



Performance Report

► Bull test reports and other performance-related items

North Dakota Angus Association

Bull Test Dickinson, N.D.

84-day report (Feb. 13)

The North Dakota Angus Association's 20th Annual Bull Test is at Ridl Farms, Dickinson. Bull test committee chairmen L.J. and Janet Dohrmann of Taylor, N.D., report that 113 bulls consigned by 41 Angus breeders are competing in a 112-day test.

High-ADG Angus—Lot 108; owner: Roberts Angus, Raub; sire: Hoff First Edition 058 242; ADG: 5.20 lb.; wt.: 1,255 lb.

High-WDA Angus—Lot 47; owner: Thompson Angus, Kintyre; sire: Koupal's B&B Balancer 4017; WDA: 4.12 lb.; wt.: 1,410 lb.

Angus averages—ADG: 3.43 lb.; wt.: 1,206 lb.

This year's sale is scheduled for April 28 at the Stockmen's Livestock Exchange, Dickinson. In addition to the Bull Test Sale, the North Dakota Angus Association will again be sponsoring a pen heifer calf sale.

For more information contact L.J. or Janet at 701-974-2187 or by e-mail at dccattle@hotmail.com.

LSU 99th Beef Bull Evaluation Test

Alexandria, La.

112-day final report (Feb. 13)

Twenty-four Angus bulls were among the 33 weighed on test for Louisiana State University's (LSU's) 99th Beef Bull Evaluation Test Oct. 24, 2007. The test is being conducted at the Dean Lee Research Station in Alexandria.

High-ADG Angus—Lot 22; owner: H&W Angus, Charles Williams, Jena, La.; sire: SAV 8180 Traveler 004; ADG: 4.73 lb.; ADG ratio: 122; WDA: 3.20 lb.; wt.: 1,216 lb.

High-WDA Angus—Lot 11; owner: Moonshine Angus Farm, Ray Gendron, Baton Rouge, La.; sire: Twin Valley Precision E161; ADG: 4.23 lb.; ADG ratio: 109; WDA: 3.74 lb.; wt.: 1,246 lb.

Angus averages (24 head)—ADG: 3.88 lb.; WDA: 3.00 lb.; wt.: 1,124 lb.

Overall averages (33 head)—ADG: 3.83 lb.; WDA: 2.99 lb.; wt.: 1,127 lb.

There will not be a sale at the conclusion of this test because of the low number of bulls on test. For more information contact Danny Coombs, professor, at 318-473-6528 or by e-mail at dcoombs@agcenter.lsu.edu. Information is also available on the test web

site at www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/research_stations/Deanlee/Features/bull_test_station.

Treasure Bull Test

Simms, Mont.

100-day report (Feb. 12)

The Treasure Bull Test includes 154 Angus bulls and 25 Simmental-Angus bulls divided into spring and fall divisions. The test is being conducted at Broken O Ranch Feedlot near Simms, Mont. Weather conditions have been ideal for gain, and the bulls have performed extremely well to date, according to Russ Pepper, test manager.

High-ADG spring Angus—Lot 217; owner: Myers & Watson, Ted & Tim Watson, Livingston, Mont.; sire: Bon-View New Design 1407; ADG: 4.95 lb.; WDA: 3.59 lb.; wt.: 1,410 lb.

High-WDA spring Angus—Lot 205; owner: Myers & Watson; sire: HSAF Bando 1961; WDA: 3.76 lb.; wt.: 1,505 lb.

High-WDA fall Angus—Lot 316; owner: O Bar X Angus, Jim & Michelle Van Dyke, Sheridan, Mont.; sire: PAPA Equator 2928; WDA: 3.39 lb.; wt.: 1,500 lb.

High-performing Angus sire group—six bulls; owner: Myers & Watson; sire: HSAF Bando 1961; avg. ADG: 4.08 lb.; avg. WDA: 3.60 lb.; avg. wt.: 1,402 lb.

Spring Angus averages (140 head)—ADG: 3.67 lb.; WDA: 3.17 lb.

Fall Angus averages (14 head)—WDA: 2.74 lb.

