



5 Steps for buying better heifer bulls

WANT TO BUY A GREAT HEIFER BULL THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET?

Follow these simple steps to pick the right bulls & bid with more confidence & less stress on sale day.

Step 1. LOOK AT THE GESTATION LENGTH EBV

The Gestation Length EBV is the number of days from conception to birth. Calves that are born a few days early are smaller. A negative Gestation Length EBV is ideal. Currently the breed average for Gestation Length EBV is -4.4, so any figure below this is good.

	GL	BW	200	400		GL	BW	200	400
EBV	-7.6	+3.0	+45	+99	EBV	-5.6	+5.6	+54	+100
PERC	10%	25%	65%	15%	PERC	29%	80%	17%	9%

This bull has the best Gestation Length EBV for calving ease (lower figure)

Step 2. LOOK AT THE BIRTH WEIGHT EBV

The Birth Weight EBV reflects the weight of the calf at birth, so it makes sense that a lighter calf is preferred. This means a lower Birth Weight EBV should be selected. Currently the breed average Birth Weight EBV is +4.3, so we suggest selecting a birth weight at or below this figure.

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PERC	10%	25%	65%	15%	PERC	29%	80%	17%	9%

This bull has the best Birth Weight EBV for calving ease (lower figure)

**Note: Calving Ease EBVs are also a great tool, however most sale bulls do not have an EBV of high enough accuracy to be useful.*

Step 3. TAKE NOTE OF THE PEDIGREE

A bull's pedigree can give an indication of how reliable his calving ease will be. Stacking multiple generations of calving ease provides more reliability, meaning less chance of a 'throwback' to larger calves. Look in each bull's 'Comments' for insights.

Step 4. LOOK AT THE STRUCTURE OF THE BULL

The bull's shoulders are an important aspect to check. Smooth shoulders promote an easy calving. The shoulders should be smooth against the rib cage. We find an easy way to assess this is to stand at the front of the bull & look at the top of his shoulder blades.

Less width at the top of the shoulder blades is ideal

Less width at the point of the shoulder is ideal



Smooth shoulders



Prominent shoulders

Step 5. ASSESS THE BULLS PHYSICAL SIZE

If a bull ticks all the boxes for calving ease so far, it's then important to think about his physical size. A heavy, mature bull may not be ideal for joining smaller heifers. We find yearling bulls work well over heifers, as they are similar size & reduce the risk of injury.

OTHER INSIGHTS

These tips will help you get the bull side right for an improved calving, but good heifer management plays a key role. As a rule, genetics account for 40% and the environment accounts for the other 60%. At Trio Angus, we work hard to get the genetics right, it's then up to you to control the environmental effects to the best of your ability. Ensuring your heifers are well grown by the end of the first trimester is vital.

Good genetics, combined with good management, is the key to a profitable & enjoyable calving season.