

# 72nd Performance Evaluated Bull Sale Is Oct. 27 In Springfield

**SPRINGFIELD, MO.**

**T**he Southwest Missouri Beef Cattle Improvement Association will hold their 72nd all-breed performance evaluated bull sale at 7 p.m. on Oct. 27 at the Springfield Livestock Marketing Center, 6821 W Independence Dr., Springfield, Mo.

Consignors must be working in cooperation with a University of Missouri Extension livestock specialist at data gathering time. The data, such as weaning and yearling weights and heights, are processed by the respective breed associations.

The breed associations compute expected progeny difference (EPD) values which are becoming the main criteria used by progressive buyers.

The sale now requires that the bull rank in the top one-half of his breed for two of the five EPD traits. Those traits include calving ease, weaning and yearling weight, milk and marbling. In addition, the bulls must have a 1,100 pound, 365 day adjusted weight and be a 5 frame score at 12 months of age.

"These requirements should insure that the qualifying bulls have some genetic merit for certain herds. The challenge for the buyer is to

know enough about their cow herd's genetics so a good match can be made," said Eldon Cole, livestock specialist with University of Missouri Extension.

Easily the most sought after EPD trait for several years is calving ease. Buyers now realize those funny numbers, such as a +10 or a 109 for calving ease indicate that bull should be suitable to breed to heifers. Growth and milking ability of a bull's daughters also are watched closely.

As with most of the association's recent sales, Angus dominate with 26 bulls consigned. There are three Charolais, one Gelbvieh and one Lim-Flex. The Lim-Flex is a composite bull that is one-half Angus and one-half Limousin.

Catalogs for the sale are available at most MU Extension centers or may be requested by calling sale manager Pam Naylor at (417) 345-8330.

Persons wanting to learn more about EPD's and the other data used in this sale are invited to attend the "Buying Bulls by the Numbers" session taught by MU Extension livestock specialists at 5:30 p.m. on the sale day in the sale ring.

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