


MCA-MSU BULL EVALUATION PROGRAM

Karl Wernette - station  
(989) 506-7715  
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MCA Office  
517.347.8117  
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Dan Buskirk - MSU  
517.432.0400  
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www.MIbulls.com

**DATE:** September 13, 2023  
**TO:** 2023-24 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program Consignors  
**FROM:** Dr. Dan Buskirk, Michigan State University, Department of Animal Science 

Twenty-one seedstock producers from Michigan and Indiana nominated 82 bulls for the 2023-24 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program. The program committee appreciates the continued confidence and consignor enthusiasm in the program. Because we were under the station capacity, all bulls nominated were accepted for delivery (see page 3). **If, for any reason, you are unable to deliver all accepted bulls, notify the MCA office before Sept. 22, 2024, or the nomination fee will be non-refundable.** All bulls must have the enclosed forms completed and payment at delivery.

If you have not done so already, act quickly on genomic testing, as DNA results may take several weeks after being received by the lab. A particular density of markers is not required (i.e., GGP uLD, i50K, HD 50K, GGP 50K, GGP HD150K), but the test must minimally verify sire parentage and generate genomically enhanced EPDs. BVD testing via the DNA blood sample is acceptable, but recognize that it may come with extended turn-around time. Test results sent directly to MSU VDL or similar lab will have a much quicker turn-around time. Test results should be available at delivery for the protection of all bulls health.

Consignors must be members of the Michigan Cattlemen's Association (MCA) to participate. If your membership is not current, go to [www.micattlemen.org](http://www.micattlemen.org) and click on membership, or call 517.347.8117.

We truly appreciate your participation in the MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program. I would like to stress, particularly to first-time consignors, do not hesitate to ask questions (517.432.0400 (voice mail) or buskirk@msu.edu). Feedback and suggestions for program improvement are always welcome.

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## 2023-24 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program ♦ Nomination Acceptance

**DELIVERY DAY:** Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Evaluation Station, Wernette Cattle Co., 9441 50<sup>th</sup> Ave., Remus, MI, 49340

### BEFORE DELIVERY – ITEMS TO CHECK WHILE PROCESSING AT HOME

- ✓ Verify tattoos
- ✓ Check scrotum/testicle integrity
- ✓ Check foot confirmation (see [www.mibulls.com/consignors](http://www.mibulls.com/consignors))
- ✓ Check for ringworm and warts (may be rejected at delivery)
- ✓ Bulls must weigh 2.4 lb/day of age at delivery, which includes transportation shrink

### DELIVERY CHECKLIST

1.  Contract
2.  Health verification form
3.  Whole-herd TB testing date agreement
4.  Consignment delivery form
5.  Breed registration (copies of paper or online version) which indicates EPDs are genomically enhanced
6.  Negative DNA test for lethal gene(s) (for potential carriers based on pedigree)
7.  Negative BVD virus detection test
8.  Delivery payment (\$375/bull, made payable to: *Michigan Cattlemen's Association*)

