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VIRGINIA BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
 School of Animal Sciences, Virginia Tech
 366 Litton Reaves (MC 0306), Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
 Phone 540-231-9159 Web site: www.bcia.apsc.vt.edu

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DATE: May 18, 2023
TO: All Virginia BCIA Members and Others
FROM: Scott P. Greiner, Extension Beef Specialist, BCIA Educational Advisor
RE: 2023-2024 Central Bull Test Station Rules & Regulations, Entry Information

Thanks to a strong partnership with you as a consignor as well as our buyers, we continue to enjoy a strong state bull test. We invite you to participate this coming year, and look forward to working with you. All of the pertinent information- Rules and Regs, forms, summaries of previous years tests and sales, etc. are available on our website www.bcia.apsc.vt.edu .Please note we will be transitioning to a new website very shortly- we will send out an email with notification when that happens.

On the back of this letter is a summary of the primary updates and changes that have been made to the Rules and Regulations for the coming year. We continue to take steps to enhance the program based on your input, along with feedback from our customers. Please read the entire Rules and Regulations carefully.

2023 Membership Dues - It is again time to solicit your support of Virginia BCIA through payment of your annual dues for the 2023 calendar year. Dues remain the same at \$40.00 per membership. In addition, you have the opportunity to join the Virginia Cattleman's Association at a reduced rate as a BCIA member (\$30 vs. \$50). Please make any address changes to the form (be sure to include your e-mail address). Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Key information to keep in mind:

Culpeper – Culpeper Senior Entry Forms due in BCIA office June 10 (bull delivery will be Tuesday, June 27) PLEASE USE THE EXCEL SPREADSHEET ENTRY FORM- the spreadsheet is available and can be downloaded from our website and emailed (easier and more efficient than paper form for all of us; although paper form is still available for those preferring to use it). Please get your entries to us as soon as possible. Riverview Farms has capacity for up to 165 bulls, so potential to feed some bulls on custom test. Please reach out to the BCIA office or Steve or Blake if you have an interest. Also, delivery date will be here very soon, so please plan ahead to get your bloodwork completed for health papers delivery day.

Southwest- Entry deadline is September 5. We will utilize electronic entry form again this year, please use if at all possible. Please collect and send in DNA on your bulls now, to receive genomic information back prior to delivery and to help you make selection decisions.

All of the applicable information and forms, as well as historical data can be found on the BCIA website. I would remind you that we now have an online payment portal available on the website so you can electronically make payments for membership, entry fees, and feed deposits. If you have questions, please let us know. We look forward to working with you during the upcoming year.

OVER

Central Bull Test/Sale Rules & Regulations Notes for 2023-24

The following are key items and recent changes to the BCIA Bull Test Program. These changes were brought forth by consignor and bull buyer input, and approved by the BCIA Board of Directors, with the goal of continuing to build on and strengthen our program.

Recent Changes: Last year we moved the SW Sale location to the APEX Center, and adopted a \$2500 floor price on Senior bulls at both locations. Both of these items were well received and will continue.

Genomic Testing: Genomic testing (GE-EPDs) is required for all bulls at both Culpeper and Southwest. ***We strongly encourage you to genomic test your bulls at home prior to delivery*** to enable you to consign bulls with the most desirable and accurate EPDs. For bulls not sampled prior to delivery, we will continue to facilitate the collection and submission of DNA on bulls as part of our test procedures.

Minimum EPDs for Sale Qualification (VQA Standards): For many years BCIA has utilized the EPD requirement standard of the Virginia Quality Assured Feeder Calf Program as a sale criteria (bull must be in top 70th percentile of the breed for YW EPD). VQA will be adopting a new criteria for sire qualification, and use the terminal index EPDs for each breed rather than YW EPD. This change is being made as the terminal index EPDs (such as \$B for Angus, TI for Simmental, etc.) are better predictors of calf feedlot performance and carcass merit than YW EPD. This change will take place effective July 1, 2024. In the interim (including this test/sale year), bulls can qualify as VQA sires through having either a YW EPD or terminal index EPD in top 70th percentile. This phase-in approach is being used to allow time to adjust breeding programs to the new standard (new standard will apply to bulls born fall 2023/spring 2024 and tested during our 2024-25 test/sale season). See Rules and Regulations for details.

BCIA Online Payment Portal: We now have an online payment portal available on our website so you can make membership and other payments using your credit/debit card or through electronic bank transfer. Payment of entry fees and feed deposits can also be made through this portal.

Identification/EIDs: Please work with your veterinarian to have EIDs placed in your bulls for your health papers.

Pre-Delivery Health and Management Protocol: Please follow our pre-delivery vaccination and management requirements closely (see Rules and Regulations). Be sure to get bulls weaned (minimum 45 days prior to delivery), vaccinated, bunk broke and started on feed in a timely fashion.