



CANADIAN

# **SPECKLE PARK**

ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 01

JANUARY 2021



**ASSOCIATION  
UPDATES**

**BULL  
BASICS**

**FEEDLOT TRIAL  
RESULTS**

**"ALL PROGRESS TAKES  
PLACE OUTSIDE THE  
COMFORT ZONE."**

**-- MICHAEL JOHN BOBAK**

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## **REGISTRY**

Canadian Livestock  
Records Corporation

Registrar

**LISA HUTT**

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## **DNA LAB**

Neogen Canada  
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# WELCOME

Thanks for checking out our new look

As we reflect on 2020, I don't think anyone could have predicted the magnitude of life as we know it changing when we rang in the New Year. A Global Pandemic was probably one of the last things any one of us would have expected when envisioning how our year would unfold.

I think one of the greatest attributes to a successful venture is adaptability. When it comes to the business of livestock, social interaction is one of the key components we rely on building relationships for the purpose of marketing our products. Many sales transitioned to an online platform entirely or online with limited in person attendance. Most shows were postponed, which are common avenues to showcase program development. We start 2021 in a very similar position, with social restrictions in place across the majority of Canada. We remain optimistic that with time, we can return to the events we all know and love. In the meantime, our focus must be to continue to promote Speckle Park within the beef industry. Look for the Association to increase social media engagement and opportunities for online webinars & workshops to stay connected.

The Canadian Livestock Records Corporation continues to be the approved registry for CSPA until By-Law changes take effect. The Association will announce more details once we are approved.

We hope you enjoy the value added  
content-

**WHITNEY DE DECKER**  
Business Manager

# UPDATES 2021

## Registry By-Law Status

Agri-Food Canada has confirmed they are in the process of reviewing our by-laws for approval. We will continue to keep membership informed and updated upon approval. Until this is completed, Canadian Livestock Records Corporation is our registrar. Please continue to utilize CLRC for all registry services until further notice.

## Website Updates & Management Changeover

As we prepare to transition to the new registry program, CSPA will be moving website management to BuyAgro.

Some of the updates coming to the website will include:

- Adding links to the new C-Gen registry software system.
- Membership Directory located under the Registry Software Program. The Registry is kept real time and updates automatically based on paid membership. Members will have the option to publish their contact details.
- Formatting the tabs and home page for a more user friendly experience in navigation.

## Social Media Engagement

We have exciting plans for the new year! Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram accounts for educational videos, webinars and virtual guest speakers. CSPA will be covering a wide breadth of topics for new and seasoned producers, youth and general public.

## LLOYDMINSTER STOCKADE ROUNDUP



GRAND CHAMPION BULL  
*Greenwood Headliner 71H*



RESERVE CHAMPION BULL  
*KFC Gladiator 1G*



GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE  
*KFC Girl Crush 699G*



RESERVE CHAMPION FEMALE  
*KFC Hera 16H*

## DNA Sharing Agreement CSPA & SPI

The Canadian Speckle Park Association & Speckle Park International have entered into a mutual agreement of DNA sharing through Neogen Canada & Neogen Australia. Starting in 2021, both labs will have authorization to pull parentage results, DNA markers for future parent verification and 3 Genomic test results for the purpose of registering imported genetics.

## DNA Sample Reminder

Neogen now charges \$4.00 per sample for loose hair in envelopes. Please ensure hair is secure in a hair card, or a tissue sampler (TSU) along with the DNA form provided by CLRC. Hair Cards and TSU's may be purchased by contacting Neogen directly. Also ensure the sample is clean and cut off any hair with dirt or debris to avoid contamination.

**"THE SECRET OF CHANGE  
IS TO FOCUS ALL OF YOUR  
ENERGY NOT ON FIGHTING  
THE OLD, BUT BUILDING  
ON THE NEW."  
-Socrates**

## Common Questions Asked:

**I purchased Speckle Park at a livestock auction market with a tattoo.  
Can I transfer the registrations of ownership to our farm name?**

Unless the animals being sold at auction specifically state they are being sold with registration papers, the cattle are being sold as commercial only. You may contact the seller to see if they are willing to transfer papers, but under most cases these animals are being sold as unregistered stock.

