

8TH ANNUAL

PREDICTABLE GENETICS PROVEN PERFORMANCE

MARCH 3, 2018 | PAWNEE ROCK, KS

Selling 45 Bulls and 25 Females Shorthorn and Shorthorn-influenced Angus and Red Angus www.LovingFarms.com



Fellow Cattle Producers,

First of all, we want you to know how thankful we are to have you evaluate the offering for our 8th annual Predictable Genetics, Proven Performance Sale. Our family truly believes in this offering and has poured heart and soul into this group of cows and we believe it is honestly the best set, top to bottom, that we have offered. In the process of putting this catalog together, we were flipping through our past sale catalogs. The improvement in eight years is somewhat hard to believe. Many of the traits of emphasis are the same, but quality of phenotype and measured performance is off the charts better. We have sourced the genetics and made the progress that, you, our customers have asked for and deserve.

As we look across the group of bulls to be offered, we truly believe each has something to offer in terms of genetic potential. They were selected from nearly 150 male bull calves born at Loving Farms and the group was honed to a top cut that offer exceptional calving ease, birthweight, performance and carcass merit. All the bulls in the offering have been GGP 50K DNA tested, giving them genomically enhanced EPDs for increased accuracy. As a first this year, we are offering feed efficiency data on the fall bulls for your evaluation. We are still in the preliminary stages of exploring what this data will provide for the future, but feel

Using genomic-enhanced EPDs for selection of young breeding stock provides a level of precision and reliability that's never been available to producers before.



Bob Weaber Kansas State University

our customers should take advantage of the measured feed efficiency and use it in their selection process. As far as sire groups represented, many are the same as last year but with a few new twists, including Prestige 4015, Right Choice 3212, and a few Red Angus halfbloods by Select Sire's Pie Cinch 4126. As a note, nearly 80% of the offering is in the top 25% of the breed for BW and CEM and 95% are top 25% CED. Our genetic evaluation also has added a Stayability (ST) epd, which essentially is a percentage of daughters that will stay in a given herd over 6 years. 99% of the offering is in the top 25% for Stayability and the average for the entire offering is better than the top 10%. We feel this speaks to the selection pressure that we have put on the traits that make cattlemen keep cows in their herd; most notably production, performance, and structure.

The Spring bulls and heifers will be ultrasounded shortly after this catalog goes to press, so please check our website for those and more updates. As always, the cattle are available for viewing at any time leading up to the sale. If you can't make it sale day and would like to evaluate the cattle in person, please don't hesitate to contact us. As we have in the past, the sale will be broadcast live on DVauctions.com. Please register to bid in advance if you will be using that as your form of bidding during the sale. Also, as in the past, please feel free to call any one of us or our sale representatives listed in the catalog for any questions or bidding by phone during the auction.

Please plan to be with us Friday night for a viewing of the sale offering and stay for supper at 6:00 pm. Join us for lunch on Saturday the 3rd at noon, just ahead of the sale starting at 1:00pm CST. We look forward to seeing you on March 3rd.

Sincerest thanks,

The Loving Family

March 2, 2018 12-6 pm (CST): Cattle available for viewing 6 pm: Cattleman's

Dinner at the Barn

March 3, 2018 12 pm (CST): Lunch 1 pm: Cowboy Auction

Low Pressure Bidding

Cowboy Auction Procedure

The bid-off will start at 1:00 PM CST, March 3. Bulls will have a starting bid of \$2,500 and heifers will begin at \$1,200. At the time of the bid-off, each individual lot will be announced and all who wish to bid on that lot will be asked to raise their bidder number. Each bidder will be "in" until he chooses to lower his card and withdraw. Each \$100 increment will be announced, and the bidders will be given time to consider whether they are "in" or "out," before the next increment is announced. When only one bidder remains, they will have "won" that lot.

If you are unable to attend or for advanced bidding, contact any of the listed phone numbers to set up bidding by proxy or bid online at DVAuction.com.

Please register to bid at DVAuctions.com.



Visit www.DVAuction.com and Register Todayı

Decisions Made Easy

Look for these trait indicators!



Calving Ease Expert Individuals that are strong

on actual performance and EPDs for birthweight and calving ease



Premium Experts

Individuals that excel on premium based carcass traits and \$F



Performance Experts

High growth individuals having an advantage on performance indicator EPDs and actual performance.

SALE LOCATION

From Great Bend, Ks: Go 10 miles west on Hwy 56/156 to SW 90 Ave. Turn south and go 1 3/4 miles and turn right on SW 70 Rd. Head west 1/8 mile.

From Hwy 56/156 at west edge of Pawnee Rock: 23/8 miles east on SW 70Rd.

UPDATED INFORMATION

All updates prior to sale day can be found on our website, www.LovingFarms.com.



Denotes Top 25% of Shorthorn breed EPDs.

WATCH VIDEOS AT www.LovingFarms.com

SALE DAY PHONES

Marty Loving (620)786-2018 (620)786-2016 Scott Loving (620)786-1369 (620)791-8269

SALE REPRESENTATIVES

Montie Soules, Executive Secretary ASA (918)645-4322

Matt Woolfolk, Director of Performance Programs, ASA, (731) 694-6469

Hahn Livestock Consulting Aaron Hahn (309)645-4488

Alan Sears (C) 970-396-7521 (O) 970-454-3986 61 Westward Way



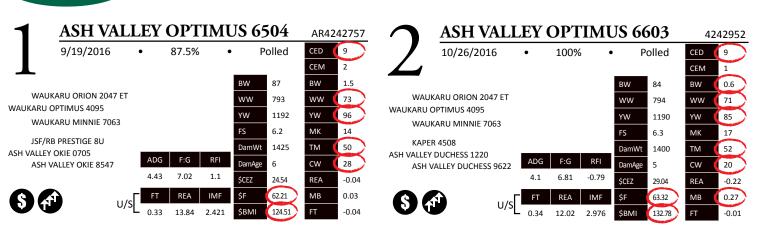
Eaton, CO 80615 alan.sears@aksears.com searsmarketingservices.com

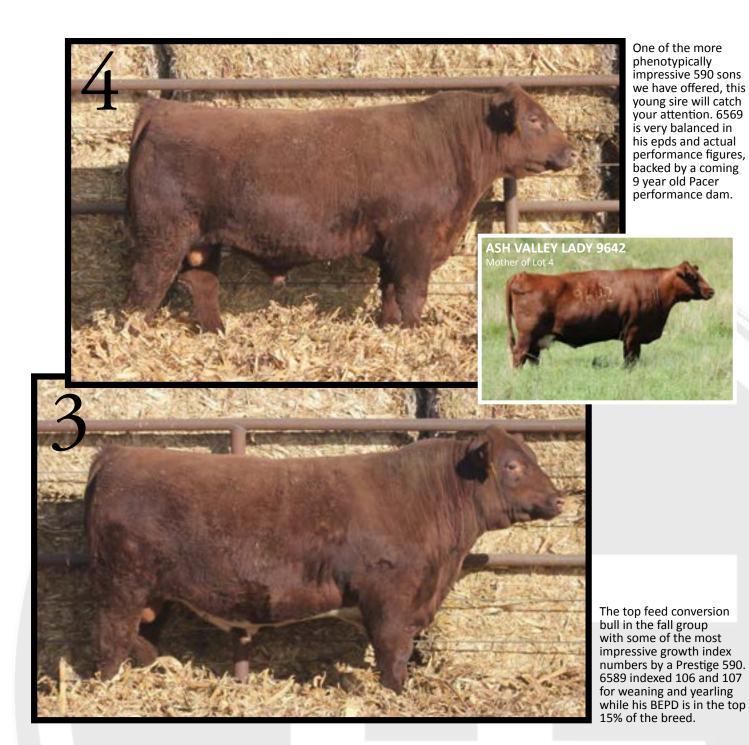


Optimus 6504 is one of the most powerful bull prospects we have offered to date. Not only did he index 120 and 112 for WW and YW, he did it efficiently with 111 feed to gain ratio. 6504 harnesses the explosive growth of Optimus coupled with a maternally efficient Prestige 8u daughter that has had an average index for BW, WW, YW of 106, 103, and 101 while maintaining a 362 day calving interval.

