

Angus Foundation Research Project

Name of project: Enhancing biological efficiency in beef cattle, University of Illinois (UI)

Status: Completed

Timeline: 2007 to 2010

How much the Angus Foundation has provided in funding: \$140,000

Objective: To discover and document sire differences in feed efficiency and carcass traits, and the genetic parameters used to measure those traits. The overarching goal was to assess the impact of genetics, environment and genetic-by-environment interactions on live animal performance and ultrasound, carcass and behavioral measurements.

Results, if any: The collected data on feed intake helped researchers characterize sire differences in post-weaning gain efficiency in Angus cattle. The database contains a variety of additional traits for better study of trait interactions. Individual progeny feed intake records were made available to the American Angus Association for further study.

Application: The data collected and results found in this study have been used in the Association's National Cattle Evaluation (NCE) system's feed intake evaluation and contributed to the Residual Average Daily Gain (RADG) EPD.