Qualifying bulls will sell at the Treasure Bull Test Sale April 14 at Western Livestock Auction, Great Falls, Mont. For additional information contact Pepper at 406-264-5694 or 406-799-0174, or brtanguis@3rivers.net. Test information is also available on the test web site, www.treasurebulltest.com/testdata.html.

IBEP 2007 Winter Test

Bedford, Ind.

91-day report (Feb. 19)

The Indiana Beef Evaluation Program (IBEP) 2007 Winter Test is under way at the Feldun-Purdue Ag Center at Bedford, Ind. Bulls were delivered Oct. 30, 2007. There are 222 bulls on test, including 155 Angus, representing 60 owners.

High-ADG Angus—Lot 150; owner: Kiata Farms, Hamilton, Ohio; sire: GAR Solution; ADG: 4.92 lb.; ADG ratio: 129; WDA: 3.32 lb.; WDA ratio: 104; wt.: 1,220 lb.; test index: 119

High-WDA Angus—Lot 8; owner: Bill Washburn, Olney, Ill.; sire: Sitz New Design

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349M; ADG: 4.56 lb.; ADG ratio: 120; WDA: 3.83 lb.; WDA ratio: 120; wt.: 1,530 lb.; test index: 120

High-indexing Angus—Lot 67; owner: Beaver Ridge Farm, Middletown, Ind.; sire: SAV Tie Breaker 5288; ADG: 4.89 lb.; ADG ratio: 128; WDA: 3.53 lb.; WDA ratio: 110; wt.: 1,315 lb.; test index: 121

Angus averages (155 head)—ADG: 3.81 lb.; WDA: 3.20 lb.; wt.: 1,159 lb.

Overall averages (222 head)—ADG: 3.76 lb.; WDA: 3.18 lb.; wt.: 1,150 lb.

The 125-day test ends March 24. The 61st IBEP Bull Sale will be April 17 at the Springville Feeder Auction, Springville, Ind. The sale will broadcast on www.dvauction.com.

For more information contact Kern Hendrix, secretary-treasurer, at 765-494-4832 or khendrix@purdue.edu; or Richard Hundrods, station manager, at 812-279-8554 or hundrods@purdue.edu. For test information visit the web site at www.ansc.purdue.edu/ibep.

■ WIU Bull Test Macomb, Ill.

112-day final report (Feb. 12)

The 33rd Annual Performance Tested Bull Test at Western Illinois University (WIU) is under way. Thirty-one Angus bulls were weighed on the 112-day test Oct. 22, 2007. Bulls are tested on the ability to gain rapidly and on the feed required per pound of gain (F/G).

High-ADG, low-F/G and high-indexing Angus—Lot 1; owner: Jessica Muir, Odell, Ill.; sire: Lemenager Design of Value 420; ADG: 5.39 lb.; ADG ratio: 128; F/G: 3.70 lb.; F/G ratio: 159; wt.: 1,338 lb.; frame: 5.7; test index: 133

High-IMF ratio Angus—Lot 11; owner: K-Sha-K Farms, Milan, Ill.; sire: FRF Midland 4026; ADG: 4.78 lb.; ADG ratio: 113; F/G: 5.67 lb.; F/G ratio: 104; wt.: 1,400 lb.; frame: 6.4; test index: 112

High-REA ratio Angus—Lot 12; owner: K-Sha-K Farms; sire: K-Sha-K Premium 408; ADG: 4.66 lb.; ADG ratio: 110; F/G: 5.19 lb.; F/G ratio: 114; wt.: 1,313 lb.; frame: 6.4; test index: 112

Bulls were scheduled to sell March 14 at the WIU Livestock Center in Macomb. For more information contact Ken Nimrick at 309-298-1288 or ko-nimrick@wiu.edu. Information is also available by visiting the test web site at www.wiu.edu/bulltest.

■ 50th Tifton Bull Evaluation Program Irwinville, Ga.

112-day final report (Feb. 12)

The 50th Tifton Bull Evaluation Program began Oct. 1-2, 2007, with the delivery of 145 bulls.

High-ADG Angus—Lot 168; owner: Gillis Angus Farm, Eastman, Ga.; sire: TC Foreman 016; ADG: 5.83 lb.; ADG ratio: 124; WDA: 3.74 lb.; WDA ratio: 105; wt.: 1,597 lb.

