



# The Point



## A better bottom line is a breeding away

A **better bottom line** is just a breeding away with FeedPRO sires. High feed prices and lower milk prices have created a renewed interest in selecting for improved feed efficiency. Unfortunately, directly measuring and selecting for feed efficiency is not practical because of the expense to measure individual cow feed intakes. However, our current genetic evaluations measure a large variety of traits, so Select Sires took another look at feed efficiency to see if we could identify some key indicator traits among those that we currently evaluate.

**More Income  
Less Feed**



### The science behind FeedPRO

Researchers in the U.K. have done studies of body traits, body condition score and feed intake. They developed an index that combines milk, fat and protein yield with stature, chest width, body depth and rump width. The index they developed had a 90 percent correlation with feed intake.<sup>1</sup> Additional research articles have confirmed the relationship between body size and feed intake. Unfortunately, this research does not allow us to identify cows that more efficiently digest the feed they consume. But, we can identify the majority of feed intake differences in our dairy cows using traits we already measure.

**“Bulls carrying the FeedPRO designation have the ability to make a higher-producing, moderate-sized animal that will provide customers with greater income over feed cost.”**

*~Chuck Sattler, vice president of genetic programs for Select Sires*

### Building the FeedPRO index

Based on these research articles, as well as others, Select Sires has built an index that identifies sires whose daughters offer the most income over feed cost. A variety of trait combinations were considered for the FeedPRO index. These indexes were then tested by applying them to the Active A.I. list and selecting the top bulls. Averages of the selected bulls were then entered into an income over feed supplement cost calculator developed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This tool was used to estimate income over feed costs for the various trial indexes. Through this exercise, Select Sires learned that selecting for a balance of production, body size, and other traits was more cost effective than simply selecting for more production. Select Sires used these tools to identify the combination of traits that maximized income over feed costs.

*Continued on page 2*

## Pre-pay and earn 5%

In our continued effort to help you stretch your buying power, NorthStar Cooperative is once again offering a 5 percent year-end pre-payment opportunity. For every dollar you pre-pay on your A.I. Services, DHI Services or AntelBio account prior to December 31, 2009, NorthStar Cooperative will credit your account \$1.05.



Pre-payments can be made by cash or check, credit cards are not accepted for this program. For more information or to make a pre-payment call 800.631.3510.

## Stockowner notices

**Stockowner meetings** are fast approaching and all stockowners are encouraged to attend to cast a vote for the election of directors and resolutions and advisory committee members. To be eligible to vote at the 2010 stockowner meetings you must be sign-up as a common stockowner by December 31, 2009.

For more information on how to become a NorthStar stockowner, talk to your area NorthStar representative.

*~ Now Accepting ~*



**Enhancing producer profitability through integrated services.**