

RULES FOR FLORIDA BULL TEST 2023

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this program is to serve as an educational aid for the improvement of beef cattle. The purpose of the test is to standardize environmental conditions for evaluating post-weaning performance and to provide records which should be useful to the consignor, in evaluating his/her breeding program, and to the purchaser as a source of performance tested bulls.

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide the commercial cow/calf producer a source of bulls that have been gain tested and thoroughly evaluated at the same location and have passed stringent health requirements.
2. Provide an opportunity for seed stock producers to advertise their breeding programs through testing and marketing bulls.
3. Provide greater awareness of the latest animal breeding concepts and tools - a showcase for superior beef cattle genetics in Florida.

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Bulls must be born between August 15 and December 31, 2022.
2. All consignors' herds must be enrolled in their respective breed association performance program. State BCIA 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 your association, please provide a copy of the weight data with the number of contemporaries.
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 bull at delivery to the test station. Otherwise, bulls will not be accepted.**
5. A bull must 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.
7. Bulls must be structurally sound and show evidence of good growth potential.
8. Bulls actual birth weight is required and must be provided at bull delivery.
9. Consignments over 10 head will be accepted on a space available basis.
10. There will be a limit of 132 bulls for the test. In the event that more than 132 bulls are consigned to the FL Bull Test, the following criteria for bulls accepted will be:
 - a) First preference will be given to breeders/consignors that are members of the Florida Cattlemen's Association.
 - b) Secondly, bulls will be accepted based on the order in which nominations are received.
11. Embryo transfer bulls must be designated as such, and the breed of the recipient cow designated.
12. *Bulls must have legible permanent identification (tattoo or brand) corresponding to registration paper at delivery.*
16. Horned bulls may be grouped separately. It is recommended that they be dehorned and healed at delivery.
17. **NEW THIS YEAR:** Bulls will need to be parent verified in order to qualify for the sale.

HEALTH

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 state or 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.

2. Bulls must have been vaccinated **twice** (minimum 21 days between vaccinations) for 5-way LEPTOSPIROSIS, 7or 8 -way CLOSTRIDIUM with HAEMOPHILIUS SOMNUS, IBR/PI3/BVD/BRSV and with the last vaccination at least 3 weeks or more prior to delivery. PASTEURELLA, is optional. Intranasal IBR/PI3 is recommended.

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.

All bulls require an official certificate of veterinary inspection (Health Paper).

5. A wart vaccine will be administered to all bulls on arrival to the test site, and again after 21 days. The Florida Bull Test Organizing Committee will cover the cost of the vaccine.

DELIVERY FORM

Delivery forms which summarize the bull's birth weight and type, performance, EPDs, creep fed status, pedigree, and health information will be sent and must be completed for each bull. Bulls will not be accepted at delivery without completed forms and **a registration certificate**.

FEEDING

The ration fed will be formulated (target 3.5 lb gain per day) to be adequate for allowing expression of growth potential and development without over conditioning the bulls. During the first 56 days of test (in the UF-Feed Efficiency Facility), bulls will receive a total mixed ration containing grain byproducts and forage. During the last 56 days (in the pasture) bulls will receive the same diet in self-feeders, only with a slightly reduced amount of roughage and ad libitum access to hay. This approach ensures a similar composition of the diet throughout the test without affecting the flow of the diet in the self-feeders.

COST

*Cost of the test will be **\$1,250.00**. A nonrefundable **nomination fee of \$100.00** must be received by June 15, 2022. At delivery, consignors will be required to pay an **initial installment of \$600**, followed by a **second \$550 payment** by January 15, 2024. Bulls will not be released until the NFREC has received the complete payment.*

LIABILITY

TEST STATION PERSONNEL WILL MAKE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF THE ANIMALS AND TO OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES WHEN NECESSARY, BUT WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSS BY FIRE, THEFT, INJURY, SICKNESS, DEATH OR IN ANY OTHER WAY.

