

# Snowshoe Cattle—Ultrasound Fact Sheet

## Ultrasound Adjusted Measurements

**Adj. REA** – Each bull’s ribeye area is measured in square inches and adjusted to 365 days of age. REA is used in the calculation of yield grade.

**Adj. %IMF** – This measurement is taken across the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> ribs, similar to the measurement taken of a ribbed carcass when determining USDA quality grade. The percent intramuscular fat (marbling) is adjusted to 365 days of age. Note that the testosterone levels in bulls will lower their marbling by one percent compared to their steer and heifer mates. A bull with a 3 to 4 % IMF will produce offspring displaying a marbling score a full percentage point higher likely making the choice grade. (source: David Aborn, Image Livestock Service) This can also be useful in determining the retention of replacement females.

**Adj. Backfat** – This is the backfat, also referred to as rib fat, measured in inches and adjusted to 365 days of age. Backfat thickness is directly related to the carcass yield grade.

**Rib Eye/cwt**—This is the adjusted REA divided by the hundred weight of the bull. We strive to produce bulls with a minimum ratio of 1.1

Angus is largely considered the leader for carcass data, and the standard for comparison for marbling in US beef cattle. Below is the current adjusted measurement averages for live-animal ultrasound measures of Angus bulls:

Adj REA 12.60    Adj. IMF% 3.83    Adj. Fat 0.28

(source: American Angus Association)

By comparison, the current offering of Snowshoe Cattle Polled Hereford bulls is highly competitive to the “yard stick” for the industry!

Adj REA 13.33    Adj. IMF% 3.71    Adj. Fat 0.20

More Ribeye, Less Rib Fat, and competitive IMF – your Snowshoe sired calves will meet the demand of the industry leading programs such as CHB and CAB.

*With recent industry news reporting that there is a consumer shift from Select to Choice beef, the demand for cattle with the ability to marble is very real. At Snowshoe Cattle, we are making our genetic decisions with attention to detail when it comes to carcass quality. We maintain our diligence in developing a balance in all traits: correctness in phenotype, thickness, udder quality, mothering ability, and the ability to perform in a rugged Montana climate. The bulls in this offering will provide this balance, **without compromise.***