

NALF Suggested Mating Targets, North American Limousin Foundation

Through the combined efforts of the membership, the Breed Improvement committee and Visions committee at the North American Limousin Foundation, over 30 committee members have worked diligently to come up with “**Suggested Mating Targets**” for our breeders in an effort to continue to improve EPD traits and make additional genetic improvement in the Limousin Breed. Through the leadership of Gene Raymond, GV Limousin, the continual chase for producing superior genetics that have value to the commercial cattle producers across the United States, can accelerate even quicker now with the technology and tools available to seedstock breeders. With the switch to BOLT, the single-step National Cattle Evaluation, data is now released and updated on a weekly basis by International Genetic Solutions in Bozeman, Montana. The new single-step NCE combines genomic testing, performance data and pedigree data simultaneously to provide seedstock producers an earlier peek into an animals’ genetic potential. The tools are in place to make additional, accelerated improvements in our cattle. NALF committees will monitor these traits for both Limousin and Lim-Flex cattle on an annual basis and adjust accordingly, depending on actual results. It is important for the breeder to remember the following guidelines set forth by the NALF committees, consisting of fellow breeders who worked over the last six months to come up the suggested mating targets.

1. Every breeders’ environment, geographic location and feed cost are different, a breeder must still breed and produce cattle that fit his market and geographic location. NALF is not telling you how you must breed your cattle, these are suggestions to enhance commercial demand for the Limousin breed.
2. NALF breeders have produced superior genetics and is evident by a broad overview of the 17 EPD traits in across breed comparisons. The mating targets are a concentrated effort by fellow breeders to keep improving on traits we not only excel in, but also push the envelope on the few traits we could use additional upward pressure, while at the same time, not single-trait select when making mating selections.
3. The committee’s recommendation is to reach these goals within five years and monitor progress on an annual basis and adjust accordingly.
4. The Limousin Breed was one of the first breeds in the continental United States to address docility and the temperament of cattle over 25 years ago. NALF’s breeders began to record docility scores for cattle and utilize a docility EPD in their culling process and mating decisions in an effort to make quick improvement in their cattle. Since the initiation of the IGS BOLT EPD single-step cattle evaluation that allows breeders to compare EPD traits across various breeds, **Limousin now ranks number one in docility** among IGS cooperator breeds. This is positive testament that utilization of EPDs to make advancement in genetic traits in beef cattle can be successfully used to make genetic improvement in beef cattle on any trait, when tools and technology are correctly applied to mating decisions.
5. NALF breeders are intent on using the tools available in today’s market place to provide commercial cattlemen seedstock that produce cattle that excel in terms of feed efficiency, high yielding cattle and also hit the mark in quality grade when used in a crossbreeding program that also capitalize on superior maternal traits and stayability in the cowherd. The Limousin Breed is excited about the direction of the United States Beef Cattle Industry and looks forward to the future of providing superior quality seedstock to commercial cattlemen throughout the United States.

	GEST	CED	BW	WW	YW	MK	TM	CEM	SC	STAY	DOC	YG	CW	REA	MB	BF	MTI
<i>Limousin</i>	-3.6	14	1.0	66	100	24	57	8	0.7	16	15.00	-0.72	13.00	1.07	-0.27	-0.16	43.00
<i>Lim-Flex</i>	-2.8	14	0.7	69	108	24	58	8	1.1	17	15.00	-0.34	23.00	0.74	0.30	-0.08	65.00