

MCA-MSU BULL EVALUATION PROGRAM

Karl Wernette - station
(989) 506-7715
karl.wernette@gmail.com

MCA Office
517.347.8117
info@micattlemen.org
www.MiBulls.com

Dan Buskirk - MSU
517.432.0400
buskirk@msu.edu

DATE: September 12, 2025

TO: 2025–26 MCA–MSU Bull Evaluation Program Consignors

Dear Consignors,

Eighteen seedstock producers from Michigan and Iowa have nominated 88 bulls for the 2025–26 MCA–MSU Bull Evaluation. The Program Committee greatly appreciates your confidence and enthusiasm. Because nominations were just below station capacity, all bulls submitted have been accepted for delivery (see page 3).

All bulls must arrive with completed forms and required payments at delivery. **If you cannot deliver any of your accepted bulls, please notify me by September 19, 2025.** Otherwise, the bull slot will be considered a ‘no show’ nomination fee will be non-refundable.

If not already completed, please initiate genomic testing immediately, as DNA test results can take several weeks to process. The specific panel used is flexible (e.g., GGP uLD, i50K, HD 50K,), but results must confirm sire parentage and generate genomically enhanced EPDs. Note that BVD testing via DNA blood sample is acceptable but usually has longer turnaround times. Submitting samples directly to MSU VDL or a comparable lab generally provides much faster results. **For the protection of all bulls, BVDV test results must be available at delivery.**

Please remember that consignors must hold current membership with the Michigan Cattlemen’s Assoc. To renew or join, visit www.micattlemen.org and click on “Membership”.

Thank you for your continued participation in the MCA–MSU Bull Evaluation Program. Please direct any questions or suggestions for program improvement to me or anyone on the program committee.

Sincerely,



Dan Buskirk, PhD, PAS, Professor & Extension Beef Specialist
Michigan State University, Department of Animal Science
517.432.0400, buskirk@msu.edu

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2025-26 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program ♦ Nomination Acceptance

DELIVERY: Friday, October 3rd between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Evaluation Station, Wernette Cattle Co., 9441 50th Ave., Remus, MI, 49340

BEFORE DELIVERY – ITEMS TO CHECK WHILE PROCESSING AT HOME

- ✓ Verify tattoos
- ✓ Scrotum and testicle integrity
- ✓ Foot confirmation (see www.mibulls.com/breeders)
- ✓ Free of ringworm and warts
- ✓ Weight per day of age ≥ 2.4 lb/day at delivery (remember to account for transport shrink)

DELIVERY CHECKLIST

- Contract**
- Health verification form**
- Whole-herd TB testing date agreement**
- Consignment delivery form**
- Breed registration copy (online or certificate) showing EPDs are genomically enhanced**
- Negative BVD virus test result**
- Negative DNA test for lethal gene(s) (if potential carrier identified by pedigree)**
- Delivery payment (\$375/bull, made payable to: *Michigan Cattlemen's Association*)**

[Did you remember the checkbook? 😊]

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2025-26 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program ♦ Consignors