If you are a fan of Lot 1 but want it in a purebred package, 6603 is a mirror equal in nearly every category with an improved BEPD that is in the top 25% of the breed. He is backed by a dam that posts birth, weaning and yearling ratios of 106, 108, and 107 and is a maternal half sister to the 2015 sale top seller, ASH VALLEY Right Choice 3212.







One of the more

impressive 590 sons

we have offered, this

young sire will catch your attention. 6569

is very balanced in

his epds and actual

performance figures,

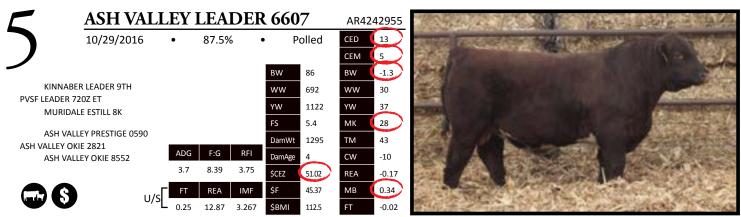
backed by a coming

9 year old Pacer

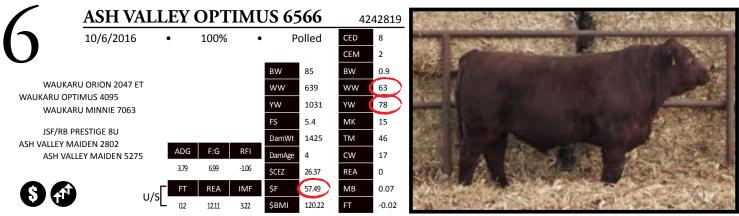
performance dam.

phenotypically

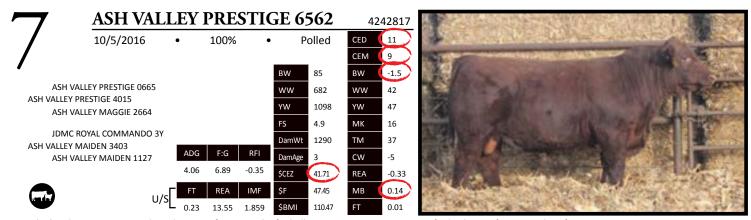




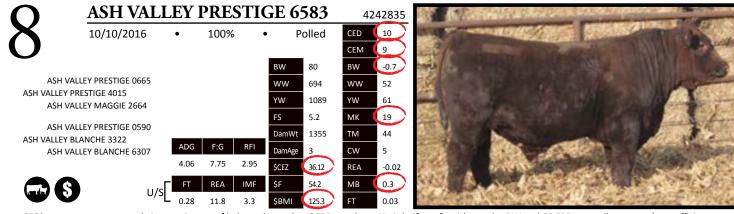
Stout, thick, and big middled are a few takeouts from this impressive Leader son. His mother is no stranger to putting bulls in the pen as she is 3 for 3, with her most recent being last year's sale topping Answer 5720. She has hugely impressive production in those 3 calves with average weaning and yearling ratios of 114 and 107.



A moderate BW, high growth Optimus son. He ranks in the top 20-30% for nearly every EPD category.



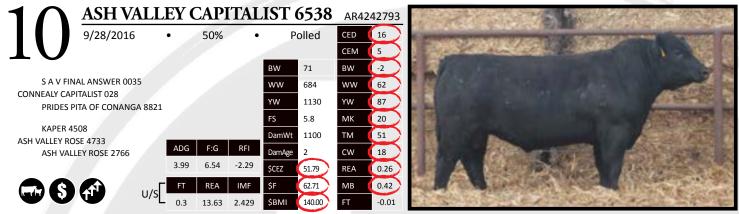
A high indexing weaning and yearling son of our go to heifer bull Prestige 4015. He is top 10% for birth, 15% for CED and 1% for CEM.



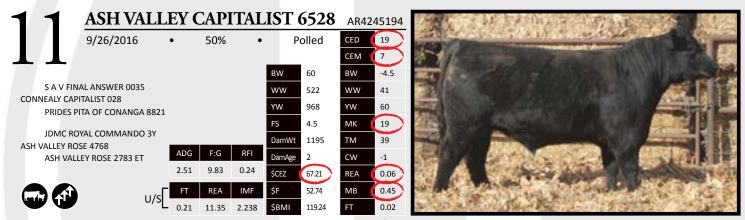
6583 possesses an extremely impressive set of balanced actual and EPD numbers. He is heifer safe with top tier BW and CE EPDs as well as more than sufficient growth.



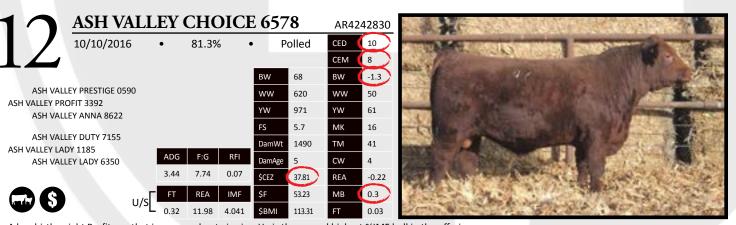
A Capitalist out of the low birthweight specialist Prestige 0665. This bull shows excellent birthweight and still maintains plenty of performance. He is top 25% in nearly every category including the hat trick of all of the \$indexes.



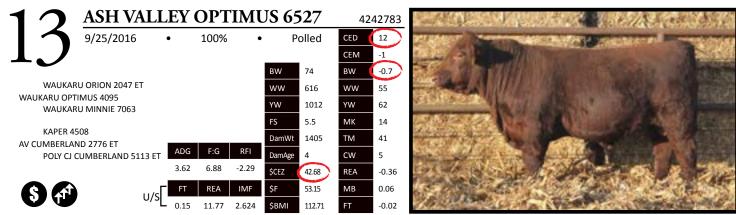
6538 is a game changer. He not only has outstanding actual performance, but he is in the top 10% for nearly every EPD and top 3% for \$CEZ, \$BMI, and \$F. He was the most efficient feed converter by way of RFI and 2nd highest actual conversion F:G ratio.



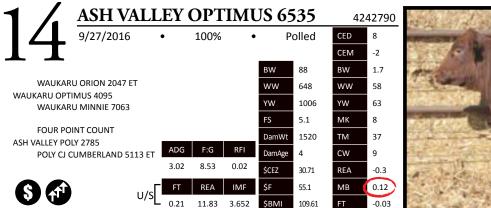
6528 is the super low birthweight, heifer bull of the Capitalist sons. His eye popping \$CEZ figure is in the top 1%.



A low birthweight Profit son that is very moderate in size. He is the second highest %IMF bull in the offering.

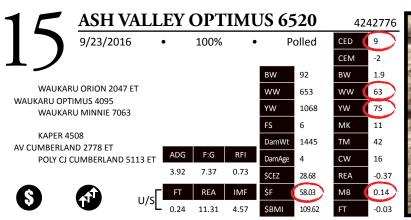


Efficiency in size, as Optimus 6527 is the lowest RFI bull in the group. This mating of Optimus and Kaper 4508 works well, producing the lowest BW and BEPD Optimus son that will be very moderate in mature size.



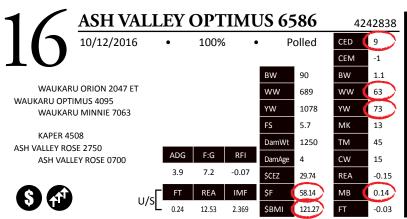


The second highest %IMF bull in the fall pen. 6535 is a nice combination of calving ease and growth placed in an eye appealing and attractive structure.



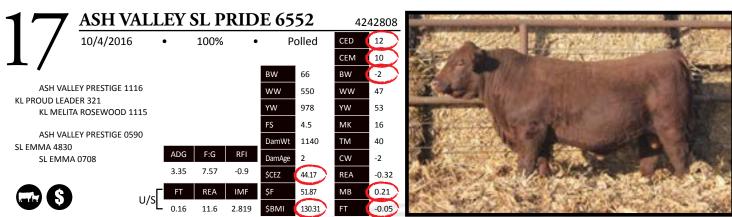


6520 has the highest %IMF ratio we have ever produced at 162. This big middled son of Optimus is top 25% for CED, WW, and YW and top 15% for \$F.

