



The VIEW FROM HERE

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The other day I was reading an article in a national beef cattle publication about what buyers want. The article focused on the thoughts of order buyers and sale barn owners and there were a couple of quotes that got me to thinking.

The first one was from a Missouri cattle buyer who said, “In the next few years, better genetics will be mandatory. It will be hard for lower-quality cattle to find a home.”

Along the same lines, a sale barn owner in Missouri said, “I personally think it’s the genetics of the cattle that brings the most value.”

As seedstock producers, this should be music to your ears because the easiest, fastest and best way for commercial cattlemen to improve their genetics is to pay a visit and write a check to their favorite seedstock producer.

Most would agree that superior breeding cattle are more predictable not only because of their documented performance and EPDs, but because of the history that can be found in their pedigree.

Please re-read the previous sentence then promise not to take offense at my next statement.

If cattle are not registered with the appropriate breed association they can no longer, in my opinion, be deemed superior breeding cattle, because while performance records can still be maintained, over time EPDs and the third-party documented history of the pedigree are lost.

Let your mind wander for a moment and consider what would happen if everyone decided not to register cattle for a generation or two. Would you AI to a non-registered bull? Would you buy embryos from a mating where there was no verifiable lineage other than the sire and dam?

My point is, while it can sometimes be easiest to sit on the sidelines and let someone else do the work, if you are serious about producing Limousin seedstock, you owe it not only to your fellow breeders, but to yourself, to register the fruits of your labor.

Fall brings with it weaning of the spring calf crop. As you might imagine, the next several months are the busiest times for associations in terms of registrations. Fall, or more specifically, August 31, also signals the end of the NALF fiscal year and the subsequent release of the year-end numbers.

I am happy to report that both registrations and the number of new members are slightly up at NALF. The advances aren’t huge, but they did move in a positive direction this past year.

It’s been said in the past that if each and every breeder registered just one more animal each year, the association would benefit greatly. And while I consider that statement to be true, I truly believe it is you, the breeders, who would benefit the most from increased registrations.

As both commercial cattlemen and seedstock producers look to improve the quality of their herds, the value of documented performance, EPDs and genetic history that comes via registration will grow as well. Will you be able to supply that information to your customers?

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