



John Paterson, Editor
 Extension Beef Specialist
johnp@montana.edu
 406. 581. 3492

Clint Peck
 Director of Beef Quality Assurance
cpeck@montana.edu
 406. 671. 0851

Rachel Endecott
 Extension Beef Specialist
rachel.endecott@montana.edu
 406. 874. 8286

Mo Harbac
 Research and Education Coord.
 406. 994. 4323

Dennis Cash
 Extension Forage Specialist
 406.994.5688
dcash@montana.edu

Web pages:
www.MTBQA.org

www.Animalrangeextension.montana.edu

www.mtbeefnetwork.org/

Who Gets to Breed the Cows?

John Paterson, Extension Beef Specialist

My friend Dr. Rick Funston from the University of Nebraska gave me this slide several years ago when he was in Montana as an extension specialist. While putting notes together for my class this week, I came across it again and was fascinated by how the change in the percentage of calves sired was influenced by the age of the bull. In year one Bull A (10 years old) sired 70% of the calves while Bull C (3 years old) only sired 7% of the calves. By year 5, Bull A (now 14 years old) didn't sire any calves and Bull C (now 7 years old) sired 63% of the calves. Great theory of dominance until you look at Bull D who never increased the percentage of calves sired. Rick "What happened to Bull B in the last year?" He sired 73% of the calves in Year 4 but dropped to 25% in Year 5 when he was 8 years old.

Effect of Social Dominance on Percentage of Calves Sired

Bull	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
A Age	10	11	12	13	14
Percent	70	76	12	0	0
B Age	4	5	6	7	8
Percent	17	18	63	73	25
C Age	3	4	5	6	7
Percent	7	6	12	13	63
D Age	2	3	4	5	6
Percent	6	0	12	15	12

Natural and Conventional Beef: What Are the Facts?

MT Nutrition Conference
 April 15 and 16th
 Call 994-3414