

# The Florida Bull Test 2008-2009<sup>1</sup>

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## Test Procedures

The 2008-2009 Florida Bull Test consisted of an 84-day performance test and a breeding soundness evaluation of each bull that qualified for the auction. Upon arrival, bulls were sorted into contemporary groups, and moved into 3.25 acre pens where bulls received free choice access to a corn-based concentrate supplement, grass hay, and water with a target weight for the bulls to gain of 3.0 lbs/day. The concentrate supplement consisted of 65% corn and 35% Accuration (a supplement formulated by Purina<sup>®</sup> to limit grain intake and provide all required minerals for growing bulls). After a two-week adaptation period, bulls were walked from their home pen and weighed on two consecutive days to obtain an objective average starting weight; this weight became the on-test starting weight. Bulls were inspected daily for any health problems that may have arisen. Intermediate unshrunk weights were obtained every 28 days during the test. At the conclusion of the 84-day feeding period, bulls were again walked from their home pens to the main facility and weighed on two consecutive days to determine final test weight. Animal performance, specifically average daily gain (ADG), was calculated using only the official starting and finishing test weights. Throughout the test, bulls were observed and screened for structural soundness and disposition. Bulls deemed to be structurally unsound or those having poor disposition did not qualify for the sale.

## Test Rules and Regulations

### *General policies and procedures*

1. Bulls must be born between September 1 and December 31 of the preceding year.
2. All consignors' herds must be enrolled in their respective breed association performance program. State beef cattle improvement association programs are acceptable for herds whose breed association does not have a performance records program.
3. Calves must have completed the weaning phase of the performance record program with their contemporary group and this information must be presented at delivery. If data has not been returned from the association, a copy of the weight data with the number of contemporaries must be provided.
4. All calves must be purebred or full blood and registered with their breed association. Composite bulls must have both sire and dam registered in an acknowledged beef breed association. A registration certificate and pedigree must accompany each bull at delivery to the test station to participate.
5. A bull should weigh 2.5 pounds per day of age when delivered to the test station. A transit shrink of 1% per hour of transit time will be allowed.
6. Bulls must be weaned a minimum of 3 weeks prior to delivery.

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7. Bulls must be structurally sound and show evidence of good growth potential.
  8. Bulls below frame score 4 will not be accepted (BIF frame score chart).
  9. Bulls actual birth weight is required.
  10. Consignments over 10 head will be accepted on a space available basis.
  11. Priority for space will be given to Florida residents. Bulls from other states will be accepted on a space available basis.
  12. Sire-group testing of bulls is more desirable than individual testing because it provides more information to both breeders and prospective buyers; therefore, they will receive preference if space becomes limiting.
  13. Breeders/consignors must be members of the Florida Cattlemen's Association.
  14. Embryo transfer bulls must be designated as such, and the breed of the recipient cow designated.
  15. Bulls must have legible permanent identification (tattoo or brand) corresponding to registration paper at delivery.
  16. Horned bulls will be grouped separately. It is recommended that they be dehorned and healed at delivery.
3. Consignors are responsible for the cost of treatment if their bull requires examination by a veterinarian.
  4. Consignors should contact their local or state veterinarian for interstate permit and health requirements. An official certificate of veterinary inspection (health paper) is required for each bull.

## Test Results

Overall ranking for the test was determined using an index ratio calculated from ADG and the weight per day of age (WDA). All results are represented in Table 1. The top performing bull and top performing Angus bull in the test was CWL Yield Grade 7172, owned by Lawler Farms of Opelika, AL. This bull indexed 128 with an ADG of 4.87 and WDA of 3.29. The top Limflex bull, SAYF Hunt 56T owned by Sayer and Sons Farm from Ambrose, GA, was ranked third overall and indexed 121 with an ADG of 4.55 and WDA of 3.14. The top Charolais bull, GDM Mr Will 7153 owned by Meadows Creek Farm from Columbia, AL, was ranked 12th overall and indexed 113 with an ADG of 4.06 and WDA of 3.11. The top SimAngus bull, CLS T157 owned by C & L Farm from Valdosta, GA, was ranked 18th overall and indexed 109 with an ADG of 3.67 and WDA of 3.26. The top Simmental bull, KSI Real Deal 85T owned by Keller's Simmental from Alma, GA, was ranked 23rd overall and indexed 105 with an ADG of 3.60 and WDA of 3.09.