BULL TEST COMMITTEE

1. The bull test advisory committee will provide guidance to the Florida Bull Test and will be comprised of University of Florida County and State Faculty, practicing veterinarians actively involved in the FL Bull Test, local producers involved in purebred operations, and Bull Test consignors (either past or present).
2. Members can be added or removed with consensus from the acting advisory committee. New members should be elected based on their potential contribution towards the Purpose and Objective of the Florida Bull Test, as outlined at the beginning of this document.
3. When committee members are asked to vote on a rule pertinent to the Florida Bull Test, University of Florida State and County faculty will refrain from voting. However, the voting of the committee on any ruling should be considered as a guidance, and the University of Florida reserves the right to implement such rule.

TEST PROCEDURES

1. *Dates: Bulls (born between August 15 and December 31, 2022) delivery date is July 25, 2023, on test weights August 15 and 16, 2023, off test weights December 5 and 6, 2023. Bulls qualifying for the sale will be sold in the sale on January 20, 2024.*

2. All bulls not eligible for the sale due to poor performance, disposition, structural soundness, incomplete performance data, unsatisfactory BSE, etc., must be removed from the test station, and all test costs paid within one week of notification.

3. *Each consignor will be provided within 10 days after each 28 day period, a complete summary of the performance of all bulls and this information will be available to the interested public (<http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-bull-test/>)*

4. Bulls will be removed from the test only after the test is complete or as a result of chronic conditions impairing the usefulness of the bull. Owners will be notified when to remove the bull in such a case.

5. Due to the fact that the warm-up period and first two 28-day periods will be in the Feed Efficiency Facility, there may be an increased risk of injury or death, because the bulls will be confined. Consignors will be notified when necessary.

6. Bad disposition and unsound bulls will not be sold.

7. Bulls will undergo a Breeding Soundness Evaluation according to the Society of Theriogenology guidelines prior to the sale by the Bull Test designated Veterinarian. Any bulls that do not pass the initial breeding soundness exam may be tested a second time (by the Bull Test designated Veterinarian) prior to the sale. Bulls that do not pass either Breeding Soundness Evaluation will not be permitted to sell in the sale.

8. To qualify for the sale bulls will need to achieve an index of 90 (using the sum of weight per day of age and test average daily gain). In the event that there are a limited number of bulls for the sale the Bull Test Committee may alter the minimum index prior to printing of sale catalogues, but the minimum index will not be below 85.

9. Consignors of bulls that qualify for the sale have the option to withdraw bulls from the sale at any time prior to printing of the catalogue. However, in the event that a consignor chooses to withdraw a bull from the sale after the catalogues have been submitted for printing they will be assessed a fee of \$175 per bull.

10. *Bulls will be evaluated by ultrasound for carcass traits. Ultrasound evaluations will be made by a certified technician. In some cases the age of the bull at the time of ultrasound will result in data that cannot be used for the adjusted ultrasound measurements. Therefore, each producer should be aware of the age of the bull and breed requirements if they desire to have adjusted ultrasound data on their bulls.*

11. The bull test committee shall have the right to have any bull mouthed for age verification and blood typed or DNA tested for parentage verification.

12. No grooming, clipping, foot trimming, etc. by consignors will be permitted. Test station personnel will be responsible for getting the bulls clean and presentable for sale.

13. Sale costs and costs of advertising will be divided equally among all bulls selling. Anticipated sale costs will be between \$100 and \$150 per bull.

14. Consignors that buy back their bulls at sale time, will have to pay a non-refundable "buy-back" fee of \$200 per bull at the sale (check payable to Jackson County Cattlemen's Association) to cover all sale-related expenses.

15. As new technology becomes available for evaluating bulls that will aid in increasing the accuracy of selection, it will be incorporated in the test procedures and sale information.

16. Every effort will be made to provide all information available or needed to make selection decisions. Our goal is to make the bulls in this sale the most completely evaluated and data presented in the region.