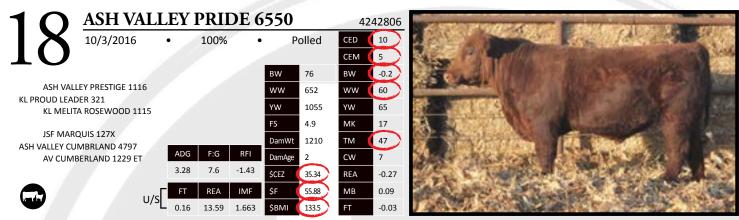




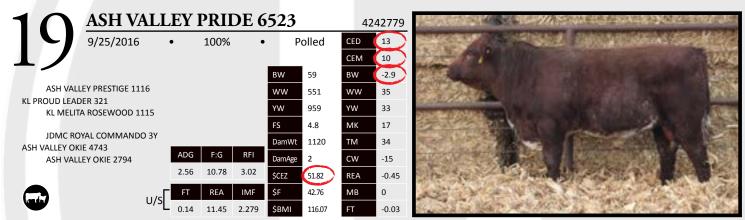
6586 had an impressive weaning % of nearly 56%, indexing 105 and 102 for WW and YW. He is top 25% for CED, WW, ST, MB, \$BMI, \$F.



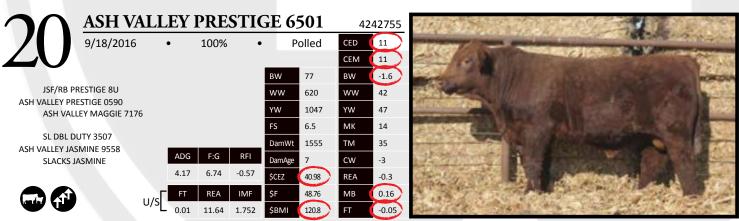
Don't let 6552's lack of WW and YW deter you; he may be the pound for pound champion of the fall pen. With heifer safe actual and BW EPD, this soggy middle and easy keeping 321 son will keep you in the house at night during heifer calving.



Here is a 321 son with a ton of possibilities. Not only is he light BW, but he has more than adequate growth numbers and is efficient to boot. He posts one of the lowest RFI figures.



One of the lightest BEPD bulls in the offering, 6523 is smooth in his kind and will be safe on heifers.



A light birthweight 0590 son that possesses top end EPDs across the board for CED, CEM, BW, ST, MB, and \$CEZ. His mother has a lifetime BW ratio of 103 on 7 calves.

ASH VALLEY PRESTIGE 6518

4242774

9/22/2016

100%

Polled

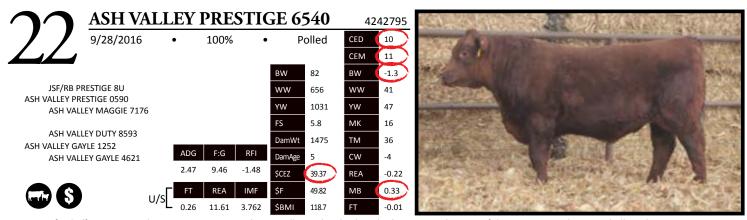
CED

11

CEM

1

The 0590 progeny are not going to typically blow you away with flashy performance numbers. 6518 hung tough with a bunch of heavy hitters in a tough contemporary group and still shows a 104 ratio for weaning while having one of the lighter birthweights.



A very feed efficient, top end RFI Prestige 0590 son that is really good on birth and calving ease. Also, one of the top %IMF and MB EPD bulls in the group.

SALE TERMS

Semen and Breeding Soundness Exams

All of the older bulls will be semen checked and Breeding Soundness Exam performed by sale day. The Spring yearlings will be checked by delivery date provided they are at least 12 months old.

Insurance

You may purchase insurance on the day of the sale. If insurance is not purchased, bulls will be at the buyer's risk.

Terms and Conditions

Terms of the sale are cash or check. Payment must be made to the clerk immediately following the sale and before the cattle are removed from the sale facility. Purchasers or their representatives must sign the bill of sale prior to leaving the sale site.

Liability

Each animal(s) will be at the buyer's risk as soon as sold, but will be cared for by the sellers for a reasonable amount of time. If the buyer is leaving the animal(s) in the care of the seller, the buyer will purchase insurance for the duration of the care or accept any liability for their purchase. Neither the owners, employees, nor any other affiliated personnel can be responsible for any accidents, but they will make every effort to provide for the safety and comfort of those attending

Delivery

All lots picked up on sale day will receive a discount of \$100/lot. All lots not taken sale day will be kept free until April 1, 2018. Delivery can be arranged and will be made at the most reasonable cost.

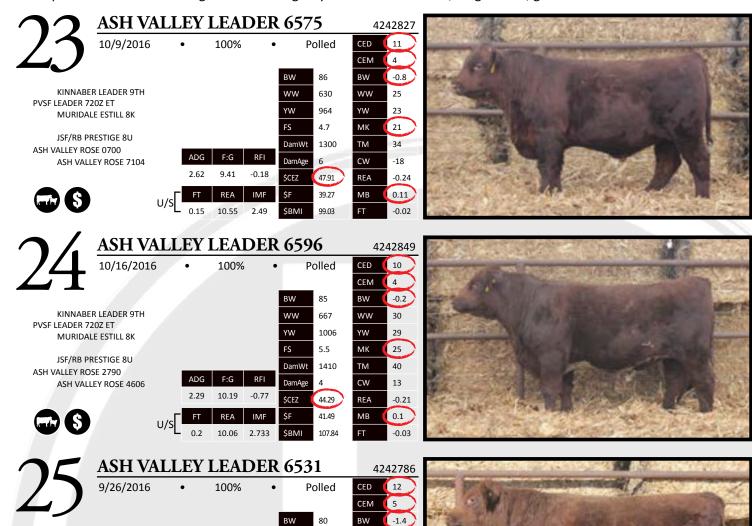
Genetic Testing

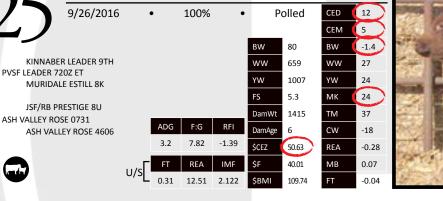
All of the bull lots have been DNA tested with the Geneseek HD50K Al sire test. This will not only test for all known genetic conditions, but provides genomically enhanced EPDs. The females have been eliminated by pedigree or tested for known genetic conditions and are free unless otherwise noted.

Breeding Guarantee

All bulls are guaranteed for the first breeding season, as defined by the first 90 days following turnout. If a replacement bull is available, he will be provided or if the buyer prefers, credit towards one bull will be given in the following sale, less salvage value of the injured bull. All injured bulls must be diagnosed and documented by a veterinarian. Please notify us as soon as possible should injury occur and prior to the injured bull being sold for salvage. All claims must be made by September 1, 2018.

The Leader cattle will never show super impressive EPDs for the growth traits, as their grandsire Leader 9th was born over 50 years ago and the genetic evaluation doesn't account for the lack of actual data from that time. What do the Leader cattle do well? They are easy keeping, efficient cattle that produce very maternal, useful females. These are the replacement female making bulls that will give you moderate framed, long bodied, good uddered and efficient cows.







Have You Found Your Match?

Look for these trait indicators!



Calving Ease Expert
Individuals that are strong on
actual performance and EPDs for
birthweight and calving ease.



Premium Experts
Individuals that excel on premium based carcass traits and \$F.



Performance Experts
High growth individuals having an advantage on performance indicator EPDs and actual performance.



7344 is the epitome of what we are trying to accomplish with Optimus. Utilize his strengths on the smaller framed, lighter birthweight females and this is the result. Powerful growth while moderate on birth, 7344's dam is above a 101 index for every measured trait and is a 2 time Pacesetter Dam. Proven performance at its best.

