

79th Tested Bull Sale Will Be March 26 In Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, MO.

The 79th all-breed tested bull sale sponsored by the Southwest Missouri Beef Cattle Improvement Association is set for 7 p.m., March 26 at the Springfield Livestock Marketing Center west of Springfield on I-44.

The offering consists of 21 Angus, four Herefords, two Red Angus and one each of Simmental, Balancer and Sim-Angus. The age range of the bulls runs from 13 to 19 months. All have a satisfactory potential breeder certificate.

Each of the bulls must have a 365 day weight of 1100 pounds or more and a yearling frame score of 5.0 or greater. In recent years more emphasis has been placed on expected progeny differences (EPD) values as calculated by the respective breed association.

The EPDs that are looked at the closest include: calving ease or birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, milk and marbling. In order to qualify for this sale each bull must be above his breed average for two or more of those traits.

A look at the sale catalog will reveal that some of the bulls are above average in 4 or more of the traits. The easiest way to determine this is to find the percentile rank which is listed in the

catalog along with the actual EPD.

There are 9 traits listed for many of the bulls and some are even in the top 25 percent ranking for each of those 9 values. Knowing what your cow herd needs genetically thus makes selecting a bull in a sale like this relatively simple.

"Cattle prices are at record highs this year and are expected to remain strong for the foreseeable future. Consequently, the top performance bulls will find active bidding from buyers who study their lesson," said Eldon Cole, a livestock specialist with University of Missouri Extension.

Catalogs for the sale may be requested from Pam Naylor at 417-345-8330. The catalog can also be accessed on-line at www.swmobcia.com.

Prospective buyers are invited to come early to the sale to inspect the bulls and take in the 5:30 p.m. program given by the regional extension livestock specialists. They will explain what some of the numbers really mean and how to better understand the EPD mystery.

For more information, contact any of the MU Extension livestock specialists in southwest Missouri: Eldon Cole in Mt. Vernon, (417) 466-3102, Andy McCorkill in Dallas County at (417) 345-7551 or Dona Goede in Cedar County, (417) 276-3313. △



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