

# Curious about your cattle?

You may have the kind of cattle that are worth getting to know better. That's likely if they are predominantly Angus-based and you're willing to share detailed individual production and health records. Such cattle may receive feeding closeout and basic individual carcass data back at no charge if they are fed at a cooperating Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB)-licensed feedlot.

"To drive supply of high-quality beef for the *Certified Angus Beef*<sup>®</sup> (CAB<sup>®</sup>) brand, we need to get a better handle on how genetics and management interact," says Paul Dykstra, CAB feedlot specialist. "Therefore, we have identified some data points of interest from ranch to CAB acceptance. We can't find the answers on our own — licensed feedlots can't, and cow-calf producers can't. But when everybody in this chain works together, we can. And we can learn enough from the data to pay the cost of collection, up to \$3 per head."

The CAB Feedlot-Licensing Program (FLP) has at least some data on half a million enrolled cattle over almost five years. However, Dykstra says, "Cow herd criteria is a limiting factor in the database. In many cases, our partners provided some information on genetics, some of

the time. But only a small percentage of data has enough detail for a useful analysis."

That can change with added structure and incentive. Participating CAB-licensed feedlots will begin offering free data to ranchers who can produce specific information (see Table 1). Dykstra says the window of opportunity may not remain open indefinitely, but it is open starting this fall and winter.

All cattle enrolled in the 2004 National Angus Carcass Challenge (NACC) are eligible for this data service if they meet all other requirements.

"Many of these data points will look familiar to producers who are using Beef Record Service (BRS)," Dykstra says. "It should be easy for producers with that level of recordkeeping ability to take advantage of this opportunity, but anyone who believes they can meet these criteria may inquire further at a licensed feedlot." The option will be approved on a case-by-case basis.



**Editor's Note:** This article was supplied by the CAB Supply Development Division.

**Table 1: Information required for free data return to producer, by responsible party**

**Producer provides:**

- individual calf identification (ID), sex and birth date;
- specific or possible sire information;
- dam's breed type, approximate age;
- health and preconditioning protocol, noting procedures and products used;
- weaning dates;
- weaning weights if known;
- individual treatment dates; and
- individual disease diagnoses.

**Feedlot provides:**

- FLP enrollment status;
- individual in weights (preferred)\*;
- other individual weights if known;
- individual treatment dates; and
- individual disease diagnoses.

**CAB provides:**

- individual calf ID transfer at packing plant;
- hot carcass weights;
- quality grade (QG) payment;
- yield grade (YG) payment; and
- CAB brand acceptance.

*\*If in weights are not available, weaning weights may suffice in some cases.*

