Breeding strategies for early maturity in beef cattle

Silvan Wyss

11/22/2018

What

Assessing strategies to breed for early maturity in beef cattle. Early Maturity here defined as age slaughter of an animal with minimal carcass price reductions. Price reductions are dependent on the pricing system CHTAX.

CHTAX

Whithin carcass categories price reductions if: Carcass fat class $\neq 3$ (optimum) Carcass conformation $\neq$ C (maximum) Carcass weight above certain limit (dependent on carcass category)

?? Graphics describing areas of price reduction along range of traits.

Why

Long-term assignment of Mutterkuh Schweiz for Qualitas AG: ?? Labels of Mutterkuh Schweiz and Qualitas AG Developing breeding value estimation for beef cattle in Switzerland.

Until summer 2018 breeding focused on the traits daily gain and carcass conformation. During this time: Prooved: The trait carcass fat has decreased to far below class 3 in most beef cattle breeds. ?? Graphic with mean performance carcass fat along range of breeds as barplot Assumed: Performance in early maturity decreased as well.

Assumed negative effects for breeders and producers: Higher carcass price reductions for poor carcass fat performances. Combination of high costs and high price reductions.

Mutterkuh Schweiz: “This trend must stop.”

Issue with low carcass fat classes already solved: Introduction of breeding value for carcass fat in summer 2018.

However, breeding strategy for early maturity not clear yet.

How

Evaluation of 4 proposed approaches:

1.

R Markdown

This is an R Markdown presentation. Markdown is a simple formatting syntax for authoring HTML, PDF, and MS Word documents. For more details on using R Markdown see http://rmarkdown.rstudio.com.

When you click the **Knit** button a document will be generated that includes both content as well as the output of any embedded R code chunks within the document.

Slide with Bullets

- Bullet 1
- Bullet 2
- Bullet 3

Slide with R Output

```
summary(cars)
```

```
##      speed           dist       
##  Min.   : 4.0   Min.   :  2.00  
##  1st Qu.:12.0   1st Qu.: 26.00  
##  Median :15.0   Median : 36.00  
##  Mean   :15.4   Mean   : 42.98  
##  3rd Qu.:19.0   3rd Qu.: 56.00  
##  Max.   :25.0   Max.   :120.00
```

Slide with Plot