**I purchased Speckle Park that are commercial, can I register them with the Association?**

The Canadian Speckle Park Association is a closed herd book. Speckle Park eligible for registration must have registered parents with DNA on file. All animals must qualify by DNA to their parents.

**My child is interested in owning Speckle Park. Can they have their own membership and register their own calves?**

Absolutely! Junior members are classified as anyone under the age of 18 as of January 1st of the Calendar year. Junior memberships are \$25.00, all other registration fees are the same as the regular fee schedule. Getting your children involved with their own herd prefix, tattoos and ownership is a great way to get their own program started at a young age.

# BULL BASICS

## Practical Selection For Progressive Cattlemen

Bulls play an important role in the development of the cow calf operation. We invest heavily into carefully selecting cows to meet our overall program needs. Similarly, proper bull selection can advance your program faster and add value to next years progeny.

### IDENTIFY YOUR PROGRAM NEEDS

What is the target market for your calves? Are you a commercial producer looking to add performance and carcass traits to your fall stockers? A Seedstock producer developing maternal lines for replacement heifers or consistency in your calf crop? Perhaps you need a calving ease option for a group of first calvers. There are many quality bulls to select from, however what may fit one individuals needs may not be ideal for another. Take the time to establish a criteria of what goals you wish to accomplish for the next breeding season.

### THE BIRTHWEIGHT MISCONCEPTION

Buying a bull with a low birthweight does not necessarily equate to confirmed calving ease. Birth weight should be used as just one of the many assessment criteria in selecting your bull. The build of the calf at delivery also plays a role in how easily they will birth. A 70lb calf that is thicker boned, larger through the front and head could pose more problems for a heifer opposed to an 80lb calf with small head, smooth shoulder and longer frame.



Bulls can be selected to increase the genetic effect of birth weights on a herd but cows still contribute to 50% of the weight. Some cows based on their genetic makeup will always have larger calves. Nutritional management of the cow herd also plays a factor in the weights of calves at birth.

When we look at performance, it can also be assumed that a large birthweight calf will be higher performance at weaning compared to their contemporaries weighing less at birth. This is not always so. Assess the bulls skeletal structure, muscle expression and performance numbers if available (weaning weight, average daily gain, yearling weight) These are the same measurables calculated in the evaluation of EPD's.

#### WHAT ABOUT EPD'S?

EPD's (Expected Progeny Differences) is the estimated genetic valuation of that animal as a parent has on its offspring and how they compare to progeny of other sires & dams in the breed herd book. Currently Speckle Park do not have a working EPD system in place. The Canadian Speckle Park Association remains committed to the development of the EPD program understanding its importance to breed advancement and genetic selection. In the interim, we encourage bull buyers to have an open dialogue with sellers asking for similar information that will be inputted into develop EPD's once the new registry takes effect.

#### GENOMIC TESTING

Speckle park are tested for 3 genomic traits: Horned/Polled Gene, Coat Colour & Myostatin. Any bulls used in a purebred program must have the 3 genomic conditions on file with The Canadian Speckle Park Association prior to the registration of their offspring. Genomic tests may be ordered through the Association registrar.

