



Western Illinois University

July 18 2024

Dear WIU Bull Test Consignors,

Entries are now open for the 2024-2025 Western Illinois University Performance Bull Test. The 2024 sale averaged \$4511 across 27 bulls. The 2023 sale averaged \$3,473 across 30 bulls while the 2022 sale averaged \$4,073 across 35 bulls with 2021 and 2020 sales averaging \$3,354 and \$2,632, respectively. More specifically in the 2024 sale: Angus bulls (13) averaged \$4904, SimAngus bulls (5) averaged \$3640, purebred SM bulls (5) averaged \$5770, and Red Angus bulls (4) \$2750. In an effort to keep elevating the profile of the WIU Bull Sale we need your continued commitment as purebred breeders in creating and providing quality genetics for WIU to develop. In addition, connecting with past, current, and future buyers is essential to our viability. Connection builds rapport with your customers. They want to hear from you, know you better, and we must continue to place them at the forefront to improve the number of buyers present at the sale.

The bull development ration uses fiber instead of starch (corn) as an energy source. The ration is presented as a complete pellet with chelated minerals, vitamins including biotin, and yeast. These ingredients have been shown to improve reproductive soundness, foot health, and diet digestibility. Fiber also serves as the intake limiter in the diet. This will assist in developing yearling bulls to an adequate condition, allowing them to grow without over-fattening, making them more successful as herd sires on pasture. Bulls have ample outdoor space to exercise and rest which is essential to proper development. Bulls will be housed in three groups (~18 head each) having access to two self-feeders and free choice grass hay. Top ranked bulls will continue to be pictured and all bulls that make the sale will have a video taken. Online bidding will likely not occur for this year's sale, but facebook broadcast should be available.

Please note the change for this year's test:

- 1. Sale will begin at 6:30 PM.***
- 2. Bulls will sell in rotation order based on breeds represented in last year's test. If a new breed is at the test in 2024-2025, they will be worked into the sale order accordingly with the top two bulls selling at the beginning of the order and then the remaining to sell at the end of the sale rotation. This year's rotation will be Simmental, Red Angus, Percent Simmental, and then Angus. Please remember the top 2 bulls from each breed will sell in this order at the beginning of the sale and then we will sell out the rest of the bulls in each breed in the respective order presented above.***
- 3. This year bulls will be equipped with an electronic tag that monitors movement and body temperature. This tag will flash red and alert the computer system when body temperature is elevated or movement levels are not met. This will help to identify sick bulls before they may even show clinical signs. This technology is available due to a grant from the Illinois Beef Association that Dr. Keela Trennepohl received this spring. Data will be collected and compared to previous years' test data to analyze the effectiveness of this tag.***
- 4. The bull test is in the process of being updated with new upper pens, concrete bunks, and a feed alley. There has also been a donation from the Illinois Farm Bureau to purchase a TMR mixer. The ingredients of the ration would change but the foundational principles would remain the same. The new ration would be forage based using silage and hay for roughage, additional corn as needed for energy requirements, and a custom supplement formulated to meet nutritional requirements. Implementation of these changes would change the feeding management from self fed to slick bunk management. This new system would be the gold standard for bull development. We are hopeful to have this in place for this year, but we are still waiting on some final approvals to begin construction which may delay us. We will keep you posted.***

We all want to see the WIU Bull Test and Sale reach its full potential. Please know that any changes or updates that are made are done so with the success of the bull test in mind. The cattle business has been integral to myself and my family so I fully understand the highs and lows you all face. Cattle, cattle nutrition, and teaching are my passion. We all need one another to make this sale successful. The world can always benefit from kindness and consideration especially during times of change. Please know that I am always doing my best to serve you and the WIU students. Please call or email with any further questions.

Regards,

Keela Trennepohl
Km-trennepohl@wiu.edu
805-440-8421
ENC.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ultrasound and Data Submission:

Ultrasound data will be submitted for bulls that meet the age requirements listed below from the respective breed associations. ALL bulls will be scanned on one day, by one technician, and reported whether or not your data can be included in your breed's database. **In order for your bull to be listed on the ultrasound barn sheet, you must submit a weaning weight to the respective association. Please be sure to have submitted this information to the association, if you have not already done so prior to delivery.**

To be included in the database, the following requirements must be met:

1. For all breeds, there must be two bulls from the same contemporary weaning group
2. Bulls must be born in the following timeframe to meet the age requirement when scanned on approximately January 14, 2025. If the breed is not listed below, the information can be obtained from the appropriate breed association.

Breed	Age in Days at Scan
Angus	320-440
Charolais	320-430
Hereford	301-530
Red Angus	320-440
Simmental	300-440

Keep in mind, we do not submit yearling weights and scrotal measurements to the breed associations, but we will provide it to you so that you may do so.