Name	Farm	Adress	City	St	Zip	Phone	Email	Breed	Bulls
Phil AcMoody	Butternut Ridge Farms	457 Dayburg Rd.	Coldwater	MI	49036	989-429-5795	phil.acmoody@gmail.com	AN	2
Kevin Beckington	KB Angus	6658 E Beeler Rd	Merritt	MI	49667	734-368-8430	kevin@kbangus.com	AN	5
Drew & Bordner	D bar E Cattle Co	3522 9 Mile Rd	Remus	MI	49340	269-330-1654	dbarecattleco@gmail.com	AR	2
Monte Bordner	Bordner Angus Farms	68730 County Farm Rd	Sturgis	MI	49091	269-506-5109	monte@bordnerfarms.com	AN	2
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	9296 Pulaski Rd	Hanover	MI	49241	517-524-8941	dawsonfarms@frontiernet.net	AN	8
Tristan Foster	Michigan State Univ.	446 W. Circle Dr Rm 102	East Lansing	MI	48824	715-892-1079	fostert8@msu.edu	AN	6
Timothy & Brian Heeg	3 Generation Cattle	5525 Mason Rd	Fowlerville	MI	48836	517-294-0251	briangheeg@aol.com	SM	2
Dennis Hutchings	Hutchings Angus	12155 North Ave	Bellevue	MI	49021	269-758-3190	mhutch84@yahoo.com	AN	8
Doug & Jeff Honold	Hat Ranch	2261 B Ave	Coon Rapids	IA	50058	515-450-1904	hatranchjeff@gmail.com	AN	4
Joe Jepson	Double Diamond J	209 W Garfield Ave	Coldwater	MI	49036	517-279-9022	jepsonddj@gmail.com	AN/HP	2
Seth Lattimore	Lattimore Cattle Co.	9535 17 Mile Rd	Rodney	MI	49342	231-250-3019	lattimorecattle@gmail.com	SM	3
Justin Long	Long Cattle Co.	3843 S Alamado Rd	St. Louis	MI	48880	989-385-1281	almacollision@icloud.com	SM	1
Kyle & Randy Longcore	Longcore Cattle	12976 Ritchie Ave NE	Cedar Springs	MI	49319	616-446-9360	longcore.dvm@gmail.com	AN/SM/HP	29
Craig Pollington	Double C Simmentals	23315 30th Ave	Marion	MI	49665	231-429-8336	tg.cap1@gmail.com	SM	2
Mike Shaum	Legacy Angus	1025 Reed Rd	Sterling	MI	48659	989-324-0493	michaelshaum@icloud.com	AN/SM	5
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	2

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2025-26 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program ♦ Work Schedule

The 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 processes of the program. **Weigh days will begin at 10:00 a.m., and with a full crew is typically accomplished by noon. Ultrasound and BSE tasks may have different start times and will take much of the day.** 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 will switch dates with another consignor or make alternate arrangements. All consignors are invited to attend the mid-evaluation meeting, immediately following weighing on Dec. 12.

Date	Purpose		
Thur. Oct. 23	Initial weight	Bordner	Bordner
Fri. Oct. 24	Initial weight	Foster	Heeg
Fri. Nov. 21	29-d weight	Hutchings	Jepson
Fri. Dec. 12	49-d weight	Longcore Dawson Cholger	Beckington White
Thur. Jan. 29	Final weight	Lattimore	Long
Fri. Jan. 30	Final weight/feet scoring	Pollington	Shaum
*Week of Jan. 26	Ultrasound	<i>None</i>	
*Week of Feb. 2	Breeding soundness exams	Longcore	Hutchings
*Week of Feb. 16	Video day	~6 volunteers required	

*Dates to be determined

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2024-25 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program ♦ Contacts

Kevin Gould	MCA President	616-443-2956	
Karl Wernette	Bull & station management	989-506-7715	9144 50th Ave. Remus, MI 49340
Sara Horton Flokstra	MCA, payments, advertising, & settlement	269-213-7492	2163 Jolly Rd. Okemos, MI 48864
Dan Buskirk	MSU, evaluation, & reports	517-432-0400	474 S. Shaw Ln. E. Lansing, MI 48824
Program Committee Breed Representatives*			
Kyle Longcore	Simmental, Chair	616-446-9360	
Paul Dawson	Angus, Vice Chair	989-259-8725	
Kevin Beckington	Angus	734-368-8430	
Matt Cholger	Simmental	517-243-1481	
Randy Longcore	Hereford	616-644-4516	
G. Patrick White	Charolais	269-673-1634	
Mark Sears	Commercial	517-563-2460	
<i>vacant</i>	Angus		
<i>vacant</i>	Red Angus		

*Committee breed representation is based on the number of bulls evaluated in each breed the previous year. Breed representatives begin term at the mid-test meeting.

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2024-25 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program ♦ BVD Testing

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 unthrifty. If they survive, 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 animal 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 feedlots screen incoming cattle for BVD PI and many dairy farms screen replacement heifers to identify PI heifers. 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 skin sample, and using specific staining techniques to identify BVD virus in the tissue. The cost of the test is typically less than \$5 and results are often available in one week.