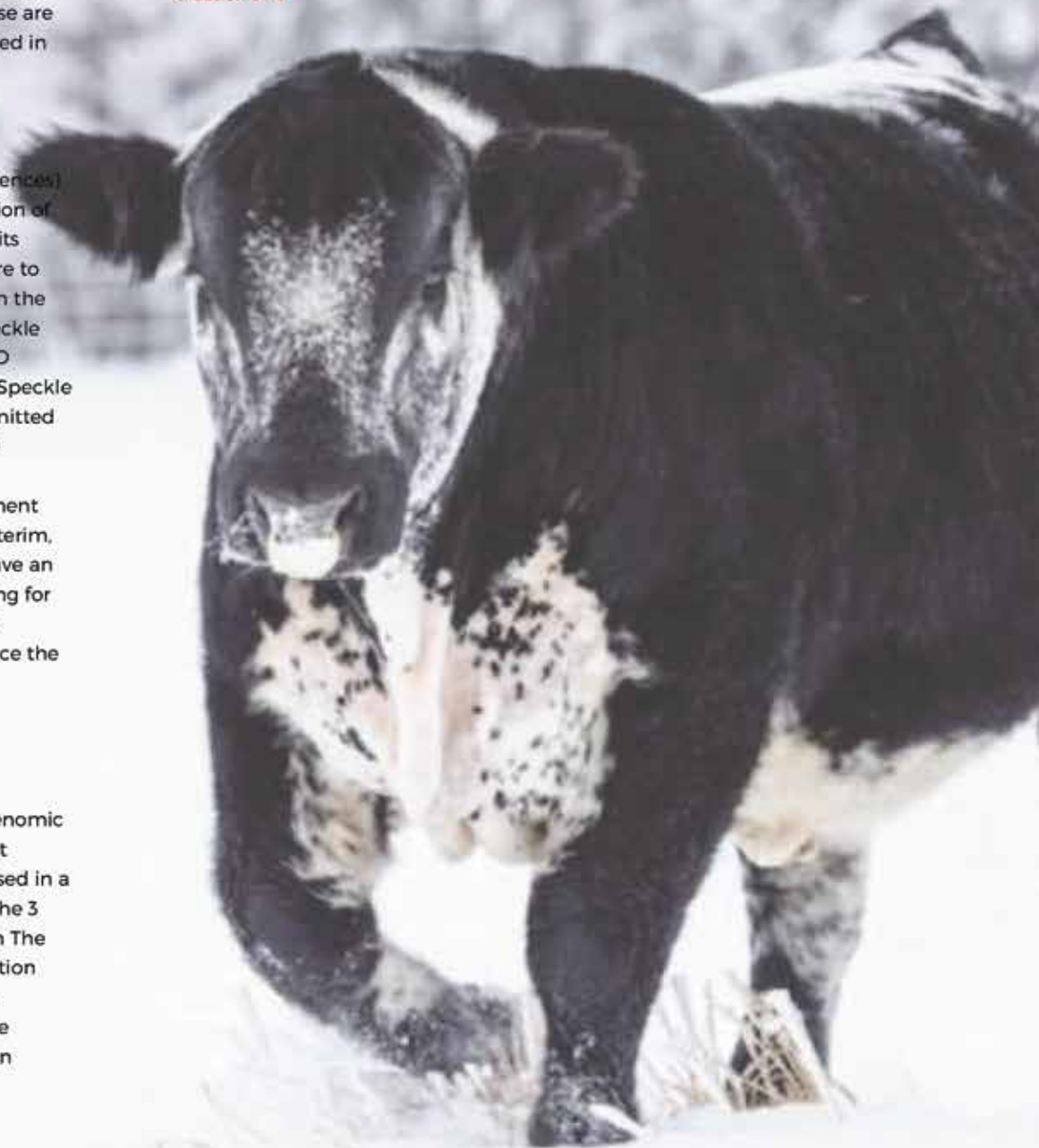
#### WHAT SHOULD I BUDGET FOR A BULL PURCHASE?

The dollar investment into a bull varies widely for each producer. Bull prices may vary greatly depending on demand and use intended of bull. If you are new to the bull buying market, we suggest the Bull Valuation Calculator provided by the Beef Cattle Research Council. The Calculator helps producers estimate bull value (purchase price) to breakeven on the investment. It can be accessed via the link below:

<http://www.beefresearch.ca/research/bull-valuation.cfm>

#### CSPA RECOMMENDED SCROTAL STANDARDS

Age	Minimum Acceptable Scrotal Circumference
365 days	31 cm.
13 months	32 cm.
14 months	33 cm.
15 months	33.5 cm.
16-20 months	34 cm.
21-30 months	35 cm.



