

2026-2027 TAEP Genetics – Genomic Enhanced EPD (GE-EPD) & Index Requirements

GE-EPDs/Indexes have changed for this application period and must be current as of Oct. 1, 2026.

Genetics updates below and at [TN.gov/TAEP](https://tn.gov/TAEP).

TAEP Genetics program maximum reimbursement is \$3,000

Maximum reimbursement per eligible TAEP bull is \$3,000

REQUIREMENTS – BULLS

1. BVD-PI test – negative test results required – see vet at time of BSE & 840 EID
2. 840 EID tag – “840” are first 3 digits, see veterinarian at time of BSE, BVD-PI, and Trich testing
3. BSE – performed by a licensed veterinarian within 90 days of purchase or reimbursement
4. Receipt – seller name, address, phone, bull ID, price, sale date and buyer name
5. Genomic Enhanced EPD (GE-EPD), Index & Pedigree Print Date requirements
 - a. pages 1-3: Explanation
 - b. page 4: TAEP Bred Beef Heifer Service Sire CED GE-EPD requirements
 - c. pages 5-7: TAEP Beef Bull & AI Semen GE-EPD & Index requirement tables by breed

Buyer must communicate with the seller prior to purchasing to ensure the bull meets all TAEP eligibility requirements. Bulls that do not meet all eligibility requirements between Oct. 1, 2026 and date of purchase will be denied cost share reimbursement.

Trichomoniasis (“Trich”) testing – All bulls purchased from out-of-state sources must meet import requirements set forth by the State Veterinarian’s Office.

Producers are encouraged to purchase registered bulls from trusted seedstock breeders who provide buyers with complete reimbursement documentation at the point of sale. Complete TAEP reimbursement documentation includes: receipt, 840 EID tag, BSE, negative BVD-PI test results and pedigree with eligible current GE-EPDs (printed between Oct. 1, 2026 and date of purchase), index values, accuracies, genomic status and performance data, and TAEP bull type.

Bull Type Options

TAEP Beef Bulls and AI semen must meet or exceed GE-EPD & Index requirements in each of the two GE-EPD/Index groups (Calving Ease + Index or Growth) for one of the following two bull types:

- Balanced Trait/Maternal = must meet CED + (Maternal Index or WW or YW)
- Carcass Merit/Terminal = must meet CED + (Terminal Index or WW or YW)

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Genomic Enhanced EPD (GE-EPD), Index & Pedigree Print Date Requirements

Index Values are multiple-trait options to meet requirements. GE-EPD or Index values must be printed on breed association pedigree between Oct. 1, 2026 and date of purchase. Bull must meet or exceed GE-EPD or Index requirements in each of 2 Index/GE-EPD groups (Calving Ease Direct + Index or Growth) for one of the following two bull types:

- Balanced Trait/Maternal Bull Type: CED + (Maternal Index or WW or YW)
 - For breeding a combination of mature cows and only a few replacement heifers
- Carcass Merit/Terminal Bull Type: CED + (Terminal Index or WW or YW)
 - For breeding mature cows only
 - **Not recommended to breed to heifers (due to lower CED requirement)*

See breed-specific requirements on pages 5-7.

Regarding TAEP Bred Beef Heifers

- REQUIRED: Minimum Calving Ease Direct (CED) GE-EPD for TAEP Bred Beef Heifer Service Sires – *see breed-specific requirements on page 4.*

Genomic Enhanced EPD (GE-EPD), Index & Pedigree Print Date Information

Eligible beef breeds for the TAEP Genetics program must have a national breed performance testing program that participates in a National/International Cattle Evaluation (NCE) program using current methodology and compute Genomic Enhanced EPDs (GE-EPD). The GE-EPD and Index values submitted will be compared against the relevant guideline values from the most prevalent American beef breed association evaluation that computes for the particular breed of bull purchased (i.e. SimAngus GE-EPDs and Indexes will compare against the American Simmental Association guidelines; Angus from American Angus Association guidelines; etc.).

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\$3,000 Maximum Reimbursement — Bulls must have eligible Genomic Enhanced EPDs (GE-EPD) and Indexes or have a minimum accuracy value of 0.25 for the Calving Ease Direct (CED) EPD on breed association pedigree between Oct. 1, 2026 and date of purchase and meet TAEP GE-EPD/Index requirements for one of the two eligible bull types to be eligible for cost share reimbursement. Contact the breed association if you are unsure of the status of a bull.

- Breed
 - Angus
 - Beefmaster
 - Black Hereford
 - Brangus/Ultrablack
 - Braunvieh
 - Charolais
 - Chianina/Chiangus
 - Gelbvieh/Balancer
 - Hereford
 - Limousin/Lim-Flex
 - Maine-Anjou/MaineTainer
 - Red Angus
 - Salers/Optimizer
 - Santa Gertrudis
 - Senepol
 - Shorthorn
 - Simmental/Hybrid
 - Wagyu
- Breed association pedigree must be submitted with reimbursement request and include eligible GE-EPDs, Indexes, accuracies, genomic status, and have a printed date between Oct. 1, 2026 and date of purchase.
- Reimbursement will be calculated based on purchase price at 50% (Master Certification required for all TAEP producers) up to \$3,000 maximum.
- Payment for these breeds will be denied if individual bulls do not have eligible Genomic Enhanced EPDs (GE-EPD) & Indexes or 0.25 accuracy for CED EPD calculated by their breed association between Oct. 1, 2026 and date of purchase.

