



FAT THICKNESS

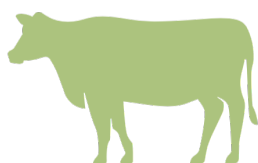
and its value in the market.



MEASURE OF A CARCASSES EXTERNAL FAT CONTENT

MSU Extension, 2008.

ADEQUATE FAT DEPTH AFFECTS HEIFERS AND BULLS DIFFERENTLY



HEIFERS

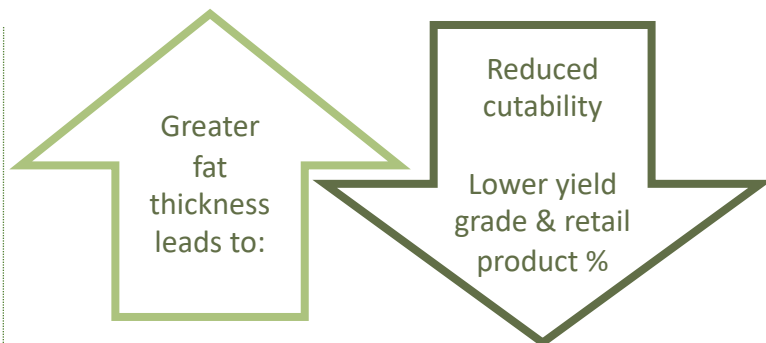
- ↓ - AGE AT PUBERTY
- ↑ - **MILK** PRODUCTION
- ↓ - CALVING INTERVAL LENGTH
- ↑ - FERTILITY
- ↓ - CALVING DIFFICULTY
- ↑ - **WEIGHT** AT MATURITY



BULLS

- ↓ - AGE AT SEXUAL MATURITY
- ↑ - FLESHABILITY
- ↑ - **LIBIDO**
- ↑ - FERTILITY
- ↑ - MATURE **WEIGHT**
- ↑ - SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE

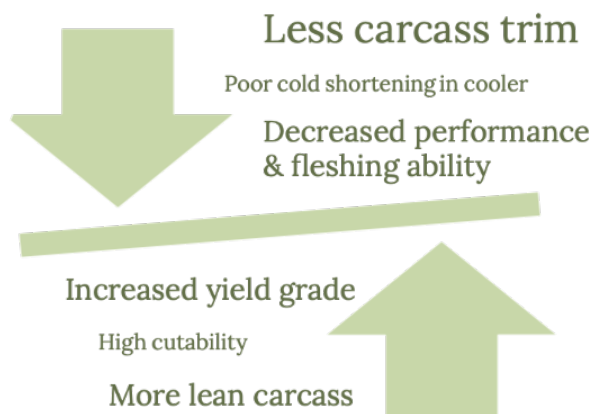
Gosey, 2003; Manitoba.ca



MOST IMPORTANT DETERMINANT OF RETAIL YIELD & GRADE

UA Extension, 2014.

SELECTING AGAINST BACKFAT HAS CONSEQUENCES



UA Extension, 2014.

AIM FOR MODERATE FAT THICKNESS

Extreme Backfat

Moderate Backfat

Extremely Lean

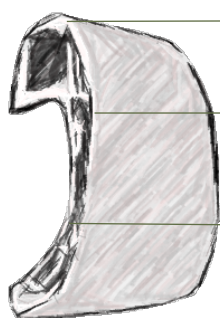
Low cutability



Desired cutability

High cutability

UA Extension, 2014.



• 44% Heritability

• Measured between the 12th & 13th ribs

• Measured in millimeters & reported in inches

Gosey, 2003; UA Extension, 2014.



0.3 INCHES = GOOD FAT THICKNESS TARGET

Optimal range of 0.2 to 0.5 inches

UA Extension, 2014.