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**2023-24 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program ♦ Consignors**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Farm</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>St</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Breed</b>	<b>Bulls</b>
Phil AcMoody	Butternut Ridge Farms	457 Dayburg Rd.	Coldwater	MI	49036	989.429.5795	phil.acmoody@gmail.com	AN	2
Angus Arthur	Angus Cattle Co	6326 Round Lake Rd	Laingsburg	MI	48848	517.719.2050	angus@anguscattleco.com	AN	2
Kevin Beckington	KB Angus	6658 Beeler Rd	Merritt	MI	49667	734.368.8430	kevin@kbangus.com	AN	5
Mark Benaske	R Value Farms	2800 E Vernon Rd	Rosebush	MI	48878	517.204.4747	mark@rvaluefarms.com	AN	2
Monte Bordner	Bordner Angus Farms	68730 Country Farm Rd	Sturgis	MI	49091	269.506.5109	monte@bordnerfarms.com	AN	1
Matt Cholger	Cholger Cattle Co	3061 N Arbutus Rd	Traverse City	MI	49696	517.243.1481	cholger85@gmail.com	SM	2
John & Paul Dawson	Dawson Farms LLC	9296 Pulaski Rd	Hanover	MI	49241	517.524.8941	dawsonfarms@frontiernet.net	AN	6
Andrew Foster	Seldom Rest Farms	11893 M 140	Niles	MI	49120	269.683.1776	afostersrf@gmail.com	AN	1
Tristan Foster	Michigan State University	5226 Bennett Rd	Lansing	MI	48910	715.892.1079	fostert8@msu.edu	AN	9
Dennis Hutchings	Hutchings Angus	12155 North Ave	Bellevue	MI	49021	269.758.3190	mhutch84@yahoo.com	AN	3
Joe Jepson	Double Diamond J	209 W Garfield Ave	Coldwater	MI	49036	517.617.9023	jepsonddj@gmail.com	AN, HP	2
Craig Jerz	Jerz Angus Farms	50800 Maxon Rd	Decatur	MI	49045	269.423.2170	cjjerz@hotmail.com	AN	3
Mike Karweik	Walnut Springs Farms	1749 128 Ave.	Hopkins	MI	49328	616.293.6019/ 269.793.9090	mike.worldsales@gmail.com	AR, SM	5
Melissa & Lane Kenyon	Hutchings-Kenyon Angus	12299 North Ave	Bellevue	MI	49021	269-420-0725	mhutch84@yahoo.com	AN	1
Randy & Kyle Longcore	Longcore Cattle	12976 Ritchie Ave NE	Cedar Springs	MI	49319	616.446.9360	longcore.dvm@gmail.com	SM, AN, HP	15
Rick Patterson	CFC Angus	5270 W H Ave	Kalamazoo	MI	49009	269-217-7897	cfcangus@gmail.com	AN	2
Chris Pranger	Eastview Angus Farm LLC	827 County Road 10	Corunna	IN	46730	260.760.9512	chris@prangerent.com	AN, SM	4
Phil Smith	Rural Route 5 Farm	4707 E Price Rd	Saint Johns	MI	48879	989.314.3018	qasmichigan@gmail.com	SM	12
Wayne Vander Lugt	Black Creek Beef	21593 22 Mile Rd	Tustin	MI	49688	616.610.1602	blackcreekbeef@rocketmail.com	AR	1
Gary Voogt	Voogt Farms	2831 Hayes St	Marne	MI	49435	616.862.4158	gcvoogt@gmail.com	AN	3
G. Patrick White	White Chaolais	3361 113th Ave	Allegan	MI	49010	269.673.1634	whitecowsusa@gmail.com	CH	1
									<b>82</b>

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## 2023-24 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program ♦ Work Schedule

The MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program is a cooperative effort - many hands make light work. Consignors are asked to help with routine tasks of the evaluation. This is also an opportunity to see the bull development status and get insight into the handling processes of the program. Weighing will begin at **10:00 a.m.**, and with a full crew is typically accomplished by noon. If the assigned date will not work for you or you are not physically able, please let us know as soon as possible, and we switch dates with another consignor or make alternate arrangements. All consignors are welcome to attend the mid-evaluation meeting, immediately following weighing on Dec. 15.

Date	Purpose			
Oct. 26, 2023, Thur.	Initial weight (1)	Voogt	AcMoody	White
Oct. 27, 2023, Fri.	Initial weight (2; on test)	Hutchings	Kenyon	
Nov. 20, 2023, Fri.	24-d weight	A. Foster	Jerz	
Dec. 14, 2023, Thur.	48-d wt. (1)	Jepson	Bordner	
Dec. 15, 2023, Fri.	49-d wt. (2; off feed test; mid-test meeting)	Smith Karweik	Dawson Longcore	Beckington Benaske
Jan. 12, 2024, Fri.	77-d weight	Cholger	Vander Lugt	
Feb. 8, 2024, Thur.	Final weight (1, ultrasound)	Smith	Arthur	
Feb. 9, 2024, Fri.	Final weight (2; feet scoring; off test)	Patterson	Beckington	
Feb. 12, 2024	Breeding soundness exams	Longcore	Dawson	
Feb. 13, 2024	Breeding soundness exams	Pranger	Karweik	
TBD	Video day			

\* Let us know if you would like to help with the video day. We will need ~ 6 volunteers.

