

Highest Overall And Angus Sale Average At 43rd IPT Bull Sale

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

The Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale was the leadoff event of the 2011 Illinois Beef Expo held on Thursday, February 24th at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The sale had the highest overall average in the 43 year history at \$2,980 on 77 lots. This exceeded the previous record set in 2005 by \$321 and the 2010 average by \$462. The University of Illinois Extension, University of Illinois Department of Animal Sciences, and consigning breeders sponsor the sale. Also, Vita Firm, Illinois Angus Association, and Illinois Simmental Association provide industry support.

This sale has developed into one of the largest performance tested bull sales in the Midwest. During the past 43 years, the sale has sold 4,381 bulls valued at over 7.2 million dollars according to Dave Seibert, Bull Sale Manager. There were three breeds – Angus, Simmental, and Polled Herefords – represented in the 2011 sale.

Bulls with calving ease and light birth weights were in high demand. Also, the trait of high growth either through adjusted weaning & yearling weights, weight-per-day of age (WDA) or Expected Progeny Difference (EPDs) for performance were in demand throughout the sale. There were several phenomenal heavy weaning and yearling weights offered in the 2011 sale. Adjusted weaning weights of 800 pounds were not unusual with one bull over 900 pounds and another bull over 1,000 pounds for adjusted 205 days weight. Yearling weights were equally as impressive with most in 1,250 to high 1,300 pound range, several weighing over 1400, and a number in the 1500 range for adjusted yearling weight.

Another measure of growth potential is the EPDs for weaning and yearling weight. Many bulls of all breeds were in the top 5 percent of their breeds for these growth traits with several well beyond the minimum needed for the top one-percent of their breed for these traits. The reason for this superb performance is the stacking of pedigrees with high accuracy AI growth sires.

Selecting for outstanding growth can result in a higher birth weight and poorer calving ease bulls. However, through knowledgeable selection a purebred breeder can put downward pressure on birth weight while reaching for higher weaning and yearling weights. In the Angus breed 68 percent of the bulls in the sale were classified as calving ease bulls according to their CED (calving ease direct EPD) and eligible as sires for the Illinois Heifer Development Sale (IHDP). In the Simmental breed where CED is utilized in purebred and birth weight in composites 31 percent were classified as heifer bulls and eligible for the IHDP Program

The Angus breed had the largest numbers of bulls in the sale with 38 head. They also had a record setting average in the sale with \$3,431 which exceeded the previous breed average by \$643 set back in 2005 and the 2010 average by \$730. The high selling Angus bull at \$6,000 was from Callan Farms of Stonington and excelled in calving ease, growth, marbling and the Economic Value traits of \$Wean and \$ Beef. This January yearling bull had a 1,535 pound yearling weight and 3.7 WDA. The bull was purchased by Etherton Stock Farms, of Buffalo. This is the fifth highest priced bull to ever sell in the 43 year history of the IPT Bull Sale.

Second high selling bull in the sale was purchased by Prescott Angus of Mendota and Lincoln. This January yearling was from the strong Murphy's Angus of Illiopolis consignment for \$5,100 that had a weaning weight of 845 pounds and yearling weight of 1581 pounds. The bull had one of the higher Angus WDAs at 3.8 and qualified for the IHDP. This balanced trait EPD and excellent phenotypic bull will be used in the Prescott seedstock herd.

Three Angus bulls tied for the third high price of \$5,000 which also tied for the 10th highest price to ever sell in the sale. Leading off the 2011 bull sale was a September 2009 senior division bull from long time consignor Kramer Angus of Farina. This calving ease, high EPD growth sire excelled in ribeye and \$Wean and will make a great sire to breed heifers, yet still have the growth and carcass to excel in the feedlot. Buyer of this sire was Timothy and James Yerkey of Geneseo.

The largest number recently of Simmental bulls was offered in the 2011 sale. The 35 head was a slight increase over the 33 head offered in the 2010 but a big increase over the average of 23 head offered in 2009, 2008 and 2007. The 2011 Simmental offering averaged \$2,519 which was the second highest Simmental average ever in the 43 year history of the sale and \$258 over the 2010 average. All of the Simmental bulls but one in the sale was black and all were polled.

