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2009-10 Tifton Bull Evaluation Program – On-Test Report

52nd

October 20, 2009

To: Participating Breeders and Others Interested in the 52nd Tifton Bull Evaluation Program

From:

Robert L. Stewart, Extension Animal Scientist - Beef Cattle

The 52nd Tifton Bull Evaluation Program began on September 28 and 29, with the delivery of 117 bulls. The weather has been warm, but the health of the bulls has been excellent with a few exceptions. A few bulls have been treated for respiratory problems and have responded well to treatment. Our consignors are to be commended for the quality of bulls sent this year. At this point, the quality is deep in every breed.

We want to extend a big thanks to our agribusiness sponsors for helping with the program. Henry Jones of Pfizer and Randy Fordham of Fort Dodge assisted with products (wormer and vaccines for the bulls). Their support helps defray a portion of the cost of testing. Their products provide the added protection to keep our bulls as healthy as possible. Please thank them when you see them at producer meetings and other events.

Once again, we tested all bulls for the presence of Persistently Infected BVD. The results are in, and we're pleased to report that all bulls were negative. You will note that in addition to visual tags, bulls also have an Electronic Identification Tag (EID). **If you did not provide all your performance information at check-in (adj. weaning weight, weaning date, weaning ratio, number of contemporaries, etc.), please forward that to Patsie as soon as possible (ptcannon@uga.edu or 229/386-3683).**

Also, be aware of the Heifer Evaluation and Reproductive Development (HERD) program. We currently have 148 heifers being evaluated at Irwinville. This is an exciting program with a lot of enthusiasm. It complements the Bull Evaluation, generating more interest in both programs. The heifers will be evaluated over the winter with a sale scheduled for April 20, 2010.

Other dates: November 10 - Deadline for HERD entries at Calhoun * December 11 - Calhoun Bull Evaluation Sale

The next weigh day is November 17. The Tifton Bull Evaluation Center is open for visitors between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. You are welcome to visit the station any time during these hours. If you wish to visit on the weekends, please call Mike Keeler at 229/831-5416.

Please note our website is www.tifton.uga.edu/pc-web. You can access the bull test and heifer reports from both the Tifton and Calhoun test stations at this site, along with information about the Georgia Beef Challenge program.

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