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**2023-24 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program ♦ Contacts**

Karl Wernette	Station management	989-506-7715	9144 50th Ave. Remus, MI 49340
Sara Horton	MCA (payments & settlement)	269-213-7492	12800 Escanaba Dr., Ste A DeWitt, MI 48820
Dr. Dan Buskirk	MSU (evaluation & reports)	517-432-0400	474 S. Shaw Ln. E. Lansing, MI 48824
Phil Smith	Simmental Rep. (Chair)	989-314-3018	
Paul Dawson	Angus Rep. (Vice Chair)	989-259-8725	
Kevin Beckington	Angus Rep.	734-368-8430	
Mark Benaske	Angus Rep.	517-204-4747	
Randy Longcore	Simmental Rep.	616-644-4516	
Mike Karweik	Red Angus Rep.	616-293-6019	
Mark Sears	Commercial Rep.	517-563-2460	

\*Breed representatives begin their term at the winter meeting.

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# Pre-test Requirement: Testing Cattle for Persistent BVD Infection

## Background

Bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) persists and spreads between herds in the U.S. cattle population primarily via persistently infected (PI) cattle that were exposed to virus before they were born. Many PI cattle are more susceptible to disease and are unthrifty. If they survive to weaning, they are unlikely to be selected for replacement stock. Unfortunately, a few survive, appear healthy, and may be retained as breeding animals. PI's shed BVD virus continuously and provide constant exposure to any other cattle with which they come in contact.

The likelihood of finding a PI is low but the potential damage to herd productivity is very high. Newly purchased bulls have been incriminated as a source of new BVD infections in cattle herds. Some major feedlots are now screening incoming cattle for BVD PI's. Many beef and dairy farms screen replacement heifers to identify PI's. Finding persistently infected animals and eliminating them from breeding herds is an essential part of controlling this disease.

PI cattle have BVD virus present throughout their body. The standard test requires a small ear notch skin sample and uses specific staining techniques to identify BVD virus in the tissue. Cost of the test is typically less than \$5 and results are often available in 1 week. Tissue can in some cases be submitted with DNA sample requests, but turn-around times may be lengthier. Blood samples can be used by some laboratories. Samples can be processed at an accredited lab. For screening of bulls for the MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation, a "virus" or "antigen" detection test for BVDV is required. An "antibody" detection test is not adequate. Testing for the virus or antigen via an ELISA or PCR is acceptable.

## Common Testing Procedure

1. Most commonly ear notches are used to obtain a full-thickness piece of skin sample. With the animal

properly restrained, remove a small sample of skin from the edge of the ear. A pig ear-notcher works well for this. Bleeding is usually minimal and can be controlled, if necessary, by digital pressure for a few seconds. Make sure the sample includes skin. A piece of ear tissue (not hair) ½ inch long and ½ inch wide is adequate.

2. Place ear notch samples in a leak-proof plastic bag. Write the date collected, animal identification, and owner's name on the bag with a waterproof marker.
3. Chill the sample(s) on ice or in a refrigerator to minimize tissue destruction. Samples should be submitted, with the appropriate paperwork, within 48 hours to a diagnostic laboratory that performs BVD testing. Avoid shipping samples on Thursdays or Fridays so that they do not arrive at the lab over the weekend. For your information, details for MSU VDL submission are:

*MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory  
Michigan State University  
4125 Beaumont Road, Room 122  
East Lansing, Michigan 48910-8104*

The testing form may be downloaded at [animalhealth.msu.edu](http://animalhealth.msu.edu). From the top menu click "Forms", "General Submissions". On the form, the correct test is in the middle column under the heading "RUMINANT" and has a checkbox labeled "**BVD PCR (ear notch)**".



