

Senior Bull Test Provides Added Value to Producers

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On January 20, 2011 at the Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center located in Spring Hill, TN, an outstanding group of Tennessee beef cattle producers gathered to view and participate in the culmination of the 2010/2011 University of Tennessee Senior Bull Test and Genetic Evaluation. The senior class of bulls were consigned by Tennessee herd sire breeders to vast numbers of commercial cow calf producers located throughout Tennessee. This unique testing program operated by UT AgResearch and UT Extension is a valuable tool that enables Tennessee breeders to compare their programs to industry contemporaries. Not only does the program offer the opportunity to glean measurable productivity data, but allows producers to evaluate their breeding program's potential.



A great deal of quality information results from participation in this University sponsored and operated program. The prospective herd sires challenged throughout the 84 day feeding trial are supplied a free choice diet that closely mimics the feeding environment of a commercial feed yard. Thus, the comprehensive data provides exceptional selection tools, bringing important insight into the potential performance of offspring on farm and ultimately in a feed yard environment. In addition to data on pedigree and expected progeny differences, ultrasound technology is utilized to add carcass composition related insight. These findings are few of many that not only benefit purebred seed stock producers, but provide commercial cow calf producers with vital statistics to insure feeder cattle production with positive genetic potential and desirable marketability. The University's Senior Bull Test excels in gathering and providing remarkable information for the Tennessee's beef producers to make educated and effective decisions resulting in breeding program progression via production and reputation of calves with improved genetic merit.

Kevin Thompson, Middle Tennessee Research Center Director witnessed the value of this program while coordinator of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation's alliance marketing program entitled Producer Genetics. This Tennessee beef producer focused program centered on improving the performance and marketability of Tennessee feeder cattle by positively affecting genetic and production efficiencies. The University's Central bull test program played a significant role in making the Producer Genetics program and the Tennessee Beef Producer Alliance successful, and attaining the impressive \$1 million milestone of true added value.

<http://animalscience.ag.utk.edu/>

On January 20, 2011, the breeders and the Senior Bull Test program received a true compliment as an all time high was achieved in average selling price of \$3326 per individual. This group of senior bulls was placed in 25 counties and 2 bordering states.

The high selling Angus bull was a KCF Bennett Performer son consigned by Mathis Angus Farm of Duck River, Tennessee. The sale topper went to Chandra Stokes of Walnut, Mississippi for \$6000.

The second high selling bull, also consigned by Mathis Angus Farm brought \$5000. This Connealy Relection sired bull was purchased by Taylor Oaks Farms in Oakland, Tennessee.

Third high selling bull consigned by Kenneth Kelly is by KK Total Bushwacker, and was purchased for \$4700 by Thomas E. Burns.

Steve Mullins of Clinton, Tennessee bought the fourth high selling bull consigned by J.D. Lunn Angus from Dickson. He was a S S Objective T540 OT26 sired bull that brought \$4500.

Ben Gamble of Clinton purchased the next high selling bull consigned by Friendship Angus Farm of Pulaski. This Sitz Upward 307R sired bull sold for \$4400.

The largest volume buyer in the sale purchasing 3 bulls was Howard Hays of Pulaski, Tennessee.

Very few herd sire sales achieve the \$3000 benchmark. This is a testament to the rich information gathered, quality of care and management, and the genetic potential of these Tennessee produced herd sires. Proving the faith commercial producers have in both the Tennessee breeders, and the University of Tennessee. Within the cattle industry respect is an earned asset, and it is apparent by the results and participation at this January 20, 2011 Senior Bull sale that both the consignors and the University have built a program of respect.

The Junior Bull Test Sale will be March 10, 2011 at the University of Tennessee's Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center in Spring Hill. Approximately 55 Angus and SimAngus bulls will be sold.

Be sure to request your Junior Bull Test Sale catalog, and make plans to attend. For up to date information on upcoming UT Extension events remember to like us on Facebook under TennesseeBeefProgram, and follow us on Twitter at UTAnimalScience.



Pictured above is Chandra Stokes who purchased the sale topper with Jim Henton, Secretary of the Tennessee Angus Association.

Top Five Selling Bulls

| Lot | Consignor | Buyer | Price |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| 48 | Mathis Angus Farm | Chandra Stokes | \$6000 |
| 47 | Mathis Angus Farm | Taylor Oaks Farms | \$5000 |
| 38 | Kenneth Kelly | Thomas E. Burns | \$4700 |
| 31 | J.D. Lunn Angus | Steve Mullins | \$4500 |
| 25 | Friendship Angus | Ben Gamble | \$4400 |



UT branded bull from previous test.