FIGURE 1

**THE PATH TO GENETIC PROGRESS**

1. **Start Here**
   - Evaluate current genetic status of herd

2. **The Scenic Route**
   - Herds with average NM$ less than $500
   - Invest heavily in semen from top genomic young sires for two generations; then IVF top females

3. **The Short Cut**
   - Herds with average NM$ greater than $500
   - Purchase a group of heifers in the top 2 percent of the breed

4. **Build herd from within using sexed semen and IVF to propagate best females and replace bottom half of herd**

*Illustration by Kristen Phillips.*