



INDIANA BEEF EVALUATION PROGRAM

FELDUN PURDUE AGRICULTURE CENTER
1117 STATE ROAD 458
BEDFORD, IN 47421
STATION: (812) 279-4330
<https://ag.purdue.edu/ansc/ibep/>

S23-4
8/16/2023

Bulls were weighed Monday (8/14/2023) morning to avoid delays in weight collection during ultrasounding on Tuesday. Performance is significantly down in the 26 days since the mid-test weight. As the performance summary shows, Senior bulls averaged 1.25 lbs per day and Junior bulls averaged 1.7 lbs per day. This had me scratching my head as much as you may be right now. There is always a warm spell during the summer that works against us, however, I have not seen this degree of reduced performance to this point. I went back to the feed sheets because I knew intakes had to be reduced across all pens because bulls began having feed left by the next days feeding. Residual feed was observed on July 26 and 27 which resulted in a feed reduction on July 28. I downloaded weather from the weather station at Feldun from July 18 through August 14. The weather data shows the warm spell began July 26 and extended through July 30. During this period daily highs were in the mid to upper 80's or higher, specifically on July 27 and July 28. What really worked against us on mitigating heat stress was that night time temperatures never fell below 75° F from July 26 – July 28. On July 29 and July 30 night time temperatures reach 70° F degrees but only for three to four hours. The true break in the heat spell came on July 31 and we went back to pre-heat spell intake levels on August 1 and remained at this level through August 9 and then intakes were increased again. This is the long way of saying it can not be ruled out that there was minimal to no gain during a five-day period, followed by an additional week recovering from that. During this 26-day period there was only 7 days that “Alert” (<https://beef.unl.edu/beefwatch/heat-stress-handling-cattle-through-high-heat-humidity-indexes>) levels of heat stress was not reached.

Shortly after the mid-test weight one bull was treated for pinkeye. Diagnosis was early and recovery was quick. Three bulls have been treated for foot rot. While pens are dry, during the warm spells, bulls spent a lot of time in barns that resulted in abnormally moist bedding. In addition, three bulls have received therapy for lameness associated with hoof cracks or claw bruising. Treatment history is up to date on Performance Livestock Analytics.

I hope your schedule will allow you to attend the **structural soundness and disposition evaluation day on Monday September 11th** starting at 9:00 AM. Great opportunity to evaluate bulls prior to off-test.

Angus Media is designing and publishing the Sale catalog again for the fall sale. The digital version will be published online prior to the end of the summer test. Feed back from the spring sale resulted in fewer bulls printed per page and an increase in font size.

2023 CATTLEMEN'S CALENDAR

County beef cattle groups are encouraged to contact IBEP to volunteer (3-4 people) to help on a weigh or workday as listed below. Bring a potential cooperator or bull buyer to give them a first-hand look at the bulls, facilities and the central testing program.

Sept. 11	Structural Soundness and Disposition Evaluation
Sept. 17	Off-Test Weight
Sept. 18	<i>Off-Test Weight, Scrotal Circumference, Hip Height</i>
Sept. 21	<i>Breeding Soundness Exam & Branding of Sale Bulls</i>
Sept. 22	<i>Entry Deadline for IBEP Winter Test 2023</i> https://ag.purdue.edu/departments/ansc/ibep/2023-winter-test.html
Sept. 29	<i>Stockmanship with Curt Pate</i> Beef Cattle Focus Location: Southern Indiana Purdue Ag Center – Dubois, IN
Sept. 30	<i>Stockmanship with Curt Pate</i> Sheep and Goat Focus Location: Southern Indiana Purdue Ag Center – Dubois, IN
Oct. 5-6	Bale Grazing Workshop RSVP Link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1aOkZ5dM2fmqpPTBRgomLaG3Lk5mWM-00lqePhIG5Ds0/viewform?edit_requested=true
Oct. 14	<i>92nd IBEP Performance Tested Bull Sale</i> <i>Held in conjunction with the Springville Feeder Auction Heifer and Cow Sale.</i>
Oct. 24	<i>Delivery Day for Winter Test 2023</i>

Best Regards,



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