



INDIANA BEEF EVALUATION PROGRAM

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W24-2
2/13/2025

Bulls were weighed on Monday February 10, 2025 for the 84-day weight. Performance was exceptionally good, maybe too good for some, since the 56-day weight on January 14, 2025. In full transparency, the majority of bulls unintentionally had additional gut fill at Monday's weight which would boost the ADG. This was the result of the previous days feed not being completely consumed by Monday morning. Variables that can influence targeted pen intake are weather, water, ingredient dry matter (DM), animal health, scales on the feed wagon and consistency in time of feeding. In this case we believe it's ingredient DM related. From this week's check of silage dry matter, we confirmed the forage sorghum silage had dried up (35.5% vs 33% DM) from where it had been last week. In response, the diet has been adjusted and we backed off feed by roughly 0.25 lbs/hd/d of DM. In looking at pen ADG for those pens that had less or no residual left, gains were right at 3.7 lbs/hd/d for the period.

Pen	Avg Weight (lbs)	Period ADG, lbs/day (Day 56 to 84)	Test ADG, lbs/day (On-Test to Off-Test)	Avg. DMI/head/day (lbs)
1	933	4.22	3.35	19.5
2	1,024	3.72	3.40	20.8
3	1,038	3.85	3.40	21.2
4	1,130	4.07	3.58	22.9
5	1,096	4.10	3.63	21.8
6	1,213	4.58	3.91	23.3
7	1,245	4.27	3.72	23.6
8	1,295	3.65	3.40	24.7
Average	1,119	4.05	3.55	22.2

We transitioned from wheat silage to forage sorghum silage on January 23 with wheat silage removed completely on January 28. By weight, forage sorghum can be 50% grain; however, the digestibility of the grain needs taken into consideration. Given where the crop was at in maturity, the majority of the grain had gone to hard seed leaving the grain essentially indigestible to the animal. The TMR analysis reported indicates this as well.

Winter Test Grower		TMR Analysis Feb. 3, 2025	
Ingredient	% Diet DM	Assay	DM-Basis
Forage Sorghum Silage	37.8	Dry Matter, %	46.6
Corn Silage	20.4	Adj. Crude Protein, %	14.2
Distillers Grains	13.3	aNDF, %	35.9
Corn Gluten Feed	13.3	NFC, %	40.8
By-Pass Protein Suppl.	7.5	Starch, %	21.0
Triticale Hay	5.2	Fat, %	4.1
Mineral and Vitamins	2.5	TDN, %	70.3
		NEm (mcal/lbs)	0.75
		NEg (mcal/lbs)	0.47

Keep in mind that performance index is calculated off of the "Test ADG and WPDA" and not by period. Bulls received a second application of Clean UP-II to hopefully get rid of any residual lice or mites.

Half of the bulls were brought back through on Tuesday Feb. 11 to be scanned for carcass traits as well as have a hip height and scrotal circumference measurement for yearling data. The remainder of bulls will be in an age window that off-test hip heights and scrotal circumferences can be used.

Since the 56-day one bull received a treatment for a left ear infection and another bull was treated for having a fever. It is not uncommon to see a couple cases similar to these, especially ear infections, later into the test vs. earlier. Both bulls responded to treatment. As for lameness, one bull has injured his stifle and isolated cases of hoof cracks continue to occur. On Friday February 7, one bull had to be euthanized. The bull was found unable to stand on his hind two legs that morning. Following consultation and evaluation by our veterinary team it was diagnosed as a spinal injury. Following communication with the owner, euthanasia was the agreed upon option. The preliminary necropsy report showed the bull had developed an abscess in his spinal column which is most likely the cause of why the bull could not stand. Cultures of the abscess are still being ran to hopefully explain how this occurred. Cases like this are difficult to share, nothing positive about them. However, it is the reality of the livestock business.

To review health treatments, visit www.performancebeef.com and log in with your email that is on file with IBEP and password **ibepcoop83**.

The Sale catalog is being proofed and edited and although not all bulls listed in the digital version will be in the Sale, our goal is to get it online ASAP to help promoting the Sale. If you use Facebook, please like and share anything IBEP posts.

Lastly, we are in the home stretch of the test. The calendar on the following page lists the remainder of processing days outside of video day. *Cooperator* help would be GREATLY appreciated at any of these. We understand it's difficult to take a day off from the normal day to day; however, the day would of value in evaluating how bulls have developed since October. Thank you to those who have already been here or are normally at processing days.

IBEP

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.

February 27, 2025	Beef Quality Assurance Training Decatur Co Extension Office - Greensburg, IN RSVP to 812-663-8388 or allen484@purdue.edu
March 3, 2025	IBEP - Structural Soundness and Disposition Evaluation
March 5, 2025	IBEP – Second Carcass Ultrasound Day
March 10, 2025	IBEP – W24 Off-Test Weight and Scrotal Circumference
March 13, 2025	IBEP – BSE and Branding of Sale Bulls
March 17 -21	Video Sale Bulls Date and Time TBD
April 4, 2025	IBEP – 2025 Summer Test Entry Deadline
April 26, 2025	95 th IBEP Bull Sale – Springville, IN
May 6, 2025	IBEP – Delivery Day Summer Test 2025