

2009 Genetic Challenge Results

The Eighth Annual Genetic Challenge is history. The 15-pen competition was won by Brink Livestock, Bob and Marilyn Brink, Piedmont, KS who also had the 7th and 8th place pens. The Brinks have had an excellent track record in previous genetic challenges with a tie for 4th and 5th place last year. Their champion pen this year was sired by GLB Polled Plus 5003 and BLC Dark Vader P820. Two steers out of this pen also did well at the recent Beef Empire Days placing 5th and 9th in the steer carcass competition.

Ridgefield Farms, Brasstown, NC, made a sound showing this year with second and fourth place pens. Steve Whitmire and Jason Bates selected sons of JF Gage Link L103, Mr Golden Link 1516, MHF Synergy S627 and GLB Polled Vision ET for their second place pen. The fourth place pen was a sire group of calves sired by MHF R 582 ET. Ridgefield Farms is no newcomer to the Genetic Challenge contest with a tie for 4th and 5th place last year.

The third place pen was nominated by Bar C Cattle, Ed Cahoj, Halfway, MO on a sire group of Mr BCC Sentinel ET sired ½ blood steers out of commercial Angus cows owned by Heigert Farms, Paxico, KS. One of these steers was the 24th place steer in the Beef Empire Days steer carcass competition.

Fifth Place was won by Freeman Ranch, Yoder, CO. Russell Freeman put together a sire group pen sired by FR Poncho Villa P5. Freeman Ranch also had the ninth place pen. Freeman Ranch competed successfully last year winning the third and sixth place honors and also had the 10th place steer carcass at Beef Empire Days this year.

The sixth place pen was nominated by Double R Ranch, Robert and Roseanne Segarra, Hills City, KS with a set of steers sired by PFI Matts Image N309, Mr Golden Link 8140 and DRR Oz-Man S144.

This year, 231 cattle (steers and heifers) were fed at Decatur County Feed Yard (DCFY) near Oberlin, KS. From these, 16 head competed in the Beef Empire Days contest in Garden City, KS and 67 head were nominated for the Genetic Challenge. Traditionally, Genetic Challenge entries have included Braunvieh influence cattle that are from halfblood Braunvieh to fullblood Braunvieh. This diverse representation has consistently shown that commercial producers can achieve feedyard and carcass success with any percent Braunvieh in their cattle.

Scoring System

Genetic Challenge entries were ranked based on marbling, ribeye area per hundred-weight of carcass, carcass weight, average daily gain, feed efficiency and days of age at harvest. Marbling was given a higher weighting than the other five categories because Braunvieh excel in this carcass characteristic. Four to five animals make up a pen entry, with the highest scoring four animals being used in calculating the final pen placing.

Seven-eighths, purebreds and fullbloods were calculated and scored in one category. Percentage, $\frac{3}{4}$ and less, cattle were scored in a separate category. The two categories were adjusted for the size of the two groups so that neither group would have a scoring advantage. Many hours of data management insured that all entries were treated equally and to make the results of top pens a good indication of their value to the industry.

Results from the top ten pens out of 15 are shown on the next page. Results from all 15 pens and non-contest cattle are posted on www.braunvieh.org. All sire identified data will be submitted to GPS to be included in the 2010 National Braunvieh Cattle Evaluation. Many thanks to Art Brownlee for data analysis and to Ed Cahoj for coordinating the entries.

2010 Genetic Challenge

The BAA Board of Directors has decided to move the 2010 Genetic Challenge to the University of Missouri beef research facility near Columbia, MO. This facility is equipped with the GrowSafe Beef in-pen weighing system to measure individual residual feed intake (RFI) as the scientifically proven technology to measure feed efficiency. Entry forms are available on www.braunvieh.org and will be accepted until Nov. 15, 2009. Pen entries are \$50 per head (steers only). Steers and heifers sent as non-contest cattle will be charged \$10 per head for data. Braunvieh Feeder Calf tags will be used again as official contest tags and will be sent to participants after entries are received. Participants need to cross reference BAA tags with farm/ ranch management tags before the cattle get shipped. Delivery will be early December 2009. Watch for exact dates in the next issue of the *Braunvieh World* or posted on the website. Double vaccinations with multified live vaccines are absolutely necessary.