# VET CHECK-IN

## DON MILLER D.V.M.



*Don and his sons operate Sundown Livestock Transplants, located near Cremona AB., where they house donors as well as travel Alberta and Saskatchewan, providing on farm embryo transfer services. Since 2007, Sundown Livestock has worked with many Speckle Park breeders helping them establish frozen embryo banks, resulting in domestic and international sales along with recipient programs, enabling breeders to expand their herds with numbers and quality offspring.*

### **HOW DOES BULL MANAGEMENT/DEVELOPMENT AFFECT SUCCESS RATES ON SEMEN TESTING AND WHAT CAN PRODUCERS DO TO INCREASE SUCCESS RATES?**

- Management and genetics are the two main factors affecting a bull's future breeding ability. The genetics I am referring to is scrotal circumference. It is a highly heritable trait. A bull with above average circumference will pass this trait on to his sons and also, his daughters will come into heat earlier as yearlings.
- Managing your bull calves is important from mid-summer on, separate your bull calves and their moms from the heifer calf pairs if possible to prevent riding/breeding of young heifer calves. Also, if open cows are detected in the group after the breeding season, try to remove them for the day, so the bull calves do not ride excessively which can lead to prolapsed rectums and hock problems. Once weaned, feed a balanced ration (vitamins and minerals also) so they can grow optimally to achieve their genetic potential. Have your ration formulated or analyzed by a reputable feed company. Overfeeding can be detrimental, it is an extra cost but most importantly, excessive fat within the scrotum can lead to the bulls inability to control the temperature of his testicles, they need to stay 1-2 degrees cooler than body temperature. This can result in testicular degeneration (soft testicles) and a poor semen sample.

### **BUYING YOUNG BULLS: THE MAJORITY OF SPECKLE PARK BULLS ARE SOLD AS YEARLINGS. WHAT IS AN AVERAGE SIZE HERD YEARLING BULLS SHOULD COVER AND WHAT CAN PRODUCERS DO TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING THEIR HERD SIRES FOR OPTIMAL SUCCESS AS MATURE STOCK.**

- Yearling bulls can typically "cover" 15-20 heifers or cows during a breeding season, depending on the individual's libido and the size/terrain of the pasture. All yearling bulls prior to the breeding season, regardless of semen test results, should be observed breeding naturally. This will insure that there are no adhesions formed on the shaft of the penis and also no nerve damage on the tip of the penis, from an injury.
- Developing yearling bulls, whether raised or purchased is a big part of their future. It is important to know that it takes 60 days for sperm to mature within the testicles. In other words, semen collected today was produced much earlier. A semen test tells the veterinarian and owner what the bull is capable of producing today. If the bull undergoes periods of stress between semen testing and pasture turn out, it can adversely affect his semen production and ultimately the pregnancy rate in your cows or heifers. Types of stress that can cause changes within the testicles (sperm production) are: feed changes, temperature extremes, and mixing with older bulls. By avoiding the above, one can eliminate a lot of potential problems. Although it is an added expense, it is a good idea to have your yearling bulls re tested just prior to turn out if their last test was more than 6 weeks prior. It is much better to identify a potential problem rather than finding a large group of open females in the fall.



## **CALVING SEASON IS UPON US, WHAT ARE SOME MUST-HAVE HEALTH RELATED PRODUCTS/ITEMS TO PREPARE FOR CALVING OR DEAL WITH EMERGENCIES?**

