

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Compiled by Heather Lassen, special projects editor

This column features the performance leaders in central bull tests hosted across the country. To access a state-by-state listing of central bull tests, visit our Virtual Library online at www.api-virtuallibrary.com/CentralBullTests.htm. The listing includes contact information, links to test websites, current test schedules and dates of upcoming tests.

OPSU Beef Cattle Performance Testing Program Announcement

Oklahoma Panhandle State University (OPSU) has announced the schedule for its 69th annual bull test. The OPSU bull test is the oldest continuous bull test in the United States.

The 112-day test features junior (bulls born Jan. 1-March 31, 2020) and senior (bulls born Sept. 1-Dec. 31, 2019) divisions, and is conducted at OPSU near Goodwell, Okla. Bulls will be fed a targeted-gain, roughage ration. The ration is a 13%-crude-protein growing ration with hay fed ad lib.

Bulls will be received on Sept. 19, and on-test weights will be recorded Oct. 10. Interim weights are scheduled for Nov. 7, Dec. 5, and Jan. 2. Final weights are scheduled to be recorded Jan. 30, and the test sale will be hosted Feb. 22.

For more information, please contact Gwen Martin at 580-349-1500 (phone), 580-349-1501 (fax), or gwen.martin@opsu.edu.

Virginia BCIA Culpeper Senior Bull Test Announcement

The Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA) has announced the schedule for its Senior Bull Test. The test will

be conducted at Glenmary Farm, Rapidan, Va.

The 112-day test will feature bulls born between Aug. 15 and Nov. 30, 2019. The bulls will be fed a silage-based ration for a target average daily gain (ADG) of 3.5 lb.

Bulls were to be delivered June 30 to go on test July 14. Interim weights are scheduled for Sept. 8 and Oct. 6, and final weights will be recorded Nov. 3. The test sale will be hosted on Dec. 12.

For more information please contact Scott Greiner at 540-231-9159 or sgreiner@vt.edu, or visit <https://www.bcia.apsc.vt.edu/>.

Virginia BCIA Southwest Bull Test Announcement

The Virginia BCIA will conduct its Southwest Bull Test at Mountain Spring Farm, Wytheville, Va. The 112-day test will feature senior and junior divisions. Bulls will be fed a silage-based ration, with a target ADG of 3.5 pounds (lb.).

Bulls eligible for the senior division were born between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2019. Eligible bulls for the junior division were born between Jan. 1 and Mar. 31, 2020. Delivery of the bulls is scheduled for Oct. 6, with on-test weights planned for Oct. 27. Interim weights will be recorded Dec. 22 and Jan. 19.

Bulls will be weighed off test on

Feb. 16, and the test sale will be hosted March 27.

The entry deadline is Sept. 5. For more information contact Scott Greiner at 540-231-9159 or sgreiner@vt.edu, or visit the test website, <https://www.bcia.apsc.vt.edu/>.

MCA/MSU Bull Evaluation Program Announcement

The Michigan Cattlemen's Association (MCA) and Michigan State University (MSU) have announced the schedule for the 33rd annual MCA/MSU Bull Evaluation Program. The evaluation is conducted at the Plank Farm, Crystal, Mich.

Bulls are divided into four pens for the test by age, weight and contemporary groups. The pen containing the oldest bulls is classified as the senior division, with bulls in the other three pens classified as the junior division. Bulls are fed a high-roughage ration with a target ADG of 3.25 lb. per day.

Delivery of the bulls is scheduled for Oct. 9-10, and on-test weights will be recorded Oct. 22. Interim weights will be recorded Nov. 20, Dec. 18 and Jan. 15, with final weights recorded Feb. 12.

Qualifying bulls will sell in the test sale March 20. All bulls will have sire verification, genomically enhanced expected progeny differences (EPDs)

and will have foot scores.

For more information contact Dan Buskirk at 517-432-0400 or buskirk@msu.edu, or visit the test website at mibulls.com.

