

2024 Virginia BCIA Southwest Bull Test Sale Report

Scott Greiner, Ph.D.
Extension Animal Scientist, Beef, Virginia Tech

The 45th Annual Southwest Virginia Performance Tested Bull Sale sponsored by the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association was held Saturday, March 23, 2024 at the APEX Center outside Wytheville, Virginia. The 139 bulls offered sold for a program record average price of \$5131 per head. Breed averages were as follows: 59 Angus averaged \$5161, 9 Hereford \$4778, 4 Charolais \$4063, 9 Purebred Gelbvieh \$4250, 2 Gelbvieh Balancer \$5375, 20 Purebred Simmental \$4963, and 36 SimAngus \$5590. The BCIA-influenced Virginia Premium Assured Heifer Sale held in conjunction with the bull sale sold 13 fall-calving bred heifers for an average price of \$2792 per head.

Bidding was strong and steady across all breeds, with the sale being paced by the high indexing Junior Angus bull, Lot 57, from Little Windy Hill Farm in Max Meadows, VA selling to Cove Creek Cattle of Wytheville, VA and Clifford Joines of Galax, VA for \$20,000. This son of Poss Deadwood was the high YW bull of the entire test at 1479 pounds, and posted 17 EPDs in the top 20% of the breed including CED +10, YW +145, MB +1.49, RE +0.81, and was the high \$B bull at +215. Cove Creek Cattle of Wytheville, VA consigned Lot 8, a November-born son of Deer Valley Growth Fund which sold for \$7500 to Tim Darnell of Fort Blackmore, VA. This high growth bull posted YW EPD +151 along with IMF ratio 129, \$W 89, \$B 177, and \$C +295. The lead member of Lawson Family Farms' Junior Breeder Group Award consignment, Lot 94, sold to Glenmary Farm in Rapidan, VA for \$7000. This bull was sired by SAV Renown 3439, and ratioed 116 for test YW, 127 for test ADG, 121 for IMF, and 114 for RE, and also posted EPDs of YW +166, DOC +27, and \$W +87. His ET brother, Lot 95, had very similar performance and sold for \$6250 to Miller Land and Cattle from Knoxville, TN. Lucas Farm from Blacksburg, VA bred Lot 12 which sold to Dalton Farms in Roanoke, VA for \$6750. This son of Musgrave 316 Exclusive was the high ADG bull of the test at 4.96 and posted a RE ratio of 118 along with strong maternal and carcass indexes. Lot 83 from Kiracofe Angus in Churchville, VA sold for \$6250 and went to Jamie Culbertson of Gate City, VA. He was sired by GAR Freedom and posted EPDs of +86 WW, +1.16 RE, +76 \$@ and +293 \$C.

The exceptionally strong SimAngus sale was paced by a trio of fall-born Senior bulls from Reasor Simmental in Rural Retreat, VA. Lot 444 commanded \$8750 and sold to Timothy Huffman in Newport, VA. This homozygous black son of Chimney Top Treasure E34 posted test YW ratio 108, RE ratio 112, along with CED EPD +13 and YW EPD +142. Another homozygous black Chimney Top Treasure son, Lot 443, brought \$7500 selling to Ralph Edwin Williams of Pembroke, VA., and had EPDs of +132 YW and +88 TI. Lot 447 from Reasor was a homo black son of Chimney Top Relevance H16 and sold to Dalton Farms of Roanoke for \$7500. This stout bull scanned with a 15.9 REA and had strong growth performance and EPDs. EWA from West Point, VA was recognized with the Senior Breeder Group award for their consignment of SimAngus bulls, and their lead Lot 450 sold for \$6750 to Wheeler Farms in Atkins, VA. This homozygous black son of EWA Network 025 had WW and YW EPDs of +112 and +193 respectively, and test ratios of 109 and 112 for YW and ADG. Also bringing \$6750 was Lot 545 from Lucas Farms, selling to Cook's Farm in Covington, VA as well as Lot 445, another Reasor Simmental consignment which went to Jason Bush of Castlewood, VA. The high selling Junior SimAngus bulls was bred by Stephaven Farm in Church Road, VA and sold to Billy Joe Watson in Fairlawn, VA for \$6750. This high growth son of S/F Omaha 2VH had a test YW of 1367 pounds complimented by the largest ultrasound RE of the sale at 16.9.

Gingerich Family Farm from Jonesville, VA bred the high selling purebred Simmental bull, Lot 407 which went to RJ Meyers in St. Francis, KS for \$6500. This calving ease son of MR SR Highlife G1609 had EPDs of CED +13, DOC +13, Milk +25 and API +152. Joines Cattle Company of Blacksburg, VA bred Lot 403 another fall-born Senior, selling to Code Cattle Company of Inwood, WV for \$6000. This September son of JSUL Something About Mary 8421 had ADG ratio 114, YW ratio 113, RE ratio 112, with CE EPD +13.

The solid Hereford offering was led by Lot 205, bred by Hereford Hollow Farm, Wytheville, VA and selling to Dusty Clark from Gate City, VA for \$6250. Sired by CMF 1720 Gold Ruch 569G, this homozygous polled bull had test ADG ratio 119, YW EPD +136, MB EPD +0.46, RE EPD +0.77, along with strong BMI and CHB indexes.

Lot 616, a fall-born, homozygous black and polled Balancer bull bred by Little Windy Hill Farm of Max Meadows, VA, led the Gelbvieh sale. This son of EXAR Stallion 0117B, went to Lowrey Sarver of Athens, WV for \$6250.

The BCIA-Influenced Heifer Sale consisted of 13 fall-calving commercial bred heifers. All heifers were designated as Virginia Premium Assured females. Prices were steady, as the heifers averaged \$2792 per head. High selling lots were Lot 1, Lot 2 and Lot 4, all featuring Angus x Simmental heifers due in October-November which were consigned by the Virginia Tech Beef Center and sold for \$2900 each.

All bulls were consigned by members of the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association. Bulls were developed at Mountain Spring Farm at Wytheville, VA owned and operated by Brian and Kayla Umberger. The sale was managed by Virginia BCIA, and the auctioneer was Mike Jones.

Virginia BCIA and the Southwest Bull and Heifer Sale consignors would like to thank Anders Realty and Auction, Anderson & Sons Meat Processing, Aschenenbach Auto Group, ASM Ag Services, Chilhowie Fence Supply, Cove Creek Cattle, DeHaven Farms, EWA, Farm Credit, Farmers Milling, First Bank & Trust Company, Five Oaks Farm, Giles Farm Bureau, Gingerich Family Farm, Hillsville Farm Bureau Insurance, Jude Sherlock, Keller Family Angus, Lawson Family Farms, Legacy at Pine Hill Farm, Little Windy Hill Farms, Lucas Farms, Meade Tractor, Mt. Airy Equipment, Performance Feeds, Premier Select Sires, Reasor Realty, Reasor Simmental, Southern States- Carroll County Coop, Southern States- Russell County Cooperative, Southwest Farm Supply, Southwestern Equipment, Springwood Livestock Management Services, Stevens Feed Mill, Stephaven Farm, Tri-State Livestock Market, Trio Farms, Virginia Beef Expo, West End Precast, Wheeler Farms, and Wythe County Livestock Exchange for their sponsorship and support.

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