- Legible ear tags in all females helps during calving season, so calves can be tagged correctly and others monitoring the calving herd can correctly identify calving cows.
- A scour vaccination program for the cow herd and adequate colostrum intake for the calf within 6 hours of birth, either by nursing or commercial colostrum (nursing bottle or stomach tube).
- A separate clean calving area, do not over crowd. If scours or pneumonia outbreaks occur, separate effected animals and move future calving cows to another calving area if possible.
- An easy accessible maternity pen or chute to make examination and or assistance easy and safe.
- A clean calving kit: a dedicated calving pail, chains, handles, iodine based soap and lubricant, shoulder length plastic sleeves, clean "barn" towels, and a calving jack (only if the operator is competent and knowledgeable with its use) if not, call your veterinarian if hand pull assistance is not sufficient or if you cannot position the calf properly for delivery.
- It is important to thoroughly clean the calving pail, handles and chains after every use

## **TEMPERATURES ARE FORECASTED TO BE UNSEASONABLY WARM ACROSS THE COUNTRY THIS YEAR. WHAT ARE SOME KEY POINTS IN IDENTIFYING PNEUMONIA AND RESPIRATORY ISSUES IN YOUNG CALVES AND OLDER LIVESTOCK. HOW CAN PRODUCERS BE PROACTIVE TO TREAT IT?**

BRD or bovine respiratory disease is a common occurrence in feedlots and commercial/purebred herds. We have come a long way in preventing outbreaks with vaccines, but they still occur following periods of stress, which can be extreme temperature changes, too warm during the winter months is not good, a constant cold temperature is best if the cattle are well bedded with wind shelter. Other stresses can be feed changes, addition of outside animals of different vaccination status, halter breaking or gathering for semen testing.

Signs to watch for are usually a change in appetite, followed by nasal discharge, deep cough, lethargic/depressed look, diarrhea or all of the above.

Prevention consists of an adequate vaccination program as advised by your veterinarian, shelter and clean bedding, and daily monitoring of yearlings and baby calves. Treat with antibiotics based on animal's temperature and advice from your veterinarian. If one can detect the early stage of pneumonia, it is easier to treat and the animal responds much faster, with less weight loss and fewer drug input costs..

## *Tips For Calving*

A well bedded, wind sheltered bed pack, do not over crowd, preferably, only keep calves of similar ages together. Walk the pens twice a day, otherwise leave the calves and their moms undisturbed. If there are cows calving in the same pen or older calves mixed with new borns, this can add extra stress to their daily routine/ nursing pattern.

## *Preparing Sale Bulls*

Examine potential sale bulls now for adequate scrotal development/ testicle abnormalities. Eliminating them now, prior to picturing, videoing and semen testing will save money. Continue adjusting feed for weather and maximum growth potential. Use lots of straw and wind fences to avoid frost bite and potential testicle damage.

# COMMERCIAL UPDATE

*Welcome to the New Year! It's so good to have you back!*

## New Year, New Initiatives

*By Josh Vogel*

The Committee was established to accomplish the number ONE goal of gaining greater acceptance of Speckle Park feeder calves in the entire marketplace. Currently the specialized feeder sales have been the ideal place to market smaller groups of Speckle coloured calves. For 2021, We established two feedlot trials to help us get the desired data to prove the merit of these cattle. One trial has 217 head in Alberta and one has 150 head in Saskatchewan. The calves as expected are looking and doing well in the feedlots. Secondly, we created a short questionnaire that we are using to survey the feedlot buyers to see what the perception and acceptance of the Speckle Park cattle actually is. This will be ongoing over the next 2 months. We do stand out and get sorted out of groups based entirely on hide color. The market potential for the Speckle hid feeder calves is and will be determined by the quality control measures of the Seedstock producer.

### CSPA COMMERCIAL COMMITTEE

JOSH VOGEL  
CURTIS MACALEER  
STEPHANIE FRADETTE  
VINCE STEPHENSON

*We want to hear  
from you!*

SHARE YOUR COMMERCIAL  
RELATED SUCCESS! BULL  
BUYER TESTAMENTS,  
PICTURES ETC.

Email to [info@canadianspecklepark.ca](mailto:info@canadianspecklepark.ca)





# ONTARIO FEEDLOT TRIAL REPORT

DIBBHURST FARMS

# TRIAL SUMMARY

**80%**

## **AAA CARCASS GRADE**

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Speckle Park graded well across 3 separate packing plants. 20% AA Graded with nice fat coverage and excellent marbling.

