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3.12 lb.; WDA ratio: 94; wt.: 1,235 lb.; test index: 100

High-WDA and high-indexing Angus—Lot 7349; owner: Little "C" Angus, Orlando, Okla.; sire: JAC's New Design 2566; ADG: 1.25 lb.; ADG ratio: 105; WDA: 3.75 lb.; WDA ratio: 113; wt.: 1,430 lb.; test index: 109

Angus averages (eight head)—ADG: 2.13 lb.; WDA: 3.31 lb.; wt.: 1,252 lb.

Bulls that have successfully completed testing are eligible for the OBI All-Breed Performance Tested Fall Bull Sale in October at the OBI test station in Stillwater.

For more information contact Tim Stidham, station manager, at 405-624-1181 or okbeef@provalue.net. Reports are available on the test web site at *www.ansi.okstate.edu/exten/obi*.

2008 IBEP Summer Test
Bedford, Ind.
28-day report (June 17)

The 2008 Summer Test began with delivery of bulls April 29. There are 121 bulls on test, and 90 are Angus. Other breeds are Charolais, Gelbvieh Balancer, Hereford, SimAngus and Simmental. Bulls came from 43 cooperators from seven states. Twenty-eight-day weights were taken June 17.

High-ADG Angus—Lot 92; owner: Rural Venture Farm, Lawrenceburg, Ky.; sire: Dalebanks Alliance 0872; ADG: 5.71 lb.; ADG ratio: 139; WDA: 3.38 lb.; WDA ratio: 108; wt.: 1,230 lb.; test index: 127

High-WDA and high-indexing Angus—Lot 36; owner: Hall Brothers, Oaktown, Ind.; sire: HB New Design 512; ADG: 5.50 lb.; ADG ratio: 134; WDA: 3.71 lb.; WDA ratio: 119; wt.: 1,120 lb.; test index: 128

Angus averages (90 head)—ADG: 4.10 lb.; WDA: 3.12 lb.; wt.: 961 lb.

Overall averages (121 head)—ADG: 3.90 lb.; WDA: 3.13 lb.; wt.: 941 lb.

Bulls on test may qualify for sale Oct. 18 at the Springville Feeder Auction, Springville, Ind. For more information contact Donna Lofgren, secretary, at 765-494-6439 or dlofgren@purdue.edu, or visit the test web site at *www.ansc.purdue.edu/ibep*.

Cal Poly Bull Test
San Luis Obispo, Calif.
28-day report (June 21)

The 28-day weights of the Cal Poly Bull Test were take June 21. There are 170 bulls on test, and 125 are Angus. Other breeds are Red Angus, Charolais, Limousin, Polled Hereford, SimAngus and Murray Grey. Bulls came from 33 cooperators from the state of California.

High-ADG low-birth-weight Angus—Lot 63; owner: Bruin Ranch, Lloyd Harvego, Gold River, Calif.; sire: Rito 112 of 2536 Rito 616; ADG: 4.41 lb.; WDA: 2.63 lb.; wt.: 856 lb.

High-WDA low-birth-weight Angus—Lot 72; owner: Bruin Ranch, Lloyd Harvego, Gold River; sire: SS Objective T510 OT26; ADG: 3.59 lb.; WDA: 3.48 lb.; wt.: 987 lb.

High-ADG multi-trait Angus—Lot 43; owner: Century Farm Black Angus, Carolyn Colson, San Francisco, Calif.; sire: GAR New Design C49; ADG: 6.60 lb.; WDA: 2.85 lb.; wt.: 915 lb.

High-WDA multi-trait Angus—Lot 21; owner: Wine Glass Angus, Gordon Brown, Napa, Calif.; sire: PF 31654 Midland 5024; ADG: 4.19 lb.; WDA: 3.67 lb.; wt.: 986 lb.

High-ADG Angus—Lot 125; owner: Cal Poly, Mike Hall, San Luis Obispo; sire: B/R New Frontier 095; ADG: 5.64 lb.; WDA: 3.39 lb.; wt.: 913 lb.

High-WDA Angus—Lot 11; owner: Yolo Land and Cattle, Hank Stone, Woodland, Calif.; sire: VAR 5023; ADG: 4.14 lb.; WDA: 3.76 lb.; wt.: 959 lb.

Low-birth-weight Angus averages (25 head)—ADG: 3.34 lb.; WDA: 2.97 lb.; wt.: 1,076 lb.

Multi-trait Angus averages (25 head)—ADG: 3.83 lb.; WDA: 3.03 lb.; wt.: 1,093 lb.

Angus averages (75 head)—ADG: 3.45 lb.; WDA: 3.06 lb.; wt.: 1,105 lb.

For more information contact Mike Hall, beef cattle specialist, at 805-756-2685 or mhall@calpoly.edu, or visit the test web site at *http://bulltest.calpoly.edu*.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Research Update

▶ **Summaries** of current **beef cattle** research

Competition for feedstuff

A coproduct of ethanol production could be used as a non-petroleum-based filler in plastics, based on preliminary studies by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists and their cooperators. The ethanol coproduct, called distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS), has a high fiber content and a molecular structure suitable for binding — two attributes that make it a candidate as a filler in plastics, according to ARS agricultural engineer Kurt Rosentrater.

Rosentrater is based at the ARS North Central Agricultural Research Laboratory in Brookings, S.D. He conducted the research with Robert Tatara, a professor at the Northern Illinois University (NIU) Department of Technology.

The researchers compressed molded blends of DDGS and phenolic plastic resin (ranging from 0% to 90% DDGS) and found that DDGS concentrations between 25% and 50% worked best as fillers in plastics. These findings were published in the *Journal of Polymers and the Environment* (JPE).

The preliminary study yielded only limited data on the resulting physical properties of the various DDGS/plastic blends, so follow-up tests are currently under way.

The data can then be used to develop new biobased manufactured products. Rosentrater and Andrew Otieno, also with NIU's Department of Technology, have developed comprehensive guidelines that take into account the unique challenges encountered when manufacturing plastic composites that contain biological materials. This work has also been published in the JPE.

Fillers such as clay, talc, glass, paper and metals are commonly used in plastics to increase strength and to save costs by reducing the amount of actual plastic resin used. Using biobased fillers such as bamboo, kenaf, corn stover, soybean hulls or even chicken feathers is receiving increased attention as a way to use less petroleum in plastic products. Thus, both DDGS and distiller's dried grains (DDG) are candidates for use as biofillers for plastics.

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