

# LASATER BEEFMASTERS

FOUNDATION HERD OF THE BEEFMASTER BREED

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"The Pedigree  
is in the Name"

DISPOSITION  
FERTILITY  
WEIGHT  
CONFORMATION  
HARDINESS  
MILK PRODUCTION

Summer 2009  
NEWSLETTER

**We select cattle to work for us, so we know they will work for you.**

## **Lasater Beefmaster® Field Day and Sale Featuring 100 Two-Year-Old Bulls and 8 Retired Herd Sires Developed on Native Range September 15 & 16, 2009**

**Selling at the Ranch and via Live Internet Auction**

**Contact Us for a Sale Catalog.**

**Available: Free DVD of all Sale Bulls**



# EXPECTED PROGENY DIFFERENCES

## Part 2 - The Next Generation

Currently, the Beefmaster breed association has six EPDs: Birth Weight, Weaning Weight, Yearling Weight, Maternal Milk, Total Maternal, and Scrotal Circumference. All six of these EPDs are "indicator traits." They describe an animal's genetic merit, but they don't predict profit.

On the surface, you would think these EPDs predict profit. Let's take a look at the Weaning Weight EPD as an example. If a commercial producer uses the heaviest Weaning Weight EPD bull in the breed, wouldn't he produce heavier calves at weaning and wouldn't that equal to higher profits when he sold those calves? Yes, he would raise heavier calves at weaning, but heavier calves alone won't necessarily increase profit. How many calves will die during calving? And down the road, if replacement females are saved, how many of those will get bred as yearlings and go on to make good mother cows as two-year-olds.

Several years ago, a new acronym was formed to describe the next generation of EPDs: ERT, standing for Economically Relevant Traits. The academics at major agricultural universities recognized that with EPDs there's a tendency to focus on individual traits (single-trait selection) instead of profit. So now, the next generation of EPDs has a stronger focus on the traits and combination of traits that affect profit. Some breeds are already using these new EPDs like Cow Maintenance, Feed Efficiency, Heifer Pregnancy, and Stayability. (Stayability predicts the number of years a sire's daughters will remain in production.)

Here at The Lasater Ranch, we've been selecting for economically relevant traits for over 70 years. We've never gotten caught up with fads or chasing numbers and pedigree. Having our roots in the commercial beef industry, we understand that "low cost" is the key to survival in the cow/calf business.

Take a moment to read some of our practices printed below. Just imagine how these practices have improved our genetics over the years and how your bottom line can be improved when you use Lasater Beefmaster® bulls.

\* 45 day breeding season, starting as yearlings. They miss, they're out. Result: higher fertility.

\* Wean a good calf every year. Cows with small calves at weaning are culled along with their calves. Result: heavy milking and higher production traits are promoted.

\* Calving unassisted on the range. Result: bred-in calving ease.

\* We don't kill coyotes. First-calf heifers and cows have to protect their young. If they lose a calf, they're out. Result: maternal traits are propagated.

\* No use of any insecticides for more than 40 years. Cattle that have less resistance to flies, lice, worms, and grubs weed themselves out with lower weaning weights or infertility. Result: promotes hardiness and natural insect resistance.

\* Limited use of vaccinations. 7-way at branding and weaning. Females also get a Bang's vaccination. That's it for the rest of their lives. Cattle with less natural resistance to disease weed themselves out. Result: promotes hardiness and natural immunities.

\* Annual feet and udder evaluation. Cattle with bad feet or bad udders are culled regardless of age or production history. Result: promotes trouble-free cattle with ideal functional traits. Saves times and money for treating udder problems and feet trouble.