High-WDA Angus—Lot 214; owner: Cabe Bros. Angus, Carnesville, Ga.; sire: SAV 8180 Traveler 004; ADG: 5.21 lb.; ADG ratio: 111;

■ Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale, Feb. 29, Bloomington



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

► Illinois Angus breeders are recognized for their high-performing bulls. Pictured are (from left) Bryan Armendariz, Fort Dodge, presenting the awards; Lee Stremsterfer, Prairie Creek Angus Farm, Pleasant Plains; Dustin Stuckemeyer, Altamont; and Connie Neubauer, Shirley. The highest performing bulls were Prairie Creek Regulator 7075, LDCC Right in Focus, and CCL Total 17T.

WDA: 4.14 lb.; WDA ratio: 116; wt.: 1,704 lb.

High-indexing Angus—Lot 170; owner: Gillis Angus Farm; sire: Nichols Extra K205; ADG: 5.78 lb.; ADG ratio: 123; WDA: 3.90 lb.; WDA ratio: 110; wt.: 1,619 lb.

Angus averages (88 head)—ADG: 4.70 lb.; WDA: 3.56 lb.; wt.: 1,426 lb.

Overall averages (142 head)—ADG: 4.67 lb.; WDA: 3.55 lb.; wt.: 1,411 lb.

The Tifton Bull Evaluation Sale was scheduled for March 5. The Bull Evaluation Center is open for visitors between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you wish to visit on weekends, call Mike Keeler at 229-831-5416. For more information on the bull test, contact Johnny Rossi, Extension animal scientist, at 229-386-3870 or jrossi@uga.edu, or visit the test web site at www.tifton.uga.edu/pc-web.

■ Southwest Virginia BCIA Bull Test Hillwinds Farm, Dublin, Va.

Senior 112-day final report (Feb. 11)

Bulls were weighed on test for the Southwest Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA) Bull Test Oct. 23, 2007. The test was conducted at Hillwinds Farm, Dublin, Va. It is managed by the Virginia Tech Department of Animal and Poultry Science.

High Angus—Lot 7; owner: Triple R Farms, Ricky Johnston & Sons, Pembroke; sire: HHH Alliance 704 L102; ADG: 5.04 lb.; ADG ratio: 147; wt.: 1,555 lb.; frame: 6.6

Angus averages (73 head)—ADG: 3.43 lb.; wt.: 1,395 lb.

Overall averages (92 head)—ADG: 3.46 lb.; wt.: 1,418 lb.

Junior 111-day report (Feb. 11)

High-ADG Angus—Lot 126; owner: Four Locust Lake Angus, Zach Tucker, Keyesville; sire: SAF Focus of ER; ADG: 4.47 lb.; ADG ratio: 121; WDA: 3.41 lb.; WDA ratio: 101; wt.: 1,220 lb.

High-WDA Angus—Lot 162; owner: J&M Windy Acres, Mike Connatser, Maryville, Tenn.; sire: GAR Prime Design; ADG: 3.94 lb.; ADG ratio: 107; WDA: 3.87 lb.; WDA ratio: 115; wt.: 1,555 lb.

Angus averages (72 head)—ADG: 3.69 lb.; WDA: 3.36 lb.; wt.: 1,227 lb.

Overall averages (119 head)—ADG: 3.59 lb.; WDA: 3.34 lb.; wt.: 1,212 lb.

Junior bulls were scheduled to be weighed off test March 3-4. The sale for both senior and junior bulls was scheduled for March 29 in Wytheville, Va.

For more information contact Scott Greiner, Extension beef specialist, at 540-231-9163 or sgreiner@vt.edu, or visit the test web site at <http://bcia.apsc.vt.edu>.

■ Green Springs Bull Test Nevada, Mo.

112-day final report (Feb. 8)

The Green Springs Bull Test in Nevada, Mo., tested 92 Angus bulls from 17 operations. These bulls were weighed on test Oct. 20, 2007. All standard performance measurements were taken, as well as individual feed efficiency. The Residual Feed Intake (RFI) calculation is an exclusive measurement. Green Springs is the only bull test station in the Midwest to have this capability, Kent Abele, owner, says.