## Sale Summary

The Florida Bull Test Sale was held on January 12, 2009. Of the 65 tested 48 qualified for the sale at the North Florida Research and Education center in Marianna, FL. The sale grossed \$89,500 with an average of \$1,865 per lot. Angus bulls averaged \$1,887 on 31 lots; Charolais averaged \$1,825 on 2 lots; Limflex averaged \$2,000 on 3 lots; SimAngus averaged \$1,612 on 4 lots; and, Simmental averaged \$1,863 on 8 lots. The high selling bull was lot 54, Woodlawn Point Made, selling for \$4,000. He was purchased by Reggie and Candy Tramick of Iron City, GA. The consignor was Woodlawn Farms of Clarkesville, GA.

## Health Requirements

1. All bulls must be in good health and accompanied by a health certificate showing they are from a Brucellosis-free accredited or certified free herd with the herd number on the health certificate or have a negative test for Brucellosis not more than 30 days before delivery. Bulls originating from a state that is not T.B. free must also be accompanied by a health certificate showing they are a certified T.B. free herd or have a negative test for T.B. not more than 30 days before delivery. All bulls will be tested for T.B. upon arrival.
2. Bulls must have been vaccinated twice (minimum 21 days between vaccinations) for 5-way leptospirosis, 7 or 8 -way clostridium with haemophilus somnus, IBR/PI3/BVD/BRSV and with the last vaccination at least three weeks or more prior to delivery. Pasteurella, is optional. Inter nasal IBR/PI3 is recommended.

## **2009-2010 Florida Bull Test Dates**

Nomination deadline – July 15, 2009

Delivery Dates – August 4 and 5, 2009

Test begins (initial weights) – August 18 and 19, 2009

28 day weight – September 16, 2009

56-day weight – October 14, 2009

84-day weight – November 11, 2009

Test ends (final weights) – December 8 and 9, 2009

Bull Test Sale – January 9, 2010

Table 1. 2008-09 Florida Bull Test individual animal performance in order of final test ranking

Test ID	Breed	Start Weight	28 Day Weight	56 Day Weight	Final Weight	Final ADG	Final WDA	Final Index Ratio	Frame Score	Scrotal Circ.
766	Angus	880	1011	1138	1289	4.87	3.29	128	5.4	38
787	Angus	999.5	1132	1256	1406	4.84	3.10	125	5.6	42
785	Limflex	942	1065	1188	1324	4.55	3.14	121	5.8	37
763	Angus	835	983	1101	1214	4.51	3.00	118	5.3	32
764	Angus	789.5	925	1039	1175	4.59	2.90	118	5.7	35
797	Simmental	1087.5	1195	1313	1434.5	4.13	3.32	117	6.6	41
784	Limflex	887	992	1109	1228	4.06	3.37	117	5.7	36
798	SimAngus	1036.5	1159	1257	1378.5	4.07	3.31	116	7.3	42
774	Angus	1096	1226	1322	1451.5	4.23	3.14	116	5.2	33.5
788	Angus	874	1011	1113	1255	4.54	2.78	115	4.8	40
795	SimAngus	982	1088	1186	1300	3.79	3.53	115	6.8	42
759	Charolais	844	960	1091	1185	4.06	3.11	113	6.1	30
756	Angus	969.5	1057	1209	1311	4.07	3.09	112	6.1	41
771	Angus	942.5	1052	1153	1283.5	4.06	3.08	112	5.5	38
762	Angus	831	950	1088	1184.5	4.21	2.89	111	5.8	37
782	Angus	873	985	1135	1226	4.20	2.88	111	5.4	37
758	Angus	1063.5	1182	1320	1396	3.96	3.00	109	5.1	36.5
799	SimAngus	990.5	1115	1192	1298.5	3.67	3.25	109	6.8	38
743	SimAngus	1140.5	1248	1344	1447	3.65	3.22	108	6.2	41
767	Angus	836.5	936	1047	1166.5	3.93	2.92	108	6.3	37
773	Angus	1042	1169	1274	1362.5	3.82	3.02	107	5.7	37
783	Angus	865.5	975	1065	1196.5	3.94	2.88	107	5.6	37
791	Simmental	970	1081	1168	1272	3.60	3.09	105	6.6	39.5
740	Angus	934	1011	1127	1245	3.70	2.98	105	5.7	38
765	Angus	847	945	1040	1151.5	3.63	2.91	103	4.8	34.5
786	Limflex	880.5	981	1074	1188.5	3.67	2.85	102	6.4	33
757	Angus	1028.5	1158	1243	1319.5	3.46	3.03	102	6.1	37
790	Angus	1059.5	1162	1251	1354.5	3.51	2.98	102	6.2	39
739	Angus	967.5	1013	1157	1259.5	3.48	3.01	102	6.1	37
746	SimAngus	750.5	851	970	1043	3.48	3.01	102	6.3	35
800	Angus	1069	1127	1231	1323	3.02	3.46	102	6.7	35
747	Simmental	934.5	1033	1156	1230	3.52	2.92	101	6.5	37
777	Angus	1017	1117	1193	1314	3.54	2.89	101	6.1	40
796	SimAngus	1015	1093	1185	1294.5	3.33	3.09	101	6.6	35