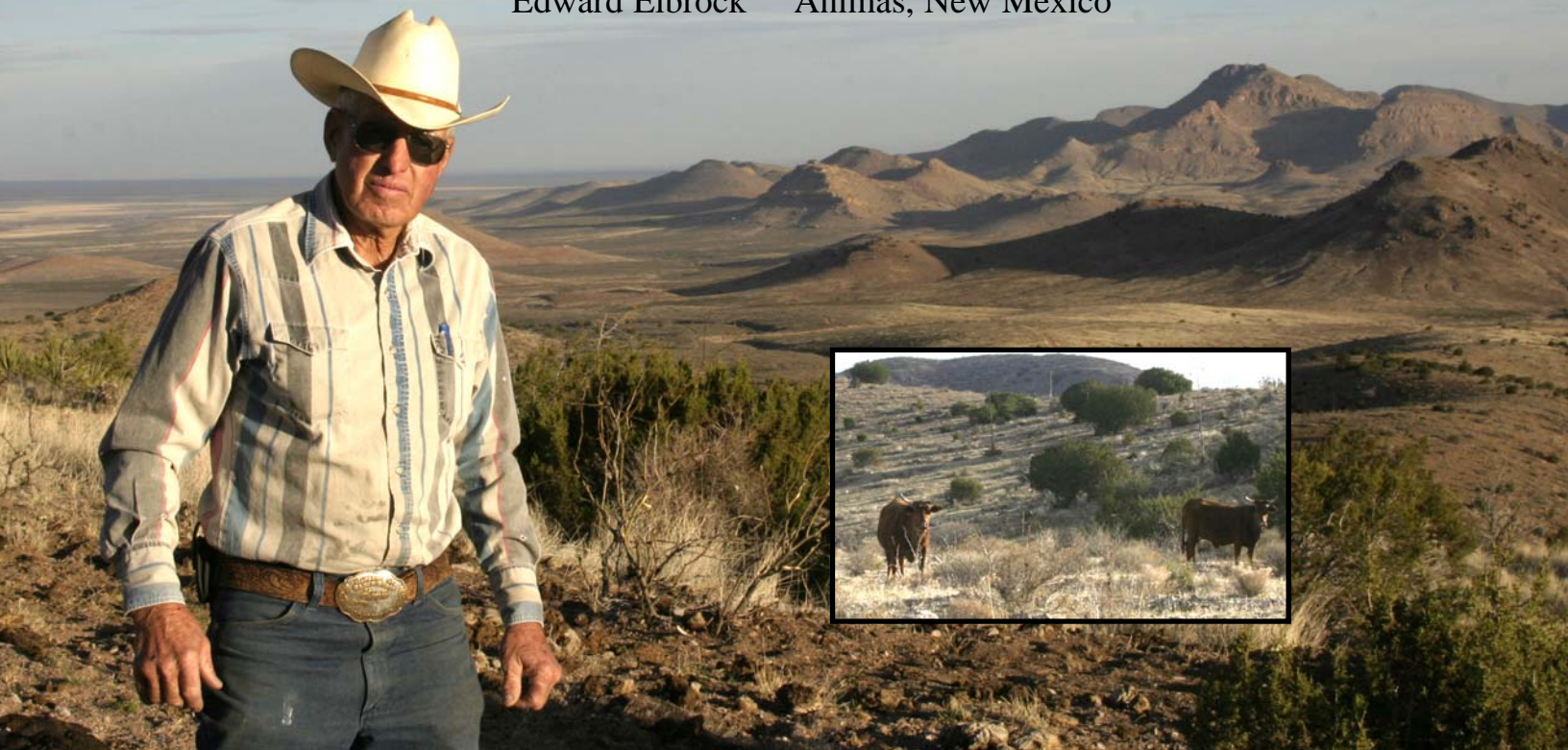
\* Home-raised herd sires are grown out on grass and selected for their superior growth traits (heavy weaning and yearling weights) combined with perfect conformation and heavy muscling. Cattle with superior structural correctness hold up better and can travel better. Result: promotes natural muscling, sustainable growth, and superior conformation.

\* Cattle with poor dispositions are culled. Gentle cattle are easier to handle with. They take less time and manpower to gather and work. They also gain weight better than nervous cattle on the range or in the feedlot. Result: Gentle, happy cows are more profitable.



## Commercial Cattleman Profile

Edward Elbrock Animas, New Mexico



For Edward Elbrock, there's only one breed that has been able to do it all and that's Beefmaster. He's been ranching in southwestern New Mexico all his life and is still on the same ranch his father owned when he was born.

For many people, this part of New Mexico wouldn't seem suitable for raising livestock. It's a brutal environment. It's always hot and dry, even in a "wet" year. The soil is rocky. Water holes are miles apart. Blades of grass are sparse. After all, it's a desert. But oddly enough, it's a place where Beefmaster cattle thrive.

Like everyone in the west, Edward's family ran Hereford cattle in the early days. And they were good cattle by 1950s standards. At weaning, calves would weigh 250 - 300 lbs. Later, they improved on the

cattle by using Brahma bulls, but they found the cattle were too hard to handle.

So, like many others in the cattle business, Edward eventually turned to Angus. He was pleased with the initial cross, but as he kept using Angus, he found that his cow herd kept getting worse. The more he used Angus, the less functional his cows became.

In 1980, Edward started using Beefmaster and he hasn't used another breed since. "There's no need to," says Edward, "When you use Beefmaster, you don't lose anything." They're the perfect cattle for his country. They have the right amount of "ear" that you need in the desert.

Now, after using Beefmaster for nearly thirty years, he weans 600 lb calves in a good year and 500 lb calves in a bad year. Not too shabby.