Edisto Forage Bull Test

168-day final report (June 2)

Producers consigned 51 bulls to the 36th Annual Edisto Forage Bull Test. The 168-day test, conducted at the Edisto Research & Education Center near Blackville, S.C., was a 100% forage grazing test and featured senior (born Dec. 1, 2018-Jan. 31, 2019) and junior (born Feb. 1-March 31, 2019) divisions.

Bulls averaged 759 lb. going on test Dec. 17 after a 14-day warm-up period.

HIGH-ADG ANGUS Lot 50; owner: H&H Farms, Sumter, S.C.; sire: RMF Hoover Dam BC8; ADG: 3.78 lb.; ADG ratio: 123; WDA: 2.46; WDA ratio: 98; wt.: 1,350 lb.

HIGH-WDA ANGUS Lot 38; owner: Redwol Acres, Watkinsville, Ga.; sire: Gamble's Hot Hand 2543; ADG: 2.94; ADG ratio: 96; WDA: 2.63; WDA ratio: 104; wt.: 1,447 lb.

ANGUS AVERAGES (17 HEAD) ADG: 3.09 lb.; wt.: 1,267 lb.

OVERALL AVERAGES (51 HEAD) ADG: 3.06 lb.; wt.: 1,267 lb.

Qualifying bulls will sell Oct. 10.

Joining the 36-year-old bull test is a new heifer-development program that is utilizing the latest in precision ag livestock technology combined with genomic testing to develop a group of heifers backed by data.

For more information contact Scott Sell, bull test coordinator, at 912-682-9590 or gsell@clemson.edu, or visit the test website, <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/bulltest/edisto/>.

IBEP Summer 2020 Bull Test

On-test weights (May 18-19)

32 bulls were delivered April 28 to the Feldun-Purdue Ag Center near Bedford, Ind., for the Indiana Beef Evaluation Program's (IBEP's) summer 2020 bull test. The bulls were born between May 1 and Oct. 31, 2019, and are being fed a forage-based diet with a target gain of 3.25 lb. per day.

Going on test the 18 Angus bulls averaged 730 lb., and all 32 bulls averaged 733 lb.

Interim weights are scheduled to be recorded June 16, July 21 and Aug. 18. Final weights will be recorded Sept. 20-21. The test sale will be Oct. 17 at the Springville Feeder Auction. Bulls must perform in the top two-thirds of the test on performance index and pass a structural soundness and disposition evaluation in addition to a breeding soundness exam to qualify for the test sale.

For more information, contact Nick Minton, beef systems specialist, at nminton@purdue.edu or 812-279-4330; Brad Shelton, station manager, at sheltonb@purdue.edu or 812-279-8554; or Donna Lofgren, performance records and website, at dlofgren@purdue.edu or 765-494-6439. Information is also available on the test website at <https://ag.purdue.edu/ansc/ibep/>.

Midland Bull Test

Announcement

Midland Bull Test (MBT) has announced the schedule for its upcoming 120-day performance test.

The test is conducted at Columbus, Mont., and features two groups of Angus bulls, as well as a junior

consignor division for consignors 18 years of age and younger. Midland Bull Test evaluates approximately 1,100 purebred bulls from more than 200 consignors representing more than 32 states each year.

To be eligible, bulls must have been born between Dec. 1, 2019, and April 1, 2020. The bulls are fed a high-roughage, low-energy ration.

Group 1 bulls will be received Sept. 9-Sept. 19 to go on test Oct. 5. Interim weights will be recorded Dec. 4 and Jan. 4, and final weights will be recorded Feb. 1.

Group 2 bulls will be received Oct. 7-Oct. 17 to go on test Nov. 2. Interim weights are scheduled for Jan. 4 and Feb. 1, and final weights will be recorded March 1.

The sale order will be determined by the MBT Index, calculated as $\frac{1}{4}$ MBT ADG + $\frac{1}{4}$ nursing ratio + $\frac{1}{4}$ yearling ratio + $\frac{1}{4}$ efficiency ratio. Only the top 80% of the bulls will be eligible for the sale, scheduled for April 2.

For more information contact Steve Williams at 406-322-5597 (phone), 406-322-5210 (fax), or bulls@midlandbulltest.com. Information is also available on the test website at www.midlandbulltest.com. 