

# Discover the feeding and carcass value of your herd's genetics through the Minnesota Carcass Merit Program

Discovering how genetic selection and breeding impact performance and carcass traits is a critical step in preparing for today's value-based beef market. The Minnesota Carcass Merit Program provides cattle producers an opportunity to observe, understand, and, if necessary, re-direct genetic selection and breeding efforts in their cowherds to produce higher quality calves.

This program is open to cattle producers wishing to test the performance potential and carcass merit of their feeder calves. University of Minnesota Beef Team members provide each participant with detailed information on the live performance and carcass characteristics of each of their calves entered into the program.

This year the program will be held at two locations: UMORE Park in Rosemount, and the Northwest Research and Outreach Center (NWROC) in Crookston. The producer is responsible for transport of cattle to either location. Both steers and heifers will be accepted at UMORE. At NWROC, only heifers will be accepted for the program this year. Producers nearer to the NWROC location who wish to enter steers into the program should contact Grant Crawford to inquire about shipping steers to UMORE.

#### Advantages of entering your cattle in the Minnesota Carcass Merit Program:

- ✓ Discovery of the feedlot performance and carcass value of your calves
- ✓ Use of feed intake, weight gain and efficiency, and carcass data to determine effects of genetic selection
- ✓ Test concept of retained ownership to enhance profitability of cowherd
- ✓ Commingling of cattle into larger groups to improve marketability of cattle
- ✓ Alternative outlet for your 2008 calf crop

#### Costs to the Producer:

- ✓ \$30/head entry fee
- ✓ \$15/ton feed delivery fee
- ✓ \$0.25/head daily yardage fee
- ✓ Any veterinary and medicine costs

The feed delivery fee, yardage, and veterinary fee are all charged against the final selling price of calves.

Therefore, the only out-of-pocket cost for producers is the \$30/head entry fee. More detailed requirements for entry into the program are included in the accompanying brochure.

To provide more information on the program we will be hosting three open houses in September. These open houses will be an opportunity for producers to learn more about the program and to see if it is the right fit for their operation. The open house dates and locations are:

Thief River Falls City Hall (405 3 <sup>rd</sup> St E)	3:00 p.m. Thursday, September 18
Roseau City Center (121 Center St. E)	7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 18
UMORE Park Admin. (1605 160 <sup>th</sup> St W)	6:00 p.m. Monday, September 22

**Deadline for entry into the Carcass Merit Program: September 26, 2008**

**Program begins: NWROC: November 4, 2008 (Heifers accepted from 11/3/08 after 3:00 pm until noon on 11/4/08). UMORE: November 6, 2008 (Calves accepted from 11/5/08 after 3:00 p.m. until noon on 11/6/08).**

For more information on this program, please contact Grant Crawford at 320.234.0441 or [craw0105@umn.edu](mailto:craw0105@umn.edu) or visit our website at [www.extension.umn.edu/beef](http://www.extension.umn.edu/beef).