**2.5%**

## **TREATMENT RATE**

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Healthy cattle perform well. Speckle Park in this trial settled quickly and had very low rate of antibiotic intervention.

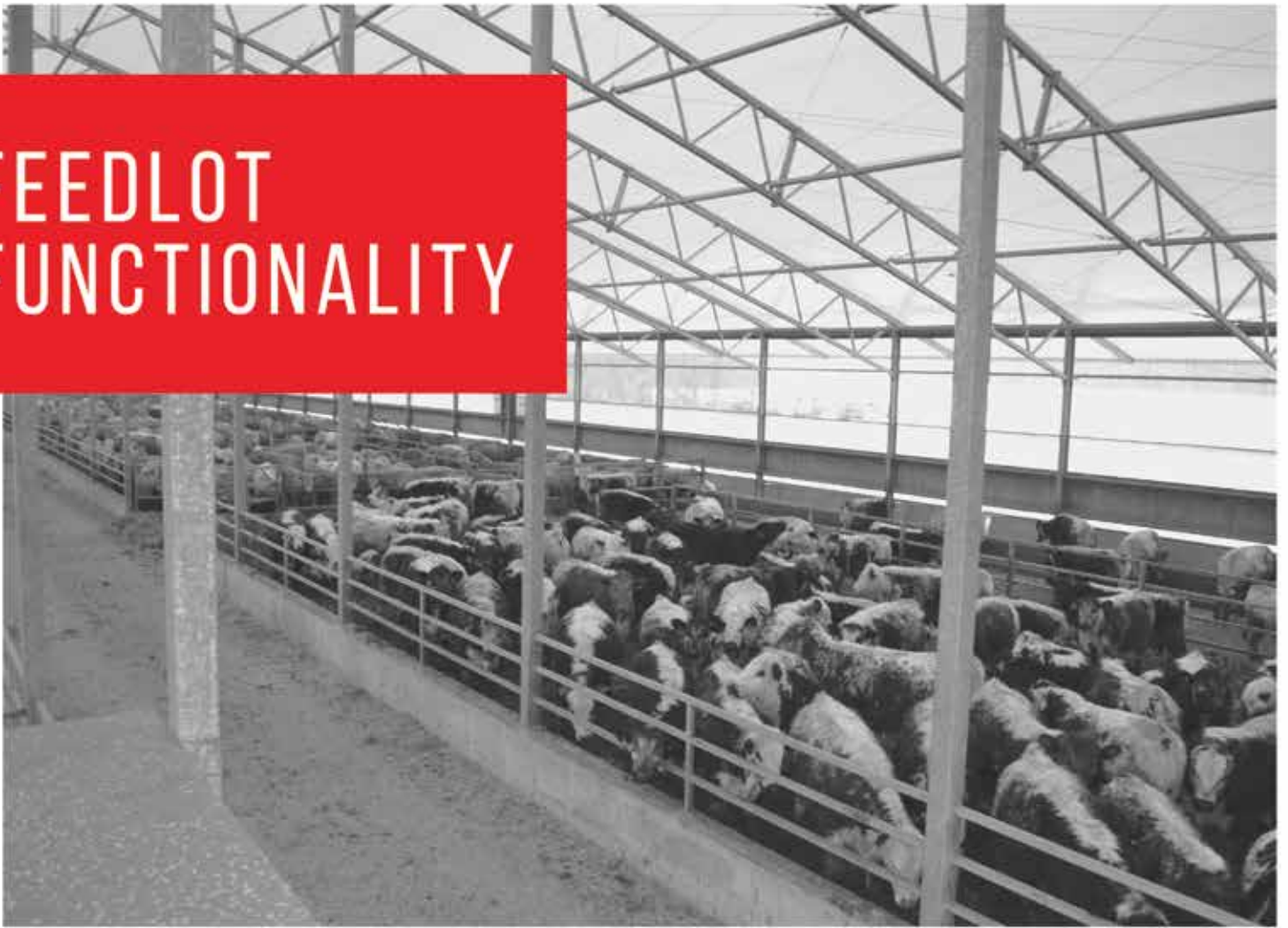
**60.2%**

## **DRESS PERCENTAGE**

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Speckle Park weighed on average 67lbs less than the continental cross comparison group. At dressing this gap was reduced to only 35lbs decreasing the amount of weight lost at hanging.

