

Half Blood Lowline Steers

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Column: Beef Talk

Lowline Cattle ~ Matching Calving Ease with Value on the Rail

A recent 3 year study ending in 2006, finds good results for matching calving ease with red meat production using Lowline bulls.

Commercial heifers were bred to Lowline bulls for calving ease--only 3 calves out of 125 needed minor assistance.

These steers were sent to commercial feed yards with the above results (see chart). The steers average weight for the three year study was 1221 lbs., 51-52 inches at the hip, and brought 92 cents per pound average. "These bulls produce small calves that grow."

"One can start to think of how these calves will fit into the ever-changing world of beef feeding. Energy sources are getting more competitive, which ultimately may change some principles as to what works. There are many boxes of picture puzzles, so don't be afraid to pick one, even if it is just a little outside the norm."

Average Calving Ease				
Loala bulls exposed to typical black and baldy heifers				
Year	Number	Average Birth Weight	No Calving Assistance	Calving Assistance
2004	9	68.6	9	0
2005	25	64.9	24	1
2006	48	63.8	48	0
2007	44	74.7	42	2

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Feeding Year	Arrival Weight	Frame Score	Finishing Weight	Value on the Rail
2004	945 lbs.	4.4	1,186 lbs.	\$1,093
2005	994 lbs.	4.7	1,297 lbs.	\$1,223
2006	830 lbs.	4.8	1,179 lbs.	\$1,074