

Start Selecting 2010 Illinois Performance Tested Bulls

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Purebred breeders should be identifying bulls they plan to consign to the 2010 Illinois Performance Tested (IPT) Bull Sale that will be the lead off event for the Illinois Beef Expo. The sale is scheduled for Thursday, February 25 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds Livestock Center in Springfield. The sale accepts older as well as yearling bulls, with the birth date range from January 1, 2008 through March 2009.

The IPT Bull Sale Advisory Committee recently met that represents the various breeds in the 2009 sale along with staff of the Illinois Beef Association, beef industry representatives and the University of Illinois Extension Beef Team to review the 2009 sale and formulate plans for the 2010 sale. The 2010 sale will be the 42nd Annual Sale and is organized by University of Illinois Extension and managed by Dave Seibert, Animal Systems Educator.

The testing of bulls for genetic recessive traits has been expanded for the 2010 sale to include all Angus and "Composite Bulls" being required to either be from Non-Carrier Ancestor in their pedigree or be tested free for the genetic recessive traits. For example Simmentals composite bulls must either be tested free of these traits or have proven Non-Carrier Ancestor in their background.

The 2010 sale will maintain the same six trait power score with equal emphasis on EPDs for birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, maternal milk, percent intramuscular fat and ribeye area. Also, the maximum power score at the time of cataloging will be 55 which is the same as used in 2009.

The age division will remain the same as found in the 2009 sale with the fall December 2008 bulls being included with the yearlings and required to meet the same WDA of 3.0. The re-

maining junior (July through November 2008) and senior bulls (January through June 2008) being combined and selling together. Also, the senior bulls WDA will remain the same (2.3 WDA) while the junior bulls WDA will be 2.6 for the July through September 2008 and 2.8 WDA for the October and November.

Health requirements will remain the same that include the testing of all bulls for Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) using the Persistently Infected (PI) ear notch screening system and the testing of the bulls dam for Johnes's. Also, all Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE) must be conducted by a veterinarian.

Angus breeders need to be aware that as required in the 2009 sale, "all Angus bulls must have ultrasound body composition images collected by field technicians certified by the Ultrasound Guidelines Council (UCG), with images processed by ultrasound technicians through an "approved centralized ultrasound processing laboratory" prior to arriving at the 2010 IPT Bull Sale.

The number of bulls that breeders are eligible to consign to the 2010 sale will be eight, with two of these bulls not requiring nomination fee. However, consignors selling more than six bulls will require that they index above the average for their breed. Also, first time consignors are still limited to nominating two bulls.

Nomination deadline and fees are three tiered with the following dates and costs: November 15, \$75, December 1, \$100; and December 15, \$125. A copy of the Rules and Regulations and Nomination Form can be obtained by writing to Dave Seibert at the East Peoria Extension Center, 727 Sabrina Drive, East Peoria, IL 61611 or by calling 309-694-7501, Ext. 224. Seibert can also be contacted at dseibert@illinois.edu. Δ

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