This Cinch son is the curve bender. He is top 10% for BW, CED, CEM, and YW. He has been a pusher since birth and really exhibits the advantages found in the Shorthorn/Red Angus composite.



When we were looking for a Red Angus sire to complement the look, type, and performance we desired, Pie Cinch 4126 fit the bill. 7317 is one of the most eye catching bulls in his group. He's muscular, deep and long and wraps it all up with a very balanced set of performance numbers.



The popular Red Angus sire from Select Sires, is very well balanced in his EPD profile, as well as having an extremely complimentary phenotype to our Shorthorn females.

ASH VALLEY CINCH 7305

ASH VALLEY CINCH 7317

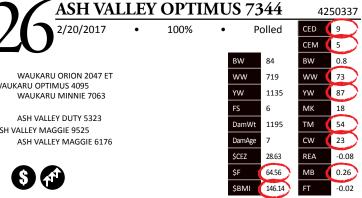
606 1134 1115

TKP BONNIE BEL 110

WAUKARU OPTIMUS 4095

group.

ASH VALLEY DUTY 5323 ASH VALLEY MAGGIE 9525



ASH VALLEY CHOICE 7315 2/5/2017

ASH VALLEY PRESTIGE 0590 ASH VALLEY RIGHT CHOICE 3212 ASH VALLEY DUCHESS 9622 ASH VALLEY LEGACY 7010 ASH VALLEY LADY 4022

ASH VALLEY LADY 2726

4248612

LSF SAGA 1040Y PIE CINCH 4126 TKP BONNIE BEL 110

ASH VALLEY JASMINE 4084



DR4257988 Polled

LSF SAGA 1040Y PIE CINCH 4126

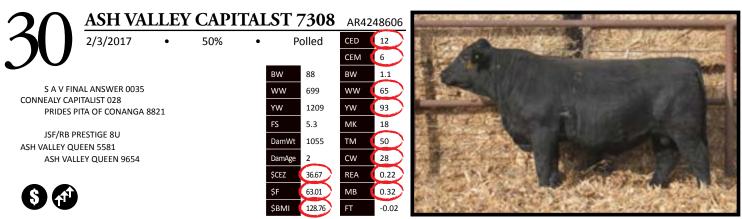
ASH VALLEY JAZZ 1227 ET **ASH VALLEY GRACE 4097 ASH VALLEY GRACE 1138**

Polled

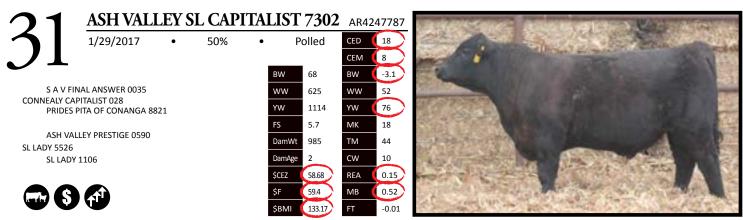
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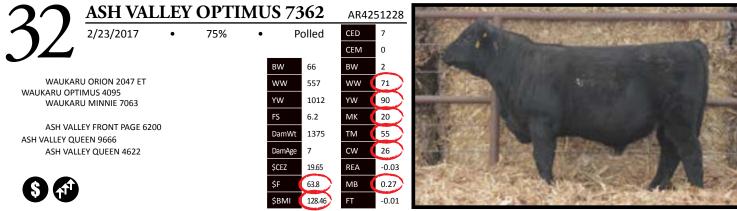
The 2015 sale top Right Choice 3212 meets a Legacy/Kaper daughter who is a great all around performer from calving ease to growth. Choice 7315 continues that trend with BW, WW, YW indexes of 101, 116, and 104 in a large contemporary



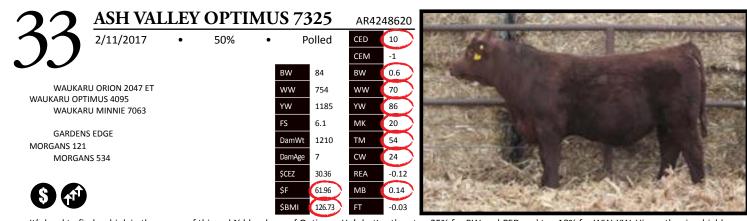
7308 is flat out the most explosive growth bull in the spring group with a weaning and yearling ratio of 116 and 118. A Capitalist out of a Prestige/Duty combination should also be solid on birth weight.



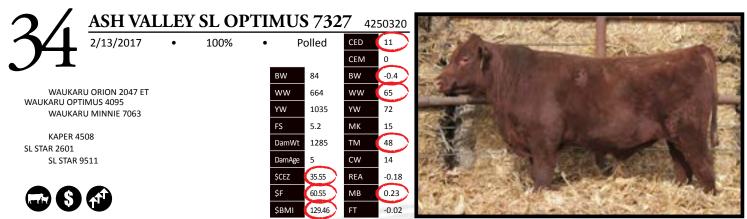
7302 indexes 109, 104, and 108 for birth, weaning, and yearling. Maybe one of the most attractively made Capitalist sons to date. He will be super safe on heifers with top 1 or 2% of the breed for CE and BW EPD traits as well as \$CEZ.



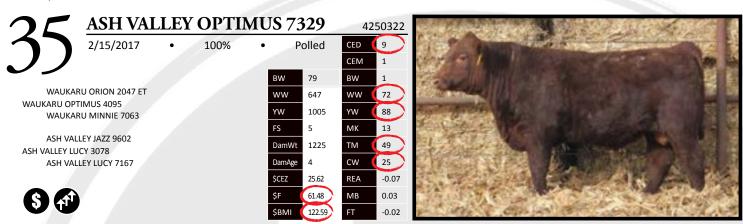
A high growth Optimus son out of one the really productive half blood females on the place. He is top 5% for WW and 10% for YW and MB EPDs.



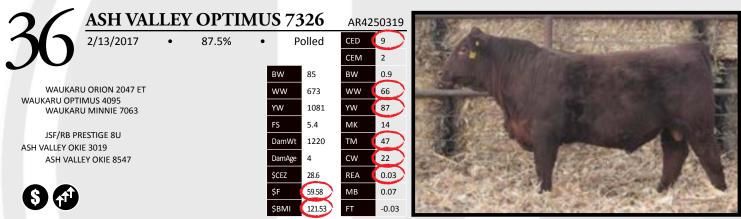
It's hard to find a chink in the armor of this red ½ blood son of Optimus. He's better than top 25% for BW and CED and top 10% for WW, YW. His mother is a highly productive Gardens Edge daughter that has a lifetime birth, weaning, and yearling, and marbling ratio of 102, 115, 101, and 105.



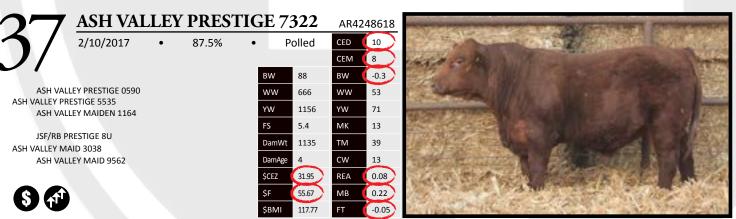
Long bodied and soggy are a few descriptors for this well, balanced, low birthweight Optimus son. He is negative on BW EPD and yet is top 15% for WW. He is also in the top 20% for \$CEZ, 15% for \$BMI, and 10% for \$F.



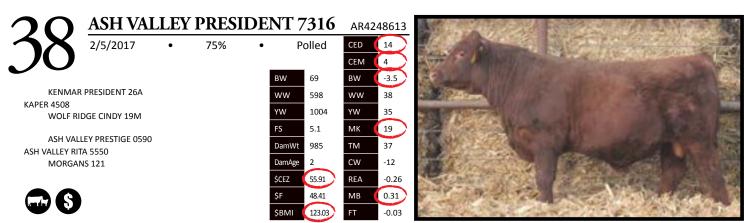
An Optimus son that indexed 112 for birth in a contemporary group of 48 calves. He is also strong on the maternal side for birthweight as both maternal grandsire and great grandsires were used on heifers.