Commanding the top price for the 2011 IPT Bull Sale and the Simmental breed at \$4,000 was a January yearling from Fox Creek Cattle of Newton. This calving ease sire was eligible for the IHDP, weighed in at 1,495 pounds for the sale and had many potential buyers as the bidding was active. He had excellent carcass traits EPDs along with both Economic Value Indexes in the top 30 percent of the breed. He excelled phenotypically being a long bodied, heavy muscle bull. Buyer of the bull was Derek Jacobus of Lewistown.

A composite February bull from Provost Farms of Kankakee was the second high selling Simmental at \$3,900. This bull had a high of 4.0 WDA for the sale along with balanced trait EPDs for the growth, maternal and carcass traits. This bull was purchased by Andy Ray of Mt. Sterling. Following close behind at \$3,500 was the lead off and high Power Score of 15 for the breed from the Bob Fitzpatrick herd. This February bull had a WDA of 4.0, was eligible for the IHDP heifer program and was ranked in the top two percentile for the Simmental economic value of All Purpose and Terminal Sire Indexes. This sire was purchased by Waupecan Cattle Company of Morris.

The Polled Hereford breed had four bulls in the sale and their demand was demonstrated by having the second highest breed average in the sale at \$2,731 on limited numbers. This average price was almost identical to the prices paid in 2009 of \$2,717. The top selling bull at \$3,850 was consigned by Lowderman Cattle Company of Macomb. This senior division balanced trait EPD bull was in demand for producers wanting black baldy calves. The bull was selected by Andy Ray of Mt. Sterling. Following close behind at \$3,600 was a March 2009 senior division bull from Rabideau Polled Hereford of Clifton that has superior growth EPDs along with excellent dollar value indexes. The 2,082 pound bull with an excellent 2.9 WDA was purchased by McDonald Farms of Shelbyville.

Producers interested in viewing a breakdown of all the prices can visit the Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale web site at www.IPTBullSale.com. Also, included on this site are the individual bull prices from the 2011 sale and the numbers and averages from the previous 42 sales.

The sale provides an abundance of performance information to assist buyers with the genetic selection for future seedstock for their herds. Items provided to the buyers include: adjusted birth, weaning, and yearling weights; EPDs, accuracies, and percentile rankings for calving ease direct, birth, weaning, yearling and maternal milk, marbling/% IMF, and ribeye area. In addition Bi-Economic or \$Values and percentile rankings are provided on all the bulls to determine the genetic and economic impact the bulls will have on their future herd. Other traits collected and provided to the buyers are sale weight, weight per day of age, scrotal circumference, pelvic area, and frame score.

For the fourth year all bulls must be tested for Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) using the Persistently Infected (PI) ear notch screening system. Also for the tenth year, all bulls must meet the Johnes's health requirement. This is first sale in Illinois to have animals tested for Johnes's. Johnes's is a disease that both commercial and purebred cattle producers will have to become more proactive to eradicate from their herds. Also, in the future, buyers will demand that new genetics brought into their herd be negative for Johnes's disease.

A recent problem that has developed in the beef cattle industry is the identification of genetic recessive traits. This problem can result in dead or severely disabled calves at birth. To prevent these traits from entering cow-calf herds the IPT Bull Sale required that all bulls selling be from non-carrier ancestor in their pedigree or be tested free for genetic recessive traits.

The IPT Bull Sale Advisory committee will be meeting this spring to formulate rules and regulations for the 2012 sale that will be held as the leadoff event of the Illinois Beef Expo. Once again the 2012 sale will require all Angus bulls be scanned prior to the sale with information processed through the American Angus Association and the resulting EPDs for marbling and ribeye area.

A complete copy of the Rules and Regulations along with the Nomination Form will be available by September 1st on the sale web site at www.IPTBullSale.com. Nominations will need to be made by December 15, 2011, for the 2012 sale. Seedstock breeders interested in consigning to the 2012 sale should call Dave Seibert at 309-339-3694 or write to 300 North Street, Washington, IL 61571 to request a hard copy of the Rules and Regulation and Nomination Form. Δ



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