High-ADG Angus—Lot 71025E; owner: Andy Byergo, Savannah, Mo.; sire: Rito 2N1 of 2536; ADG: 5.36 lb.; ADG ratio: 126; WDA: 4.29 lb.; WDA ratio: 134; test index: 118

High-indexing Angus—Lot 7842; owner: Garton Angus, Nevada, Mo.; sire: Woodhill Foresight; ADG: 4.78 lb.; ADG ratio: 113; WDA: 3.32 lb.; WDA ratio: 104; test index: 123

Angus averages (92 head)—ADG: 4.24 lb.; WDA: 3.19 lb.

The bulls that passed the test were scheduled to sell March 15. For more information contact Abele at 417-465-2240 or gsgbulltest@gmail.com, or visit the test web site at www.greenspringsbulltest.com.

■ SIUC Bull Test Carbondale, Ill.

84-day report (Feb. 7)

The 33rd Annual Performance Tested Bull Test at Southern Illinois University

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Carbondale (SIUC) is under way. Fifty-two bulls representing breeders in three states were weighed on test Nov. 15, 2007. Bulls are tested on the ability to gain rapidly and on F/G.

High-ADG Angus (tie)—Lot 3; owner: Schrecke Angus, James Schrecke, Camp Point, Ill.; sire: Mytty in Focus; ADG: 5.92 lb.; ADG ratio: 117; F/G: 4.96 lb.; F/G ratio: 111; wt.: 1,460 lb.

High-ADG Angus (tie)—Lot 15; owner: York Farms, Palestine, & Rose Hill Angus, Benton; sire: Woodhill Foresight; ADG: 5.92 lb.; ADG ratio: 117; F/G: 4.89 lb.; F/G ratio: 113; wt.: 1,410 lb.

Low-F/G Angus (tie)—Lot 40; owner: Limestone Ridge Angus, Jerseyville; sire: Bon-View New Design 1407; ADG: 5.77 lb.; ADG ratio: 114; F/G: 4.64 lb.; F/G ratio: 119; wt.: 1,220 lb.

Low-F/G Angus (tie)—Lot 32; owner: Blue Ridge Cattle LLC, Monticello; sire: B/R New Frontier 095; ADG: 5.74 lb.; ADG ratio: 114; F/G: 4.70 lb.; F/G ratio: 117; wt.: 1,235 lb.

Angus averages (37 head)—ADG: 5.06 lb.; F/G: 5.50 lb.

Overall averages (52 head)—ADG: 4.71 lb.; F/G: 5.51 lb.

The bulls were scheduled to sell March 29. For more information contact George Wiedlocher at 618-201-6838 or bullman@

siu.edu, or Rebecca Atkinson at 618-453-5000 or ratkinsn@siu.edu. Information is also available on the test web site at www.siu.edu/~animal/bulltest.

■ Pennsylvania Performance Bull Testing Program Pennsylvania Furnace, Pa. 112-day final report (Feb. 19)

The largest number of bulls to ever participate went on test for the Pennsylvania Performance Bull Testing Program Oct. 30, 2007. Ninety-one Angus and 68 bulls of other breeds participated in the 112-day performance-testing program. The average starting weight of the Angus bulls was 718 pounds (lb.).

Bulls were evaluated, compared and indexed on ADG, WDA, feed efficiency, ribeye area and fat deposition.

High-ADG Angus—Lot 7064; owner: John Yenny, Triple J Farm, Daisytown; sire: WAR Alliance 9126 6006; ADG: 5.67 lb.; ADG ratio: 119; WDA: 3.64 lb.; WDA ratio: 101; wt.: 1,369 lb.; frame: 5.7; test index: 110

High-WDA Angus—Lot 7030; owner: Penn State University, University Park; sire: PS Lead On 320 504; ADG: 4.92 lb.; ADG ratio: 103; WDA: 4.25 lb.; WDA ratio: 118; wt.: 1,393 lb.; frame: 6.8; test index: 107

High-indexing Angus—Lot 7011; owner:

Robert Work, Uniontown; sire: Boyd On Target 1083; ADG: 5.54 lb.; ADG ratio: 116; WDA: 4.01 lb.; WDA ratio: 112; wt.: 1,594 lb.; frame: 6.6; test index: 114

Angus averages (90 head)—ADG: 4.78 lb.; WDA: 3.59 lb.; wt.: 1,304 lb.

