

Evans Beefmasters

Some Beefmaster breeders are constantly tempted to extend the six essentials. Two of the most prevalent ideas are to select for a certain color or the polled trait. Both have very little economic value and would drastically reduce the number of individuals from which to select.

What characterizes Beefmasters? For Evans Beefmasters characteristics are continually being defined. Many times we get caught up in what our buyers feel is best, when in fact we should be mostly concerned with what works for us. Perhaps the middle ground is where we need to be.

We have neighbors with other breeds of cattle assisting the same cows to nurse their newborns year after year because, as they say, "they're my best cows". We ask, "Surely you don't plan to keep their heifer calves for replacements, do you?"

We consider one of Mr. Lasater's more meaningful opinions to be we must establish the criteria we want our cattle to possess and then go after it. The "looks" of the cattle are of little consequence as long as they excel in the desired areas. It is our desire to stay as close to the Lasater Philosophy as our environment will allow.

Much appreciation should be given to the Lasater family, Dr. Watt Casey and others who have continually refined the Six Essentials. Other cattle breeders also deserve recognition for adapting Beefmaster cattle in various regions and environments throughout the world.

At Evans Beefmasters, we feel we have been very successful getting a good grasp on the fertility and disposition of our cattle. We continue to work on the other four essentials. Our greatest effort at present is in the area of hardiness, as our cattle are required to remain on the range all year with very little supplement. We graze at a rate of 1 cow per 300 acres and breed for a 45-day calving season. We calve on the range in March and April. It is impractical for us to keep birth weights and dates. If problems occur on the range during calving, they are taken care of by nature. If a first calf heifer requires assistance, she and her calf are removed from the herd. Our assistance rate on heifers at calving is less than 5%.

We require our females to breed back consistently in a short season and wean a heavy, respectable calf.

Occasionally we have been accused of not having enough flesh on our cattle. We feel supplemental feeding must be kept to a minimum and unnecessary flesh on our cattle is a waste of financial resources. Overfeeding cattle results in body condition scores over the nationally recommended 5-7. Cows that are overweight most often return with a marginal calf at weaning.



The greatest value of a bull is the replacement daughters he produces to spend the next five to ten years with you on the ranch. Beefmaster and Beefmaster cross heifers have proven to be exceptional mothers in all environments. We retain over 80% of our heifer calves for replacements.

Two of the reasons this is done are to maintain herd numbers due to reproductive requirements we have imposed, and to turn the genetic crank faster.

We are often questioned as to why we prefer to use multiple herd sires with our cows. We feel we would set back the genetic crank by using single sires. The most active and dominant bulls will settle the most cows. Likewise, the most active and fertile semen will settle the most cows. A marginally fertile bull is often difficult to discover, and may set back the fertility of both the heifer and bull offspring if used as a single sire. Highly fertile bulls tend to sire females that mature earlier and are more fertile.



We don't feel any particular bull is capable of being exceptional in all six essentials. For example, hardiness is very seldom tested, nor can fertility be tested in a single sire program. We continue to purchase our breeding stock from the ranch that founded the breed. How often have you heard that some exceptional high-priced, high-powered bull's offspring turned out just average or less?

Evans Beefmasters is grateful to a number of repeat customers throughout the United States that have bought from us for many years. We are grateful and consider it a great compliment that our buyers feel our bulls are extremely dependable genetically.

We feel one of Mr. Lasater's greatest quotes is "Cattle breeding is a relatively simple endeavor. The only difficult part is to keep it simple".

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