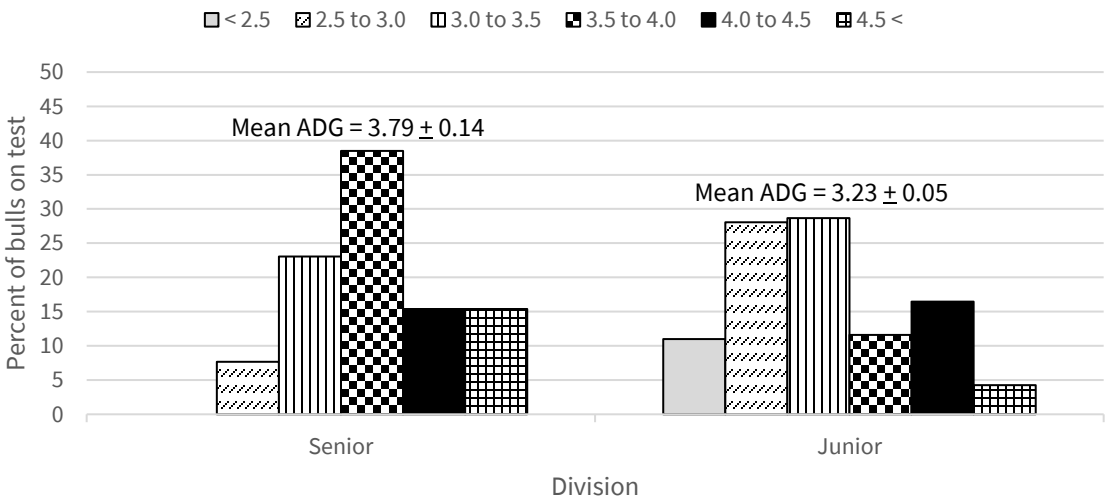
INDIANA BEEF EVALUATION PROGRAM
FELDUN PURDUE AGRICULTURE CENTER
1117 STATE ROAD 458
BEDFORD, IN 47421
STATION: (812) 279-4330
https://ag.purdue.edu/ansc/ibep/

W22-2
12/19/2022

Twenty-eight-day weights for bulls entered in the 2022 Winter Test were collected on Tuesday December 13, 2022. In addition to weights, bulls received topical treatment for louse and mites. Signs of louse and mites are minimal, indicating treatment is timely and should be effective. Performance for the 178 bulls currently on-test was 3.27 ± 0.05 lbs per day which is a solid level of performance for the entire group since on-test weights collected on November 14 and 15th. Senior division bulls averaged 3.79 ± 0.14 lbs/d while Junior division bulls averaged 3.23 ± 0.14 lbs per day. The difference in performance spread between the two divisions can be explained by there being less health issues amongst Senior bulls and there being fewer of them. Nonetheless the majority of bulls are gaining above 3.0 lbs per day indicating that daily intakes and the diet formulation have been accurate du since the on-test weight. Figure 1. shows the distribution of bulls grouped by their 28-day ADG within their respective age divisions.

Figure 1. Distribution of Bulls by Their 28-Day Average Daily Gain (ADG).



Among those bulls gaining less than 2.5 lbs per day (*n* = 18; 10.98%), nine had been treated for symptoms related to BRD prior to the 28-day weight. Of those nine bulls, four required a second treatment for BRD and one was diagnosed as a chronic case of BRD (≥ 3 treatments). Outside of these nine bulls, three were evaluated and or treated for lameness; while time will tell for the remaining six if they require additional acclimation time or if genetically, they are later maturing bulls or less superior for post weaning growth. Each of these six bulls were evaluated by veterinarians at the 28-day weight and identified as "OK."

Amongst the 181 bulls delivered we're currently at a 28.2% BRD morbidity rate, with 13.7% of bulls treated receiving a second treatment and 2.2% of bulls delivered requiring a third treatment. In visiting with another manager of a midwestern bull test station in a different state and a different management environment, they are observing similar morbidity rates in bulls they receive. Bulls in the current test were received from 48 different cooperators and three different states outside of Indiana. That's a fair number of different "bugs" coming together at one location, really no different than a Christmas or New Year's Ever gathering. IBEP's management and advisory teams will continue to work on solutions to reduce morbidity rates in future tests.

One bull had to be euthanized after developing several small abscesses within the region of his neck and accumulation of fluid in his brisket. We suspect the swelling was interfering with eructation (belching) that caused several consecutive days of bloat. This bull was taken to Purdue's Heeke Animal Diagnostic Laboratory for a necropsy with final results still pending. We have found a handful of bulls with outside wall hoof cracks which is concerning given how early we are in the test and how young the bulls are at this point in development. If your bull was one that has developed a hoof crack, please pay close attention to this as the test progresses. Health summaries of each cooperator's bull(s) are provided in the hard copy mailing.

Following the 28-day weight, an adjustment to the diet formulation was made to include a greater percentage of wheat silage by reducing the inclusion of commodity blend. In doing so, performance and composition of gain should not be compromised and dry matter intake as a percent of bodyweight will not change, although as-fed intake will increase by roughly 2 lbs per head per day. Also, diet cost will decrease by $80/ton of dry matter (cost of DDGS and CGF remain high) for the time being.

Parent verification to SIRE and DAM and Genomically Enhanced EPDs. If this has not been completed at this point be sure to have the necessary blood, tissue or hair sample on hand in addition to a backup sample in case an issue at the laboratory occurs. Association laboratories tend to become indulged with samples starting in February prior to Bull Sale Season. We have seen turnaround times be in excess of eleven weeks. We have not completed a test where delayed sire or dam verification in addition to genomically enhanced EPDs prevented a bull, or two, from selling.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Hope to see you at the IBCA Convention in January.

Best Regards,

Nick Minton
Executive Secretary & Treasurer of the IBEP
812-797-7944
nminton@purdue.edu

CC: IBEP Board of Directors