Test ID	Breed	Start Weight	28 Day Weight	56 Day Weight	Final Weight	Final ADG	Final WDA	Final Index Ratio	Frame Score	Scrotal Circ.
761	Angus	874	983	1102	1166.5	3.48	2.92	101	6.3	36
793	Simmental	931	1027	1096	1207	3.29	3.06	100	6.2	36
755	Angus	892	974	1052	1174.5	3.36	2.94	99	5.4	36
769	Angus	844.5	947	1024	1138	3.49	2.79	99	5.7	33
768	Angus	834.5	908	1004	1107	3.24	2.95	97	5.5	37
803	Simmental	738	806	933	1026.5	3.43	2.76	97	5.5	35
772	Angus	888	972	1077	1185	3.54	2.65	97	4.5	34
770	Angus	929.5	986	1106	1182.5	3.01	3.10	96	6.2	37
754	Angus	860	934	1055	1121	3.11	2.93	95	6.1	37
745	SimAngus	811	935	996	1072.5	3.11	2.81	93	6.7	38
749	Simmental	1031	1087	1187	1289	3.07	2.77	92	5.5	34
744	Simmental	837.5	900	1006	1067.5	2.74	3.08	91	7.2	36
751	Angus	1148.5	1223	1275	1382.5	2.79	2.98	91	5.9	39
760	Charolais	854.5	930	1034	1095	2.86	2.88	90	7.0	35
789	Angus	908	1022	1045	1176.5	3.20	2.52	90	4.8	38
750	Angus	1150.5	1228	1318	1376	2.68	3.00	89	6.4	35.5
802	Simmental	737	806	901	997	3.10	2.58	89	4.7	32
752	Angus	1210.5	1283	1333	1423.5	2.54	3.14	89	6.6	40
775	Angus	1024	1095	1142	1250.5	2.70	2.86	87	6.2	38
794	Simmental	1156.5	1233	1256	1360.5	2.43	3.13	87	5.6	40
780	Angus	954	1012	1064	1161	2.46	3.02	86	5.9	36.5
778	Angus	950.5	1054	1096	1157	2.46	2.99	86	5.9	38
792	Simmental	1241	1235	1321	1397.5	1.86	3.01	76	7.0	38
753	Angus	712	722	803	871.5	1.90	2.06	62	5.2	34
781	Angus	966	1016	1070	1145.5	2.14	2.91	79	5.8	35.5
779	Angus	934	1005	1060	1117.5	2.18	2.81	78	6.0	37
748	Simmental	1049.5	1104	1173	1238.5	2.25	2.80	79	6.2	37
801	Simmental	663.5	737	838	867	2.42	2.29	74	4.8	30.5
742	Santa Gertrudis	1048	1105	1208	1256.5	2.48	2.80	83	7.1	37
741	Angus	978.5	914	1062	1204	2.68	2.69	84	5.1	39
776	Angus	845	786	838	.	.	.	.	.	.