



May 4, 2021

RE: Changes to the Florida Bull Test rules

Dear Consignor,

Nominations are now open for the 2021 Florida Bull Test!

We are excited to be able to continue hosting the Florida Bull Test to serve our beef industry in the southeast, by providing performance tested genetics from bulls adapted to the growing diets fed in our region. The most recent assessment of the impact of our bull test in the region shows a perceived increased value of \$67/head or more per calf sired from bulls purchased from the Florida Bull Test. We are committed to the success of this Extension Program and for that we are truly thankful for your continued support over the years.

As you may have noticed, there has been a consistent increase in feedstuff prices in recent years. This year in particular, projected feed prices for the summer and fall may challenge our ability to continue feeding the bulls in a cost-effective manner without having to incur in an increase in the test costs. The cost of \$850/bull has remained constant for the past 15 years (at least), and that has led to a situation in which we are facing a slightly negative balance in the Florida Bull Test account. As a result, at the latest consignors and Bull Test committee meeting held at NFREC on April 27, it was voted to increase the test cost to \$950/bull. This is already reflected in the 2021 Rules document in the Bull Test website. The nomination fee will remain at \$50 per bull and the two installments will be now \$500 (due at bull delivery) and \$400 (due by January 3, 2022).

At the consignors and committee members meeting we also discussed at length the need to embrace parent verification as a mandatory step in future tests. After voting, the committee decided to highlight parent verification in the catalog for the 2022 Bull Test Sale. However, ***parent verification will be mandatory for all bulls intended to participate in the Florida Bull Test Sale beginning in 2022.*** Proof of parent verification will need to be provided by day 84 on test (typically in early November), so that ***all bulls that will go through the sale in January of 2023 will be parent verified.***

If you have any questions please feel free to contact myself, or David Thomas at 850-526-1621. Additional Bull Test Information, as well as past test results, can be seen at our website: <http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-bull-test/>

Sincerely,

Dr. Nicolas DiLorenzo  
Associate Professor  
Florida Bull Test Coordinator