

YOUTH BEEF CATTLE PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Alabama youth have the unique opportunity, in conjunction with Alabama BCIA, to participate in two beef cattle performance programs. They are: 1) to exhibit/show heifers in a special “performance-documented” breed category and 2) to merchandize bulls in the annual (February) BCIA sponsored “EPD Bull Sale.” Information about these two programs is in this document, which contains the following information:

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ALABAMA YOUTH BCIA BULL SALE

OBJECTIVES: 1) to provide 4-H, FFA and youth members of National Breed Associations the opportunity to further their involvement in the Alabama Purebred Beef Cattle Seedstock Industry, 2) to provide an opportunity for those youth that have developed small cowherds as a result of being involved in the Heifer Program, to “go to the next level,” and merchandise their bull progeny, 3) to encourage youth to remain involved in the beef industry at the conclusion of their 4-H/ FFA careers, 4) to encourage the expansion of knowledge about nutrition, genetics, performance of cattle on feed and animal behavior, 5) and to reap financial rewards by being able to merchandise bulls in the “2008 Alabama BCIA EPD” Bull Sale.

- 1) Open to any resident Alabama 4-H, FFA or youth member of a National Beef Cattle Breed Association.
- 2) Bulls must be registered by the National Breed Association and recorded in the ownership of the consigning youth.
- 3) Bulls will be sold as part of the “EPD” Bull sale and must meet the requirements of the Alabama BCIA “EPD” Sale, Friday, February 27, 2009, Montgomery, AL.
- 4) Bulls must:
 - Be born between the dates of January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007.
 - Have actual birth weights.
 - Have a minimum weaning weight of 525 lbs.
 - Have official Breed Association EPDs.
- 5) It is recommended that bulls be halter broken and able to be shown, with the use of a noselead.
- 6) Bulls must be weighed between September 1, 2008 and November 1, 2008 and the information recorded on the “Youth BCIA Bull Sale” entry form and submitted to Bob Ebert, 111B Upchurch Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5625; email, ebertra@auburn.edu; phone, 334-844-1563; fax, 334-844-1519 by November 1, 2008.
- 7) Bulls must have the following Weight/Day/Age at the time of delivery to the Montgomery Stockyards on Thursday, February 26, 2009 to be eligible to sell, according to their birthdates: January-February, 2.0; March-April, 2.1; May-June, 2.2; July-August, 2.3; September-October, 2.4; and November-December, 2.5 WDA.
- 8) Sale order will be determined upon arrival and processing of all bulls on Thursday, February 26, 2009.
- 9) To sell in the Alabama BCIA “EPD “ Sale:
 - Bulls must have current valid interstate health certificates
 - Bulls must have a minimum scrotal circumference of 32 cm
 - The consignor must guarantee the bull to be a breeder.
- 10) After November 1, 2008, other pertinent information about the sale will be forwarded from the Alabama BCIA office.

2009 ALABAMA YOUTH BCIA "EPD" BULL SALE ENTRY FORM

OWNER _____ COUNTY _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

BIRTHDATE _____ (Circle one) Male Female

Special Needs required (provide documentation): _____

GRADE for SCHOOL YEAR 2008-09 _____ SCHOOL _____

NAME OF 4-H CLUB/FFA CHAPTER/BREED ASSN _____

By entering in this program:

- 1). I agree that I will be responsible for and be the primary caretaker of the animal identified on this form.
- 2). I agree to treat my animal in a humane manner and provide for its needs using approved animal husbandry methods.
- 3). I agree that I will not use abusive, questionable or illegal techniques in managing my animal as I understand that this animal will be sold as a breeding bull and ultimately will become part of the food chain.
- 4). I agree to abide by all the rules that govern this activity as expressed in the material provided to me by my Extension agent/Agriscience teacher/volunteer 4-H leader and the Alabama BCIA.
- 5). I agree that when exhibiting and selling my animal I will use caution and care in dealing with the viewing public.
- 6). I agree that I will make my animal available for educational programs whenever I am asked to do so.
- 7). As a consignor, I agree to abide by the Alabama BCIA Sale Terms and Conditions, as published in the sale catalog.

USDA Premise ID _____ Electronic ID: YES NO

Animal ID (Tattoo) LE _____ RE _____ Breed _____

Date of Birth _____ Actual Birth Weight _____

Weigh Date _____ Weight of Bull _____ Scrotal Circumference _____

Current EPDs: Birth _____ Weaning _____ Yearling _____ Milk _____

Animal's Name _____ Registration # _____

Sire's Name & Reg # _____

Dam's Name & Reg # _____

Breeder of Animal _____

Breeder's Address _____

SIGNED _____ DATE _____
Owner/Consignor

SIGNED _____ DATE _____
Parent/Guardian

SIGNED _____ DATE _____
Extension Agent/Agriscience Education Teacher/Volunteer 4-H Leader

Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association

40 County Road 756 Clanton, AL 35045 205-646-0115

www.albcia.org

Guidelines for Providing Performance Data for Performance Documented Heifers*

Join Alabama BCIA as a Junior member at no membership cost by filling out a membership form and submitting it to the BCIA office. Membership application form and further details about the benefits and opportunities within the association can be found at **www.albcia.org**.