Data collected during the test was to rank the bulls for the 36th Annual Pennsylvania Performance Tested Bull Sale, which was scheduled for March 28.

For more information, call Glenn Eberly at 814-238-2527, e-mail at geberly@state.pa.us or visit the test web site at www.agriculture.state.pa.us/lec.

■ MBCIA Bull Test Jackson, Minn.

104-day report (Feb. 22)

Bulls were weighed on test Feb. 22 at the Minnesota BCIA (MBCIA) Bull Test at Jackson. There are 80 Angus, one Charolais, 14 Red Angus and 15 Simmental bulls on test.

High-ADG Angus—Lot 46; owner: Richland Prairie Farm, David & Debra Lawstuen, Lanesboro; sire: SS Objective T510 OT26; ADG: 5.89 lb.; WDA: 3.74 lb.; wt.: 1,375 lb.; frame: 6.2; test index: 126

High-WDA and high-indexing Angus—Lot 30; owner: Goodrich Farms, Scandia, Minn.; sire: Rito 2V1 of 2536 1407; ADG: 5.63 lb.;

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WDA: 4.41 lb.; wt.: 1,530 lb.; frame: 7.0; test index: 131

Angus averages (80 head)—ADG: 4.35 lb.; WDA: 3.36 lb.; wt.: 1,199 lb.

Overall averages (110 head)—ADG: 4.28 lb.; WDA: 3.36 lb.; wt.: 1,198 lb.

For more information on the MBCIA test, call Ron Holty, test station manager, at 507-498-5839 or e-mail at rkholy@springgrove.coop.

Foundation Feeders Bull Test Spring Grove, Minn.

104-day report (Feb. 22)

Bulls were weighed on test Feb. 22, at the Foundation Feeders private bull test facility at Spring Grove. There are 35 Angus, one Charolais, four Red Angus, two Saler and four Simmental bulls on test. Of the 35 Angus bulls, average weight at weigh-in was 663 pounds (lb.) after a two-week warm-up period. Holty reports gains from the warm-up period tend to be up and down due to bull fights, which require injuries to heal, with gut fill and typical sicknesses coming from commingling cattle from more than 40 farms.

High-ADG and high-indexing Angus—Lot 32; owner: Mark Ruen, Lanesboro, Minn.; sire: Bon-View New Design; ADG: 5.91 lb.; WDA: 3.64 lb.; wt.: 1,385 lb.; frame: 5.9; test index: 129

High-WDA Angus—Lot 32; owner: Sanden Bros., Houston, Minn.; sire: Kruggerrand; ADG: 5.38 lb.; WDA: 3.84 lb.; wt.: 1,325 lb.; frame: 7.1; test index: 124

For more information on the Foundation Feeders Private test, call Holty at 507-498-5839 or e-mail at rkholy@springgrove.coop.

Iowa Bull Test Latimer, Iowa

120-day final report (Feb. 20)

Sixty-one Angus bulls went on test at the Iowa Angus Bull Test in Latimer Oct. 2, 2007.

High-ADG Angus—Lot 8; owner: Katelyn Holmes, Benton; sire: SAV Frontrunner 0713; ADG: 5.46 lb.; WDA: 3.85 lb.; wt: 1,565 lb.

High-WDA Angus—Lot 44; owner: Lauren Barker, Monticello; sire: BR Midland; ADG: 4.92 lb.; WDA: 4.11 lb.; wt: 1,415 lb.

For more information about the test, call Tricia or Colby Holmes, managers, at 641-785-2315 or e-mail them at cholmes@iowatelecom.net. Test information can be found at www.iowaangus.org.

West Virginia Young Sire Evaluation Wardensville, W.Va.

84-day report (Feb. 25)

The West Virginia Young Sire Evaluation is under way with 143 Angus bulls on test at the West Virginia University Reymann Memorial Farm in Wardensville. In addition to traditional measures of growth, fertility and body composition, this test measures individual feed intake (FI) and provides insight into each bull's ability to convert feed into marketable product.

