



# CATTLE GENETICS IMPROVEMENT INVESTMENT AREA

(Approved February 16, 2001)  
(Updated December 18, 2009)

This document provides eligible investments and is considered to be the standards by which an investment area is to be implemented, except for the **EPD requirements**, which are **standard** statewide per the amendment on July 18, 2003. Visit [http://agpolicy.ky.gov/funds/documents/epd\\_standards.doc](http://agpolicy.ky.gov/funds/documents/epd_standards.doc) for the most up-to-date EPD guidelines.

Funded participants shall adhere to all local, state, and federal rules and regulations.

Questions concerning these guidelines should be directed to the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 564-4627. Application for funds must be directed through the local County Agricultural Development Council(s).

## I. Eligible Cost Share Items

**Ownership Requirements:** Ownership of bulls must be maintained for a minimum of two (2) successive breeding seasons, not in the same year. The only exception is listed below:

**Early Emergency Release Clause** – The local administrator shall reserve the right to approve an early release, if it is determined that an animal due to physical or disposition problems, is no longer considered sound for breeding purposes. The local program administrator can require the animal to undergo an examination by a licensed veterinarian to assist in determination.

### A. Bull purchase or lease and semen purchases

*Bull leases – producer-to-producer or leasing company to producer [This program is not intended for funding the development of leasing programs that include utilizing funds to purchase a group of bulls for lease to local producers.]*

*We require that a bull lease includes possession of the bull and that it not be moved from farm to farm, in an attempt to alleviate any potential herd health problems.*

#### **Prerequisites:**

- Applicant must become Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certified before funding is received
- Expected progeny differences (EPDs) must be certified to meet the requirements set forth in the state EPD guidelines posted on the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy website. EPDs shall be certified by documentation from a breed association before funds may be reimbursed.

- A bull/semen/lease must qualify within one of the two bull type categories, selected by the producer at the time of application.
  - All bulls purchased or leased through this program must pass a **Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE)** prior to receiving cost-share funds. The cost of a BSE should be negotiated between the buyer and seller and can be included in the total cost of the bull purchase.
  - Ownership of bulls must be maintained for a minimum of two (2) successive breeding seasons, not in the same year.
  - A limit of two straws per cow.
1. When selecting bulls/semen/lease for each of the six bull type categories, the following traits must be met to qualify:
    - a) **Balanced Trait Bulls**, the EPD requirements must be met for calving ease, milking ability, and either weaning weight or yearling weight guidelines.
    - b) **Carcass Merit Bulls** must meet minimum calving ease and carcass traits that are breed specific.
    - c) **Heifer Acceptable Bulls** will have to meet minimum calving ease and either weaning weight or yearling weight guidelines.
    - d) **High Productivity Bulls** must meet EPD requirements for minimum calving ease and milking ability, and minimum weaning weight or yearling weight guidelines.
    - e) **Low Maintenance Bulls** must meet minimum calving ease and maximum yearling weight and milking ability guidelines.
    - f) **Terminal Bulls**, the EPDs shall meet the calving ease and either weaning weight or yearling weight guidelines, depending on the targeted market.
  2. When selecting for **dairy breeds**, use the Net Merit Index. This score is an economic index based on milk, fat, protein, somatic cell score and productive life. All sires must be in the upper 20% for their respective breeds.

## **B. Artificial Insemination**

1. Estrus synchronization
2. AI Procedure
3. AI School
4. AI Equipment (excluding liquid nitrogen, gloves, sheaths, and other consumables)

## **C. Heifer Purchases**

**Ownership Requirements:** Ownership of heifers must be maintained for a minimum of two (2) successive breeding seasons, not in the same year. The only exception is listed below:

**Early Emergency Release Clause** – The local administrator shall reserve the right to approve an early release, if it is determined that an animal due to physical or disposition problems, is no longer considered sound for breeding purposes. The local program administrator can require the animal to undergo an examination by a licensed veterinarian to assist in determination.

## Prerequisites

- Applicant must become Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certified before funding is received
- Applicant must submit Heifer Affidavit – Producer Report for Heifer Purchases
- Applicant must have suitable facilities and fencing in place, as determined by the administrating agency, before funds are disbursed.
- All heifers purchased shall have been developed following the minimum guidelines outlined by the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's "Herd Builders" replacement heifer program – <http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/animalmktg/HerdBuilder.htm>
- *A producer shall not participate as both a buyer and a seller within the same year.*