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I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby accept pen space for \_\_\_\_\_ bull(s) in the 2023-24 Bull Evaluation to be conducted by the Michigan Cattlemen’s Association (MCA) and Michigan State University (MSU). The bull(s) nominated for evaluation are described on the consignment form.

I have read the 2023-24 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program Policies and understand my obligations for bulls accepted into the evaluation. I agree that the MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Committee has the authority to make the rules and regulations governing this evaluation and that this contract is signed with my full knowledge of the rules in effect as of this date.

I agree to pay at the time of delivery of the bull(s) described the sum of \$375 per bull. Also, I agree to furnish at the time of delivery for each bull, this signed contract and all paperwork outlined in the accompanying packet.

I agree to the inspection of my bull(s) by the Committee, its designated veterinarians, or other representatives, for the purpose of determining health status, structural soundness, disposition, quality, DNA status, or development and configuration of the teeth. I further agree that decisions reached by them, regarding such inspection, shall be final and without recourse.

I understand that I must provide actual birth weight and adjusted weaning weights for each bull consigned no later than November 20, 2023, or be assigned a \$50 late fee per bull.

I will make an additional payment of \$375 per bull (which may be adjusted upward depending on market conditions) by January 12, 2024, and pay any remaining cost at the conclusion of the evaluation. I

understand that if the entire \$1,125 per bull fee has not been paid by January 12, 2024, a \$50 late fee will be assessed for each bull. I also understand that bulls will not be cataloged for sale, nor released to the consignor, if payments are not current.

Feed costs during the feed test will be based on individual intake and waste. Feed cost before and after the feed test will be prorated according to individual bull weight gain within the pen. Sale expense per bull(s) (catalog, auctioneer, advertising, administration fee, etc.) will be calculated by multiplying the sale expense percentage (total sale expenses divided by the gross sales) by the individual bull sale price (or floor price for no-sales). Refunds will be made for individual bull(s) whose expenses are less than \$1,125. A percentage of the sale price will be paid within a week following the sale and settlement of the net sale proceeds will occur at or following the April/May wrap-up meeting.

The settlement check should be made payable to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(individual or farm name)

I agree to pay, without prior approval, for veterinary service expended by, or procured by the Committee or station management that is required for the maintenance of good health of my bull(s) while at the MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Station. I understand that the Board of Directors and Officers of MCA, Michigan State University, and the Wernette’s assume no risk or liability for any bull(s) consigned to the evaluation. I further understand that insurance coverage is the responsibility of each owner for his/her bull(s) while at the MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Station.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Consignor signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## Whole-Herd Bovine Tuberculosis Testing Date Agreement

THIS AGREEMENT is between

\_\_\_\_\_ a consignor of bull(s) to  
*Consignor name (print)*

the MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program and the Michigan Cattlemen's Association.

**As a consignor to the MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program, I agree not to conduct whole-herd bTB testing between October 1, 2023, and March 20, 2024. Should I wish to modify my whole-herd bTB testing date anniversary, I further acknowledge that this agreement may restrict potential testing dates.**

This agreement shall be binding upon the consignor, their successors, assigns, and personal representatives. This agreement shall be enforced under the laws of the state of Michigan. This is the entire agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Consignor signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

### Background

This agreement is in place to protect the Michigan Cattlemen's Association-Michigan State University Bull Evaluation Program (BEP) consignor bulls from being subjected to additional bovine tuberculosis (bTB) testing or quarantine during the upcoming evaluation period. If a BEP bull consignor was to subject their herd to a whole-herd bTB test during the running of the BEP evaluation, and an animal in that herd was determined to be bTB positive, a trace-out investigation would, at a minimum, include removal and sacrifice of trace-out bulls, and quarantine and a bTB test of all bulls in the BEP. This process has the potential to bring significant financial and reputation harm to the BEP and its consignors. Therefore, this consignor agreement is needed to eliminate risk exposure which could be caused by planned whole-herd testing of consignor herds during the BEP evaluation period.



