

MBCIA BULL EVALUATION PROGRAM INFORMATION

Each year the Minnesota Beef Cattle Improvement Association (MBCIA) in association with the University of Minnesota, operates a bull test station located near Spring Grove, MN and managed by Ron Holty, Foundation Feeders, Inc. The purpose of this bull test is to measure individual performances of perspective herdsires under relatively standard conditions so that reasonably valid comparisons can be made between bulls. All bulls are given an index for the sale on a formula using both the average daily gain (ADG) and the weight per day of age (WDA) of the bull compared with the average of the testing group. At the conclusion of the feed test, the top 75% of the bulls meeting the sale criteria are examined for health and reproductive soundness, and offered at auction for the improvement of other herds.

FEED RATIONS:

The bulls on test have been fed a total TMR high roughage ration consisting of a high percentage of protein and a low percentage of energy. This promotes higher intake of forage which promotes rumen stretch, rumen health, and results in better performance on pasture.

REGISTRATION PAPERS:

Registration papers will be transferred to the buyer without charge. Buyers must notify sale clerks at time of settlement if requesting transfer of registration. Each bull's pedigree is listed under the pedigree column.

PERFORMANCE RECORDS:

Each bull in the sale has surpassed rigid performance standards. The catalog provides performance data based on the **112-day weight report**. Final performance data and scrotal circumference will be provided separately on sale day. In addition to the weights, EPD's, ADG, WDA, and frame score, the bulls have also been ultrasound scanned for backfat, marbling potential and ribeye area, and these measurements have been included in the lot information on each bull.

EPD INFORMATION:

Expected progeny difference (EPD) values for birth (BIRTH), weaning weight (WEAN), maternal milk (MILK), and yearling weight (YEAR) have been provided by the national breed associations for each bull. NA indicates that EPD information is currently unavailable. In some instances where EPDs are unavailable for an individual animal, the EPDs for his sire and dam have been provided instead.

DEFINITIONS OF CATALOG INFORMATION:

Birth Wt.: Actual birth weight as reported by owner of bull.

205 Wt.: Actual weaning weight adjusted to the standard 205 days of age with adjustment for age of dam.

112 Wt.: Weight reported on March 10, 2001, the **112th day** on test.

ADG: Average daily gain measured in pounds of gain per day.

WDA.: Weight per day of age equals the **112 Wt.** divided by the days of age.

BI: Breed Index, ratio used to compare the bulls on test using the Weight Per Day of Age (WDA) and the Average Daily Gain (ADG).

FS: Frame Score as determined by the hip measurement in inches recorded on March 10, 2001 corrected to the bull's age in months. Chart used is that employed at the National Western Stock Shows.

ScCF.: Scrotal Circumference measured in centimeters. The larger the measurement is a good indication of semen volume one can expect for each bull. It is a heritable trait, and has been proven as an indicator for the early onset of puberty in a sire's female offspring.

BKFT.: Backfat, ultrasound scanned measurement of the layer of fat directly under the hide, adjusted to 365 days of age and recorded in inches.

RBEYE: Ribeye, ultrasound scanned measurement taken between the 12th and 13th rib adjusted to 365 days of age and recorded in inches. Ribeye of 11 to 14 square inches are most appropriate for cutting one-inch thick steaks weighing 8 to 10 ounces.

*** Actual measurements are recorded for those bulls too young to adjust ultrasound measurements to one year of age.**

MBPot: Marbling Potential, ultrasound measurement of the density of fat cells. Indicates what the bull's hereditary potential is for marbling.

SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE (CM.) BY AGE

AGE	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
12-14 months	>34cm.	30-34	<30	<30
15-20 months	>36cm.	31-36	<31	<31
21-30 months	>38cm.	32-38	<32	<32
Over 31 months	>39cm	34-39	<34	<34