AN251

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
IFAS Extension

The Florida Bull Test 2009–2010[1]

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Test Procedures

The 2009–2010 Florida Bull Test consisted of a 112-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 for the bulls to gain 3.0 lbs/day. The concentrate supplement consisted of 65% corn and 35% Accuration (a supplement formulated by Purina® 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 112-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, 2008.

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.

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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 lbs/day of age when delivered to the test station. A transit shrink of 1% per hour of transit time was 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 below frame score 4 will not be accepted (Beef Improvement Federation 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.

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 tuberculosis (TB) free must also be accompanied by a health certificate showing they are a certified TB-free herd or have a negative test for TB not more than 30 days before delivery. All bulls will be tested for TB 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. 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. An official certificate of veterinary inspection (health paper) is required for each bull.

Test Results

The Florida Bull Test focuses on testing bulls on a diet that includes a grain-based supplement and ad libitum access to forage. Overall ranking for the test is based on ADG and the weight per day of age (WDA) generating an index ratio. There was a tie for the top-performing bull and top-performing Angus bull in the test: 1) Hillside New Design 188, owned by John B Ranch of Hope Hull, Alabama, who indexed 119 with an ADG of 3.73 and WDA of 3.10 lbs/day and 2) Tates Payroll 004 843, owned by Windy Hill Angus Farm of Boaz, Alabama who indexed 119 with an ADG 3.77 and WDA of 3.06 lbs/day. The top Limflex bull, SAYF Pepper 1407 48U owned by Sayer and Sons Farm from Ambrose, Georgia, was ranked third overall and indexed 118 with an ADG of 3.54 and WDA of 3.23 lbs/day. The top Limousin bull, SAYF Nasa 57U owned by Sayer

and Sons Farm from Ambrose, Georgia, was ranked 46th overall and indexed 91 with an ADG of 2.38 and WDA of 2.83 lbs/day. The top Charolais bull, MC Tebow 839 owned by Meadows Creek Farm from Columbia, Alabama, was ranked 22nd overall and indexed 106 with an ADG of 2.89 and WDA of 3.17 lbs/day. The top SimAngus bull, CLS U198 owned by C & L Farm from Valdosta, Georgia, was ranked 9th overall and indexed 113 with an ADG of 3.07 and WDA of 3.44 lbs/day. The top Simmental bull, BF Blk Joker U15 owned by Boyd Farm from New Brockton, Alabama, was ranked 7th overall and indexed 116 with an ADG of 3.64 and WDA of 3.03 lbs/day.

Sale Summary

The Florida Bull Test Sale was held on January 9, 2010. Of the 67 tested, 50 bulls qualified for the sale at the North Florida Research and Education Center in Marianna, Florida. The sale grossed $73,850 with an average of $1,477 per lot. Angus bulls averaged $1,423 on 32 lots; Charolais averaged $1,600 on 2 lots; Limflex averaged $1,400 on 3 lots; Limousin averaged $950 on 2 lots; SimAngus averaged $1,590 on 5 lots; and Simmental averaged $1,842 on 6 lots. The high-selling bull was lot 10, an Angus bull, R&A Preferred 6, selling for $2,800. He was purchased by Dwight Steele of Florala, Alabama. The consignor was R&A Angus of Mebane, North Carolina.

2010–2011 Florida Bull Test Dates

Nomination deadline—June 15, 2010

Delivery date—July 27, 2010

Test begins (initial weights)—August 17 and 18, 2010

28-day weight—September 15, 2010

56-day weight—October 13, 2010

84-day weight—November 10, 2010

Test ends (final weights)—December 7 and 8, 2010

Bull Test Sale—January 15, 2011

Table 1. 2009–10 Florida Bull Test individual animal performance in order of final test index

Test ID	Breed	Start Weight	28-Day Weight	56-Day Weight	84-Day Weight	Final Weight	Final Test ADG	Final Test WDA	Final Test Index	Final Index Ratio	Frame Score	Scrotal Circ.
		lbs	lbs	lbs	lbs	lbs	lbs/d	lbs/d	lbs/d			cm
865	Angus	997	1035	1070	1235	1415	3.73	3.10	6.83	119	5.8	43
824	Angus	925	976	1045	1160	1348	3.77	3.06	6.83	119	6.3	41
849	LimFlex	946	1040	1100	1220	1343	3.54	3.23	6.78	118	7.3	42
812	Angus	981	1080	1135	1245	1390	3.65	3.07	6.72	117	5.8	36
869	Angus	925	936	1030	1190	1350	3.79	2.90	6.69	117	5.6	39
811	Angus	719	812	856	974	1110	3.49	3.18	6.67	116	6.2	33
822	Simmental	917	1015	1070	1195	1325	3.64	3.03	6.67	116	7.2	40.5
870	Angus	788	850	878	1050	1203	3.70	2.95	6.66	116	5.2	37.5
840	SimAngus	996	1045	1120	1240	1340	3.07	3.44	6.51	113	8.2	38
809	Angus	1105	1155	1205	1320	1468	3.24	3.21	6.45	112	6.0	37.5
841	SimAngus	1023	1050	1115	1215	1370	3.10	3.32	6.42	112	7.4	43
859	Angus	687	750	824	964	1100	3.69	2.73	6.42	112	5.4	39
832	Angus	812	856	908	1050	1195	3.42	2.99	6.41	112	5.4	42
834	Angus	857	918	986	1100	1245	3.46	2.88	6.34	110	7.0	39
805	Angus	840	852	884	1000	1173	2.97	3.37	6.34	110	6.2	37.5
808	Angus	740	830	858	984	1095	3.17	3.08	6.25	109	6.0	32
827	Angus	623	682	788	882	995	3.32	2.89	6.21	108	5.5	32
861	Angus	811	862	896	1050	1183	3.32	2.88	6.19	108	5.4	36
862	Angus	824	870	898	1045	1190	3.27	2.91	6.18	108	6.6	39.5
867	Angus	688	726	798	926	1055	3.28	2.88	6.16	107	5.6	34
864	Angus	1148	1125	1210	1330	1473	2.90	3.19	6.10	106	6.9	42
846	Charolais	844	908	966	1055	1168	2.89	3.17	6.06	106	7.2	36
860	Angus	643	764	802	938	1045	3.59	2.47	6.06	106	4.9	35.5
831	Angus	902	962	990	1105	1255	3.15	2.89	6.04	105	6.1	40
826	Angus	954	1005	1025	1165	1308	3.16	2.86	6.02	105	4.8	37
815	Simmental	991	1055	1130	1210	1310	2.85	3.06	5.91	103	6.5	42
843	Simmental	811	862	926	1040	1183	3.32	2.57	5.88	102	5.6	39
807	Angus	950	962	1045	1175	1285	2.99	2.87	5.87	102	6.6	39
839	SimAngus	950	1005	1055	1155	1268	2.84	3.03	5.86	102	6.9	39
804	Angus	853	876	930	1030	1178	2.90	2.93	5.83	102	7.0	38

