

### Producer requirements:

- Producers must obtain an ultrasound “barn sheet” from their breed association for animals to be scanned before the scan date.
- 110V power is needed to operate scanning equipment.
- Cattle need to be restrained in an effective handling facility.
- Cattle need to be weighed at scanning time or within 7 days of the scanning date.

### What the cattle breeder receives:

- After scanning and interpretation, the measurements are forwarded to the appropriate breed association for processing. Ultrasound record processing follows the same format used for weight traits within performance programs. Breeders receive the ultrasound measurements (adjustments and contemporary group ratios) as a part of the program.
- Ultrasound measures are adjusted to 365 days for yearling bulls. The current age end point adjustments for developing heifers is 390 days of age (approx. 13 months). The end-point adjustments for feedlot steers and heifers is 420 days of age.

### Ultrasound measures on each animal include:

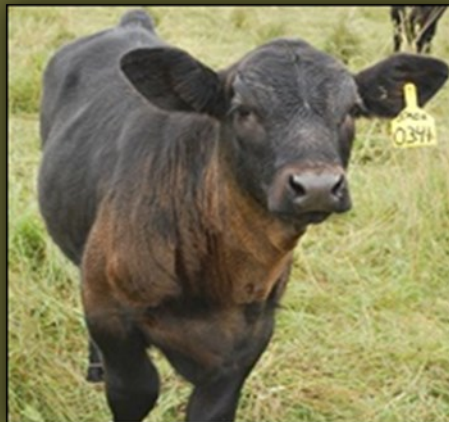
- Rump fat thickness
- 12-13th rib fat thickness
- Ribeye area
- Percentage intramuscular fat (marbling)

*Ultrasound information outlining beef industry trends and scanning value for individual herd is available at the [CUP Lab website](#). For additional cattle management resources, visit the [Michigan State University Extension Beef Team website](#) and select “MSU Programs” and “Ultrasound Scanning” or contact Kevin Gould, [Michigan State University Extension](#) Educator at [gouldk@msu.edu](mailto:gouldk@msu.edu) Ionia office number of (616) 527-5357.*

## MSU Beef Cattle Ultrasound Program

Kevin Gould—MSU Livestock Educator is certified as a field technician by the Ultrasound Guidelines Council. Kevin travels in Michigan and surrounding states to ultrasound beef cattle as a fee for service program offered by the MSU Beef Team.

Anyone interested in learning more about how ultrasound can benefit your beef cattle selection and breeding program can contact Kevin Gould in Ionia



## MSU Beef Cattle Ultrasound Program



*Ultrasounding Beef Cattle  
a fee for service program  
offered by the  
MSU Beef Team*

### Contact Information:

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**MICHIGAN STATE** | **Extension**  
**UNIVERSITY**

# Ultrasound Scanning:

Research has indicated that breeders can scan yearling bulls and heifers for carcass traits and have this information included for National Cattle Evaluation ultrasound Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs). Ultrasound EPDs are equivalent to carcass EPDs and may someday completely replace carcass EPDs.

Certified ultrasound technicians collect the images and send them to a centralize lab where the images are interpreted.

Michigan is fortunate to have a certified technician to scan cattle on a timely and cost effective basis.



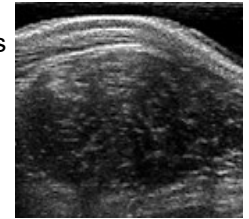
## Centralized Ultrasound Processing "CUP" Program:



CUP is presently working with sixteen breed associations. The research has indicated that breeders can scan yearling bulls and heifers for carcass traits and have this information included for National Cattle Evaluation ultrasound EPDs. Ultrasound EPDs are equivalent to carcass EPDs and may someday completely replace carcass EPDs. CUP certified ultrasound technicians collect the images and then send them to CUP where the images are interpreted for rump and 12-13th rib fat thickness, ribeye area and percent intramuscular fat (marbling). The measurements are sent to the appropriate breed association for database storage and for preparation of the performance records to be sent back to the breeder.

## Procedures for Breeder Participation:

- Breeders should either receive barnsheets standardly or must request barnsheets from their respective breed association. If the breeders association does not print barnsheets then a CUP barnsheet must be submitted. This would be the case for unregistered cattle. Barnsheets must be completely filled out by the breeder and returned to the CUP lab with the ultrasound images.
- Select a CUP certified technician to do the scanning. A list of certified technicians can be acquired from the National CUP Lab or any participating breed association. The National CUP Lab will only process images submitted by certified technicians.
- Breeders need to plan ahead to insure that scanning is done early enough if the information is to be included in a sale catalog. Processing time will require an average seven (7) working days. In some instances, it could take more than seven days if errors are found.
- It is suggested that all animals be scanned in a squeeze chute and it is required that all animals have hair clipped to 1/2 inch or less in scanning area to ensure image quality and ease of scanning.



## Processing Fees and Scanning Costs:

<u># of animals</u>	<u>Scan charge/animal*</u>
5-10	\$18.50
11-25	\$17.50
26-50	\$16.50
51+	\$15.50

\*Plus \$30 setup fee per session. Round-trip travel is charged at MSU's current reimbursement rate (\$0.56/mile as of 2/2/21).

For more information about beef cattle ultrasound, visit the Centralized Ultrasound Processing Lab website. [www.cuplab.com](http://www.cuplab.com). The MSU Beef Team thanks the Michigan Cattlemen's Association and North Country Beef Producers for their support in launching this program.