



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

School of Agriculture
College of Business and Technology
Knoblauch Hall 145
Macomb, IL 61455-1390

June 24, 2015

Dear Beef Producer,

Entries are now open for the 2015-2016 Western Illinois University Performance Bull Test, and we wholeheartedly invite you to participate. Our last five sales have posted record averages and totals. In fact, the 2015 sale set a record high average with highest gross ever, and we broke the record high lot price twice within that sale! Many of the bulls sell to repeat buyers attesting to the success of the program and the satisfaction of buyers.

The index this year will be calculated as follows

$$\text{Index} = 70\% \text{ ADG ratio} + 15\% \text{ Marbling ratio} + 15\% \text{ REA ratio.}$$

We are moving forward to obtain funding for new feed intake units to resume feed efficiency testing for future tests. This information would be useful to you as breeders, to your respective breed associations, and to us as an institution of education and research. We would welcome any comments that you may have. The WIU Livestock Merchandising Class raised over \$30,000 through the first ever WIU Livestock Legacy Sale this past April. Although, that amount does not meet our need, it certainly does start us in the right direction!

We are excited about the future of the beef industry and the future of the Western Illinois University Performance Bull Test. We are working to provide the best test we can for your operation and your cattle. As you know, with progress comes change, so please note the changes that have been made to the Western Illinois University Bull Testing Program that are new this year. An advisory council for the program has been formed, and together with university faculty, they are working to make the test better for cattlemen, the beef industry, and Western Illinois University.

Updates for this year: 1-we no longer require bulls to be Merial SUREHEALTH certified and 2-yardage fees will be assessed on a per head per day basis. Please read the 2015-2016 Health Requirements carefully and consult with your veterinarian. After much discussion, it was decided to introduce a yardage charge to the test. These funds will help to offset maintenance and improvement costs to an aging facility that is allowed little to no support from the state budget. Through collecting this fee, the test will be able to replace equipment vital to a quality test. For example, new waterers may be purchased and installed, or yardage fees may be used to supplement funds collected through fundraising and grant writing efforts to replace the feeding system.

Health Requirements

1. **Completed Health Affidavit signed by BOTH the producer and the veterinarian**

The health requirements are not complicated to implement, but do require some planning ahead in order to meet the requirements and get certified in a timely manner

2. **Weaned by August 15, 2015**

3. **Tested for anaplasmosis**

4. To address the concern about **Johne's Disease**, bulls must meet one of the following requirements:

- a. The birth mother of the bull must test negative for Johne's, **or**
- b. If the herd is 30 cows or less, then all 30 cows must test negative, **or**
- c. If the herd is greater than 30 cows, at least 30 must be sampled and all of those tested must be negative.

* In the case of ET calves, the recipient cow will be considered the dam of the bull in regard to testing, NOT the donor cow.

5. All bulls will be screened for persistent BVD upon arrival at the test station. Any bull testing positive will be removed from the station to protect the health of remaining bulls.

6. Pedigree proven free or tested free of known **genetic defects** including, but not limited to, arthrogyrosis multiplex (AM), neuropathic hydrocephalus (NH), and osteopetrosis (OS). Provide test results or pedigree documentation from your breed association. Bulls that are known (tested or pedigree) carriers of the developmental duplication (DD) condition will be allowed to participate in the test, and they will be marked as carriers of the condition in the sale catalog and any reports prior to sale.

7. Any bulls coming in at delivery with **ringworm** will be charged an additional \$100.

Please know that our staff is available to assist you in collecting data and DNA. While we do not submit Yearling information to the associations for you, we will make that information available to you to do so. Likewise, if you are interested in any genetic testing, we are available to collect those samples and submit them to the lab. For example, if at any point during the test you decide that you would prefer genetically enhanced EPDs on your bull, we would collect and submit that sample for you. NOTE: Bulls must still meet Health Requirement Item 6 above prior to arrival.

As we have done in the past, we are going to include ultrasound data into each breed's EPD database when possible. The guidelines that must be met for your data to be included are listed below, as established by your breed association. Please be assured that all bulls will be scanned at the same time, by the same person, and all images will be read by the same person, regardless whether or not your data can be included in your breed's database. In order for your bull to be listed on the ultrasound barn sheet, he must have had a weaning weight submitted to the association. Please be sure to have submitted this information to the association, if you have not already done so prior to delivery.

