VALUE OF BRAHMAN FEEDERS

Results from 12 (1992 -2004) years of feeding and harvest data from the Texas A&M Ranch to Rail Program – South proved that Brahman cross feeders gain and grade and make as much profit as their non-Brahman counterparts when fed and harvested side by side!

Steers were consigned by ranchers from all over Texas and surrounding states and fed in South Texas Feedyards under the direction of Dr. Joe Paschal. All steers sold on a quality-based carcass value grid.

The feeding results from thousands of steers show that Brahman cross feeders performed as well if not better in the feedyard as their non-Brahman lot mates. In fact, Brahman cross feeders were much less likely to get sick and have to be treated reducing gain, quality grade, and profitability! Cattle on feed that get sick not only have higher medicine costs and death loss but reduced gain, grade, and profit!

Percent Brahman	No. Head	In Wt (lbs)	Out Wt (lbs)	DOF	ADG (lb/d)	Cost of Gain ($/hd)	Med Cost ($/hd)	Net Profit ($/hd)
0	687	585	1190	202	3.01	58.06	7.04	76.06
25	3248	602	1185	196	2.99	58.24	4.95	77.03
3/8	1452	592	1199	198	3.09	56.37	5.96	80.91
50	1380	599	1170	191	2.99	57.53	4.04	76.82

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Percent Brahman	Carcass Wt (lb)	Dressing Percent	Fat (in)	Ribeye Area (sq in)	REA/cwt (sq in)/cwt	USDA Quality Grade	USDA Yield Grade	Shear Force (lb)
0	761	63.6	.35	14.6	1.93	SE 87	2.1	5.9
25	756	63.6	.39	14.2	1.89	SE 79	2.3	5.7
3/8	761	63.2	.45	13.6	1.79	SE 74	2.7	6.5
50	746	63.5	.44	13.4	1.80	SE 71	2.7	6.4

The carcass results from the Brahman cross steers compared very favorably with the non-Brahman carcasses, often equaling their performance. The muscling of the Brahman cross carcasses met or exceeded the 1.80 square inches per 100 pounds of carcass weight required for a high yielding muscular carcass. The average USDA Quality Grade was very high Select (with half of the carcasses grading Choice) and average USDA Yield Grade 2. Tenderness, measured by shear force at 14 days of aging, in the Brahman carcasses was well below the 8 lb. threshold for toughness! Although the costs of gain and medicine costs skyrocketed in recent years, the value of these Brahman cross carcasses have more than doubled and the net returns are even higher!

Brahman cross feeders, either sired by Brahman bulls, out of Brahman cows, or from genetics from other Brahman influenced breeds, have significant economic value and make money because they gain fast and efficiently, are less likely to become sick and be treated with expensive medications or die in the feedyard. As carcasses, Brahman crosses are well muscled, don't get fat, and deposit intramuscular fat to create a high value high lean yielding carcass in a quality grid world!

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