For the MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation, we want a "virus detection" or "antigen detection" test for BVDV. These tests will pick up the presence of virus or antigen from virus. We do not want an "antibody detection" test, as this only means that the animal has made antibodies toward the presence of the BVDV virus at some point. Whether the test is an ELISA or PCR is not as important to our objectives in this screening.

Sampling Procedure

1. Ear notches are relatively easy to collect and test. With the animal properly restrained, use an ear notching tool (pig ear-notcher) that yields a V-shaped, 5/16" notch to obtain a skin sample from the edge of a clean portion of the ear. Bleeding is usually minimal and can be controlled, if necessary, by applying digital pressure for a few

seconds. Make sure the sample includes skin and not only hair. Place each ear notch sample in its own separate sealed plastic bag. Collected ear notches must be free from contaminating dirt, feces, or tattoo ink. Dip the notching tool in disinfectant between each ear notch collection. A 10% bleach solution (i.e., made from 3 oz. household bleach in 27 oz. water) is an appropriate disinfectant. Always rinse disinfectant from the notching tool with lots of clean rinse water in a 3-to-5-gallon bucket before collecting the next sample. Change the water in the rinse bucket periodically. Make sure to thoroughly rinse the tool with clean water to avoid false negative test results.

2. Label the individual plastic bag with the animal's identification using a permanent marker.
3. Store the collected ear notches at refrigerator temperature and ship to the laboratory within 72 hours of collection. Send samples on cold packs by overnight mail. Avoid shipping samples on Thursdays or Fridays so that they do not arrive at the lab over the weekend. Make sure to include the appropriate paperwork!
4. If using MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory go to cvm.msu.edu/vdl/submit-a-sample and follow the instructions. Click "submittal form" and then under the GENERAL SUBMITTAL FORMS heading, click "General Submissions". Fill out the form completely, and select BVD PCR (ear notch) (80991).

Submittals via U.S. Postal Service:

MSU VDL, PO Box 30076, Lansing, MI 48909-7576

Submittals via all other carriers:

MSU VDL, 4125 Beaumont Rd., Lansing, MI 48910-8104



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2025-26 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program ♦ Consignment Agreement

This Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by the undersigned consignor ("Consignor") and the Michigan Cattlemen's Association ("Program") for participation in the 2025-2026 Bull Evaluation.

1. Acceptance Consignor accepts pen space for the bull(s), as listed on the consignment form. Participation is subject to this Agreement and the 2025-2026 Program Policies.

2. Compliance Consignor affirms having read and understood the Program Policies. The MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Committee has authority to establish and enforce all rules and policies. Decisions of the Committee are final and binding.

3. Fees and Payment

- **Delivery Payment:** \$375 per bull, due at delivery, with this signed Agreement and all required paperwork.
- **January Payment:** \$375 per bull (subject to adjustment based on market conditions), due January 16, 2026.
- **Late Fees:** A \$50 per bull late fee will be assessed if the total payment of \$1,125 is not received by January 16, 2026, for each bull. Bulls with delinquent accounts will not be cataloged or released.

4. Records Consignor shall provide actual birth weight and adjusted weaning weight for each bull no later than November 21, 2025. A \$50 per bull late fee will be applied if records are not submitted on time.

5. Inspection Consignor agrees to inspection of bull(s) by Program representatives, veterinarians, or designated personnel to determine health, structural soundness, disposition, genetic status, and dentition. All inspection decisions are final.

6. Research and Monitoring Program may collect biological samples (e.g., blood, urine, feces, semen) and apply biosensors (e.g., ear tags, rumen boluses) as needed for health monitoring, genetic evaluation, program management, and research. All procedures will

follow approved protocols, with research reviewed by the MSU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and conducted in a manner that minimizes animal stress.

7. Cost Allocation

Feed costs will be allocated by period as follows:

1. **Adaptation (21 days):** Divided equally within pen.
2. **Feed Test (49 days):** Based on individual feed intake plus proportional share of unknown disappearance.
3. **Gain Test (49 days):** Prorated by individual weight gain within pen.
4. **Post-Evaluation:** Divided equally within pen by days present.
 - Veterinary and medical expenses incurred individually will be charged to the respective bull.
 - All other evaluation costs will be shared equally among bulls.
 - Sale expenses will be assessed as a percentage of the sale (or floor) price.

