contacted a breeder in northeast Scotland, the St. Fort herd.

St. Fort has raised Lincoln Red cattle for over 50 years, exporting cattle to many countries around the world. Some bulls were exported to Argentina in the 70's to improve the size of the low-framed Shorthorn cattle. Bulls, such as St. Fort Siabod and St. Fort Upstart, were used successfully on Argentinean cows. Upstart showed a successful impact improving the austral herds.

St. Fort was selected because they own a herd of 100% pure cows, and also keep an Aberdeen Angus herd, and was on the way of my tour plans. Andrew and Hilary Mylius, graciously received myself, and three Brazilian breeders that knew nothing about the Lincoln Red breed at this point. They showed us the cattle that were very impressive because of their quality. For the Brazilian guys that had the first contact with breed it was a shock! They asked me how such a great breed was not known in Brazil.... I explained...Missing marketing and animals to show!!!

Mr. and Mrs. Mylius along with the herd manager showed us all cattle of both breeds. At the beginning we were presented to a pair of massive 100% bulls, meat covering all parts of a long and deep body. The wonderful temperament gave us more confidence to approach than many Poodles. After that, we saw a couple of improved Lincoln Reds (Lincoln Red cattle Society is operated on the 80's program of restrict crossing with continental breeds as Limousin, Chianina, Maine Anjou, Charolais and Belgian Blue to improve the carcass and produce a lean meat). Both bulls were also

massive, but the pronounced hindquarter had almost double muscling showing the continental interference on the breed. Personally, I did not see many differences among improved and traditional bloodlines apart of additional muscling. Of course, this added muscle would decrease fertility, milking ability and birth easy, as they are antagonistic characters.

The females were also a show. Many cows of old age were producing very good calves: deep bodied cows, plenty of milk, long, straight and wide loin, with wide rumps. Exhibiting characteristics for meat production and easy birth, two very important points for the cattle business in a female. The yearling heifers already showed great character and should be mated at an early age, showing the inherent breed precocity.

We asked some questions regarding meat production and were informed that almost all steers are sold within 11 to 16 months of age with a live weight ranging from 550 to 700 kg. We asked for meat quality comparisons with the Aberdeen Angus.

Mylius informed me that he didn't see differences on carcass weight or quality and many times the Lincoln Red showed a better carcass than the Aberdeen Angus cattle, with better fat cover and marbling, with a faster finishing time.

Well, it was great to see how wonderful the Lincoln Red breed is. We have a super cow with plenty of milk, feminine, with great fertility and precocity that produces a high-grade steer. The nickname "suckler cow" accurately describes the Lincoln Red super cow.

I wish to thank Andrew and Hilary Mylius that welcomed us into your house with incredible hospitality, providing us a wonderful morning to see great cattle and answer all of our questions regarding your cattle.

(Continued on next page)

Visit our website at www.lincolnred.org

The Lincoln Letter

Publisher-North American Lincoln Red Association

Fall 2010

Increasing the Lincoln Red gene pool in southern Brazil

Late last year I had the opportunity to add four more bulls to our semen bank. Now, we own 390 semen straws of 10 different traditional Lincoln Red bulls with 100% pure UK bloodlines, surely the largest Lincoln Red breed gene bank in Latin America. We have in stock semen of Anwick Isidore, Anwick Karl, Walmer Zack, Firsby Trooper, Tatthershall Esquire 2nd, Hemingby Jain, Moncur Juvex, Acthorpe Pegasus, Spridcliff Kinsman and Harrington Charlie.

With exception of H. Charlie, which was born in 2000, all the other bulls were born in the late 60's and early 70's. Checking the pedigree bloodlines and ancestors, we found that Spridcliff Kinsman is the unique true 100% Lincoln Red in my tank as he does not show any of the Aberdeen Angus bull used by Mr. Pentecost to produce the Polled Lincoln Red. Maybe Kinsman is the last of the "pures" in the world.

