

## **GREENLEY CENTER STEER FEEDLOT PERFORMANCE AND HARVEST DATA: 2010-2013**

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The Greenley Center has been retaining ownership of their steers through the feeding phase and marketing on a grade and yield basis since 2007. Since 2008, the Greenley Center has been sending cattle to Irsik and Doll Feedyard in Garden City, Kansas. The decision to retain ownership of cattle gives the producer a chance to evaluate their genetics and management of calves as they influence feedlot performance and carcass characteristics. This is a management option that should always be weighed economically; taking into account the current value of feeder cattle or calves against the potential to profit through the feeding phase.

The Greenley Center has seen some marked success through the feeding phase by keeping death loss low and until 2013 has had the benefit of manageable feed costs. As illustrated in Table 1, the farm experienced modest death loss while gains have averaged from 3.55 to 3.75 pounds per day in the years 2010-2012. Dry matter conversion rates have consistently been around 5.5 pounds of feed per pound of gain.

Table 2 provides a summary of how the group as a whole has performed being marketed on a grid. The industry goal for over the last decade has been a 70-70-0 target, meaning 70% low Choice or better, 70% Yield Grade 1 & 2, and 0% outs or out lot cattle. 3 out of 4 years the Greenley cattle have attained the quality grade goal, just missing the 70% Choice mark in 2012. Although 70% of the cattle have not been in the Yield Grade 1 & 2 category, the farm has seen some improvement in natural service sire Yield Grades since switching to Hereford clean-up sires in 2009.

Tables 3-5 illustrate the consistency and improvement of genetics that come from a managed artificial insemination program. Stacking generations of AI, where the calf is AI sired out of an AI sired dam has significantly improved grid performance and carcass merit. Even with only one generation of AI (sire or maternal grandsire) improvement can be seen in grid performance (Table 4) when compared to a calf that has zero generations of AI in their 2 generation pedigree (Table 5). While we have shown rapid changes in carcass merit can be made with AI, responsible sire selection should always be the goal. Avoiding single trait selection and its unintended deleterious consequences to the reproductive goals of the cow herd must be exercised for those producers developing their own replacement females.

**Table 1.** 2010-2012 Group Average Feeding Performance Data.

	Death Loss %	In Weight	Out Weight	Gain (lbs.)	Dry Matter Conversion	Cost of Gain Avg/cwt
<b>2010</b>	2.08	693	1371	3.55	5.43	\$ 64.10
<b>2011</b>	0	669	1331	3.76	5.48	\$ 87.79
<b>2012</b>	2.13	694	1341	3.75	5.57	\$ 103.55

**Table 2.** 2010-2013 Average Performance Steer Data.

	In	Hot Carcass Weight	% Graded Choice or Higher	Yield Grade	% Graded CAB or Higher	Marblin g Score	Rib-Eye Area	Backfat (inches)
<b>2010</b>	46	838	84%	2.8	56%	512	12.72	.5
<b>2011</b>	39	820	87%	2.92	38%	481	13.11	.58
<b>2012</b>	45	823	66%	2.84	31%	448	12.71	.54
<b>2013</b>	33	827	81%	2.81	42%	478	13.14	.57

**Table 3.** 2010-2013 Average Performance Steer Data—2 Generations AI Pedigree.

	In	Hot Carcass Weight	% Graded Choice or Higher	Yield Grade	% Graded CAB or Higher	Marblin g Score	Rib-Eye Area	Backfat (inches)
<b>2010</b>	24	856	100%	2.87	70%	532	12.97	.51
<b>2011</b>	21	815	95%	2.76	57%	500	13.07	.57
<b>2012</b>	20	838	100%	3.1	65%	524	12.41	.56
<b>2013</b>	18	841	100%	2.94	61%	536	13.06	.59

**Table 4.** 2010-2013 Average Performance Steer Data—1 Generation AI Pedigree.

	In	Hot Carcass Weight	% Graded Choice or Higher	Yield Grade	% Graded CAB or Higher	Marblin g Score	Rib-Eye Area	Backfat (inches)
<b>2010</b>	18	838	77%	2.72	55%	521	12.68	.50
<b>2011</b>	14	827	85%	3.07	21%	451	12.99	.59
<b>2012</b>	18	816	27%	2.72	0%	380	12.92	.53
<b>2013</b>	13	821	61%	2.76	23%	420	13.1	.55

**Table 5.** 2010-2013 Average Performance Steer Data—0 Generations AI Pedigree.

	In	Hot Carcass Weight	% Graded Choice or Higher	Yield Grade	% Graded CAB or Higher	Marbling Score	Rib-Eye Area	Backfat (inches)
<b>2010</b>	4	729	25%	2.75	0%	352	11.39	.39
<b>2011</b>	4	827	50%	3.25	0%	395	12.66	.57
<b>2012</b>	7	797	71%	2.42	14%	402	13.05	.51
<b>2013</b>	2	751	50%	2	0%	340	14.24	.56