Summary of entry requirements

1. Born between December 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024
2. Weaned 45 days prior to delivery
3. Weigh a minimum of 550 pounds at delivery
4. Health Affidavit signed by BOTH the producer and the veterinarian
5. Individual tested NEGATIVE for anaplasmosis and PI BVD
6. Birth mother tested free for Johnes or come from certified Johnes free herd
7. Free of all known lethal genetic defects and tested for all other known defects
8. Three bulls need to be entered per breed to qualify for within breed indexing

9. Bulls are slick sheared

10. \$100/bull entry fee, completed reservation form, and consignor input form postmarked by September 11th, 2024

Delivery Checklist:

- October 1st (Tuesday) 2024 from 8 AM to 5 PM
- Registration certificate or copy of registration
- Test results: Johnes, Anaplasmosis, and PI-BVD
- Completed Entry Form
- Signed Health Affidavit by Veterinarian and Producer
- \$200/bull feed deposit
- Bulls slick sheared

CONSIGNORS PLEASE SHARE THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN ASAP

The information below is provided to assist veterinarians working with producers that are consigning a bull(s) to the 2024-25 Western Illinois Performance Bull Test. Please follow these instructions carefully. **Cattle work can be done by producer if approved by veterinarian, but the paperwork must be SIGNED by both the producer and the veterinarian.**

Preconditioning beef cattle has been proven, and we have taken this step to reduce respiratory problems and to reduce the cost billed to breeders if bulls become sick with respiratory disease within the first 21 days of reaching the test facility. The results of requiring preconditioning for the WIU Bull Test have been both a saving to the producers and greatly improved the overall health of the bulls.

Note: There is NO product manufacturer/brand specification to the protocol. Products used are at the discretion of the producer's veterinarian and must be listed on the Health Affidavit.

All bulls must arrive at the test with a Health Affidavit signed by the producer and his/her veterinarian

- Bulls must be weaned for 45 days

HEALTH REQUIRMENTS:

- Calves must be weaned 45 days prior to entry
- Calves must be treated for internal and external parasites
- Calves must receive 2 doses of Cattle Respiratory Vaccine (IBR, BVD (types 1 & 2), BRSV, PI-3)
- Calves must have 2 doses of 7-Way Clostridial/Blackleg
- Calves must have 1 dose of Pasteurella Vaccine
- Calves must have 2 doses of Haemophilus Somnus (often in combination with 7-way)
- Calves must be bunk and water broke
- Horned cattle must be tipped or dehorned

Contract Agreement for the W.I.U. Bull Testing Program

1. The purposes of the WIU Bull Test are to provide reliable, unbiased performance information on bulls entered into the program and to provide a source of performance tested seedstock to the beef industry.
2. Bulls must have been born between December 1, 2023 and March 30, 2024, have a recorded birth weight, and weigh a minimum of 550 pounds at delivery on October 1, 2024.
3. The testing fee is \$100 per bull which is due with the reservation application.
4. The testing capacity of the station is 50 bulls -- 3 pens with 14-18 bulls each.
5. **The entry deadline is a postmark of September 11th, 2024.** Entries postmarked after September 11 will be accepted by a drawing if room is still available after acceptance of all entries received by the deadline.
6. The entry fee will be refunded only if the bull is not accepted due to reaching capacity of the station, or, in the case of illness to a bull, a replacement entry can be found from another breeder, but needs to be approved by test station manager prior to doing so.
7. At delivery, each consignor must present the Health Affidavit form completed by their veterinarian signed by BOTH the producer and the veterinarian. Documentation regarding Johnes, PI-BVD, and anaplasmosis negative statuses also needs to be provided. Official registration paper or copy of registration as well as entry form should also be turned in at this time.
8. Horned bulls should be healed from dehorning.
9. Bulls with ringworm at delivery will be charged an extra \$100.
10. Delivery is Tuesday, October 1, 2024 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. A \$200 per bull feed/health deposit is due upon delivery.
11. Bulls **must test free** of following genetic defects in order to sell: 1)Angus : AM, NH, CA 2)Simmental.(PB or %) : AM, NH, CA, OS, PHA, TH 3)Red Angus : Osteopetrosis. In the case of other identified genetic defects with a commercially available test, bulls should be tested can be sold once tested -- regardless of carrier status.
12. Owners of the tested bulls must be members of the Illinois Beef Association or National Cattlemen's Beef Association.
13. Daily rate charges including feed, hay, bedding, and yardage will be applied to each individual bull. The yardage fee will be \$0.50/head/day. A health maintenance fee will be assessed per bull (~\$50/bull). Other health treatment/veterinary costs may apply if needed. Please know that we will make every effort to make the bull test affordable but quality of care and preparation is of utmost importance.
14. All costs must be paid before any bull can be removed from the station. Bulls may be removed only by permission of test station manager. All costs will be taken from individual bull sale proceeds or due at pick-up at the end of the test.
15. The 53rd Annual Sale will be at the WIU Livestock Center on Friday evening, March 7, 2025. All bulls that go through the sale will be charged a percent of the sale expenses (~ 10%).
16. Bulls will be fed free choice long hay at arrival. During the 21 day preliminary period, they will be gradually worked to full feed utilizing the testing ration.
17. The testing period will last 90 days. The official on-test weight will be the averages of weights taken on October 22nd, and October 23, 2024. The official off-test weight will be the averages of weights taken on January 21 and 22, 2025. Progress report interim weights will be taken ~ every 30 days: 11/21/24 and 12/20/24. All bulls will be ultrasounded on approximately January 14.
18. At the conclusion of the testing period, bulls will be fed the testing ration, plus free choice long hay or a high forage TMR mix.

