



INDIANA BEEF EVALUATION PROGRAM

FELDUN PURDUE AGRICULTURE CENTER
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STATION: (812) 279-4330
<https://ag.purdue.edu/ansc/ibep/>

S24-4
8-15-2024

Bulls were weighed Tuesday August 13 for their 91-day weight. Across the group, performance was well below the 3.2 lbs/head/day target by 0.8 lbs/hd/day. Senior division bulls averaged 2.7 lbs per day and Junior divisions bulls averaged 2.39 lbs per day. This commenced the "head scratching" on tracking down the root cause.

In recent weeks six cases of foot rot between pens 1 and 3 have been treated. Based on foot rot associated lameness or swelling in the effected hoof, treatment began within 24 hours or earlier of visual symptoms being displayed. In addition, three bulls received treatment for hoof cracks during this same time. Although identifying and treating lameness issues has been timely, performance on six of these bulls was less than 2.0 lbs per day.

Hot and humid weather conditions are a normality in the Midwest during summer months. Unfortunately, prolonged durations of hot and humid weather hampers animal performance. Looking at weather data collected from weather stations on the Feldun Purdue Ag Center; July 27th was the beginning of a 11 consecutive day stretch of exceptionally hot and humid weather that continued through August 7th before excessive heat and humidity subsided. When night time temperatures fail to fall below 70° F and/or the temperature-humidity index (THI) does not fall below 72 for a minimum of six hours, cattle cannot expel their heat load and therefore receive no relief from heat and humidity induced stress.

The first full week of August, bulls had backed off feed. Initially it was believed to be from an inadvertent increase in dry matter intake from a stretch of bales being lighter (1,700 lbs/bale vs 1,900 to 2,000 lbs), and therefore drier. However, after closer evaluation of the weather station data, it's hard not to rule out that the extended duration of heat and humidity was the cause of reduced daily dry matter intake and therefore performance. This in combination with those bulls that were lame from foot rot or a hoof crack, exacerbated the reduced growth performance. Other stretches of hot and humid weather lasted two or three days.

All bulls were scanned for carcass traits on August 15. Data should be reported to IBEP sometime during the week of August 19.

In regards to the 94th IBEP Bull Sale on Saturday October 12, IBEP will begin advertising for the Sale in the coming weeks. One change with the upcoming bull sale is that the IBEP board of directors voted to switch from LiveAuction.TV to CCI.Live to provided and facilitate internet bidding for IBEP Bull Sales. Questions on this subject can be directed to any IBEP director.

Please review the calendar in the Rules, on-line or the Cattlemen's Calendar for dates of upcoming work days at IBEP. Volunteers are always welcome!

On **Tuesday September 10th** the *Forage Sorghum Field Day* (SAVE THE DATE Attached) will be held at the Feldun Purdue Ag Center. Granted off-test will be the following week, we believed this was an opportune time to highlight the 2024 Summer Test in between the afternoon and evening programs from 5:00 pm until 6:00 pm. Attendees will be able to tour the test station and bulls prior to off-test. This event would be a great opportunity to network with potential buyers and others interested in learning about your operation. If you plan to attend please RSVP by September 5 to sheltonb@purdue.edu or 765-494-4783. Cooperators would be welcomed to bring additional information to have on hand to help market your bulls to attendees.

Respectfully,
 Nick Minton
 Coordinator, Secretary & Treasurer

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. Activities usually begin at 9:00 a.m. Bring a potential cooperator or bull buyer to give them a first-hand look at the bulls, facilities and the central testing program.

September 9	Structural Soundness and Disposition Evaluation
September 10	<i>Forage Sorghum Field Day</i> View 2024 Summer Test IBEP Bulls Location: Feldun Purdue Ag Center - Bedford, IN
September 16	Off-Test Weight's, SC and Hip Height
September 17	<i>Forage Management Day</i> Location: Southern Indiana Purdue Ag Center For Details Contact: Purdue Agronomy Extension 765-494-4783
September 19	Breeding Soundness Exams and Branding
September 20	Entry Deadline for IBEP Winter Test 2024
September 21	IBCA & IBEP Field Day Location: Stewart Select Angus - Greensburg, IN
September 27 and 28	<i>Stockmanship Workshop - Curt Pate</i> 27 th – Beef Cattle 28 th – Sheep Location: Southern Indiana Purdue Ag Center Dubois, IN
October 12	94th IBEP Bull Sale and Springville Feeder Auction Heifer Sale Contact Springville Feeder Auction for details on selling or purchasing heifers.