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## Health Verification Form

Owner
Bull Visual ID(s)

- To the best of my knowledge, all bulls are visually free of active ringworm lesions and warts.
- To the best of my knowledge, by palpation, all bulls have 2 testes with normal positioning, shape, and tone.
- All bulls are tested negative for BVDV – test paper must be provided at delivery. Must be a virus or antigen detection test and not an antibody or serology test (for more detail, see “Pre-test Requirement: Testing Cattle for Persistent BVD Infection”).

***Vaccinations and boosters must be completed at least 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to delivery. See Mibulls.com/consignors for a list of vaccines that fit the criteria. Out-of-state bulls must pass all Michigan health requirements and be accompanied by an official certificate of veterinary inspection and official RFID.***

	Date	Date	Product name	
At least 1 dose as modified-live vaccine	<i>Vaccines</i>			
	<b>Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)</b>			
	<b>Bovine Virus Diarrhea (BVD)</b> <i>(must include types 1 &amp; 2)</i>			
	<b>Parainfluenza<sub>3</sub> (PI<sub>3</sub>)</b>			
	<b>Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (BRSV)</b>			
	<b>Mannheimia haemolytica</b> <i>(must contain “toxoid” or “leukotoxoid”)</i>			
	<b>Histophilus somni</b>			
	<b>Leptospira - 5 strains</b>			
	<b>Clostridial - 7-way</b>			
	<i>Parasite control</i>	<b>Date</b>		<b>Product name</b>
<b>Internal/external parasite control</b>				
<i>Wart vaccine (optional)</i>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Product name</b>	
Wart vaccine (not required, but note if administered)				

I certify that I have examined the above animal(s) and found them to be in good health and free of apparent signs of disease, and that they have been vaccinated as indicated above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Owner signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

# 2023-24 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program ♦ Consignment Delivery Form

Consignor name \_\_\_\_\_

Farm name \_\_\_\_\_

# of calving females in your herd \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use				Ear tag	Birth date	Tattoo/ brand	Registration #	Breed	Actual Birth wt.	205-d Adj. Wean wt. <sup>a</sup>	Birth type <sup>b</sup>	Horn status <sup>c</sup>	Color <sup>d</sup>	Contemporary group <sup>e</sup>	Lethal defect free <sup>f</sup>	
test ID	weight	scrotal	Sire verified												Pedigree	DNA test
1			<input type="checkbox"/>												<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2			<input type="checkbox"/>												<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3			<input type="checkbox"/>												<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4			<input type="checkbox"/>												<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5			<input type="checkbox"/>												<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6			<input type="checkbox"/>												<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7			<input type="checkbox"/>												<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8			<input type="checkbox"/>												<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9			<input type="checkbox"/>												<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10			<input type="checkbox"/>												<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11			<input type="checkbox"/>												<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12			<input type="checkbox"/>												<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Example				104	3/13/23	L04	3757697	SM	94	705	S	H	Red	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>a</sup>205-d adjusted weight as reported by breed assoc.

<sup>b</sup>Birth type = S=single, T=twin, ET= embryo transfer.

<sup>c</sup>Horn status = P=pollled, S=scurred, H=horned.

<sup>d</sup>Predominant hide color.

<sup>e</sup>Indicate contemporary groups (typically calves raised in same environment, weaned on same day, i.e., 1, 2, 3...).

<sup>f</sup>Determined free of lethal genetic defects based on pedigree (sire and dam are not potential carriers by breed assoc.) or DNA tested as free.