To be included in the database, the following requirements must be met:

1. For all breeds, there must be two bulls from the same contemporary weaning group
2. Bulls must be born in the following timeframe to meet the age requirement when scanned on approximately January 20, 2016

Breed	Born After January 1, 2014 and No Later Than	Age in Days at Scan
Angus	3/5/15	320-440
Charolais	3/5/15	320-430
Chianina	3/5/15	320-440
Gelbvieh	3/5/15	320-480
Hereford	3/24/15	301-530
Limousin	3/25/15	300-450
Maine Anjou	2/23/15	330-440
Red Angus	3/5/15	320-440
Salers	2/23/15	330-450
Shorthorn	3/5/15	320-440
Simmental	3/25/15	300-440
South Devon	3/5/15	320-440

If your breed is not listed above, please contact me and I will find out what the restrictions and qualifications are for your breed.

The enclosed agreement form lists the rules and regulations for this year's test. Please read it carefully -- we hope you find it agreeable and that the testing program will provide you with the information you need on your bulls. Also enclosed is an application form for the upcoming test. The application deadline is August 31, 2015. If you have any questions or comments about the guidelines or testing program in general, please feel free to contact Dr. Samantha (Sam) Cunningham. Contact information can be found at the end of the agreement form. You will need to bring a completed Health Affidavit signed by BOTH the producer and the herd veterinarian when the bulls are delivered. This form is also enclosed. **Delivery dates are September 29 and 30, 2015.** Please see the summary of entry requirements on the following page.

We want to make the WIU bull testing program the premier bull testing program in the United States and can do so with your help as partners in this program. Please be sure to enter your bulls by the August 31 deadline. Again, feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,



Samantha (Sam) Cunningham
 Cell 979-220-5681
 Email s-cunningham@wiu.edu

Summary of entry requirements

1. Born between January 1 and March 31, 2015 (bulls born later than March 15 tend to be less competitive)
2. Weaned by August 15, 2015
3. Weigh a minimum of 500 pounds at delivery on September 29 or 30, 2015 (bulls less than 600 pounds at delivery tend to be less competitive)
4. Health Affidavit signed by BOTH the producer and the veterinarian
5. Tested for anaplasmosis
6. Birth mother tested for Johnes or come from certified Johnes free herd
7. Free of known genetic defects (read the guidelines regarding DD)

Other

1. Bulls with **ringworm** at delivery will be charged an additional \$100
2. Please prescreen your bulls for scrotal adequacy and structural correctness (we have found that any of those issues, even minor ones, never improve but only get worse as the bulls develop)
3. Insurance on bulls, if desired, is the responsibility of the breeder -- none is carried on them by WIU.

CONSIGNORS PLEASE SHARE THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN BY JULY 10, 2015

The information below is provided to assist veterinarians working with producers that are consigning a bull(s) to the 2015-16 Western Illinois Performance Bull Test. Please follow these instructions carefully. **Cattle work can be done by producer if approved by veterinarian, but the paperwork must be SIGNED by both the producer and the veterinarian.**

Preconditioning beef cattle has been proven, and we have taken this step to reduce respiratory problems and to reduce the cost billed to breeders if bulls become sick with respiratory disease within the first 21 days of reaching the test facility. The results of requiring preconditioning for the WIU Bull Test have been both a saving to the producers and greatly improved the overall health of the bulls.

Note: Different this year from years past there is NO product manufacturer/brand specification to the protocol. Products used are at the discretion of the producer's veterinarian and must be listed on the Health Affidavit.

