

# Percentiles, Trends Helpful For Commercial Cattle Producers

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## Percentile Rankings

The North American Limousin Foundation's (NALF's) tables of percentile breakdowns show how animals rank within the breed for several traits of economic importance. They indicate the proportion of animals whose expected progeny difference (EPD) ranks better or worse than the given value.

For most traits, the highest-ranking EPDs are the largest numerically. For birth weight and yield grade, however, smaller values are more favorable. Hence, animals

with the highest-ranking EPDs for those two traits will have negative EPDs.

The tables of percentile rankings can be helpful in setting minimum or maximum standards for each trait of interest. You also can use the tables to avoid extremes for traits, such as milking ability and carcass weight, for which intermediate values are optimal.

NALF's "Guide to Commercial Bull Selection," located in the "Genetic Evaluation" section of the NALF's Web site ([www.nalf.org](http://www.nalf.org)), provides target

EPD profiles for bulls in different production scenarios.

## Genetic Trends

The genetic trends displayed here show how the average genetic merit of registered Limousin and Lim-Flex® cattle is improving over time. The genetic trend for a trait is the average EPD by birth year for that trait. When standardized, as these are, genetic

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# NALF Line

2008-2010-BORN CALVES														
UPPER %	CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CEM	SC	STAY	DOC	CW	REA	YG	MARB	\$MTI
1	19	-3.3	63	113	34	11	1.1	26	33	52	0.89	-0.25	0.50	61
2	17	-2.6	61	109	33	10	1.0	25	31	48	0.84	-0.23	0.42	59
3	16	-2.3	59	107	32	9	0.9	24	30	45	0.81	-0.22	0.39	57
4	15	-2.0	58	105	31	9	0.9	24	29	43	0.79	-0.21	0.35	55
5	15	-1.8	57	103	30	9	0.9	23	28	42	0.77	-0.20	0.32	54
10	13	-1.0	54	98	28	7	0.8	22	26	37	0.71	-0.18	0.22	51
20	11	-0.1	50	92	26	6	0.6	21	22	31	0.62	-0.14	0.09	48
30	9	0.6	47	87	24	5	0.5	20	19	27	0.55	-0.11	0.04	46
40	8	1.2	45	83	23	4	0.4	18	17	23	0.49	-0.09	0.00	45
50	7	1.6	42	80	21	3	0.4	17	15	20	0.42	-0.06	-0.02	44
60	6	2.1	41	76	20	2	0.3	16	13	16	0.36	-0.02	-0.05	43
70	6	2.5	38	73	19	2	0.2	15	11	13	0.27	0.02	-0.07	42
80	5	3.0	36	69	17	1	0.1	14	9	9	0.13	0.10	-0.09	40
90	3	3.8	32	64	15	0	0.0	13	6	3	-0.06	0.22	-0.12	39

2008-2010-BORN LIM-FLEX® CALVES														
UPPER %	CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CEM	SC	STAY	DOC	CW	REA	YG	MARB	\$MTI
1	15	-3.9	66	119	37	8	0.9	24	28	56	0.59	-0.13	0.60	64
2	14	-3.4	63	115	36	7	0.9	24	26	52	0.51	-0.10	0.55	62
3	14	-3.0	62	112	35	6	0.8	23	25	50	0.48	-0.07	0.53	62
4	13	-2.8	60	111	34	6	0.8	23	25	47	0.45	-0.06	0.50	61
5	13	-2.6	59	110	33	6	0.8	22	24	46	0.42	-0.04	0.47	60
10	12	-2.0	56	105	31	5	0.7	22	21	39	0.34	0.00	0.40	58
20	10	-1.2	52	99	29	4	0.5	19	18	32	0.21	0.07	0.32	54
30	9	-0.7	50	94	28	3	0.5	18	15	27	0.13	0.11	0.26	52
40	8	-0.2	47	91	26	2	0.4	17	13	23	0.07	0.15	0.22	51
50	8	0.2	45	87	25	2	0.3	16	11	20	0.00	0.18	0.18	49
60	7	0.6	43	84	24	1	0.3	15	10	17	-0.06	0.22	0.14	48
70	6	1.0	41	80	22	1	0.2	14	8	14	-0.12	0.26	0.10	46
80	5	1.5	39	77	21	0	0.1	11	7	10	-0.19	0.32	0.05	44
90	4	2.2	35	71	19	-1	0.0	10	4	5	-0.29	0.39	-0.02	42

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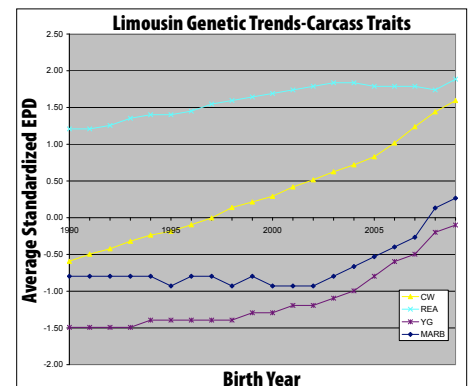
trends become unitless and are directly comparable with one another.

In general, Limousin breeders are making excellent progress toward maintaining the breed's strengths, correcting the breed's weaknesses and thereby meeting the needs of commercial cow-calf producers. The trends in weaning weight, yearling weight and milking ability have increased yearly, but breeders are managing genetic antagonisms for growth by simultaneously decreasing birth weight and improving calving-ease.

On the carcass front, breeders have stepped up to meet the mainstream market's demands for more marbling. Average marbling score EPDs have increased 1.25 standard units since 2002. Although yield grades have increased (the higher the grade, the less yield) and ribeye

areas have remained constant, the breed continues to be unmatched in muscling and carcass yield.

Trends in docility, stayability and scrotal circumference (an indicator of heifer age at puberty) are favorable, particularly since the early 1990s, when breeders responded to recommendations laid out during the Limousin Directions symposium. For an in-depth discussion of



the remarkable gains Limousin breeders have made toward improving docility, see “Limousin Breeders Tackle Temperament” in the “Why Choose Limousin?” section of NALF’s Web site.

Limousin breeders have a long history of recognizing areas for improvement and making the necessary adjustments to move the breed forward. Over the years, they have used selection and management effectively to produce quality seedstock. Commercial users of Limousin genetics are the beneficiaries of those breed-improvement efforts. **LW**

