

IPT Bull Sale Source Of Total Performance Genetics At Ill. Beef Expo

MT. VERNON, ILL.

Commercial cow-calf producers and seedstock breeders interested in purchasing a total performance Tested bull will want to attend the 2012 Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale. The sale will be the leadoff event and headline the 25th Annual Illinois Beef Expo. There are 94 bulls cataloged with 18 being longer aged 2010 mature bulls and 76 yearlings. A breakdown of the breeds includes 63 Angus, 25 Simmental, 4 Polled Hereford and 2 Red Angus.

The sale is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, at 11:00 a.m. and will be held in the Livestock Center on the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The 2012 edition will be the 44th annual sale with 4,381 bulls valued at over 7.3 million dollars sold at previous sales, according to Dave Seibert, IPT Bull Sale Manager.

Bulls selling in the sale meet some of the most stringent requirements found in the United States. This is verified by only 412 or 61.4 percent of the 671 bulls nominated during the past five years making it into the sale.

The sale order will be based on a six trait Power Score system that utilizes the EPD traits of birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, maternal milk, marbling and ribeye area. The Power Score will be calculated on the "Percentile Rank" for the six trait EPDs.

The 2012 IPT Bull Sale offers some of the most elite bulls found anywhere in the United States as verified by their six trait Power Scores. Highlighting the 2012 sale will be several genetic powerhouse bulls that have light birth weight, high performance EPD bulls that excel in carcass desirability. Leading the 63 Angus bulls at cataloging is a May 2010 senior bull from Murphy's Angus, Illiopolis with an exceptional power score of 11.7. Following close behind is a March yearling from Can Am Cattle Company, Shelbyville with a 13.5 power score. Rounding out the top three power score bulls with a 13.7 is the early February yearling from Callan Farms of Stonington. All three of these bulls have very low birth weight, excellent growth and milk, and great marbling and ribeye area EPDs.

The superior performance of the bulls is verified by the superb weaning and yearling weights that include many adjusted weaning weights over 800 pounds, a few in the 900 pound range. There are similar adjusted yearling weights that are in the 1,300

and 1,400 pound range with one in the 1,500 pound area for yearling weight. Even with this excellent growth 34 or 53.9 percent of the bulls meet calving ease direct (CED) qualifications as established for the Illinois Heifer Development Program.

The twenty-five Simmental bulls are cataloged consisting of 16 purebreds, 1 three-quarter bloods and 8 half-bloods. All but one of the bulls is black, almost all are polled, and will provide a shot of hybrid vigor. The Fitzpatrick purebred consignment of Milan dominates the purebred division with the top six power score bulls. The power scores range from a high of 21.0 to 26.0. All but one of these bulls is January yearling with one October Senior.

Buyers will want to pay special attention to the powerful set of half and three quarters-blood Simmentals bulls being offered. The best Power Score of 15.8 in the Simmental sale is consigned by Fox Creek Cattle of Newton. This balanced trait composite bull has exceptional carcass trait EPDs of Marbling and Ribeye Area. Following close behind is a half-blood February yearling from the Rincker Simmentals of Shelbyville with a power score of 22.3. This calving ease bull qualifies for the Illinois Heifer Development Program and has excellent growth EPDs for weaning and yearling weight.

The Simmental breed has some exceptional adjusted weaning and yearling weights. Some of the top bulls in these categories include Sunny View Farms of Alexander with an 848 adjusted weaning weight and Huizenga Farms of Morrison with an 808 adjusted weight. High adjusted yearling weight is from Bob Fitzpatrick of Milan with a 1,452 pound.

Rounding out the sale are four Polled Hereford bulls with all of these being 2010 senior bulls. The breeding firm of Biggs Polled Herefords of Dixon has the top Power Score in with a 29.50 Power Score. This September fall bull has excellent growth and carcass EPDs. Completing the sale are two Red Angus bulls from Steiger Cattle Company of Delavan. One is a March 2010 senior division entry while the other is a December yearling.

In order to obtain the six trait power scores, bulls must be processed through their breed's performance testing program that allows comparisons with other animals of the same breed throughout the United States. These weights and measurements would include the perform-

ance traits of birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weights, and maternal milk along with the carcass traits of marbling and composition. This comparison allows for the development of EPDs (Expected Progeny Differences) that allows for a direct comparison between herds. There are also minimum WDAs established for the various ages of bulls that guarantee adequate development but not excess condition to retard their breeding ability.

Another very important minimum requirement for the sale is scrotal circumference that is highly correlated with the breeding ability of the bull and fertility of offspring daughters. All of the bulls must meet a minimum scrotal circumference for their age that is one of the most stringent found for any sale.

The sale offers some of the most stringent health requirements in Illinois. For the eighth year is the requirement to test for John's Disease. For this test the dam of the bull must be tested or come from a Level 1 or higher of the Voluntary John's Certification Program. Bulls also must be tested for Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) using the Persistently Infected (PI) ear notch screening system. In addition, all Senior and January yearlings must be fertility tested.

The IPT Bull Sale catalog along with supporting information can be found on the Web. This site contains all the pedigree information, adjusted weights, Power Scores and EPDs on seven different traits and two dollar value indexes. In addition, there is a list of registration numbers for all the bulls that allow prospective buyers to print a "Performance Pedigree" from the four breed associations. The web site also provides more complete information on how the "Power Score" is calculated, summary of the past 43 IPT Bull Sales, and a summary of the 2011 sale. The web site can be found at www.IPTBullSale.com.

The University of Illinois Extension and Animal Sciences Department along with the consigning purebred breeders sponsor the sale. Vita Ferm, Illinois Angus Association and the Illinois Simmental Association also provide sale support. For a sale catalog on the IPT Bull Sale and for additional information about the sale or bulls consigned contact Dave Seibert who serves as Sale Manager and can be contacted at 309-339-3694. Email requests can be sent to seibertd@comcast.net. Δ



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