

Details Announced for 2009-10 Virginia BCIA Central Bull Test Station Program

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The Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association will begin its 52nd year of sponsoring the Virginia's Central Bull Test Station Program. Rules and regulations for the 2009-10 test and sale season are now available through Virginia BCIA. A total of four test groups of bulls will be developed and sold from the two stations located at Culpeper and in Southwest Virginia.

The Culpeper tests are conducted at Glenmary Farm in Rapidan, VA owned and operated by Tom and Kim Nixon. The Southwest Bull Test Station is located at Hillwinds Farm owned by Tim Sutphin of Dublin, Virginia. At both stations, a set of fall-born Senior bulls, as well as spring-born Junior bulls will be developed. In addition to the traditional tests, the opportunity exists for breeders to custom feed bulls through the BCIA program so that contemporary groups may be maintained. Additionally, provisions to the program allow breeders flexibility in developing both sale-eligible and custom tests bulls. The following table provides details of age requirements, entry deadlines, and the test and sale schedule for each group of bulls.

	CULPEPER SENIOR BULLS	CULPEPER JUNIOR BULLS
Birth Dates	August 15 – November 30, 2008	Dec. 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009
Entry Deadline	June 16, 2009	September 15, 2009
Delivery of Bulls	June 30, 2009	November 2, 2009
Start Test	July 13 & 14, 2009	November 16 & 17, 2009
Finish Test	November 2 & 3, 2009	March 8 & 9, 2010
	(112 days)	(112 days)
Sale	Saturday, December 12, 2009	Friday, April 2, 2010
	SOUTHWEST SENIOR BULLS	SOUTHWEST JUNIOR BULLS
Birth Dates	September 15 – December 31, 2008	January 1 - March 31, 2009
Entry Deadline	September 2, 2009	September 2, 2009
Delivery of	October 6, 2009	October 6, 2009

Bulls		
Start Test	October 19 & 20, 2009	October 19 & 20, 2009
Finish Test	February 8 & 9, 2010	March 1 & 2, 2010
	(112 days)	(133 days)
Sale	Saturday, March 27, 2010	Saturday, March 27, 2010

In response to customer feedback, several changes to the BCIA program were made for the just completed test and sale season, and will in effect for 2009-10. These include an enhanced bull guarantee which covers fertility, structural soundness problems (including foot soundness), and other issues on all bulls sold through the program. To compliment this good-faith guarantee, fall-born senior bulls will be subject to a semen evaluation as part of breeding soundness exam required for sale eligibility. Volume discounts will be available to bull buyers purchasing three or more bulls at a BCIA bull sale. The Culpeper Junior bull sale will be hosted at Glenmary Farm and the sale will be held in an open house format.

Registered bulls of any recognized beef breed, or recorded percentage bulls of breeds which have an open herd book are eligible for the central tests. All bulls must be recorded in their respective breed association, and have a complete performance record (including EPDs). Bulls must also meet breed-specific minimum YW EPD requirements, individual performance specifications, as well as pre-delivery health and management protocol to be eligible for the tests.

Breeders in Virginia and bordering states who are members of Virginia BCIA are eligible to consign bulls. For details and copies of the rules and regulations as well as entry information regarding the central bull tests, contact the Virginia BCIA office at 540-231-9163 or visit <http://bcia.apsc.vt.edu>.