All bulls must arrive at the test with a Health Affidavit signed by the producer and his/her veterinarian

- Bulls must be weaned for 45 days, on or before August 15

HEALTH REQUIRMENTS:

- Calves must be weaned by August 15 (45 days required)
- Calves must be treated for internal and external parasites
- Calves must receive 2 doses of Cattle Respiratory Vaccine (IBR, BVD (types 1 & 2), BRSV, PI-3)
- Calves must have 2 doses of 7-Way Clostridial/Blackleg
- Calves must have 1 dose of Pasteurella Vaccine
- Calves must have 2 doses of Haemophilus Somnus (often in combination with 7-way)
- Calves must be bunk and water broke
- Horned cattle must be tipped or dehorned

2015-2016 WIU Bull Test Calendar

June 29, 2015	Mail Test Information to Breeders
August 1, 2015	Last Date for First Vaccinations
August 15, 2015	Last Weaning Date and Booster Vaccinations
August 31, 2015	Entries Due
September 29-30, 2015	Deliver Bulls
October 20-21, 2015	Start Test
November 17, 2015	28-Day Weights
December 15, 2015	56-day Weights
January 12, 2016	84-Day Weights
January 19, 2016	Scan Bulls (tentative)
February 6, 2016	WIU Bull Test Open House during WIU Farm Expo @ WIU Bull Test Facility; Time TBD (tentative event)
February 9-10, 2016	Complete Test 112-days
March 11, 2016	44th Annual Sale @ WIU Livestock Center @ 7 PM 1 mile west of Highway 67 on Tower Road; Macomb, IL

Agreement for the W.I.U. Bull Testing Program

1. The purposes of the WIU Bull Test are to provide reliable, unbiased performance information on bulls entered into the program and to provide a source of performance tested seedstock to the beef industry.
2. Bulls must have been born between January 1 and March 31, 2015, have a recorded birth weight, and weigh a minimum of 500 pounds at delivery on September 29 or 30, 2015.
3. The testing fee is \$175 per bull -- \$100 per bull is due with the entry application, with the additional \$75 payable at delivery of the bull. Consignors with two bulls accepted will receive a \$10 per head discount from the \$75 per head delivery payment. Consignors with three or more bulls accepted will receive a \$15 per head discount from the \$75 per head delivery payment.
4. The testing capacity of the station is 70 bulls -- 5 pens with 12 bulls each, and one pen with a 10 head capacity, as it is a smaller pen.
5. **The entry deadline is a postmark of August 31, 2015.** Entries postmarked after August 31 will be accepted by a drawing if room is still available after acceptance of all entries received by the deadline.
6. The entry fee will be refunded only if the bull is not accepted due to reaching capacity of the station, or, in the case of illness to a bull, a replacement entry can be found from another breeder.
7. At delivery, each consignor must present the Health Affidavit form completed by their veterinarian signed by BOTH the producer and the veterinarian. Each bull will be tested for persistent BVD within one week of delivery. Any bull testing positive will be removed from the station.
8. Bulls must be delivered to the test station with veterinarian completed health forms, blood test results, registration papers, remaining test fees and a \$200 per bull feed/health deposit on either Tuesday, September 29 or Wednesday, September 30, 2015 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Horned bulls should be healed from dehorning. **Bulls with ringworm at delivery will be charged an extra \$100.**
9. Bulls must be free of known genetic defects including but not limited to arthrogyposis multiplex (AM), neuropathic hydrocephalus (NH), and osteopetrosis (OS). Provide either DNA test results or pedigree documentation from your breed association. Bulls that are known (tested or pedigree) carriers of the developmental duplication (DD) condition will be allowed to participate in the test, and they will be marked as carriers of the condition in the sale catalog and any mailings prior to sale.
10. Feed and health costs during the testing period will be based on the individual. Preliminary and post-test period feed and health costs, plus all other costs not attributable to an individual will be pro-rated per head.
11. Owners of the tested bulls must be members of the Illinois Beef Association or National Cattlemen's Beef Association.
12. All costs must be paid before any bull can be removed from the station. Bulls may be removed only by permission of test station personnel.
13. Bulls will be fed free choice long hay at arrival. During the preliminary period, they will receive a receiving ration which will be gradually substituted by the testing ration so that only the testing ration will be fed at the time bulls officially begin test.