Table 1. 2009–10 Florida Bull Test individual animal performance in order of final test index

Test ID	Breed	Start Weight lbs	28-Day Weight lbs	56-Day Weight lbs	84-Day Weight lbs	Final Weight lbs	Final Test ADG lbs/d	Final Test WDA lbs/d	Final Test Index lbs/d	Final Index Ratio	Frame Score	Scrotal Circ. cm
866	Angus	606	660	702	808	953	3.10	2.61	5.71	99	3.7	36
829	Angus	839	892	962	1060	1180	3.04	2.65	5.70	99	5.6	38
842	SimAngus	925	930	1005	1105	1215	2.59	3.07	5.66	99	6.7	36.5
816	Simmental	1060	1130	1160	1245	1350	2.59	3.06	5.65	98	7.2	41
828	Angus	794	814	850	962	1110	2.82	2.80	5.62	98	5.4	39
813	Simmental	944	1030	1070	1145	1240	2.64	2.97	5.62	98	6.4	40
810	Angus	910	984	1020	1090	1238	2.92	2.68	5.60	98	5.2	34
814	Simmental	839	892	932	1015	1165	2.91	2.59	5.51	96	5.9	36
833	Angus	794	850	882	996	1113	2.84	2.66	5.51	96	4.7	33
858	Angus	674	718	762	896	980	2.73	2.76	5.49	96	5.0	35
844	Charolais	928	996	1085	1135	1233	2.72	2.77	5.49	96	5.5	38.5
817	Simmental	982	1035	1090	1195	1268	2.55	2.91	5.46	95	5.7	36
852	LimFlex	929	982	970	1105	1198	2.40	2.96	5.36	93	5.8	35.5
819	Angus	896	934	958	1045	1168	2.42	2.88	5.31	92	5.8	35
825	Angus	878	930	972	1060	1175	2.65	2.65	5.30	92	5.6	36.5
851	Limousin	741	786	812	914	1008	2.38	2.83	5.21	91	6.9	30.5
838	Limousin	730	784	850	934	1028	2.66	2.54	5.19	90	5.2	32.5
857	SimAngus	571	640	668	762	868	2.65	2.52	5.18	90	4.2	27
855	LimFlex	793	862	884	998	1065	2.43	2.72	5.15	90	5.2	34
863	Angus	617	638	696	820	927	2.77	2.34	5.11	89	4.4	34
821	SimAngus	976	1020	1035	1120	1228	2.25	2.83	5.07	88	5.7	37
837	Angus	698	742	796	896	1001	2.70	2.37	5.07	88	4.8	37
806	Angus	898	882	890	1015	1125	2.03	3.01	5.03	88	6.4	32
836	Angus	753	792	830	920	1045	2.61	2.35	4.96	86	4.8	36
820	Simmental	826	908	900	984	1063	2.11	2.80	4.92	86	5.8	37
854	Angus	883	948	958	1030	1143	2.32	2.53	4.84	84	4.6	35
853	Angus	772	832	842	920	1010	2.13	2.54	4.66	81	5.1	36.5
850	LimFlex	631	698	712	804	878	2.21	2.30	4.51	79	5.4	35.5
856	Limousin	746	794	824	902	989	2.17	2.18	4.35	76	4.9	30.5
848	Limousin	868	858	888	1005	1083	1.92	2.38	4.30	75	5.8	33

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818	Angus	870	866	864	970	1083	1.90	2.35	4.25	74	6.1	39
847	Limousin	875	856	856	866	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
823	Angus	591	616	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
830	Angus	870	904	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
835	Angus	823	814	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
845	Charolais	785	760	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
868	Angus	941	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

[a] Final Test ADG = average daily gain during the 112-day test.
[b] Final Test WDA = weight per day of age for each bull from birth until the last day of the test.
[c] Final Test Index = the sum of Final Test ADG and Final Test WDA.