

### **Embryo Transfer at Hoover Angus**

Genetic advancement at Hoover Angus is one of our top priorities, as well as providing our customers the most information possible to select the genetics that will best fit their unique situation. We also strive to educate our customers about how to utilize the information provided – we realize there are “lots of numbers” in our sale catalogs. In this light, we find it appropriate to briefly discuss how to best compare and select genetics when both ET and non-ET animals are offered.

Do NOT compare actual/adjusted weights and measures of ET vs. non-ET animals. Actual weights of ET calves can be highly variant depending upon the recipient dam – her in utero environment and milking ability, for example. By the same token, it is not safe to compare actual birth weights and weaning weights among ET contemporaries. DO compare EPDs of ET vs. non-ET cattle for the most accurate selection.

All ET calves at Hoover Angus are born to a registered Angus recipient. This is significant – compared to the large majority of ET progeny that are born to commercial recipients, calves by registered Angus recipients receive much higher accuracy EPDs rather than Interim (.05 accuracy, strict average of sire and dam) EPDs. This is because the American Angus Association uses a 3-parent model (sire, dam, and recip) for calculating EPDs of ET calves out of registered Angus recipients AND takes into account the animal’s individual performance compared to its contemporaries. This allows our customers better odds of proper selection. Furthermore, ET calves by registered Angus recipients in proper contemporary groups among other ET calves will generate ratios, whereas traditional ET calves by commercial recipients will ratio 100 for each trait measured.

Typically, flush mates will look similar. However, just as all brothers and sisters in your family do not look alike, all flush mates will not look alike. If you are striving for a uniform calf crop, using bulls that are flush mates generally have greater odds of achieving this goal.

We have selected donors that stand out for their production and fertility. At Hoover Angus, our donor dams are working cows, not in perpetual donor status. We will “steal a flush” from our donors prior to breeding them right back to have their own natural calf on a regular yearly interval. This way, we can continue to evaluate traits such as udder quality as cows mature.

All embryos are implanted on-site at Hoover Angus, and all donors and recipes have been bred, born and raised at Hoover Angus. Our closed cow herd minimizes disease exposure.

ET animals are designated by the (+) symbol preceding their registration number. At Hoover Angus, all ET calves and their recip dams have been handled similarly to non-ET calves from conception to present. Dam’s production listed in our sale catalogs for each ET animal is that of the donor dam. The AAA includes a donor’s ET calves in her IMF and RE ratios, but NOT in her BWR, WWR, and YWR data.