

GENETIC MERIT SCORE SUMMARY

Comparing Genetic Merit Score (GMS) and non-GMS lots on the Kansas grid

In August 2024, National Beef was the first packer to offer a grid premium for cattle with genetic merit that is above industry average. Cattle enrolled in AngusLinkSM Genetic Merit ScorecardSM (GMS) with a Beef Score of 100 to 149, where 100 represents the industry average, now qualify for a \$5 per head premium on the USPB grid. Since Dec. 1, 2024, lots that score 150 or greater receive a \$10 per head premium.

Through February 15, there have been 3,080 head delivered on the USPB grid that qualified for a GMS premium. Grid results for the GMS cattle are listed in Table 1, along with the overall average and the top 25% of all other USPB lots of conventionally raised cattle that were harvested during the same time span.

Premiums for quality grade and yield benefit were both strong during this period. As a result, all non-GMS lots averaged an impressive overall premium of \$109.76 per head more than if they were marketed on the average cash, live market in Kansas. By comparison, the GMS cattle generated premiums that were \$106.81 per head larger than the non-GMS lots.

Taking into account the advantage in carcass weight, along with all premiums included, the GMS cattle had an actual value of \$3,055.44 per head. That was an impressive \$271.42 per head greater than the non-GMS lots. This was comparing the actual payments on the USPB Base grid for the actual slaughter weeks of all cattle listed.

Aug. 1, 2024 – Feb. 15, 2025	GMS lots	USPB	USPB
	All	All	Top 25%
In Weight	790	791	804
Days Fed	202	174	177
Live Weight	1,508	1,409	1,437
Carcass Weight	967	908	935
Yield, %	64.12	64.47	65.09
Prime, %	44.19	7.17	11.80
Choice & Prime, %	98.67	86.87	92.52
CAB (Choice), %	32.52	24.86	29.35
Over 30 months, %	1.87	2.27	1.15
Yield Grade 1, %	0.47	7.36	5.29
Yield Grade 2, %	15.61	30.99	28.30
Yield Grade 3, %	47.67	41.84	44.54
Yield Grade 4, %	31.30	17.29	19.20
Yield Grade 5, %	4.95	2.51	2.67
Lightweight 625/dn, %	0.16	0.33	0.11
Heavyweight 1101/up, %	9.42	5.24	6.01
Quality Grade premium	\$197.25	\$62.56	\$104.09
Yield Benefit	\$37.30	\$51.50	\$80.25
Yield Grade premium	-\$25.31	-\$4.89	-\$7.58
Outweight discount	-\$11.20	-\$5.78	-\$5.80
Steer premium	\$12.09	\$6.20	\$7.27
Subtotal Premium	\$210.13	\$109.59	\$178.23
Other premium	\$6.44	\$0.17	\$0.23
Overall Premium	\$216.57	\$109.76	\$178.46
Top 75% Premium	\$252.54	\$131.53	—
Top 50% Premium	\$282.21	\$151.15	—
Top 25% Premium	\$324.03	\$178.46	—
Total \$/head value	\$3,055.44	\$2,784.02	—
Steer, %	80.36	42.60	48.75
Black-hided %	98.60	76.02	81.58
Total cond. liver %	21.56	22.24	22.42
Open abscess liver %	3.64	4.53	4.66

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Note that 'Other premium' listed in Table 1 includes the GMS premium and the \$1 per head payment for low-frequency electronic identification (EID) tags, regardless of whether cattle are enrolled in GMS. The EID payment accounts for the 'Other premium' values in non-GMS lots.

The overall average Beef Score for all the GMS cattle was approximately 155. The reason the 'Other premium' was not greater was due to many of those lots being delivered before the premium increased in December for higher scoring lots.

Generally, the GMS cattle excelled in all areas, except that yield was lower and yield grades were fatter than non-GMS lots. The percentage of heavyweights was also higher for GMS lots, due to their heavier carcass weights.

The GMS results showcase the value of genetics. These cattle were genetically designed to excel on the USPB grid, and they are certainly doing just that. While the GMS premium is a small percentage of an animal's overall premium, it is still a bonus.

Ranchers who sell feeders are encouraged to tag calves with low-frequency EID tags, enroll and then market their approved calves. Ranchers who retain ownership and

market on the USPB grid are encouraged to enroll as well. Enrollment is simple, affordable and does not require an on-site audit.

Cattle feeders who purchase calves and feeder cattle can find groups already enrolled with known Beef Scores, especially on video auctions. A higher Beef Score means more genetic potential for carcass traits, growth and feed efficiency.

Feedlots that intend to deliver GMS lots are asked to submit a Showlist Form A two weeks prior to harvest. This allows time to collect the EID tag numbers needed to verify enrollment during processing at either the Dodge City or Liberal plants. GMS lots with EID tags also qualify for the \$1 per head EID payment.

The GMS premium is exclusively offered on the USPB Kansas grid. For more information, please scan the QR code to view a fact sheet (also available at USPB.com), or call 866-877-2525. ♦

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