8. Settlement Program will deduct evaluation and sale expenses from sale receipts.

- A partial payment (sale price percentage) will be remitted within one week of the sale.
- Final settlement of net proceeds will occur at or following the May wrap-up meeting.

Settlement payable to:

Printed owner or farm name

9. Liability and Insurance

Consignor agrees to pay for veterinary services obtained by the Program for the health and welfare of consigned bull(s). Consignor acknowledges that MCA, MSU, and Wernette Cattle Co. assume no liability for loss, damage, or injury to consigned bull(s). Insurance coverage is the responsibility of the Consignor.

Consignor signature

Date

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2025-26 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program ♦ TB Testing Agreement

Whole-Herd TB Testing Date Agreement

As a consignor to the MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program, I agree not to conduct whole-herd bovine tuberculosis (**bTB**) testing during the period of October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026. I further acknowledge that, should I wish to modify the anniversary date of my whole-herd bTB testing, this agreement may restrict my potential testing dates.

This Agreement shall be binding upon the consignor, as well as their successors, assigns, and personal representatives. It shall be governed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan. This document constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.

Consignor signature

Date

Background

This agreement is established to protect bulls consigned to the Michigan Cattlemen's Association–Michigan State University Bull Evaluation Program (BEP) from unnecessary bovine tuberculosis (bTB) testing or quarantine during the evaluation period. If a BEP consignor were to conduct a whole-herd bTB test while the evaluation is in progress, and an animal within that herd tested positive, a trace-out investigation would be required. At a minimum, this would involve the removal and destruction of trace-out bulls, along with quarantine and bTB testing of all bulls in the BEP. Such an event could result in significant financial loss and reputational harm to both the program and its consignors. To prevent this risk, the consignor agreement is in place to defer planned whole-herd bTB testing outside of the BEP evaluation dates.

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2025-26 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program ♦ Health Verification

Owner
Bull visual farm ID(s)

To the best of my knowledge, all bulls:

- are visually free of active ringworm lesions and warts;
- have 2 testes with normal positioning, shape, and tone by palpation, and;
- tested negative for BVDV – negative test result must be provided at delivery. Must be a virus or antigen detection test and not an antibody or serology test as per the BVD Testing page in this document.

Booster vaccinations must be completed between 14 and 90 days prior to delivery. See Mibulls.com/breeders 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.

Vaccines	Date	Date	Product name
Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)			
Bovine Virus Diarrhea (BVD) (types 1 & 2)			
Parainfluenza₃ (PI₃)			
Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (BRSV)			
Mannheimia haemolytica (with toxoid)			
Histophilus somni			
Clostridial - 7-way			
<i>Optional wart vaccine</i>			
Parasite control	Date		Product name
Internal/external parasite control			

At least 1 dose as modified-live vaccine

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

 Consignor signature

 Date

2025-26 MCA-MSU Bull Evaluation Program ♦ Consignment Delivery Form

Consignor name _____

Farm name _____

of calving females in your herd _____

Office Use				Sire verified	Ear tag	Birth date	Tattoo/ brand	Registration #	Breed	Actual Birth wt.	205-d Adj. Wean wt. ^a	Birth type ^b	Horn status ^c	Color ^d	Contemporary group ^e	Lethal defect free ^f	
test ID	weight	scrotal	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"/>
Example					104	3/13/25	N04	3757697	SM	94	705	S	H	Red	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

^a205-d adjusted weight as reported by breed assoc.

^bBirth type = S=single, T=twin, ET= embryo transfer.

^cHorn status = P=pollled, S=scurred, H=horned.

^dPredominant hide color.

^eIndicate contemporary groups (typically calves raised in same environment, weaned on same day, i.e., 1, 2, 3...).

^fDetermined free of lethal genetic defects based on pedigree (sire and dam are not potential carriers by breed assoc.) or DNA tested as free.