High-ADG Angus (Group 1)—Lot 57;

owner: Spring Hill Farm, Bridgeport; sire: BR Midland; ADG: 5.40 lb.; ADG ratio: 131; WDA: 3.59 lb.; wt.: 1,486 lb.; frame: 5.8

High-WDA Angus (Group 1)—Lot 41;

owner: Harold Kessel, Burlington; sire: Mytty In Focus; ADG: 4.81 lb.; ADG ratio: 117; WDA: 3.78 lb.; wt.: 1,418 lb.; frame: 6.2

High-ADG Angus (Group 2)—Lot 30;

owner: Kinsey's Oak Front Farm, Flemington; sire: KCF Bennett Reward; ADG: 5.55 lb.; ADG ratio: 136; WDA: 3.82 lb.; wt.: 1,310 lb.; frame: 6.0

High-WDA Angus (Group 2)—Lot 69; owner: Rains Angus, Mercer, Pa.; sire: SAV Net Worth 4200; ADG: 4.04 lb.; ADG ratio: 99; WDA: 3.94 lb.; wt.: 1,399 lb.; frame: 6.9

Group 1 averages (52 head)—ADG: 4.11 lb.; WDA: 3.24 lb.; wt.: 1,259 lb.

Group 2 averages (91 head)—ADG: 4.08 lb.; WDA: 3.39 lb.; wt.: 1,241 lb.

The bulls were scheduled to sell March 27. For more information contact Wayne Wagner, test manager, at 304-293-6131, ext. 4205, or visit the test web site at www.wvbeef.org/wbt/wbt.html.

MCA/MSU Bull Test Plank Farm, Crystal, Mich.

112-day final report (Feb. 28)

Bulls were weighed off test for the Michigan Cattlemen's Association/Michigan State University (MCA/MSU) Bull Test Feb. 28. The test index is based on the average percentile ranking of a bull for six expected progeny differences (EPDs), plus average daily gain (ADG) and weight per day of age (WDA). Thus, a lower index is more desirable.

High-ADG junior Angus—Lot 18; owner: Rietberg Farms, Hudsonville, Mich.; sire: BR Midland; ADG: 5.22 lb.; ADG ratio: 147; WDA: 3.14 lb.; WDA ratio: 99; wt.: 1,328 lb.; frame: 4.7; test index: 30

High-WDA junior Angus—Lot 4; owner: Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.; sire: Schurrtop MC 2500; ADG: 4.13 lb.; ADG ratio: 116; WDA: 3.82 lb.; WDA ratio: 120; wt.: 1,443 lb.; frame: 6.1; test index: 33

High-indexing junior Angus—Lot 14; owner: Apple Hill Angus, Harrisville, Mich.; sire: Boyd On Target 1083; ADG: 3.84 lb.; ADG ratio: 108; WDA: 3.48 lb.; WDA ratio: 109; wt.: 1,458 lb.; frame: 5.7; test index: 24

High-ADG and high-WDA (tie) senior Angus—Lot 42; owner: W.L. Bryson, Bellevue, Mich.; sire: WCC Perfect Design N251; ADG: 4.55 lb.; ADG ratio: 128; WDA: 3.63 lb.; WDA ratio: 114; wt.: 1,715 lb.; frame: 8.6; test index: 34

High-WDA senior Angus (tie)—Lot 38; owner: Sumerix Angus, Lachine, Mich.; sire: SAV 8180 Traveler 004; ADG: 4.46 lb.; ADG ratio: 126; WDA: 3.63 lb.; WDA ratio: 114; wt.: 1,665 lb.; frame: 6.5; test index: 34

High-indexing senior Angus—Lot 10; owner: Apple Hill Angus, Harrisville, Mich.; sire: Boyd On Target 1083; ADG: 3.84 lb.; ADG ratio: 108; WDA: 3.19 lb.; WDA ratio:

Great Western Beef Expo

It's been an interesting beginning for the Great Western Beef Expo cattle this year with rollercoaster weather in northeastern Colorado, says David Colburn, Logan County livestock Extension agent. At the 77-day mark of the 156-day test, the 155 animals in the test gained an overall average of 2.94 pounds (lb.) per day after deducting a 4% pencil shrink. The average feed conversion was 5.99 lb. of feed per 1 lb. of gain (5.99-to-1).