19. Bulls will be indexed within breed. A bull must have a within breed index of 96 or higher to qualify for the sale. This index requirement will not go up during the 2024-2025 bull test, but could be lowered at the discretion of the WIU Bull Test Manager if in the best interest of the sale. There is a 3 bull requirement to form a breed. If the three bull requirement is not met, those individuals will be indexed overall breeds and will need an overall breed index of 96 or higher to qualify for the sale. **Index is based on 70% ADG ratio + 15% ADJ Marbling ratio + 15% ADJ REA ratio.**
20. Bulls also need a minimum adjusted scrotal circumference of 32 cm, be screened for disposition, pass a soundness exam based on the University of Missouri scoring system, and pass a reproductive exam. Retests for the reproductive exam will be performed during the week prior to the sale.
21. Sale order will be determined from a standard breed sale rotation. Bull order within breed will be determined by the within breed index. The top 2 indexing bulls from each respective breed will sell first and then breeds will be sold out in entirety before moving to the next breed in the sale order. Test manager reserves the right to change the sale order if needed.
22. All bulls selected for the sale must go through the sale unless excused for health reasons. At least 1/3 interest must be offered for sale. If full interest is not to be sold, 30-day advance notice of the sale date is required.
23. Sale floor price on bulls is set at a minimum of \$2000. This means if your bull does not bring \$2000 that bull will no sale. You will still be responsible for all costs including sale commission.
24. All data will be public information and the Western Illinois University School of Agriculture has the right to use the records for research purposes.
25. Neither Western Illinois University, nor its employees are liable for loss, injury or reduced value of bulls entered on test.
26. Insurance on bulls, if desired, is the responsibility of the breeder -- none is carried on them by WIU.
27. Progress reports will be sent out via email after each weigh day and posted on our website. Email is the main form of communication for the test and an email must be provided. If this is problematic for you, please make the WIU Test Station manager aware ASAP.
28. The sale catalog will include relevant performance information, pedigree information, and EPDs.
29. Footnotes for the catalog will need to be submitted by consignors by January 15th via the official permission process which will be provided to consignors via email in December. If footnotes are not submitted, WIU reserves the right to either write footnotes or leave the footnote section blank on that individual.
30. Only top ranked bulls will be pictured in the catalog (~15 bulls) at the discretion of WIU Bull Test staff in order to best represent the WIU bull test. Video will be taken on all bulls who make the sale. Charges will apply for pictures, videos, and preparation to individual consignors with bulls receiving those services.

Reservation Form
2024 – 2025 WIU Performance Bull Test

Postmarked September 11th 2024

I have read and agree to the terms in the "Contract Agreement for the W.I.U. Bull Testing Program" and would like to enter bulls in the program as indicated below:

Signature: _____

Please check the box beside the name you want used :

Check

reports/sale catalog

Name _____

Farm Name _____

Address _____

IBA or NCBA Member Number: _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Breed

Birthdate

Estimated Weight at delivery

Bull #1 _____

Bull #2 _____

Bull #3 _____

Bull #4 _____

Please send this sheet, along with \$100 per bull entered to:

WIU BULL TEST
School of Agriculture
Attn: Keela Trennepohl
145 Knoblauch Hall
Macomb, IL 61455

24-25 WIU Bull Test
ENTRY FORM

Breed(s) _____ Farm/RanchName _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Contact Person _____ Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

~Please fill out Health Affidavit on the back

TEST ID**	TATTOO #	EARTAG #	BIRTHDATE	ACT BIRTH WT	POLLED/H orned	DAM'S* AGE OR ET	NAME OF ANIMAL	NAME OF SIRE	NAME OF DAM'S SIRE	WEANING DATE	ADJ WEANING WT	Owner Member Code
							REGISTRATION #					

**If calf raised by other than his mother, please note. ** To be filled in by WIU Bull Test
Please return completed form when bulls are delivered.*

2024-2025 WIU Bull Test Health Affidavit

Vaccination	Animal ID(s)	Vaccine Given	Vaccination Date	Booster Date	Comments
Cattle Respiratory (IBR, BVD types 1 & 2, BRSV, PI-3)					
7-way Clostridial/Blackleg					
Haemophilus Somnus					
Pasturella					
Internal & External Parasite Control					

I hereby certify that the above products have been administered to the listed animals by myself, or under my direction.

Veterinarian name: _____

Veterinarian signature: _____

Date: _____

I hereby certify that I the above products have been administered to the listed animals by my herd veterinarian, or by myself under his/her direction and that all animals listed have been weaned for a minimum of 45 days prior to delivery to WIU.

Producer name: _____

Producer signature: _____

Date: _____