



# E.A.R. Program

(National Carcass Evaluation Program)

*The E.A.R. Program is a comprehensive feeding evaluation of Brahman genetics from a purebred and percentage standpoint, with all individuals being traceable to known Brahman lines. This program is designed to allow ABBA and Brahman breeders to maintain an understanding of how their genetics perform within the Beef industry. Key purposes of the program:*

- 1) Provide a means by which a producer or user of Brahman genetics may capture carcass data in a real world setting to understand the Beef producing ability of their cattle.
- 2) Provide a competition with reward among ABBA members and Brahman genetic users by using data collected.
- 3) Provide real world statistics that help promote the Brahman breed globally to counter long held beef production stereotypes of Brahman cattle.
- 4) To increase the value of Brahman genetics by offering an incentive for the commercial user in the form of a cooperative feeding and harvest program.

## **General Requirements:**

Nominations must be received by January 15, 2019.

Nomination fee is \$35 per purebred steer - \$15 for percentage steers.

All steers must be born between December 2017 – May 2018 for early 2019 spring delivery.

All steers eligible for participation in the program must meet one of the following requirements:

### **1) Able to be registered by ABBA**

All registerable steers **MUST** be parent verified before being nominated (copy of the results on file with ABBA)

### **2) Be traceable by nomination information to at least one parent registered with the ABBA**

Steers will be harvested when the pen has reached the average weight and condition regarded as acceptable by the industry. The decision will be made by the feedyard operator. Steers will be fed at **TEXANA FEEDERS LTD. Floresville, TX.**

## ***Divisions:***

**Registerable Brahman Division** - Both parents ABBA registered (DNA verification required)

**Commercial ½ Brahman or more Division** – One parent registered with the ABBA

Each Division will award the following:

*Individual Overall Champion Carcass* - Index based on (25% ADG, 25% REA, 25% IMF, 25% Tenderness)

*Top producer award* – Producer who nominates best group of 5 steers

*Premier Sire Group* – Best 3 steers by an ABBA registered Brahman sire based on the above mentioned index

## ***Program Steps with Explanation:***

1. All cattle must be individually identified by a brand.
2. Steers will be individually identified, weighed and processed upon arrival. All steers should be vaccinated in accordance with one of the options listed in the Texas A&M Value Added Calf Vaccination Management Program. These vaccinations help enhance immunity so the steers have increased resistance to viruses and bacteria upon arrival at the feedyard. The vaccines given upon arrival boost immunity so respiratory problems are reduced.

The latest backgrounding protocol recommended by the feedyard will be made available to nominees upon request.

All steers will be given a modified live virus vaccine, vaccinated against clostridial organisms and dewormed upon arrival.

All injections must be given in accordance set forth by the Beef Quality Assurance Audit.

3. Each steer will be assigned a per hundredweight value based upon current market conditions in the feedyard trade area at time of arrival at the feedyard. This figure will be used to calculate theoretical breakevens and the financial outcome of the feeding program.

4. When possible, the cattle will be sorted into appropriate outcome groups and by breed type.

5. Animals that require treatment for any illness will be treated according to guidelines established by the feedyard veterinarian. Costs of treatment will be charged to the owner. Cattle who get sick twice will be removed from the program, may be picked up by the owner or railed. The feedyard management and ABBA will make every effort to safeguard the health of all animals but will assume no responsibility for death or sickness.

6. After an acceptable length of time, steers that are not achieving an economic rate of gain will be sold as realizers and the proceeds will be placed in escrow for disbursement at the end of the program or may be picked up by their owners. Owners will be notified before their steers are realized and within one week if their steer dies.

7. Feed consumption for each pen will be determined at the conclusion of the feeding period. Individual steer consumption will be dependent upon the proportional share of pounds based upon head days.

8. Charges to be assessed each entry at the end of the feeding period include:

- a. Processing fees
- b. Medicine costs
- c. Feed costs
- d. Transportation/trucking costs (feedyard to packing plant)
- e. The above items will be financed at the prevailing interest rate
- f. Texas Cattle Feeders Association Dues (40 cents)
- g. Beef Checkoff (\$2.00/head)

9. Entries will be marketed when the pen average reaches the weight and condition regarded as acceptable by the industry. This decision will be made by the feedyard manager.

10. The steers will be weighed individually at the conclusion of the feeding period and a 4% pencil shrink will be applied to the final weight to determine live sale weight for calculation of feed yard performance.

11. The cattle will be sold on the live animal value and fair market value will be attained. Neither the feedyard or ABBA guarantee the profitability of participation in the program. All proceeds will be mailed directly to the consignor after the expenses listed in item 8 are deducted. Disbursement of all funds will be approximately two weeks after the group is marketed. Cattle will be harvested at Sam Kane Beef Packers.

12. Feed yard performance & carcass information to be collected

- Average Daily Gain***
- Dressing Percentage***
- Carcass Weight***
- Ribeye Area***
- % Kidney, Pelvic and Heart Fat***
- USDA Quality Grade***
- USDA Yield Grade***

***Marbling Score***

***Warner Bratzler Shearforce Tenderness Test***

13. Producers will be sent a report after reimplant at the feedyard with information on arrival weight, steer value, reimplant weight, muscle score, frame score and pen assignment.

14. At the conclusion of the feeding period, feedyard performance data and carcass information will be provided on each consignment.

*For additional information or questions please contact the American Brahman Breeder's Association:*

*3003 South Loop West, Suite 500*

*Houston, TX 77054*

*713.349.0854*

*info@brahman.org*



# E.A.R. Program

*(National Carcass Evaluation Program)*  
American Brahman Breeder's Association  
3003 South Loop West, Ste: 500  
Houston, TX 77054

## *Nomination Form*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ranch: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to nominate the following steers for an early 2019 Delivery:

\_\_\_\_\_ (#) Purebred (registerable and parentage verifiable) X \$35 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (#) Percentage (at least one parent ABBA registered) X \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Nomination Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please list vaccination protocols used on all nominated animals.

**PLEASE INCLUDE REGISTRATION NUMBERS FOR ALL PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED STEERS.**

*Upon receiving nomination form you will be contacted to facilitate delivery, collect information on your steers and fully explain all details of the program. Feeding cattle acquires risk of loss of value, potential death, and no guarantee of profitability.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of participant Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Please email to [abba@brahman.org](mailto:abba@brahman.org) or mail to the address above.