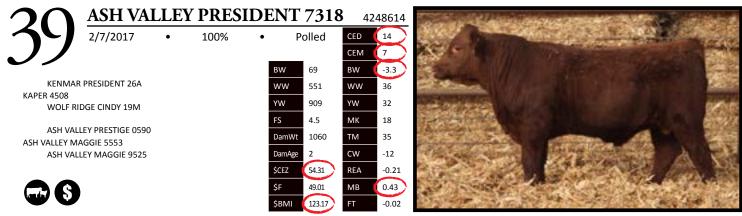
A 7/8 blood that is in the top 25% or better in nearly every EPD. He is backed by one of our top composite females who has put 100% of her calf crop in the top tier of the sale bulls. She is extremely predictable and is leaving little to prove.



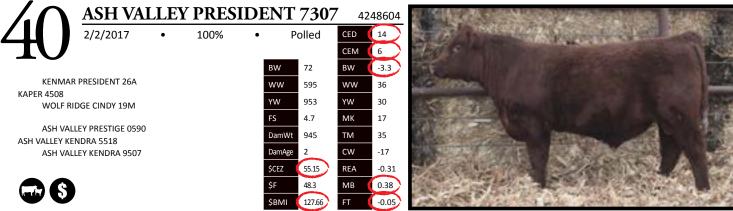
A powerfully built, mid 5 frame son of the top selling spring bull of the 2016 sale. He is huge middled and incredibly thick.



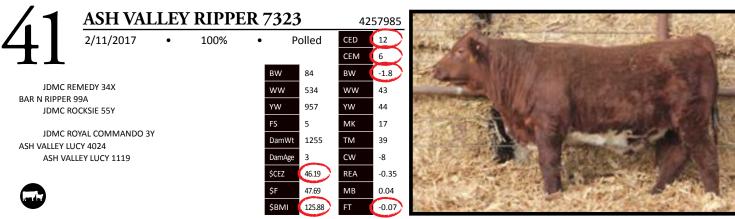
An ultra low birthweight Kaper son that will be heifer safe. He is just a generation away from plenty of performance as his mother is a maternal half sister to the high growth Lot 33.



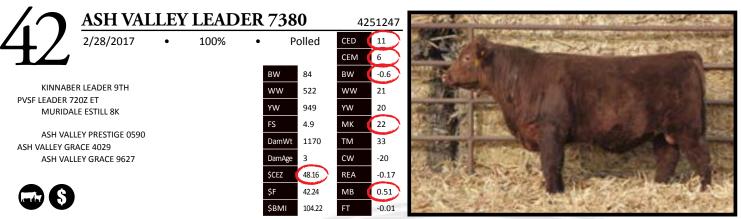
Similar genetic setup as Lot 38, 7318 is top 2% for BW, CED, and CEM. His mother has very good growth potential as she is half sister to the powerful lead off bull of this spring group, Lot 26.



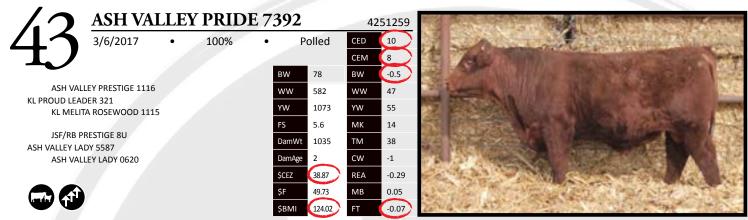
7307 is a 104 index for birthweight and is in the top 2 and 3% for BW and CED EPDs and out of the highly popular Kendra cow family.



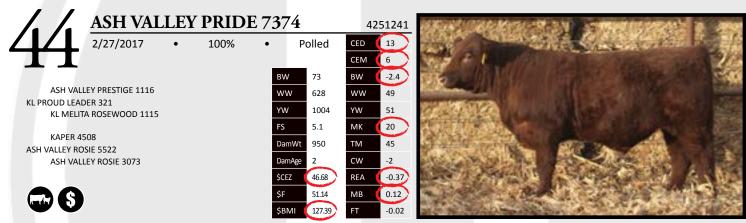
The only Ripper son in the offering and he is a good one. He will be super safe on heifers, with a pedigree full of low birthweight and calving ease genetics.



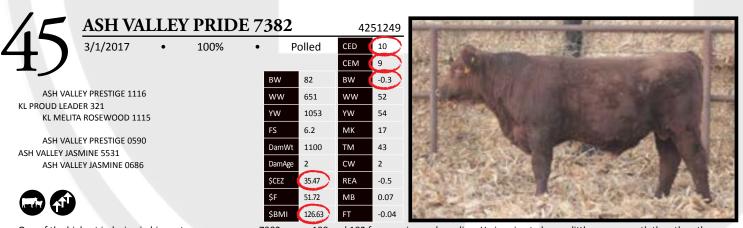
A high calving ease Leader son that is attractively well put together. He not only has top tier EPDs for BW, CED, and CEM, but is top 1% for MB. His mother has one of the highest %IMF recorded at a 156 index for actual IMF.



A Proud Leader son that is very well balanced on paper and phenotypically as well. He is heifer safe and yet posted a 104 yearling weight index.



Pride 7374 shows great birth to weaning spread and did that on a first calf heifer with no creep.



One of the highest indexing in his contemporary group, 7382 runs a 108 and 102 for weaning and yearling. He is going to have a little more growth than the other Proud Leader sons.

Heifers



An Optimus daughter that is huge bodied, high volume and yet you just love her for her femininity. She has a top level EPD profile to back up absolutely impressive actual performance figures. Take advantage, as we have not let many females of this caliber leave the farm.

The Ione Red Angus composite in the group and she is a good one. Very maternal in her design and yet plenty of growth potential. 7311 is elite in her BW and CE EPDs as she is in the top 3% or better for each category.



A really nicely put together female that is ultra low for birthweight, sired by the top Kaper 4508 son from our 2016 sale. The Jasmine cow family has been one of the most dependable, low maintenance cow families on the place.

ASH VALLEY DUCHESS 7341 ASH VALLEY JASMINE 7388 AR4250334 4251255 WAUKARU ORION 2047 ET 683 **KAPER 4508** ASH VALLEY PRESIDENT 4716 WAUKARU OPTIMUS 4095 924 WAUKARU MINNIE 7063 **ASH VALLEY MAIDEN 2802** JSF/RB PRESTIGE 8U JSF/RB PRESTIGE 8U 1250 **ASH VALLEY DUCHESS 3037** ASH VALLEY JASMINE 2682 ASH VALLEY JASMINE 8644 **ASH VALLEY DUCHESS 9674**

BAR N RIPPER 99A

JDMC ROCKSIE 55Y

ASH VALLEY GANDY 5596

ASH VALLEY PRESTIGE 0590

ASH VALLEY GANDY 1101

ASH VALLEY GANDY 7320 JDMC REMEDY 34X

ASH VALLEY DUCHESS 7311 LSF SAGA 1040Y PIE CINCH 4126 TKP BONNIE BEL 110 JDMC ROYAL COMMANDO 3Y **ASH VALLEY DUCHESS 4046 ASH VALLEY DUCHESS 2639**

This Ripper female has brood cow written all over her. She

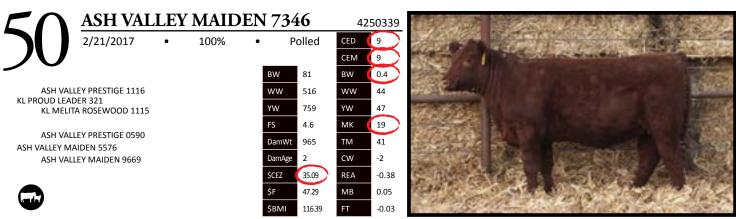
has a soft made, easy fleshing look about her and yet her

than capable of producing the

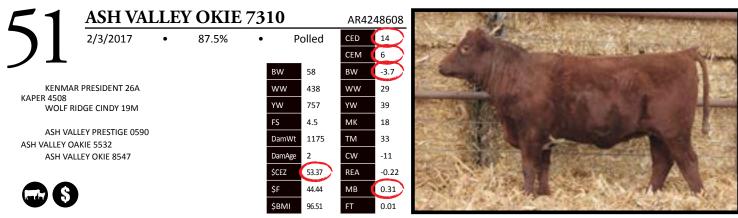
pounds. One of the few in the offering that is better than top

25% for a \$CEZ, \$BMI, and \$F.