First in feed conversion with a conversion of 4.41-to-1 was a group of Angus-sired steers entered by Y Cross Ranch, Horse Creek, Wyo. AAR Neutron 059 is the sire of this group.

Limousin heifers from Coleman Limousin Ranch, Charlo, Mont., led the 31 sire groups in feedlot gain with an average of 3.75 lb. per day. These heifers are sired by Cole 24P and out of Angus-cross cows.

Angus represented the top three pens for feed conversion.

- ▶ 1st: Y Cross Ranch, Horse Creek, Wyo., 4.41-to-1;
- ▶ 2nd: Touchstone Angus, Lusk, Wyo., 4.43-to-1; and
- ▶ 3rd: Schurrtop Angus & Charolais, Farnam, Neb., 4.95-to-1.

Among the top 10 pens for feedlot gain, Angus represented the second, fourth, eighth and 10th pens.

- ▶ 2nd: Touchstone Angus, Lusk, Wyo., avg. 3.64 lb.;
- ▶ 4th: Triple B Angus/Knoll Ranch, North Platte, Neb., avg. 3.53 lb.;
- ▶ 8th: TC Ranch, Akron, Colo., avg. 3.45 lb.; and
- ▶ 10th: Schurrtop Angus & Charolais, Farnam, Neb., avg. 3.31 lb.

Dave Schutz, herdsman, is available at the test center to answer any questions you may have. For a copy of the current weight report or to be added to the Great Western Beef Expo mailing list, please call 970-522-3200 ext. 274 or 283, or write to Great Western Beef Expo, 508 S. 10th Ave., Ste. 1, Sterling, CO 80751. You can also view all the weight reports and breed averages at www.greatwesternbeefexpo.org.

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100; wt.: 1,368 lb.; frame: 5.2; test index: 26
Qualifying bulls were scheduled to sell March 28. For more information on the test, contact Brian Plank, farm manager, at 989-235-5853 or psf@cmsinter.net, or visit the test web site at www.micattlemen.org.

St. Croix Valley Bull Test Menomonie, Wis.

112-day final report (March 1)

Bulls went on test at the St. Croix Valley Bull Test in Menomonie, Wis., Nov. 10, 2007. The test features bulls from 12 Angus operations.

High-ADG and high-indexing (tie)

Angus—Lot 6-4; owner: Marengo Valley Angus, Mark and Barbara Jolma, Marengo, Wis.; sire: Mohnen Day Ahead 144; ADG: 4.34 lb.; ADG ratio: 125; WDA: 3.69 lb.; WDA ratio: 116; wt.: 1,270 lb.; test index: 122

High-WDA Angus—Lot 2-3; owner:

Goodrich Place Inc., Mark and Claudine Goodrich, Emerald, Wis.; sire: TC Total 410; ADG: 3.88 lb.; ADG ratio: 112; WDA: 3.98 lb.;

WDA ratio: 125; wt.: 1,350 lb.; test index: 115

High-indexing Angus (tie)—Lot 11-5;

owner: Gold Crown Farms, R. James Schindlbeck, Grand Marsh, Wis.; sire: WAR Alliance 9126 6006; ADG: 4.27 lb.; ADG ratio: 123; WDA: 3.88 lb.; WDA ratio: 122; wt.: 1,345 lb.; test index: 122

Angus averages (44 head)—ADG: 3.48 lb.;

WDA: 3.18 lb.; wt.: 1,098 lb.
For more test information contact Don Prochnow, manager, at 715-235-5882.

WSU/WCA All-Breed Bull Test Prosser, Wash.

120-day final report (March 5)

Nearly 180 bulls were gathered Nov. 15, 2007, for the annual bull test sponsored by Washington State University (WSU) and the Washington Cattlemen's Association (WCA). Animals are tested on a high-forage diet designed to permit bulls to express their genetic potential while ensuring they will be sound and ready to go to work for their buyers.

High-ADG and high-indexing Angus—Lot 59; owner: Packard Angus, Brownsville, Ore.; sire: Boyd Beef Maker; ADG: 4.86 lb.; ADG ratio: 137; WDA: 3.75 lb.; WDA ratio: 110; wt.: 1,338 lb.; test index: 123

High-WDA Angus—Lot 6; owner: West Brook Farms, Chimacum, Wash.; sire: VDAR Legend 1281; ADG: 4.42 lb.; ADG ratio: 124; WDA: 3.78 lb.; WDA ratio: 113; wt.: 1,286 lb.; test index: 117

Angus averages (51 head)—ADG: 3.58 lb.;

WDA: 3.23 lb.; wt.: 1,251 lb.