# FEEDLOT FUNCTIONALITY



In 2019, The CSPA Board of Directors prioritized the need for data on Speckle Park influenced animal performance in the feedlot to on the hook. Dibbhurst Farms of Ingersoll, On agreed to trial a pen of Speckle Park commercial steers to evaluate performance and provide data to the Association. The Steers were purchased from a Speckle Park influenced stocker sale in Western Canada.

The Dibble's were pleased which how the Speckle Park performed. They were impressed with how quiet the cattle were upon arrival, showed little signs of stress and adapted to their new environment.

A total of 119 steers went on trial for an average of 282 days on feed. The steers were sent to 3 separate packing facilities for evaluation: Norpac Beef, St Helen's Meat Packers Ltd. & Cargill Meats. The results are a summary of results from all 3 facilities.

The Dibbles run a 1000 head feedlot of steers crossbred of continental breeds. For the purpose of the trial, the Dibbhurst Farms provided data on all the continental steers with the same intake period.

We appreciate their willingness to take Speckle Park on for the trial and is the first step in collecting feedlot data for Speckle Park.

# Trial Results

## Speckle Park Continental Steers

# Steers On Trial	119	790
Avg Arrival Weight	612lbs	596lbs
Avg Days On Feed	282	283
Avg Per Day Gain	2.95lbs	3.23lbs
Avg Live Weight	1443lbs	1510lbs
Avg Dress Weight	866lbs	901lbs
Dress Percentage	60.2%	59.7%
Dry Matter To Gain (Live)	6.5lbs	6.31lbs
AAA Carcass	80%	55%
AA Carcass	20%	45%

## Trial Feedback

*with Gord Dibble, Dibbhurst Farms*

**How did you feel prior to the trial in regards to the outcome? Did you have feeling on how the end results would be from positive or negative feedback from other buyers, feedlots or packing houses?**

We went into the trial with an open mind and even though there was lots of AAA's they thought that they may get some primes also.

**During the trial, were the noticeable differences between the two groups of cattle either positive or negative?**

The Speckle Park pen was much quieter and coming into the feedlot they were a lot healthier with less treatment rate required.

**What were you happy with during the trial, and what do you think the breed can improve upon?**

We were very happy with the Speckle Park cattle all the way through the trial. The consistency may be one thing that could be improved upon but was not terrible. Same as most other breeds the hip could be better.

# YOUTH SUMMARY 2020

## 75 4H AWARDS GIFTS HANDLED OUT IN 2020

Any 4H member may apply for a 4H Award that uses a purebred or commercial Speckle Park animal as their project.

Apply for your 2021 award by mailing a completed application to:

[youth@canadianspecklepark.ca](mailto:youth@canadianspecklepark.ca)

*The Future of  
Speckle Park!*



...so much more than the showing



## TEACHING TIDBIT

Teach your animal to walk into show position and know what that looks like. Show position is having the front legs lined up together and the show side hind leg off set. Each animal is different, so have someone photograph you and find the position that makes your animal look the best! Here is an example of how proper positioning can change how your animal looks:

A: Causes the animal to look hunched over the back, shorter in body length and rounder in appearance.

B: Animal looks longer, more feminine and more angular in her lines.



*Congrats!*

## TELL CALVERT

Winner of the \$500 Youth Bursary for  
2020

CANADIAN  
**SPECKLE PARK**  
ASSOCIATION

