Public Abstract

First Name: Jessica
Middle Name: Lynn
Last Name: Robertson
Degree: MS
Degree Program: Agricultural Economics
Advisor's First Name: Joe
Advisor's Last Name: Parcell
Co-Advisor's First Name:
Co-Advisor's Last Name:
Graduation Term: Winter
Graduation Year: 2006

Title: Value Added to the Beef Cattle Chain through Genetic Management

The beef cattle industry has a substantial impact on the United States economy. Over $188 billion is contributed annually to the economy as a whole through direct and indirect activity from the beef industry. Physical characteristics of beef are directly influenced by genetics because they tend to have moderate to high heritability. Genetic management is becoming a part of the total farm management plan. But few producers make management decisions for female animals based on genetic related information feedback. The objective of this study is to determine whether or not the process of managing genetics has a positive impact on the quality of beef carcasses. This study focuses on female genetics, which is different from most previous research. It was found that managing female genetics does increase the likelihood of having a carcass with a quality grade of Prime, but may not affect the likelihoods of a Choice or Select. Genetic management does not seem to have any impact on what type of yield grade a carcass will receive. It will be up to individual producers to decide whether the probability of successfully managing genetics is significant enough to cost effectively obtain premiums for higher quality carcasses. This research has shown that a higher probability exists for producing Prime carcasses if dam genetics are managed. The next step for the producer is to look at the management costs involved and decide if the value outweighs the cost.