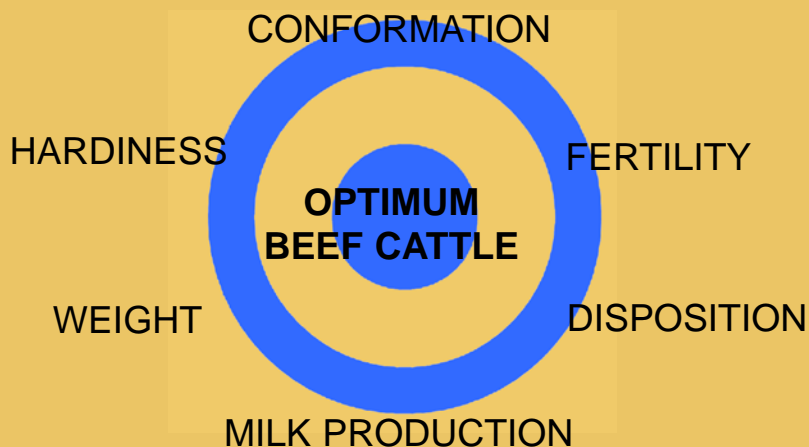
**Bred Females and Spring Pairs  
Now Available Private Treaty.**

**Contact Dale or Andy for more details.**

# The Lasater Ranch Selection Program: A Summary

How the **Six Essentials** are used in the selection of **Lasater Beefmaster®** Genetics.

## THE SIX ESSENTIALS



"Each of the Six Essentials is equally important to hitting the target of producing optimum cattle. Removing any one of the Six Essentials results in the animal's productive value being greatly diminished."

Tom Lasater

Multiple trait selection means compromise and will eliminate individuals who may excel in a single trait (for example weight), but do not meet the other optimum criteria outlined in the Six Essentials. Nature itself culls out extremes.

We believe that optimum cattle are those that will sustain long-term profitability through the efficient conversion of forages into lean beef for the least possible cost.



### 1. Disposition:

Having been raised under identical range conditions, the difference in disposition between individuals is apparent during the first several days following weaning. Those with poor dispositions are culled. Thereafter, disposition is judged continually and animals which exhibit unacceptable behavior are culled from the herd.



### 2. Fertility:

Bulls retained for use in our herd are bred to their heifer mates at approximately 14 months of age. All breeding occurs in large multiple-sire herds. For more than 50 years, the bulls with the highest libido and the strongest competitive instincts have left the most progeny. Less fertile bulls, or those less willing to compete, have left little or no progeny.

Females are first exposed at 14 - 15 months of age. All age groups are bred under range conditions during a 45-day breeding season. Here in the Foundation Herd, strict culling on fertility goes back to 1948. That year, Tom Lasater decided that, to remain in the herd, a female would need to calve as a two-year-old, and every successive year, and actually bring an acceptable calf to the weaning pen each year. Those basic production rules have been enforced, with no exceptions, for nearly 60 years.



### 3. Weight:

Bulls to be retained as herd sires are selected based upon weaning weight, post-weaning gain and yearling weight. Weaning weight primarily measures the milking ability of a bull's dam, but also gives an indication of a bull's own growth potential. Post weaning gain to a year of age (in our program) measures how efficiently a bull is able to convert native forage to pounds of beef. Yearling weight is a combination of weaning weight and post weaning gain and therefore is the most important weight used in selection.



Approximately 85% of the heifer crop is retained for replacements. Only defective heifers or those that appear unable to reach puberty at 14 months of age are culled at weaning. After that time a cow is not culled based on her own weight, but for weaning a lightweight calf. What do we do with all the females resulting from keeping so many heifers? The strict selection for the Six Essentials and the resulting rapid attrition drastically limit internal herd growth.



### 4. Conformation:

Conformation is defined as "type on the hook, not type on the hoof." Muscling, along with length and width of hindquarters is emphasized in the selection of bulls as potential herd sires. Animals with any type of structural defects such as problems with their feet and legs or frame are culled from the herd.

### 5. Hardiness:

Hardiness is exemplified by those animals that relentlessly carry on their production assignments year after year in a range environment with minimum assistance. For example in our herd, first-calf heifers are expected to calve out on the range with no assistance. These criteria favor those individuals that are able to carry on production with minimal intervention and with the least cost.



### 6. Milk Production:

Only bull calves with above average weaning weights are considered as potential herd sires. These bulls will most likely sire daughters that will perpetuate the heavy milking characteristics demonstrated by their individual dams. Lightweight calves, both bulls and heifers, are culled at weaning. Dams weaning bottom-end calves are also culled from the herd.

# Lasater Beefmasters

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## **Lasater Beefmaster 60th Annual Field Day and Sale September 15 & 16, 2009**

### **Schedule of Events**

#### **September 15:**

9 A.M. Bred Female Selection.

Noon: Lunch at Lasater Ranch headquarters.

1:30 P.M. Panel Discussion, "Beefmasters in the 21st Century"

Special Guests: Dr. Jim Sanders, Texas A & M University  
Dr. Tommy Perkins, BBU Executive V.P.  
Lorenzo Lasater, BBU President  
Juan Saenz, Breeder, Monterey, MX

6 - 8 P.M. Reception at headquarters.

#### **September 16:**

10 A.M. Auction Sale of 100 two-year-old bulls and retired herd sires.