Overall averages (179 head)—ADG: 3.63

lb.; WDA: 3.26 lb.; wt.: 1,289 lb.
Qualifying bulls were scheduled to sell at the annual WCA/WSU Bull Test Sale March 26. For more information contact Robert Stevens at 509-786-9231, Kathy Barnard at 509-335-2806, Gary Kendall at 208-858-2163, or visit the test web site at <http://cahnrsnews.wsu.edu>.



RFI assists effective selection for efficiency

Residual feed intake (RFI), or net feed intake, is a measure of true feed utilization. At its most basic level, it measures differences in metabolic efficiencies. The concept of RFI is measuring the amount of feed an animal consumes above or below its maintenance requirements, as well as its performance (growth) levels.

For example, the amount of feed that should be required to maintain a 1,200-pound (lb.) bull in XYZ weather conditions gaining 3 lb. a day is determined. Then using the GrowSafe™ system the amount of feed actually consumed by that animal is calculated. If, in the case of the bull, he consumed less feed than should have been required for his performance levels, then he will have a negative RFI, which means he was more efficient. Conversely, if a bull ate more than should have been required, he would have a positive RFI, which translates into a less efficient animal. The average bull would have an RFI of 0.

A limited number of GrowSafe systems are currently available in the United States on a commercial basis, with most of them being at central test stations. The GrowSafe system consists of individual feed tubs next to one another at a bunk line. The feed tubs have weigh bars underneath them. As an animal comes to the bunk and puts his head down to feed, his EID (electronic identification device) is read by a sensor and his feeding data is recorded (i.e. how long he ate and how much he consumed). Feeding data is transmitted to the main system every second.

The most significant advantage of the GrowSafe system is feeding behaviors are not altered.

Approximately 70% of variable costs for beef production are feed costs. As such, controlling feed costs provides an opportunity to enhance efficiency. The key, however, is to identify cattle that are more efficient.

Traditionally, feed conversion ratios provided a measure of efficiency. However, increased growth rates, increased total feed intake and increased mature size are highly correlated to feed conversion ratios. The increased mature size also means an increase in maintenance requirements, and while cattle in the feedlot may convert efficiently and grow rapidly, the cows in the

pasture are bigger and require more feed. Thus, "total system efficiency" is not achieved.

RFI, on the other hand, is a "clean" trait, meaning it can be selected for without any currently known genetic antagonisms. In other words, selection for RFI allows one to select the cattle that achieve desired performance levels with less feed intake than expected or normally required.

RFI allows selection for improved efficiency regardless of size. This, coupled with the fact that postweaning RFI is highly correlated with mature RFI, means "total system efficiency" is closer to reality. Research has shown that both feed intake and RFI during the postweaning period and at maturity had genetic correlations greater than 0.90. This suggests selection decisions made on the basis of RFI-measured postweaning would translate to genetic improvement in efficiency in the cow herd. Therefore, selection for cattle that grow and perform with less feed inputs is achievable, and, just as importantly, cow herd efficiency and maintenance requirements are not compromised and, better yet, they are perhaps improved.

In order to create change via selection, a trait must be both measurable and heritable. RFI is both. It is measurable through the GrowSafe system, and research has shown a heritability estimate of 0.40 for RFI, which puts it into the moderately heritable category. This means significant change can be made depending on the selection pressure.

While there is no magic equation to create the perfect animal, RFI offers an opportunity to breed more efficient cattle with the same level of performance that is needed to either sell cattle profitably at weaning, maintain the cattle through the feedlot, develop replacement heifers with minimal feed inputs or even increase the carrying capacity of your most valuable asset ... your land. Research has shown RFI selection can reduce grass and feed intake by 15%-20%. That's a \$50-\$70 savings running a cow and another \$70-\$100 in the feedlot. The opportunity is available.

— Adapted from release by Jamie Lane for the Midland Bull Test