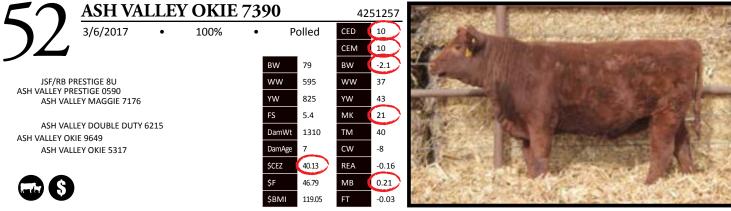
EPDs suggest she is more



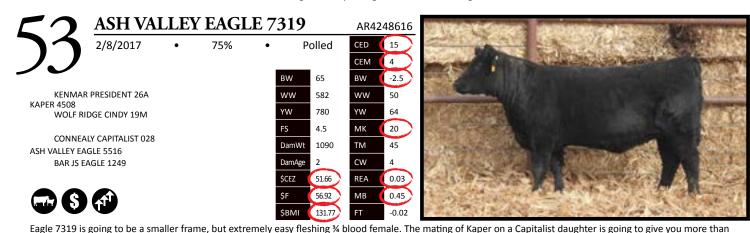
A well balanced EPD profile on this Proud Leader daughter that weaned nearly 54% of her 1st calf mother's body weight.



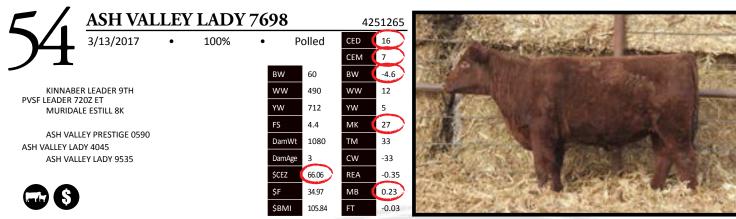
The lightest birthweight heifer calf in her contemporary group, ratioing 114. Don't let her lack of performance concern you. Her mother was a first calf heifer and is out of a cow that has a lifetime weaning and yearling weight index of 107.



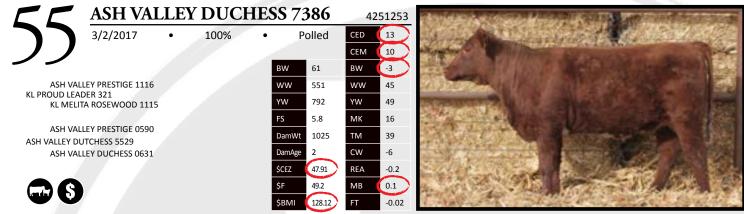
Okie 7390 is a low birthweight, moderate growth Prestige 0590 daughter. Her dam is a highly productive cow that will be 9 this spring and is still producing top notch stock. She has lifetime indexes of 102 for birth, 103 for weaning, 103 for yearling, and 107 for marbling.



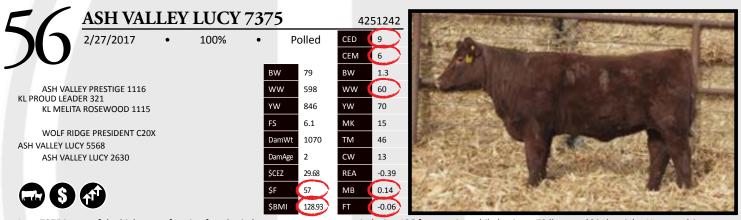
enough mass in a small package.



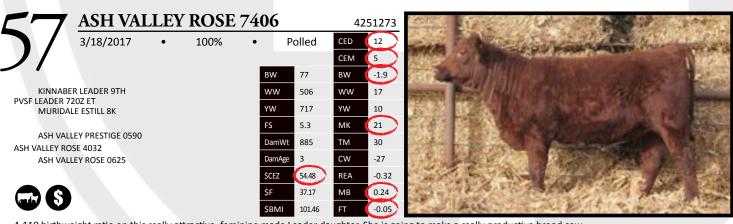
A deep sided, attractively made Leader that you will need to turn a blind eye to the EPD line. It's probably not representative of the kind of cow Lady 7398 will make. Her mother has indexes of 111 for birth and 103 for yearling.



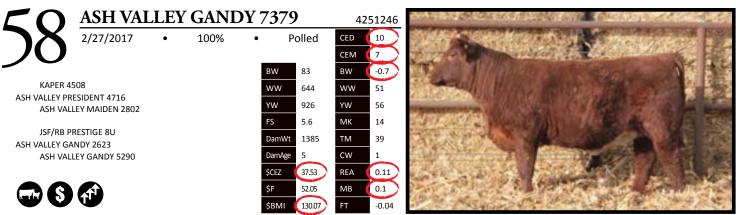
Duchess 7386 is a 110 ratio for birthweight and right at the average for weaning. Typical of the Proud Leader's, they are going to be very good on birth with good moderate growth to weaning.



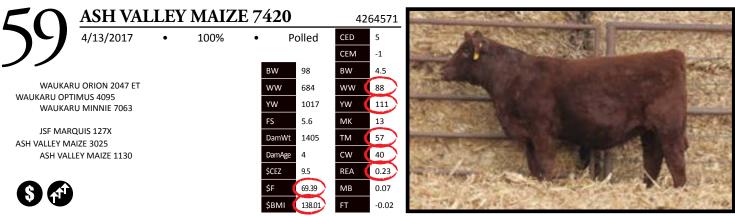
Lucy 7375 is one of the highest performing females in her contemporary group indexing 106 for weaning while having a 79 lb. actual birthweight. Her grandsire, President C20X, provides more of an accelerated growth curve than most of the Kaper 4508 sons will.



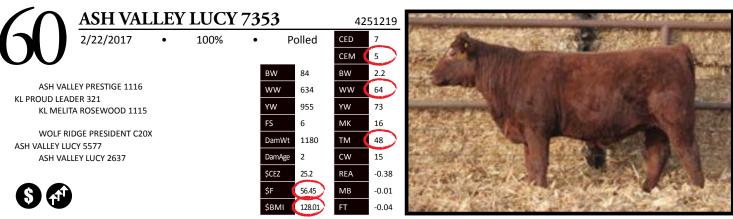
A 110 birthweight ratio on this really attractive, feminine made Leader daughter. She is going to make a really productive brood cow.



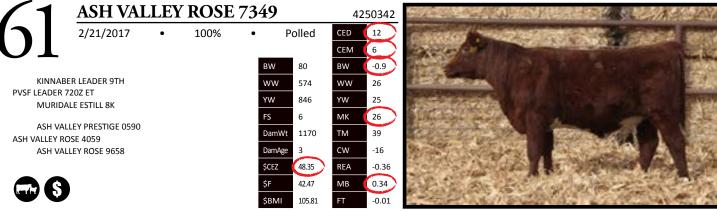
DS carrier. Maybe one of the most impressive females to look at in the group. She has fantastic performance, indexing 104 and 105 for birth and weaning. While she is bred more to the calving ease side of the spectrum, her sire will shoot a little more performance in his progeny.



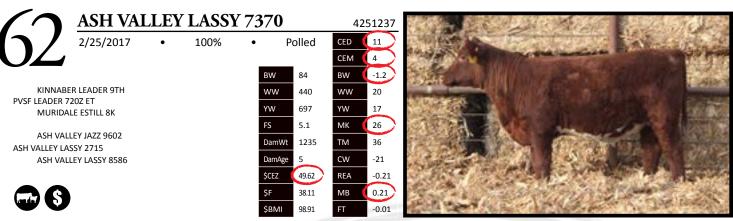
Maize 7420 is by far and away the highest performance heifer to sell. She is off the chart in terms of actual and growth EPDs while not being an overly large framed female. She is the highest \$F females we have produced.



