

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a dog's face, likely a pit bull or similar breed, with its eyes closed and a calm expression. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of its fur and the shape of its nose.

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ABERDEEN
ASSOCIATION

Quality and efficiency
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Frequently Asked Questions

As the American Aberdeen Association increases its reach into the commercial cattle sector, there is an ongoing need to communicate the full value of American Aberdeen seedstock in land-based production systems. Additional resources, including videos, are available at AmericanAberdeen.com

Size

- » Full Blood Aberdeen bulls are big enough to cover commercial cows.
- » Mature American Aberdeen bulls will generally fall into a range of 45-48 inches measured at the hip and weigh from 1,300 to 1,600 pounds.
- » Mature cows generally measure from 42-46 inches at the hip and weigh between 900 and 1,100 pounds.
- » The American Aberdeen Moderator® and Aberdeen Plus cow, with an average weight of 1,100 pounds, requires 27 percent less feed than a 1,500 pound cow and will wean more pounds of calf per acre.
- » A 1,500 pound cow eats 3 percent of her body weight = 45 pounds. An 1100 pound cow eats 3 percent of her body weight = 33 pounds.
- » For years, U.S. registered and commercial cattle have been bred bigger, less efficient and with less muscle. The result has been higher input costs per cow and reduced stocking rates, while national average weaning weights have stayed the same or gone down for the last 24 years.
- » In a commercial environment, larger cows wean fewer pounds as a percentage of their body weight (*Urlick et al., 1971; Gadberry, 2006; Mourer et al., 2010; Dobbs, 2011*).
- » For every 100 pounds of additional cow weight, cow maintenance costs go up \$42 (*Doy and Lalman, 2011*)
- » Cows that produce more milk have higher year-long maintenance costs (*Ferrell and Jenkins, 1984; Montano-Bermudez et al.*)



AMERICAN ABERDEEN CATTLE ASSOCIATION

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- » American Aberdeen cattle are smaller than most commercial cattleman are accustomed to, but when crossed with most breeds the resulting offspring hit an efficient, commercially-desirable size without sacrificing muscling.
- » NDSU Dickinson Research data show that American Aberdeen cross cows increased weaning weight per acre by 37 percent.
- » The Aberdeen Plus, Moderator and Moderator Plus® programs provide American Aberdeen breeders options for breeding cattle to fit their buyers' needs.

Calving

- » Commercial heifers bred to Full Blood American Aberdeen bulls calve easily and breed back quickly, reducing the calving interval.



Finishing and Carcass

- » Aberdeen carcasses possess excellent beef characteristics of taste, texture and tenderness as well as exceptional ribeye area per hundred pounds of body weight, which translates to very high-yielding, high-quality, high-value beef carcasses.
- » Muscle fibers are smaller, making the beef more tender than other breeds.
- » American Aberdeen Moderator and Aberdeen Plus are well suited to grass-fed production as they are easy fleshing and will finish on native and improved pastures, producing high value carcasses with minimum input costs.
- » The NDSU Dickinson Research Center has 15 years of data showing that F1 Moderator cattle hit commercial specification for carcass, including CAB. F1 steers finished in the feedlot at 1250 to 1350 pounds.

Pedigree and Genetic Defects

- » The original herd was developed at the Trangie Research Center in New South Wales, Australia. Animal Scientists began with a herd of registered Aberdeen Angus cattle, purchased in 1929 from Canada, that were carefully selected for efficiency and smaller frames. The end result was a breed of small, black, polled cattle of pure Aberdeen Angus descent.
- » The American Aberdeen focus is back to the basics...efficiency, quality, phenotype, longevity, and carcass. EPDs fail to take into account many of the breed's benefits.
- » All cattle registered with the American Aberdeen Association trace their ancestry back to the Trangie Research Center and to the original Angus purchased from Canada.
- » American Aberdeen Cattle are free of known genetic defects, including the dwarf gene.

Heat Tolerance and Adaptability

- » The American Aberdeen are the original Angus. They adapt to hot and extremely cold climates much like any of the British breeds.

Business Model

- » The commercial cattle industry is taking note of American Aberdeen genetics. Cattleman are looking for Angus-type, 'easy-keeping' cows that mature at 1,100 pounds—and they can't find them in 'load-lot' numbers. Aberdeen genetics create value by moderating the size of commercial cattle.
- » There is nothing wrong with being a small operation, but the breed also needs larger-scale breeding herds to help mature the market for American Aberdeen genetics.
- » Growing the market will not lower prices for small operations—demand will grow with breed acceptance and supply.
- » To better understand the commercial market, operators of smaller herds selling into the commercial market should be sure to study the work being done on efficiency and value at the Dickinson Beef Cattle Research Station by Dr. Kris Ringwall and his staff.



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