QUESTIONS:

Genetics Coordinator Ryan Betzelberger

615-837-5382, [TN.gov/TAEP](https://www.tn.gov/TAEP)

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- TAEP Bred Beef Heifer – Service Sire - Minimum Required CED GE-EPD
- Genomic Enhanced EPD (GE-EPD) *Required* for all Service Sires

Breed	Required Bred Beef Heifer Service Sire CED GE-EPD (min.)
Angus	CED $\geq$ 7
Beefmaster	CED $\geq$ 5
Black Hereford	CED $\geq$ 16
Brangus/Ultrablack	CED $\geq$ 6
Braunvieh	CED $\geq$ 11
Charolais	CED $\geq$ 12
Chianina/Chiangus	CED $\geq$ 12
Gelbvieh/Balancer	CED $\geq$ 14
Hereford	CED $\geq$ 6
Limousin/Lim-Flex	CED $\geq$ 15
Maine-Anjou/MaineTainer	CED $\geq$ 11
Red Angus	CED $\geq$ 13
Salers/Optimizer	CED $\geq$ 11
Santa Gertrudis	BW $\leq$ -1
Senepol	BW $\leq$ -1
Shorthorn	CED $\geq$ 21
Simmental/Hybrid	CED $\geq$ 12
Wagyu	BW $\leq$ -2

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- Pedigree/GE-EPDs must be printed between 10/1/2026 – purchase date.
- 50% cost share up to \$3,000 reimbursement max. Master Producer required.

ANGUS	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 4$	and	$\$M \geq 64$	or	$WW \geq 56$	or	$YW \geq 101$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq -2$	and	$\$B \geq 150$	or	$WW \geq 64$	or	$YW \geq 114$

BEEFMASTER	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 3$	and	$\$M \geq 17$	or	$WW \geq 18$	or	$YW \geq 25$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq 1$	and	$\$TI \geq 75$	or	$WW \geq 28$	or	$YW \geq 39$

BLACK HEREFORD	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 13$	and	$\$API \geq 161$	or	$WW \geq 50$	or	$YW \geq 81$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq 9$	and	$\$TI \geq 91$	or	$WW \geq 58$	or	$YW \geq 93$

BRANGUS/ULTRABLACK	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 4$	and	$\$Fert \geq 3$	or	$WW \geq 17$	or	$YW \geq 34$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq 2$	and	$\$TI \geq 2$	or	$WW \geq 26$	or	$YW \geq 48$

BRAUNVIEH	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 7$	and	$\$API \geq 105$	or	$WW \geq 46$	or	$YW \geq 60$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq 2$	and	$\$TI \geq 65$	or	$WW \geq 54$	or	$YW \geq 76$

CHAROLAIS	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 8$	and	N/A	or	$WW \geq 55$	or	$YW \geq 100$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq 2$	and	$\$TSI \geq 266$	or	$WW \geq 65$	or	$YW \geq 117$

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CHIANINA/CHIANGUS	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 8$	and	$\$APT \geq 103$	or	$WW \geq 43$	or	$YW \geq 62$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq 4$	and	$\$TI \geq 70$	or	$WW \geq 51$	or	$YW \geq 78$

GELBVIEH/BALANCER	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 10$	and	$\$MPI \geq 98$	or	$WW \geq 65$	or	$YW \geq 97$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq 6$	and	$\$FPI \geq 115$	or	$WW \geq 75$	or	$YW \geq 115$

HEREFORD	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 0$	and	$\$BMI \geq 374$	or	$WW \geq 51$	or	$YW \geq 81$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq -4$	and	$\$CHB \geq 122$	or	$WW \geq 60$	or	$YW \geq 96$

LIMOUSIN/LIM-FLEX	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 10$	and	$\$MPI \geq 82$	or	$WW \geq 57$	or	$YW \geq 86$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq 6$	and	$\$TPI \geq 104$	or	$WW \geq 68$	or	$YW \geq 106$

MAINE-ANJOU/TAINER	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 6$	and	N/A	or	$WW \geq 36$	or	$YW \geq 45$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq 0$	and	N/A	or	$WW \geq 47$	or	$YW \geq 64$

RED ANGUS	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 10$	and	$\$HB \geq 51$	or	$WW \geq 60$	or	$YW \geq 95$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq 5$	and	$\$GM \geq 50$	or	$WW \geq 70$	or	$YW \geq 113$

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SALERS/OPTIMIZER	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 10$	and	N/A	or	$WW \geq 32$	or	$YW \geq 37$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq 7$	and	N/A	or	$WW \geq 43$	or	$YW \geq 56$

SANTA GERTRUDIS	BW (Max.)	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$BW \leq 0$	and	$\$Cow \geq 19$	or	$WW \geq 6$	or	$YW \geq 6$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$BW \leq 1$	and	$\$TI \geq 13$	or	$WW \geq 15$	or	$YW \geq 19$

SENEPOL	BW (Max.)	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$BW \leq 1$	and	N/A	or	$WW \geq 6$	or	$YW \geq 6$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$BW \leq 3$	and	N/A	or	$WW \geq 13$	or	$YW \geq 17$

SHORTHORN	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 14$	and	$\$BMI \geq 127$	or	$WW \geq 38$	or	$YW \geq 53$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq 7$	and	$\$F \geq 46$	or	$WW \geq 46$	or	$YW \geq 66$

SIMMENTAL/HYBRID	CED	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$CED \geq 8$	and	$\$API \geq 133$	or	$WW \geq 73$	or	$YW \geq 107$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$CED \geq 3$	and	$\$TI \geq 81$	or	$WW \geq 80$	or	$YW \geq 120$

WAGYU	BW (Max.)	and	INDEX	or	WW	or	YW
Balanced Trait/Maternal	$BW \leq 0$	and	N/A	or	$WW \geq -4$	or	$YW \geq -6$
Carcass Merit/Terminal	$BW \leq 3$	and	$\$F1 \geq 41$	or	$WW \geq 4$	or	$YW \geq 6$