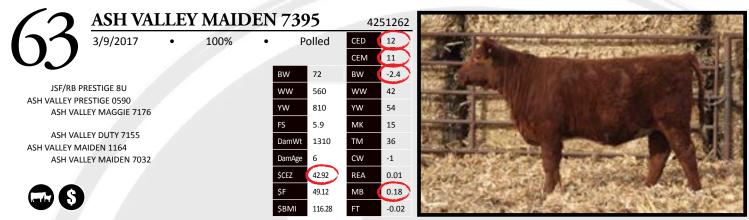
A 54% weaning percentage heifer that hangs with some of the high performers in the group and being out of Proud Leader she will be very acceptable for birth and calving ease.



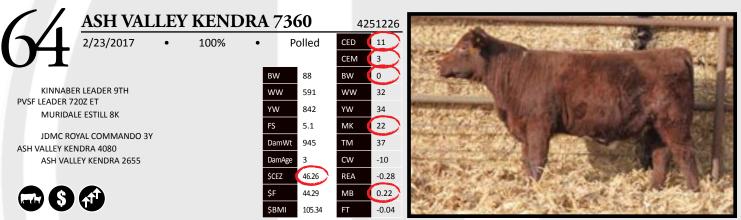
A bigger framed Leader daughter that indexed 106 for birthweight as well as having top 15% BW and CE EPDs. Performance shouldn't be a problem for this female, her mother averages 109 and 104 for weaning and yearling indexes.



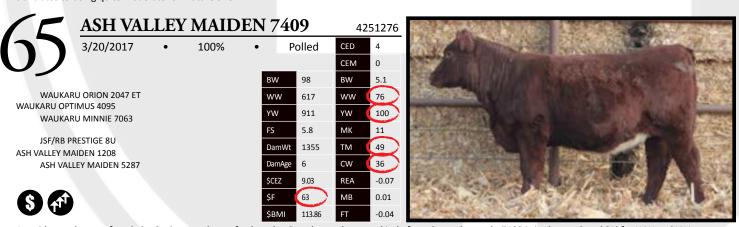
A nicely made daughter of Leader that is top 10% for BW and 15% for CED and CEM. Her mother has a birthweight ratio of 107 and yearling ratio of 108, which makes a nice birth to yearling spread.



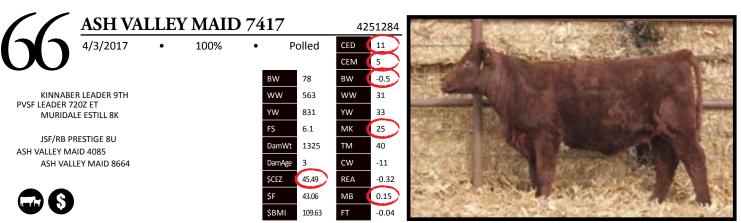
A full sister to the 2nd high selling bull of the 2016 sale and also the sire of Lot 37. Maiden 7395 shows all the right tools; low birthweight and moderate on growth.



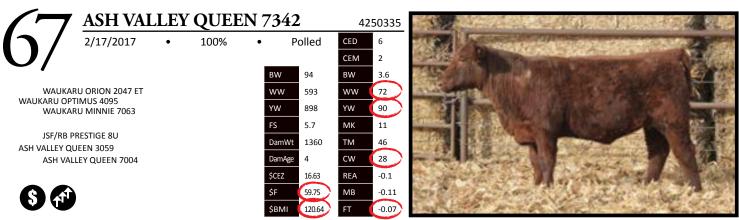
A well balanced female out of the great Kendra cow family. She hits right near the middle for birth and weaning in a very competitive contemporary group, which translates to being quite moderate for mature size.



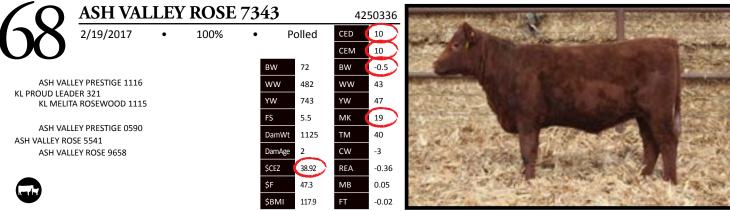
A rapid growth curve female by Optimus and out of a dam that has shown the same kind of accelerated growth. 7409 is in the top 2 and 3% for WW and YW.



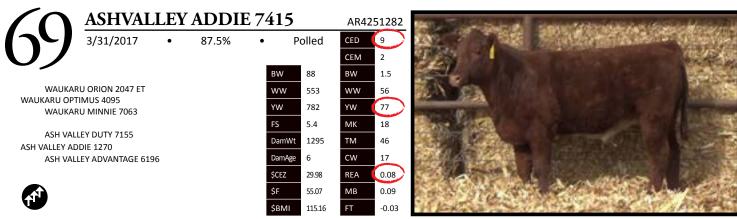
Maid 7417 is a low birthweight Leader daughter out of highly productive Prestige 8u daughter. Her mother has shown good growth with an average weaning index of



A high performance Optimus that is top 5% for WW and top 10% for YW and \$F, yet is moderate in size



A low birthweight, moderate growth 321 daughter that shows a good amount of growth and out of one of our longest running and most productive cow families.



Addie 7415 is very well balanced on paper as she is in the top third of every trait. Her mother is a maternal half brother to AshValley Answer 9652 that sired the top selling bull from the 2017 sale.

LET US PARTNER WITH YOU:

Marketing at Weaning

If your operation typically sells at weaning, we have buyers ready to purchase shorthorn influenced calve without your typical market distortion (sorts on color, size,etc.). This eliminates yardage, sale expense, and essentially cuts out the middleman.

Partial Ownership to Finish

If your desire is to market the cattle to finish weight and maybe your cash flow doesn't allow for it, we have feeding partners willing to own a percentage of the feeding group. This allows the owner a cash flow up front and still be able to participate in the profitability of finish cattle marketing as well as have the option to achieve any grid based premiums. Feed will be financed to finishing date and settlement will be made at close out. This is a nice option for the producer who has been a typical market at weaning operation that wants to transition.

Retained Ownership Finishing

The feed, yardage, and expenses are carried for the length of the feeding period and settled at close out. You are paid on the net of sale minus expenses. Our feeding partners have been exceptional in terms of rate of gain as well as feed conversion. They also have delivery rights for USPB and other grid based marketing opportunities.

We have maintained a relationship with our feedlot partners for over 20 years and they have fed thousands of head of Shorthorn influenced cattle. They are very much in tune with the ability of Shorthorn influenced cattle's ability to gain and convert in the top tier of everything they feed. Allow us the opportunity to help you maximize the full value of Shorthorn genetics.

FEEDING & DEVELOPMENT

We employ the service of John Ney with Nutrition Solutions to help balance the feed rations as well as to monitor the intake and performance of the bulls. The bulls start out on the cow without creep feed and only relying on their mothers for weaning performance. This allows us to evaluate the performance of the cow as well as the calf. They are weaned on a high forage content mixed ration and allowed to grow at a slower pace to increase frame and give them time to develop. As final selections are made, the sale bulls are moved to a ration containing higher energy and yet maintaining a higher forage content. These bulls never see a concentrate ration and we feel that is important to a digestive system that will only have access to a forage based system post sale. Exercise is a key in the development of a young sire, we feel that it's important to give them access to plenty of space to move to aid in their growth.

BENEFITS OF GGP50K TO COW/CALF PRODUCERS

Maternal GE-EPDs – Improve profits per cow:

- Verify calving-ease bulls, saving time, cost and stress when calving heifers.
- Identify bulls and cows with superior reproduction traits to improve cowherd fertility and maternal productivity.
- Better fertility improves conception rates, calving window and calf-crop uniformity.

Performance GE-EPDs – Optimize efficient returns:

- Produce cows that improve pounds weaned per exposed female.
- Produce cows for optimum growth for your grazing environment.
- Improve feed efficiency, producing heifers and cows that gain well on less feed and pass thrifty traits onto to their calves.

