

RULES FOR FLORIDA BULL TEST 2009

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this program is to serve as an educational aid for the improvement of beef cattle. The purpose of the test is to standardize environmental conditions for evaluating post-weaning performance and to provide records which should be useful to the consignor, in evaluating his/her breeding program, and to the purchaser as a source of performance tested bulls.

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide the commercial cow/calf producer a source of bulls that have been gain tested and thoroughly evaluated at the same location and have passed stringent health requirements.
2. Provide an opportunity for seed stock producers to advertise their breeding programs through testing and marketing bulls.
3. Provide greater awareness of the latest animal breeding concepts and tools - a showcase for superior beef cattle genetics in Florida.

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Bulls must be born between September 1 and December 31, 2008.
2. All consignors herds must be enrolled in their respective breed association performance program. State BCIA programs are acceptable for herds whose breed association does not have a performance records program.
3. Calves must have completed the weaning phase of the performance record program with their contemporary group and this information must be presented at delivery. If data has not been returned from your association, please provide a copy of the weight data with the number of contemporaries.
- 4. All calves must be purebred or full blood and registered with their breed association. Composite bulls must have both sire and dam registered in an acknowledged beef breed association. A registration certificate and pedigree must accompany bull at delivery to the test station. Otherwise, bulls will not be accepted.**
5. A bull should weigh 2.5 pounds per day of age when delivered to the test station. A transit shrink of 1% per hour of transit time will be allowed.
6. Bulls must be weaned a minimum of 3 weeks prior to delivery.
7. Bulls must be structurally sound and show evidence of good growth potential.
8. Bulls below frame score 4 will not be accepted (BIF frame score chart).
9. Bulls actual birth weight is required.
10. Consignments over 10 head will be accepted on a space available basis.
11. Priority for space will be given to Florida residents. Bulls from other states will be accepted on a space available basis.
12. Sire-group testing of bulls is more desirable than individual testing, because it provides more information to both breeders and prospective buyers, therefore, they will receive preference if space becomes limiting.
13. Breeders/consignors must be members of the Florida Cattlemen's Association.
14. Embryo transfer bulls must be designated as such, and the breed of the recipient cow designated.
15. *Bulls must have legible permanent identification (tattoo or brand) corresponding to registration paper at delivery.*
16. Horned bulls will be grouped separately. It is recommended that they be dehorned and healed at delivery.

HEALTH

1. All bulls must be in good health and accompanied by a health certificate showing they are from a Brucellosis free accredited or certified free herd with the herd number on the health certificate or have a negative test for Brucellosis not more than 30 days before delivery. Bulls originating from a state that is not T.B. free must also be accompanied by a health certificate showing they are a certified T.B. free herd or have a negative test for T.B. not more than 30 days before delivery. All bulls will be tested for T.B. upon arrival.

2. Bulls must have been vaccinated ***twice*** (minimum 21 days between vaccinations) for 5-way LEPTOSPIROSIS, 7 or 8 -way CLOSTRIDIUM with HAEMOPHILIUS SOMNUS, IBR/PI3/BVD/BRSV and with the last vaccination at least 3 weeks or more prior to delivery. PASTEURELLA, is optional. Inter nasal IBR/PI3 is recommended.

3 **Consignors are responsible for the cost of treatment if their bull requires examination by a veterinarian.**

4. Consignors should contact their local or state veterinarian for interstate permit and health requirements. **All bulls require an official certificate of veterinary inspection** (health Paper).

TESTING FOR ARTHROGRYPOSIS MULTIPLEX

Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM) commonly known as “Curly Calf Syndrome” is a calf born dead with a spine that is bent or twisted. They also are small and appear thin because of limited muscle development. Their legs are often rigid and may be hyper-extended. An AM carrier is an Angus or Angus cross cow, heifer, bull, or steer that carries the recessive AM mutation in their DNA. For more information access the following website: http://www.angus.org/ccs_info.html

All bulls consigned that are Angus or breeds containing Angus genetics (i.e., SimAngus, Limflex, Balancer etc.) must be tested to determine if they are AM carriers. Bulls that are not tested prior to arrival at the NFREC Bull Test will have samples submitted for testing. The cost of testing will be in addition to the \$750 consignment fee. Currently the cost of testing for AM ranges from \$22 to 28 per sample.

DELIVERY FORM

Delivery forms which summarize the bull's birth weight and type, performance, EPDs, creep fed status, pedigree, and health information will be sent and must be completed for each bull. Bulls will not be accepted at delivery without completed forms and ***a registration certificate.***

FEEDING

The ration fed will be formulated (target 3.0 lbs. gain per day) to be adequate for allowing expression of growth potential and development without over conditioning the bulls. To limit the consumption of grain, ration will be based on a 25:75 ratio of Accuration and corn in the supplement, with ad libitum access to hay.

COST

Cost of the test will be \$750.00. A nonrefundable nomination fee of \$50.00 must be received by July 1, 2009. At delivery consignors will be required to pay an initial installment of \$400, followed by a second \$300 payment by January 2, 2010. Bulls will not be released until the NFREC has received the complete payment.

LIABILITY

TEST STATION PERSONNEL WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF THE ANIMALS AND TO OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES WHEN NECESSARY, BUT WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSS BY FIRE, THEFT, INJURY, SICKNESS, DEATH OR IN ANY OTHER WAY.

TEST PROCEDURES

1. *Dates: Bulls (born between September 1 and December 31, 2008) delivery dates are August 4 and 5, 2009, on test weights August 18 and 19, 2009, off test weights December 8 and 9, 2009. Bulls indexing 90 or better based on a combination of gain and weight per day of age will be eligible for the sale. Sale date will be January 9, 2010.*
2. All bulls not eligible for the sale due to poor performance (below 90 index), disposition, structural soundness, incomplete performance data, unsatisfactory BSE, etc., must be removed from the test station, and all test costs paid within one week of notification.
3. *Each consignor will be provided within 10 days after each 28 day period, a complete summary of the performance of all bulls and this information will be available to the interested public (<http://flbulltest.ifas.ufl.edu>).*

4. Bulls will be removed from the test only after the test is complete or as a result of chronic conditions impairing the usefulness of the bull. Owners will be notified when to remove the bull in such a case.
 5. Bad disposition and unsound bulls will not be sold.
 6. Scrotal circumference must be at least 30 cm for Brahmans and 32 cm for all other breeds at one year of age.
 7. Bulls will undergo a Breeding Soundness Evaluation according to the Society of Theriognology guidelines prior to the sale. Any bulls that receive a “deferred” classification will be sold at the discretion of the owner and will be announced sale day.
 8. *Bulls will be evaluated by ultrasound for carcass traits 30 days before the end of the test. Ultrasound evaluations will be made by a certified technician.*
 9. The bull test committee shall have the right to have any bull mouthed for age verification and blood typed or DNA tested for parentage verification.
 10. No grooming, clipping, foot trimming, etc. by consignors will be permitted. Test station personnel will be responsible for getting the bulls clean and presentable for sale.
 11. Sale costs will be divided equally among all bulls selling.
 12. As new technology becomes available for evaluating bulls that will aid in increasing the accuracy of selection, it will be incorporated in the test procedures and sale information.
 13. Every effort will be made to provide all information available or needed to make selection decisions.
- Our goal is to make the bulls in this sale the most completely evaluated and data presented in the region.