



ONE CHOICE  
COULD MAKE YOUR  
FEEDLOT STEERS

**21% MORE  
EFFICIENT\***

# Feedlot Test Shows Efficiency

This 2012 performance data proves the efficiency Irish Black® genetics can bring to a cow herd. Half-blood Irish Black cattle are 21% more efficient than other beef cattle – a trait that’s positively impacting Irish Black producers’ bottom lines.

In January 2012, Diamond H Livestock, Saint Ignatius, MT, bought 106 half-blood Irish Black steer calves from 3 of its Irish Black bull customers. The calves, out of Angus-based cows, were weaned for 45 days, vaccinated with a modified live vaccine series and shipped to a commercial feedlot. The calves averaged 542 lbs. when they arrived at the feedlot (including a 5% shrink). The entire pen was harvested during a 3-week period, at which time the steers were 12-14 months of age with an average gross out-weight of 1,326 lbs.

## The Results

	<b>Diamond H Half-Blood Irish Blacks</b>	<b>Average U.S. Feedlot Steer</b>
Average Daily Gain	3.96 lbs.	3.30 lbs.
Conversion *pounds of feed required for 1 pound of gain	4.79	6.09
Feed Cost/Pound of Gain	\$0.83	\$1.08

**Diamond H Half-Blood Irish Blacks**

**Average In-Weight:** 542 lbs.

**Average Out-Weight:** 1,260 lbs. with 5% shrink (1,326 pounds gross average out-weight)

## Carcass Information for Entire Diamond H Pen

**105 Head Harvested (1 Death Loss)**

**Yield Percentage:** 64.51%  
**Carcass Grades:** 60% Choice (63 head) | 40% Select (42) | 9 head met Certified Angus Beef criteria  
**Yield Grades:** #1-16 head | #2-55 head | #3-33 head | #4-1 head

Impressively, these Irish Black steers cost \$115 less per head to feed compared to the national average steer finished in June 2012. In fact, the Diamond H steers saw \$66 per head of profit even though they were purchased at a premium. The national average feedlot steer lost nearly \$50 per head in the feedlot during the same timeframe.

# The Right Bull Has Financial Pay-Off

**The unmatched fertility traits of Irish Black® and Irish Red® cattle are hard to beat. Consider these benefits when choosing your next herd sire.**

Producers interested in Irish Black and Irish Red genetics may be surprised to realize the monumental benefits this breed has to offer in terms of fertility traits. Not only do females mature and reach puberty at a younger age, but they also have a shorter gestation of only 277 days.

What's more, Irish Black and Irish Red bulls are known for having large scrotal circumferences and high fertility, which allows a 2-year-old bull to cover 60-75 cows during the breeding season. With the added benefit of longevity, these bulls are proficient breeders that will stay in production for years to come.



## The cost benefit of these proficient breeders is incredible!

The following bull cost analysis developed by Lisa Hendrickson with Diamond H Livestock, compares the average purchase price, feed costs, vet costs, etc., of an Angus bull compared to an Irish Black (or Irish Red) bull. The resulting data clearly demonstrates the potential cost savings and return on investment when purchasing Irish Black genetics.

Bull Cost Analysis	Angus	Irish Black	Irish Black Year 5	Irish Black Year 6
Average Purchase Price	\$4,853	\$7,000	\$ 7,000	\$7,000
Feed Cost (4 years at \$500/year)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000
Vet Cost (4 years at \$75/yr)	\$300	\$300	\$375	\$450
Death Loss (4 years at 2% per yr)	\$388	\$560	\$700	\$840
Subtotal for the bull	\$7,541	\$9,860	\$10,575	\$11,290
Salvage value	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Total cost per bull	\$6,041	\$8,360	\$9,075	\$9,790
Number of cows bred over 4 years	92 (23/year)	220 (55/year)	275 (55/year)	330 (55/year)
<b>Breeding Cost per Cow</b>	<b>\$65.66</b>	<b>\$38.00</b>	<b>\$33.00</b>	<b>\$29.67</b>

### These calculations do NOT include:

1. Longevity of bull performance. Here, cost per cow drops even more with IB bull working 5 years (\$24.36) or 6 years (\$20.89).
2. Value of uniformity in calves at sale time.
3. Weaning weight averages increasing for herd.
4. Fast maturity and fast finish
5. Value of replacements.
6. Fertility of percentage females when held or sold as replacements.
7. Mothering ability of percentage females when held or sold as replacements.



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