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**VIRGINIA BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**  
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**DATE:** May 16, 2024  
**TO:** All Virginia BCIA Members and Others  
**FROM:** Scott P. Greiner, Extension Beef Specialist, BCIA Educational Advisor  
**RE:** 2024-2025 Central Bull Test Station Rules & Regulations, Entry Information

We just completed a record year with our Virginia BCIA bull development program, thanks to a strong partnership with you as a consignor as well as our buyers. We expect another great season in 2024-2025! 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 [virginiabcia.com](http://virginiabcia.com).

On the back of this letter is a summary of key points 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.

**2024 Membership Dues** - It is again time to solicit your support of Virginia BCIA through payment of your annual dues for the 2024 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). 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, July 2) 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. 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 2024-25**

**New VQA EPD Standard in Effect for Sale Qualification:** For many years BCIA has utilized the EPD requirement standard of the Virginia Quality Assured Feeder Calf Program. As shared previously, effective July 1, 2024 VQA has adopted terminal index EPDs for each breed rather than YW EPD as the program genetic requirement. 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. Accordingly, all bulls must meet this qualification to be sale eligible. See Rules and Regulations for details.

**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.

**Homozygous Black Testing:** As in past, we will continue to require homozygous black genotyping for applicable breeds. All bulls which are potentially Homozygous Black are required to be genotyped. BCIA shall recognize coat color genotype as published by respective breed associations (documentation not filed with breed association will not be recognized). BCIA will no longer honor test results that are not on file through the breed association. This is so that our results published in sale catalog will match the results published by the breed association.

**BCIA Online Payment Portal:** As reminder, for your convenience an online payment portal is available on our website so you can pay membership dues, entry fees, and feed deposits using your credit/debit card or through electronic bank transfer.

**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.