Unhappily in Brazil there remains only 5 Lincoln Red cows of fullblood, all owned by a unique breeder. I myself do not own any registered cows. Fortunately, an embryo transfer program will soon be implemented and

I am acquiring some embryos of two different cows from the St. Fort herd in Scotland. With these embryos, we intend to restart the Lincoln Red breed in southern Brazil using my vast gene bank to open bloodlines and restore the breed with pure genetics.

We believe that Lincoln Red cattle have a bright future in the cattle business providing meat quality for consumers and maternal characteristic to suckler herds. We need to show our breed and inform people that the Lincoln Red breed is a modern breed that can provide heterosis on crossbreeding programs. The Lincoln Red breed is an important tool to be used around the world.

Feel free to contact us asking for information of our semen bulls and plans to restore the Lincoln Red breed in southern Brazil.

Agr. Jean Pierre Martins Machado

Cabanha Santa Isabel

Postal: Rua Bento Martins 89 A

Rio Grande – RS – Brazil – 96201-220

MSN: shorthorns@hotmail.com

www.vetorial.net/~shorthorn

jpmm@vetorial.net



Visit our website at www.lincolnred.org

The Lincoln Letter

Publisher-North American Lincoln Red Association

Fall 2010

2010 Annual Meeting

November 20, 2010

2:00 p.m. (Ontario time)

Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in the annual meeting by teleconference. The agenda is still being prepared. If you have an item you would like to add, please contact the Secretary Sarah Pedely at 507-867-9041. Meeting packets will be mailed out shortly to all members.



As an Association, we would like to offer our condolences to longtime member and director, Mr. Gordon MacRae, on the loss of his lovely wife.



A new book titled
**“We don’t keep cattle,
they keep us”**

edited by Mona Skehel is available now!
Please contact Jayne Borrows at the following
email: secretary@lincolnredcattlesociety.co.uk
Or at the following phone number:
+44 (01522) 511395

From the President

Xtra! Xtra! Read all about it...Our last cow to calve must have slipped her expected June calf and we thought that she was open after missing her calving date. Imagine our shock when she bagged up suddenly and gave birth to twin heifers on September 1st. Going back in our records we calculated that she was bred at herd check – the only day of the year that our bull joins the herd after the breeding season is done.

These heifers are a blessing and a curse in our herd. We are thrilled to have two more purebred animals to add to our rare breed registry, but these heifers and their dam are now going to be out-of-cycle with our tight calving season. A fixed-length calving season makes so much sense to us - it makes vaccinating, weaning, selling and cohort comparison of size and conformation so much easier. We will now have to feed these calves for an extra winter as they will

be too young to be bred with the rest of the heifers next summer. They are too young to be vaccinated with the calves this fall so will require an extra trip through the

chute in late winter and their own bottle of modified live vaccine (the smallest of which is a five-dose container). If we decide to keep the dam, she will not calve next spring with the rest of the herd and will have to be fed for a year with no return on investment. Good thing that she’s provided us with an extra calf in 2010!

We hope everyone has a wonderful fall!

Scott McClinchey



Our spunky twin heifers, Shaver Xtra and Shaver Xtra Xtra (with one of our spring calves looking on)

Visit our website at www.lincolnred.org

The Lincoln Letter

Publisher-North American Lincoln Red Association

Fall 2010

Looking for Lincoln Reds?

The following breeders have animals for sale:

● **John and Lorraine Ashby**

Prescott, ON
613-925-5778

- 5 commercial Lincoln Red females



● **Scott & Heather McClinchey**

Orton, ON
519-928-3106

- 18 month old bulls for sale

● **Burton Rose**

Amherst, NS
902-667-9834

- Females for sale



● **Dan & Lily Lamarche**

St Charles, ON
705-867-2683

- Two Outstanding 2010 bull calves for sale

● **Cedar Ridge Lincoln Reds**

Oxford Station, ON

Bred females, heifers and one yearling bull for sale.

Contact Bill at 613-926-2456 or e-mail at bill@lincolnred.ca

● **Larry & Sarah Pedelty**

Chatfield, MN 55923
507-867-9041

lspines@aol.com

- 18 month old bull for sale
(Pictured Here)



Visit our website at www.lincolnred.org