Quality GE-EPDs – More consistency of beef quality:

- Helps customers retaining calves, or selling into grids or value networks
- Adds value and reputation quality in stockers or feeder calves.
- Predicts quality up front, saving years of valuable time, with less hassle than collecting carcass data.

Using GE-EPDs with improved accuracy improves the reliability of the decisions breeders make and, ultimately, the rate of progress their selection program can deliver for cow/call producers.



Bob Weaber Kansas State University

Overview of EPDs

Expected progeny differences (EPDs) are a very important tool used in genetic selection. EPDs are used to compare the differences in predicted performance of animals' offspring for specific traits. Calculation of EPDs is driven by pedigree, progeny, and individual performance data. The American Shorthorn Association offers twelve different EPDs for specific traits. Additionally, ASA provides three economic (\$ Value) indexes, providing a single value for the selection of breeding stock that optimizes selection on a number of traits that define profit in a particular production scenario.

Calving Ease Direct (CED): The most important EPD in sire selection for use on heifers. This value is expressed as a percent of unassisted births; the more positive a number is the more desirable.

Calving Ease Maternal (CEM): Reflects a bull's ability to sire daughters who calve unassisted. The value is expressed as a percentage of unassisted births, with a more positive number being more desirable.

Birth Weight (BW): An indicator of birth weight and calving ease. Larger BW EPDs typically, but not always indicate more calving difficulty.

Weaning Weight (WW): Weaning weight measures the differences in weight of calves at weaning, and is also reported in pounds. A higher WW EPD indicates an expected higher weaning weight.

Yearling Weight (YW): Like other weight traits, YW measure the differences in weight of animals at yearling, and is also expressed in pounds. Higher YW EPDs indicate a higher expected yearling weight.

Milk (MK): the expected differences in a bull's daughters' calves at weaning weight due to their milking ability. Milk is looking at how well daughters milk and how that translates to the weaning weights of their calves. A higher MK EPD indicates a higher weaning weight due to the bull's daughters' milking ability.

Total Maternal (TM): TM predicts the total difference in weight of a bull's daughters' calves at weaning. A portion of this difference in weight comes from the milking ability of the bull's daughters (MK EPD), and a portion comes from the genes for growth passed from the bull to his daughters and then on to their calves. The TM EPD is calculated by taking ½ of a bull's WW EPD + his MK EPD.

Stayability (ST): The newest addition to the Shorthorn EPD lineup, Stayability is a measure of the percentage of a bull's daughters that will still be in the herd at six years old. Like CED and CEM, Stayability is expressed as a percentage. A higher ST EPD indicates a higher percentage of daughters staying in the herd.

Carcass Weight (CW): expressed in pounds as a predictor of the differences in hot carcass weight of a sire's progeny compared to progeny of other sires.

Ribeye Area (REA): REA measures the difference in ribeye area of a bull's progeny. REA is measured in square inches. A higher REA EPD is indicative of expected larger ribeyes.

Backfat (FT): Fat thickness measures the amount of back fat on a carcass. FT is reported in inches. A lower FT EPD indicates a bull whose progeny will have less fat on the carcass than a bull with a higher FT EPD.

Marbling Score (MB): evaluation of intramuscular fat deposition in the ribeye as expressed in USDA numeric marbling scores. Higher values indicate genetics that are expected to marble and have a higher quality grade.

Calving Ease Direct (\$CEZ): This index assumes a bull will only be mated to heifers, not cows. The potential profitability of the sire is measured by the incidence of live calves at birth. Moderate mature size is also emphasized in the index, but performance is not a priority.

British Maternal Index (\$BMI): This multi-trait selection index attempts to measure a bull's potential profitability when complimenting the British cow base (Angus, Red Angus, Hereford, etc.). Shorthorn females can likewise be gauged at adding value to British or British composite bulls of other breeds. A balance of growth and carcass traits is desired with a strong maternal component aimed at optimum reproductive efficiency and cow longevity.

Feedlot (\$F): \$Feedlot places strong emphasis on growth and carcass traits. This multi-trait index assumes the sire will be mated to a mix of heifers and cows and attempts to measure profitability when progeny are sold on the fed market. On the female side, mature size should be monitored closely when selecting for \$F.



FEED EFFCIENCY TESTING

After 20+ years of retained ownership on our genetics, one piece of the feeding process has exposed an advantage to Shorthorn genetics that the rest of the industry has yet to see. Our Loving Farm genetics have a history over time of extremely efficient feed to gain conversion. Tom Jones, managing partner at HyPlains Feedyard, says that due to such consistently low conversion, they are in the top couple percent of all cattle fed in their 50,000+ head feedlot. For this reason, we decided to pursue several avenues to start the testing of our genetics for feed efficiency. We are doing this a couple of different ways.

First, we have two of our sires currently going through a sire testing program at the University of Illinois, and two more sires with cows bred to calve for the next cycle. The calves by these sire's progeny will be measured in all phases of production from birth to carcass collection, including feed efficiency testing. Each sire was mated to 20 commercial



cows and the resulting 10-15 progeny will be tested. Over the course of the next two years, a fair cross section of our main sires will be tested this way and compared against a group of sires.

Second, you will notice the additional box containing data on the fall yearling bulls. They were placed on a 70 day, medium gain (45mCal) ration while being measured by a Growsafe system. The Growsafe system includes individual bunks, each on a scale, that electronically record each individual animal when their head enters and exits the bunk. The system then measures the amount of feed he consumed each time he does this. The bulls are then weighed when they start the 70 day test, at the midpoint, and when they conclude the period. The result is an individual daily feed consumption for every day during the feeding period. The final results are a daily dry matter intake and a total gain over the feed period. There are a couple of ideas to consider when evaluating this data. First, these results should only be used for comparison among this feeding group. Second, cattle at different weights will gain and convert more or less rapidly. Research is showing though, once cattle test at a level of efficiency, they will remain efficient throughout their life.

With these two testing procedures, we hope to ID sires and eventually females that not only grow, but do so efficiently on the least amount of feed possible. As with any testing, the first run of data is not the final result. We are just in beginning stages of aggregating data that will help us as well as our customers find genetics that will shrink one of the most expensive components of the beef business, the FEED BILL.

How to read the Growsafe results:

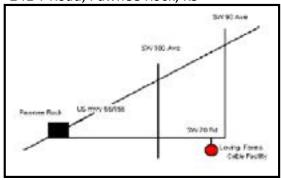
Average Daily Gain(ADG) = pounds of gain per day. This is the total pounds of gain over the feeding period divided by the number of days in the feeding period. Remember, the Growsafe system utilizes a high roughage content, medium gain ration of 45 mCal of NEg. Loving Farms bulls are typically developed on a high roughage, 50-52 mCal ration for the same period.

Feed Conversion (F:G) (Feed Dry Matter / Weight Gain) = pounds of feed (on a 100% dry matter basis) required for one pound of live weight gain. Generally this measure is used in commercial feedyards to indicate efficiency. This value makes no adjustment for diet energy content or age/weight differences in measured animals. It is simply raw pounds of feed required per raw pounds of weight retained. Because of this, it is proper to use this type of measure only with cattle of similar age on the same ration. A lower value is desired.

Residual Feed Intake (RFI) is the difference between actual feed intake and that predicted on the basis of the animal's gain and maintenance requirements for its body weight. The calculation is more complex because mathematical statistics are used to determine the RFI value. A prediction equation is developed by using regression of the actual feed intakes, gains, and average weights on test of the animal's contemporaries. The calculation factors in both maintenance efficiency (the easy keeper concept) and production efficiency (pounds in vs. pounds out like the normal Feed:Gain equation). An average animal would have an RFI of "0." Animals with a negative RFI value are favored because they have consumed less feed for their weight and gain than the average of their herd mates. Animals with a positive RFI number would be consuming more feed for their weight and gain than the average of their herd mates.



241 T Road, Pawnee Rock, KS





March 3, 2018, Pawnee Rock, KS

PREDICTABLE GENETICS PROVEN PERFORMANCE









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