Provide information for management group codes to be established. Management groups are different pasture groups, twin calves, creep feed vs. no creep feed, or any other difference in management. Do not include calves receiving special treatment (show, bull test, and sale) in the same group with those that did not receive an equal opportunity to perform. If the entire herd is managed the same, it will be one management group. Management groups will establish different contemporary groups.

Provide a unique (no duplicate numbers) dam number, dam's birth date or birth year, and dam's breed code for each calf to the BCIA office. Provide a unique calf number, calf sex, calf birth date, calf sire, actual 205 day weight, and the date the actual 205 day weight was collected to the BCIA office. Hip heights and the date of the height measurement may also be collected for calculation of 205 day frame scores.

Provide the sire number or name, sire breed code, and sire birth date or birth year of each calf.

Weigh all calves individually between 160 to 250 days of age to record an actual 205 day weight. Weigh every calf (steers and heifers, or at least ALL heifers) in the calf crop, not just the individuals planned to be shown!! The more individuals in a contemporary group the stronger the data. Calves should be weighed on the same day to be in the same contemporary group.

How Contemporary Groups Will Be Determined for 205 Day Performance Data Calculation*

Calves will be grouped by sex.

Calves will be grouped by management group code.

Calves will be no more that 90 days apart in age. If the age spread is greater than 90 days, choose two weigh dates to fit the age range of the calves into 160 to 250 days of age.

BCIA Document to Supply to Show Officials for a Performance Documented Heifer Class

BCIA Calf Detail Report for each heifer or a BCIA Calf Report of all heifers, steers, and bulls of that calf crop. These reports will provide the birth date, adjusted 205 day weight, 205 Day Ratio or Index, and number of contemporaries. The BCIA Calf Detail Report must specifically be requested when data is submitted.

Deadlines for Data Submission to BCIA

Alabama Junior Livestock Expo: Data should be in the BCIA office by November 1 to have completed forms to you for the January 1 deadline for the Expo classes.

Alabama Purebred Beef Breeds Council Show: Data should be in the BCIA office by June 15 to have completed forms to you for the August 1 deadline.

NOTE: If show dates change in the future, please note that the BCIA data submission dates will also change. Two months are needed to process performance data for the Expo and a month and a half for summer shows.

Contemporary Group Information

Performance measurements and procedures are dependent upon the correct formation of contemporary groups. A contemporary group is defined as a group of animals that is from the same herd, sex and birth season and that is similarly managed. Contemporary groups account for management and environmental differences among groups of animals. This allows determination of genetic differences among individuals once contemporary groups are formed. The producer is the only one who knows the proper designation of contemporary groups. Taken from Guidelines for Developing and Testing Beef Bulls On-Farm, 1994, (ANR-883), by Kriese-Anderson, L. A., Floyd, Jr, J. G. and Van Dyke, J.

Proper contemporary grouping is the cornerstone of accurate genetic evaluation. A contemporary group is simply a group of cattle of the same sex raised in the same environment and weighed under the same conditions. The following guideline should be utilized when forming contemporary groups:

(1) animals of the same sex; (2) animals of similar age (not more that 90 days spread in birth dates); and (3) animals managed together and given equal opportunity to perform (same pasture time, same feed regime, same weigh dates, etc). Taken from How to Understand and Use Sire Summaries, 2001, by Kirkpatrick, F. D.

A contemporary group is a group of animals that have had an equal opportunity to perform. It usually consists of a group of cattle that are of the same breed composition and sex, are similar in age, and have been raised under the same management conditions. Contemporary group assignments should be as simple as possible and yet account for major differences in management. They should include as many cattle as can be accurately compared. Once a contemporary group is formed and the calving season is over, it should never increase in size. A contemporary group can decrease in size due to injury, illness, culling, death and assignment of calves to different groups with different management schemes within the original contemporary group. In addition, some calves such as embryo transfer and cattle fitted for show away from the rest of the herd, will have no other contemporaries in their groups. Taken from Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Assn Newsletter, 2004.

A Guide to Contemporary Grouping

- Use group codes on registration application or performance data submission forms to assign calves to contemporary groups.
- Use the group codes to put a sick or injured calf into a single animal contemporary group if the illness or injury affected the calf's performance.
- Take weaning weights and measurements on all calves on the same day (when a majority of the calves are between 160 and 250 days of age), including as many calves in each contemporary group as legitimately possible.
- Weigh all animals in a group before separating them, especially before separating show calves or bulls for a test station.
- If the age spread of calves is greater than 90 days, choose two or more weigh dates, using as few as possible.
- Do not weigh each calf individually as it reaches 205 days of age. Rather weigh each calf individually when calves in a group average approximately 205 days of age.
- Do not include calves receiving special treatment (show, bull test, and sale) in the same group with those that did not receive an equal opportunity to perform.
- Taken from Beef Improvement Federation webpage, Chapter 3, Animal Evaluation

Special Notes:

- A contemporary group must contain more than one animal.
- Several family members can own animals in the same contemporary group.
- Twin calves should not be included in any contemporary group.