14. The testing period will last 112 days. The official on-test weight will be the averages of weights taken on Tuesday, October 20, and Wednesday, October 21, 2015. The official off-test weight will be the averages of weights taken on Tuesday, February 9 and Wednesday, February 10, 2015. Progress report weights will be taken every 28 days on November 17, December 15 and January 12. All bulls will be ultrasounded on approximately January 20.
15. A \$0.60 per head per day yardage charge will be imposed on each animal from the time of arrival until it leaves the test station. All yardage charges collected will go toward Bull Test facility maintenance and improvements. This fee will be evaluated on an annual basis and is subject to change.
16. At the conclusion of the testing period, bulls will be fed the testing ration, plus free choice long hay.
17. Bulls will be indexed by breed group (if there are more than four of a breed) as well as against all bulls on test. **Both indexes are based on 70% ADG ratio + 15% Marbling ratio + 15% REA ratio.**
18. **Approximately 50 bulls will be selected for the sale**, based on their within-breed index. However, to be eligible for the sale, all bulls must have an across-breed index of at least 80, a minimum adjusted scrotal circumference of 32 cm, be screened for **disposition**, pass a **soundness exam** based on the University of Missouri scoring system, and pass a **reproductive exam**. Retests for the reproductive exam will be performed during the week prior to the sale. The 44th Annual Sale will be at the WIU Livestock Center on Friday evening, March 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. All bulls that go through the sale will be charged a prorated share of the sale expenses.
19. Sale order will be based strictly on index rank.
20. All bulls selected for the sale must go through the sale unless excused for health reasons. At least 1/3 interest must be offered for sale. If full interest is not to be sold, 60-day advance notice is required.
21. All data will be public information and the Western Illinois University School of Agriculture has the right to use the records for research purposes.
22. Neither Western Illinois University, nor its employees are liable for loss, injury or reduced value of bulls entered on test.
23. Insurance on bulls, if desired, is the responsibility of the breeder -- none is carried on them by WIU.
24. The sale catalog will include information on average daily gain, frame score, pelvic measurement, scrotal circumference, fat depth, ribeye area, birthweight, date of birth, color, horned/polled, beginning and ending test weights, and marbling, plus indexes where applicable. It will also include pedigree and EPD information for birthweight, weaning weight, yearling weight, milk and maternal weaning weight, with percentiles where applicable.
25. The test station supervisor is:

Dr. Samantha (Sam) Cunningham
School of Agriculture
B12 Knoblauch Hall
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL 61455
Cell: 979-220-5681
Email: s-cunningham@wiu.edu

2015-2016 WIU Bull Test Health Affidavit

Vaccination	Animal ID(s)	Vaccine & Manufacturer	Lot No.	Vaccination Date	Booster Date	Comments
Cattle Respiratory (IBR, BVD types 1 & 2, BRSV, PI-3)						
7-way Clostridial/Blackleg						
Haemophilus Somnus						
Pasturella						
Internal & External Parasite Control						

I hereby certify that the above products have been administered to the listed animals by myself, or under my direction.

Veterinarian name: _____

Veterinarian signature: _____ Date: _____

I hereby certify that I the above products have been administered to the listed animals by my herd veterinarian, or by myself under his/her direction and that all animals listed have been weaned for a minimum of 45 days prior to September 30, 2015.

Producer name: _____

Producer signature: _____ Date: _____

Entry Form
2015 – 2016 WIU Performance Bull Test

Due August 31, 2015

I have read and agree to the terms in the "Agreement for the W.I.U. Bull Testing Program" and would like to enter bulls in the program as indicated below (please print clearly):

Please check the box beside the name you want used

In sale catalog
And on reports

On your check

Name _____

Farm Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Breed

Birthdate

Estimated Weight at delivery

Bull #1 _____

Bull #2 _____

Bull #3 _____

Bull #4 _____

Please send this sheet, along with \$100 per bull entered to:

Bull Testing Program
Attn: Sam Cunningham
School of Agriculture
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL 61455

s-cunningham@wiu.edu

Cell: 979-220-5681



WIU Bull Test
145 Knoblauch Hall
School of Agriculture
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL 61455

44th Annual Performance Tested Bull Sale
Western Illinois University
Friday, March 11, 2016; 7 p.m.; Macomb, IL
http://wiu.edu/cbt/agriculture/bull_test