

# HEIFER EXPOSURE REPORT

One of the major benefits of Total Herd Reporting (THR) is the opportunity to generate EPDs for measures of reproductive efficiency, the primary factor in the profitability equation of beef producers. If reproduction fails, no other traits matter. Because a production record is required annually for each cow on inventory, THR provides the data framework necessary for developing genetic prediction tools for reproduction traits. Heifer Pregnancy EPD is one of these tools.

Scrotal circumference has been used with some success in predicting differences in sires for the ability of their daughters to reach puberty at an early age. However, scrotal circumference does not predict sire differences for the ability of daughters to become pregnant and sustain pregnancy. While reaching puberty at an early age is positive in terms of reproduction, what we are really seeking are females that breed and calve when they should. The Heifer Pregnancy EPD more directly measures the actual trait of importance.

The interpretation of Heifer Pregnancy EPD is straightforward. The EPD is used to predict the probability differences between bulls for their daughters' ability to conceive and maintain pregnancy. For example:

Bull A has a Heifer Pregnancy EPD of 18.

Bull B has a Heifer Pregnancy EPD of 10.


We would expect Bull A's daughters to have an 8% higher probability of becoming pregnant and calving as two-year-olds as compared to Bull B's daughters.

Commercial producers desperately need genetic tools that allow them to sort potential replacement bulls for measures of reproductive efficiency. The Heifer Pregnancy EPD is the first of these tools for the IBBA.

Fortunately, the data required to produce the Heifer Pregnancy EPD is very simple to submit. Pregnancy determination results (palpation, ultrasound, etc.) are not required. The routine reporting requirements of THR provide the conception information needed for calculating the EPD. The only information needed from the producer is the time interval when the heifer was given the opportunity to become pregnant – when the bulls were turned in and pulled off, or when artificial insemination was performed and clean-up bulls were pulled off. Of course, as with any trait, the proper identification of contemporary groups is also required.

For Spring herds a Heifer Exposure Report is mailed May 15<sup>th</sup> of each year; November 15<sup>th</sup> for Fall herds. The report lists all active heifers on inventory in the respective herd. Simply complete the required information and return the form to the IBBA office or log on to [www.int-brangus.org](http://www.int-brangus.org) and complete the online version of the Heifer Exposure Form. For questions concerning this process, contact the IBBA office at (210) 696-8231.

**Member Number** – Preprinted on form along with member contact info.  
**Breeding Season Start Date** – Enter the first date of the breeding period for the heifers listed on this form.  
**Breeding Season End Date** – Enter the last date of the breeding period for the heifers listed on this form.  
**Private Herd Number** – Preprinted on form according to your current heifer inventory.  
**Registration Number** – Preprinted on form.  
**Exposed (Y/N)** – Enter 'Y' if this heifer was exposed to breeding, 'N' if not.  
**AI (Y/N)** – Enter 'Y' if this heifer was exposed to artificial insemination, 'N' if not.  
**Group Code** – Required only for designating heifers that were managed in different groups. Groups that were exposed for different time periods and groups that were managed on different feeding regimens during the breeding period must be identified as different groups to assure accurate evaluation. Any combination of numbers and/or letters may be used to designate different groups. Note: Previously designated groups (i.e. weaning and yearling contemporary groups) do not have to be identified again.  
**Season** – The current season designation for each heifer ('S' for Spring, 'F' for Fall) will be included on the preprinted form. Incorrect season designations should be noted before returning the form.  
**Disposal Code** – Enter the appropriate Disposal Code from the list for any heifer that is no longer active in your herd.



5750 Epsilon  
San Antonio, TX 78249  
Phone: (210) 696-8231  
Fax: (210) 696-8718

Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Breeding Season Start Date:			Breeding Season End Date:			
Private Herd Number	Registration Number	Exposed (Y/N)	AI (Y/N)	Group Code	Season (S/F)	Disposal Code

- POST-WEANING DISPOSAL CODES**
- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 Sold as commercial        | 15 Culled, illness               |
| 3 Died, sickness or disease | 16 Culled, injury                |
| 4 Died, injury              | 17 Culled, poor temperament      |
| 7 Died, reason unknown      | 19 Culled, unsoundness           |
| 8 Culled, quality issue     | 99 Moved to commercial inventory |
| 11 Culled, poor performance |                                  |