HOME OF INDIANA BEEF EVALUATION PROGRAM BULL TEST STATION

The test station was started in November 1976 at the Pioneer Beef Cattle facility at Tipton, Indiana, and later moved to Purdue University's Lynnwood Farm at Carmel. It has been located at Feldun Purdue Agricultural Center, Bedford, Indiana since 1989. It has been said that the bull test station has done more to improve the beef cattle in Southern Indiana than any one thing.

The test station is governed by a board of directors. Each Breed Association appoints a member; the Indiana Beef Cattle Association appoints a representative and two at-large positions are appointed. With their direction the test station has been extremely successful. Purdue University Extension Educators, Veterinarians, and Beef Specialists have also contributed to it's innovative changes as the Beef Industry evolves.

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Moses Fell Dunn gifted "Purdue University's oldest research farm outside of Tippecanoe County" in 1914. He was born in 1842, went to graduate school at Harvard and studied abroad in Paris and Berlin. Highly regarded as a lawyer, between 1875 and 1895, he argued 97 cases before the Indiana Supreme Court. He was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 1866 and 1868.

From the original 360 acres, Feldun Purdue Agricultural Center has grown to more than 900 acres. Located in South Central Indiana, these rolling and wooded hills are highly concentrated with Indiana's cow/calf operations. Research emphasis at FPAC has been placed on beef cattle and forages.

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FELDUN PURDUE AG CENTER

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Beef Cattle And Forage Research

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FPAC BEEF CATTLE RESEARCH FACTS

•Appoximately 250 cows per year are calved at Feldun Purdue Ag Center (FPAC).

•Cows are Angus, Simmental, and some Polled Hereford influence from past years. Some straight Angus and Simmental cows are maintained along with various crosses of the two breeds.

•All cows and calves have both visual and EID (Electronic ID) ear tags. Herd records are maintained utilizing "Cow-Sense" software from Midwest Micro Systems. All cows/bulls have been DNA tested for Marbling and Tenderness.

•In the past, only Angus and Simmental sires were utilized in breeding projects. All of these bulls were purchased through IBEP's test station sale. Recently, South Devon and composite breed bulls have been utilized to evaluate the contributions of these genetics in Midwest commercial beef herds.

•Grazing research is being done on typical Southern Indiana fescue/clover pastures as well as alfalfa/orchardgrass and alfalfa/low endophyte fescue. Both intensive and traditional grazing systems are being compared.

•New research is comparing Simmental and Angus 2-breed rotational with SimAngus breeding programs. Selections using $ index values through both AI and Natural service will be examined over the next several years.

•Various water systems are being examined with sink hole ponds being the predominant water source. These ponds have been fenced off to provide cleaner sources of water.

•Utilizing mainly tall fescue pastures, frost seeded with red clover, efforts have focused on reproductive efficiency, weaning weight, and resource utilization.

•In years 89-93 compared to years 94-05 conception rates have increased from 87.5% to 92% and weaning weights from 449# to 583#.

•Calves are not creep fed and typically average 7 months at weaning. Pounds weaned per cow exposed has averaged 509 in the last 10 years.

•88% of the cows calved in the first 42 days of the calving season in 2006.

•Based on exposed females 2006 saw calving % at 88; calf death loss at 4.3%

•At weaning, heifer calves are taken to the Southern Indiana Purdue Ag Center, Dubois, where they are used in various heifer development feeding trials.

• Replacement heifers are then selected on weaning and yearling weight ratios, disposition, frame and breed type. All are synchronized and bred AI (artificial insemination) to Angus bulls followed by natural service cleanup.

• Through the American Simmental Assn. and Cornell University, crossbred EPD's have been established on the cow herd using 10 years of performance and carcass data.

• At weaning, steer calves are transported to the Animal Sciences Research and Education Center, West Lafayette, where they are utilized in various post-weaning nutritional and management trials.

• The steers are evaluated for both feedlot performance and carcass traits by breed type.

• 2001-2004 born steers gained 3.33 pounds per day while on feed, with 86% grading choice or better, 25% CAB (Certified Angus Beef), and 45% yield grade 1's and 2's.

INDIANA BEEF EVALUATION PROGRAM

• The Indiana Beef Evaluation Program (IBEP) conducts two tests per year (Summer and Winter)

•Summer test bulls are born between May 1 and October 31; Winter test bulls are born between January 1 and April 30

•Capacity is around 220 in 8 outside lots

•A moderate energy ration of corn and small grain silage, corn, and supplement is fed so bulls can exhibit their genetic growth potential without having excess condition.

•Purposes:

1. To promote performance testing and acquaint producers with its value
2. To complement on-farm testing
3. To provide a common environment for evaluating young bulls
4. To assist breeders in identifying sires whose progeny excel in growth rate, feed conversion, and carcass value
5. To aid beef producers in obtaining superior, performance tested bulls which have been evaluated for growth, breeding soundness, structural soundness and carcass merit

•Eligibility requirements:

1. Any beef producer is welcome to enter bulls in IBEP performance tests.
2. Producers are encouraged to have their herds enrolled in an official on-farm performance program recognized by the Beef Improvement Federation.
3. Actual birth weights are mandatory.
4. Purebred and percentage bulls eligible for registry in a national or international breed association are eligible for testing. Non-recorded bulls are accepted for testing if all other eligibility requirements are met.
5. Weight per day of age requirements are 2.25 for the Summer test and 2.45 for the Winter test
6. Bulls must have a certificate of vaccination record and meet all health requirements.

•To be sale eligible the bull must index in the top 2/3 of its respective breed. They must also pass breeding soundness exams and structural soundness inspections.

•Bulls are evaluated for carcass traits utilizing a Centralized Ultrasound Processing (CUP) laboratory certified technician.

•Through the 2005 WInter test, 7,897 bulls have been tested, with 4,214 bulls being sold in 57 IBEP sales. The majority of the bulls have been sold to Indiana producers; however, bulls have been purchased in 20 other states. During the spring sales, four video sites in Indiana and 1 in Kentucky are utilized. In the past 20- 25%, of the bulls are purchased at video sites.

•The Indiana Beef Evaluation and Economics Feeding Program (IBEEF) has asked entrants to designate calves sired by IBEP tested bulls. Roughly 1/3 of calves entered have been sired by IBEP tested bulls. With 7 years of data (3619 steers and heifers), IBEP sired calves have excelled in both feedlot performance and profit.

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•Station Manager: Richard Huntrods

CURRENT TEST SUMMER 2007 FACTS

•84 bulls currently are on test

•67 Angus, 4 Charolais, 4 Gelbvieh Balancers, 1 Hereford, 4 SimAngus and 4 Simmental

•Entered by 31 cooperators from 5 States

•The 60th Sale will be held at the Springville Feeder Auction on October 20, 2007