

NFI), reducing the cost of measuring the trait from \$300-\$500/animal to about \$25, making it possible to screen the stud population.

There are already more than 16,000 NFI records with both Hereford and Angus breeds publishing estimated breeding values (EBVs) for the trait.

Australian Lot Feeders Association president, Malcolm Foster, Rangers Valley Feedlot, Glen Innes, encouraged seedstock producers to measure NFI.

Feedlots had traditionally focused on the cost of weight gain, but he said the ability to select for efficiency would be an important tool, hopefully sped up by the discovery of gene markers.

He said, as with other traits, there was a wide variation of feed efficiency within any breed, which would indicate that improvements could be made.

Further evidence supporting the Angus/Hereford difference in the CRC trial is provided by a research project carried out in Canada – Genetic Parameter Estimation of Post-weaning Gain, Feed Intake and Feed Efficiency for Hereford and Angus Bulls Fed Two Different Diets – LQ Fan et al (J An Sc



(73:365). This was not a breed comparison project, but rather a project to estimate genetic parameters. However, the authors' conclusion was that, **“results indicated Angus bulls were less**

efficient at utilizing energy for growth (after accounting for energy required for maintenance) than Hereford bulls”.