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GREAT STATE FEEDOUT MORE PROFITABLE IN SECOND YEAR

OMAHA, Neb., (August 9, 2011) – The second annual Great State Feedout (GSF) once again showcased the value of Shorthorn genetics in a feedlot setting and showed that Shorthorn breeders should consider retained ownership. The GSF program implemented by the American Shorthorn Association (ASA) is designed to help members of the ASA profit through retained ownership of progeny. Furthermore, it allows Shorthorn breeders to prove the carcass value of their cattle, let the commercial industry know what they have to sell, establish performance and carcass EPDs demanded by the industry, and finally, turn more dollars per head than in the past. High feeder calf prices this fall did limit participation, but nine breeders from Indiana, Iowa, North Dakota, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and Illinois stepped up to consign 142 head of steers and heifers.

The most important trait observed in this year's GSF was profit. Producers were able to earn on average an additional \$210 over and above feeder calf value, feed, yardage and all other costs. One consignor netted over \$300 per head profit on his group of steers. In the feedyard, the cattle gained 3.50 lbs per day, while feeding for an average cost of gain of \$81.19 cwt. The cattle left the yard averaging 1,188 pounds.

The calves fed in Iowa were once again disposition scored each time they entered the processing facility and the gentle disposition of the breed was once again on display. Only two calves had an average disposition of 3 or higher with the entire group averaging a 1.8.

On the rail the cattle were harvested with .39 inches of backfat at an average carcass weight of 734 pounds. 64% were stamped Yield Grade (YG) 1's and 2's by the USDA grader and overall the group averaged 2.2. The average ribeye area was 12.5 sq. inches. 63% of the cattle graded low choice or better with an average marbling score of a small 23. The cattle were able to avoid most major discounts with only 2 YG 4's and one standard calf harvested.

The GSF proved to be a success with producers making money while obtaining data to assist in their breeding decisions and help improve the accuracy of Shorthorn carcass EPDs. Probably the most refreshing thing at closeout time was to see the wide variety of genetics represented and in the end all of the cattle, no matter if they were asterisk free, commercial or show ring oriented, were still profitable. As a Shorthorn breeder you have to be excited about the carcass attributes of the breed. All of the carcass and performance data collected has been included in the most recent EPD run.

The ASA is looking forward to hosting the program again this fall. For more information including delivery dates, locations across the U.S. as well as guidelines and health protocols for the Great State Feedout, visit www.shorthorn.org or contact Jake Alden, ASA Field Services at (402) 393-7200 or jake@shorthorn.org.

The mission of the ASA is to contribute to the profitability and quality of life of its members and their customers by maintaining, protecting the vulnerability, and enhancing the value of the herd book and performance database for Shorthorn cattle. The ASA is headquartered in Omaha, Neb., and was founded in 1872 with herd book records going back to 1822. As one of the oldest American breed associations, the ASA provides services for more than 6,000 junior and senior members who register nearly 18,000 cattle annually. To learn more, contact the ASA office or visit www.shorthorn.org.

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