

Hill Angus Farm, Boaz, Ala.; ADG: 4.70 lb.; WDA: 3.04 lb.; wt.: 1,130 lb.; index: 124

High-WDA and high-indexing Angus—Lot 916; owner: Southern Cattle Co., Marianna, Fla.; ADG: 4.63 lb.; WDA: 3.75 lb.; wt.: 1,133 lb.; test index: 135

This is a 112-day test. Bulls are being fed forage and grain for a targeted gain of 3.5 lb. per day. Individual feed intake is collected to provide feed efficiency and feed conversion. Bulls are ranked based on ADG on test and WDA. The 84-day weights were to be collected Nov. 20, with final weights scheduled Dec. 7-8.

Qualifying bulls may be eligible for sale Jan. 15, 2011. For more information contact Cliff Lamb, bull test supervisor, at 850-394-9124, ext. 106, or gclamb@ufl.edu. Test information can be found at http://nfre.ifas.ufl.edu/fl_bull_test/index.shtml.

▣ Western Illinois Bull Test Macomb, Ill.

On-test report (Oct. 26)

Bulls on the Western Illinois University (WIU) Bull Test at Macomb went on test Aug. 17. The test is a 112-day test. Bulls are fed to gain a targeted 4 lb. per day.

The testing period will end Feb. 15, 2011. Interim weights will be collected every 28 days and are scheduled Nov. 23, Dec. 21 and Jan. 21, with off-test weights collected Feb. 14-15.

Qualifying bulls may be eligible for sale March 18, 2011. For more information contact Ken Nimrick, bull test supervisor, at KO-Nimrick@wiu.edu. Test information can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/bulltest/>.

▣ 59th Annual OPSU Bull Performance Test Goodwell, Okla.

On-test report (Oct. 9)

The bulls consigned to the 59th Annual Oklahoma Panhandle State University (OPSU) Bull Performance test were weighed on test Saturday, Oct. 9. This year's test includes 15 consignors.

Bulls are fed to express maximum gain. The test runs for 112 days, during which data will be collected on ADG, feed intake and efficiency on a pen basis, and WDA. The test index is 50% ADG, 50% WDA.

▣ 59th Annual OPSU Bull Performance Test Goodwell, Okla.

28-day report (Nov. 6)

High-ADG junior Angus—Lot 25-3; owner: Larry Weinkauff, Orlando, Okla.; ADG: 6.07 lb.

High-ADG junior Angus pen—owner: Larry Weinkauff, Orlando, Okla.; ADG: 4.75 lb.

High-ADG senior Angus—Lot 23-2; owner: Tim Meier, Hitchcock, Okla.; ADG: 6.00 lb.

High-ADG senior Angus pen—owner: B&M Angus, Edmond, Okla.; sire: Spur USPB 6401; ADG: 4.75 lb.

The test ends Jan. 29, 2011, and the top 70 bulls will sell in the 59th Annual OPSU Bull Test Sale scheduled for Feb. 21. For more information contact Gwen Martin at 589-349-1500 or gwen@opsu.edu.



Proactive Handling

The Beef Marketing Group (BMG) hosted a training seminar with Tyson Fresh Meats to educate transportation companies and feedlot personnel on BMG policies related to cattle transport; current outside industry pressures; accountability; transport regulations; low-stress handling; and emergency action plans. The training seminar was Oct. 20 in Lyons, Kan.

"BMG has a focus and commitment to low-stress animal handling and welfare at all our feedlots, and we want to extend that to the hauling of cattle as well," said BMG Director of Quality Assurance Heather Donley.

BMG is under more scrutiny from its customers on how cattle are handled throughout their lives, Donley shared. "To achieve the goal of a systems approach to animal well-being, we wanted to team up with packers and trucking companies."

Industry experts were brought in to speak about key issues around transportation and low-stress handling. Kellye Pfalzgraf from the Tyson Fresh Meats Office of Well-Being discussed how transportation affects meat quality and proper handling of nonambulatory cattle upon arrival at the plant. Dan Thomson, Jones Professor of Production Medicine and Epidemiology at Kansas State University, covered why animal handling during transport is important to retail customers and consumers. Lastly, cattle

transportation expert Jennifer Woods spoke about cattle behavior, handling, transport regulations, stress and environmental management, loading densities, fitness to transport and risk management.

"BMG has been required by some customers to have third-party animal handling audits over the past couple years and a part of this includes transportation to and from the feedlots," Donley said.

BMG's commitment to low-stress animal handling started in 2000 with the implementation of the Progressive Beef program at all 13 of its feedlots. Progressive Beef is a food safety, animal well-being and sustainable verified system to ensure beef is safe, well cared for and raised in a sustainable way. The system is based on standard operating procedures, training and verification of compliance with the Progressive Beef standard. The program was built using key industry experts' input to produce a verified production system that has substance and integrity.

BMG is a cooperative of 13 feedlots located in Kansas and Nebraska that collectively markets cattle and focuses on value-added programs to meet their customers' needs.



Editor's Note: This article is adapted from a news release provided by BMG.