

Observations Of A Country Vet

How To Raise A Sound Ten Year Old Bull

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Underfed is better than overfed. Starved rats outlive their obese siblings. There are people still alive today that were starved in prison camps during WW2. Counterparts in this country have long since died. Children that have poor diets and little to eat when growing up tend to compensate and grow after that, getting older on a better diet. O.J. Simpson had rickets as a child but made a great football player. I have nine and ten year old Charolais bulls that are sound. Angus bulls that I bought that had the silver spoon developed corns, sole abscesses and had ruptured cruciate ligaments. My theory is to buy top genetics at weaning.

Grow on parture, hay (if winter time) and limited amount of soy/glutein/ddg, no corn. 800# - 900# yearling weight is OK. He will grow until six or seven and will weigh a ton at ten. If a young bull loses weight when put out with a few cows on a good pasture then he wasn't raised right. Seedstock producers usually keep bulls to 18 months or 2 years old and have them in high condition so they will sell good. They depreciate like a new car! If they are sold at weaning at a premium, the breeder may change his program, keep less animals, spend less money, do less work and make as much money. Δ

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