

Ribeye areas in descending order were 11.11, 10.72, 9.98, 9.07, and 8.84 square inches for the Charolais, BC, BA, Angus, and Brahman, respectively. Ribeye area for the BA was 11% and BC 7% above the parental breed average.

Estimated percent yield was 52.35, 50.79 and 50.27 for the Charolais, Brahman and Angus, respectively. The BC carcasses yielded 51.34% and BA carcasses 49.99%. Crossbreds were average of their parental breeds, indicating no heterosis for that trait.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Research data have been presented on reproduction, production, and postweaning performance traits of Brahman, Angus, Charolais, and reciprocal Brahman x Angus and Brahman x Charolais cattle. This research has shown the Brahman to compare favorably with the other straightbreds in reproduction. Heterosis for weaning present exhibited by F<sub>1</sub> females was 20.2% for BA and 6.9% for BC crosses.

Condition scores of calves were 9.2, 8.8, 9.2, 9.6, 7.4, 10.6, and 9.7 for Angus, Brahman, Charolais, B x A, B x C, F<sub>1</sub> AB cows, and F<sub>1</sub> BC cows, respectively. The B x C calves were 17.8% below and calves from F<sub>1</sub> BA cows 17.8% above their straightbred parental average. Weaning weights were similar for the straightbred Angus (404 pounds) and Brahman (399 pounds), with the Charolais calves being highest of the straightbreds (492 pounds). Crossing Brahman bulls on Angus cows resulted in heterosis for weaning weight of 6.5%, and Brahman on Charolais, 4.0%. Heterosis values for F<sub>1</sub> BA cows was 22.5%, and for BC cows, 13.1%. Heterosis for average calf production was 11.4% for Angus cows mated to Brahman bulls, 6.3% for Charolais cows bred to Brahman bulls, 47.4% for F<sub>1</sub> BA cows, and 21.2% for F<sub>1</sub> BC cows.

Daily feedlot gains were similar for Angus (1.88 pounds) and Brahman (1.81 pounds) steers, with Charolais (2.33 pounds) having the highest gain among the straightbreds. The BA and BC steers made the same daily gains (2.26 pounds), resulting in heterosis levels of 22.2% for BA steers and 9.2% for BC steers.

Carcass grades in descending order were 15.7, 14.9, 14.0, 13.8, and 13.5 for Angus, BA, BC, Brahman, and Charolais, respectively, with no heterosis effects for this trait.

Fat over the eye in descending order was 0.39 inches for the Angus and BA carcasses, 0.25 inches for the Brahman, 0.23 inches for BC crosses, and 0.16 inches for Charolais carcasses.