

# MCA/MSU BULL EVALUATION

2022-23 Policies & Rules



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

**MIBulls.com**

Entries due: **September 2, 2022**

Bull receiving: **October 7, 2022**



## EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

- To promote performance-evaluated beef cattle and serve as an educational tool to acquaint producers with its overall value.
- To provide a common environment for evaluating young bulls for rate of gain, soundness, and body composition.
- To aid beef producers in obtaining superior bulls that have been evaluated for growth, breeding and structural soundness, and carcass merit.

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

### ***BULLS NOT MEETING THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN THE EVALUATION***

1. We welcome all seedstock producers to participate in the MCA/MSU Bull Evaluation Program. Consignors must be paid members of the Michigan Cattlemen's Association and have their 2022-23 dues paid in advance ([micattlemen.org/Membership](http://micattlemen.org/Membership))
2. Consignors must have a current Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification at the time of nomination. Training and certification are available at: [www.bqa.org](http://www.bqa.org)
3. Eligible bulls must be purebred or hybrid, registered in a national or international breed association, and originate from a calf crop enrolled in that association's performance program. Consignors must be participating in an official herd performance program with weaning data reported to and processed by their breed association. Bulls must have a corresponding, legible, ear tattoo or brand.
4. Bulls must be born between September 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022, to be eligible for the evaluation. Bulls will be subject to checking dentition at any time. When a discrepancy appears to exist between the stated age and apparent age according to dentition, the MCA/MSU Bull Evaluation Committee reserves the right to remove the bull from the evaluation.
5. A completed nomination form must be received electronically or postmarked by **September 2, 2022**, along with the nomination fee for space reservation. The nomination fee will be credited toward the total evaluation cost.
6. Prior to receiving, all bulls must have a DNA sample submitted for analysis through their respective breed association. The test must minimally verify sire parentage and generate genomically enhanced EPDs.
7. Bulls must not be a known or tested carrier of a lethal genetic defect. Nominated bulls that are identified as potential carriers (as identified by their respective breed association), for which there is a DNA test available, must be tested and verified free of the lethal allele prior to receiving. Lethal traits with available DNA tests at the time of this printing include Arthrogyrosis Multiplex (AM), Neuropathic Hydrocephalus (NH), and Contractural Arachnodactyly (CA) in Angus, Osteopetrosis (OS) and Alpha-Mannosidosis (MA) in Red Angus, Tibial Hemimelia (TH) and Pulmonary Hypoplasia with Anasarca (PHA) in Maine Anjou and Shorthorn. Other breeds may be affected via ancestors, even those removed several generations. Consult your breed association for a complete list of known lethal alleles, animal status, and approved DNA testing procedures. Developmental Duplication (DD) is not considered a lethal abnormality and there is no DD requirement for the evaluation; however, DD status will be published in the sale catalog.
8. A health verification form, provided at nomination acceptance, must be signed by the consignor, and accompany bulls at delivery.
9. Bulls must be treated for internal and external parasites with a broad-spectrum anthelmintic following removal from pasture, but no less than 14 days before delivery.

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Bulls must also be vaccinated and boosted (per label), usually 2 to 3 weeks later) for:

- a) Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)\*
- b) Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVDV; types 1 & 2)\*
- c) Parainfluenza<sub>3</sub>, (PI<sub>3</sub>)\*
- d) Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (BRSV)\*
- e) Mannheimia haemolytica (*must contain "toxoid" or "leukotoxoid"*)
- f) Histophilus somni
- g) Leptospira-five strains
- h) Clostridial organisms-7 way

\*At least one dose as a modified-live vaccine. Boosters must be given no less than 14 and no more than 30 days before delivery. Products labeled as "OneShot" or "Once" also require a booster, as bulls are being comingled. A list of vaccines fitting this protocol is available at MIBulls.com

9. Bulls must be weaned and, if horned, dehorned a minimum of 21 days before delivery.
10. Bulls must test negative for BVDV prior to receiving. The test must be a virus detection test and not simply an antibody test (MSU VDL can complete a virus detection test on an ear notch or blood sample). BVDV tests offered in combination with genomic testing are virus detection tests and are also acceptable.
11. Bulls originating from herds outside Michigan must have a permit number approved in advance by the State Veterinarian's Office (1-800-292-3939) and meet all current health requirements, including applicable bovine TB and brucellosis regulations, to enter Michigan.
12. At the discretion of the committee, bulls will not be accepted into the evaluation if they originate from a county in a bovine TB Modified Accredited Zone (i.e., Michigan counties of Montmorency, Alpena, Oscoda, Alcona) or a county where an active bovine TB positive cattle herd investigation is underway.
13. Bulls must be visually free of ringworm and warts.
14. Bulls must have a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag in their left ear at receiving. See manufacturer's instructions for proper application on the inside of the left ear.
15. Bulls must weigh a minimum of 2.40 lb./day of age at receiving.
16. Bulls will not be accepted at receiving if they are sick, have a poor disposition, or physical defect that may impair future reproductive performance, such as cryptorchidism, testicular hypoplasia, or lameness. Scrotal palpation of bulls is recommended during on-farm preparation.

#### NOMINATION ACCEPTANCE AND FEE

If nominations exceed station capacity, a priority plan will be implemented, which reserves space for first-time consignors. The nomination fee will be fully refundable if a slot is not available, or a bull fails entrance requirements at delivery. **Due to evaluation fixed costs, slot nomination fees are non-refundable if the MCA office is not notified of a no-show bull by Sept. 23, 2022.**

#### RECEIVING REQUIREMENTS

All bulls must have all the required forms (provided at acceptance) at receiving. **Bulls without these fully completed documents will not be accepted.**

- A completed consignment receiving form.
- A completed health verification form.
- A copy of the breed registration papers or online registration page which notes that EPDs are genomically enhanced.
- A signed whole-herd bovine TB testing date agreement.
- A copy of the negative BVDV detection test.
- If applicable, a copy of DNA test results for lethal gene(s).
- Receiving payment (\$350).

### CONSIGNOR SUPPLIED DATA

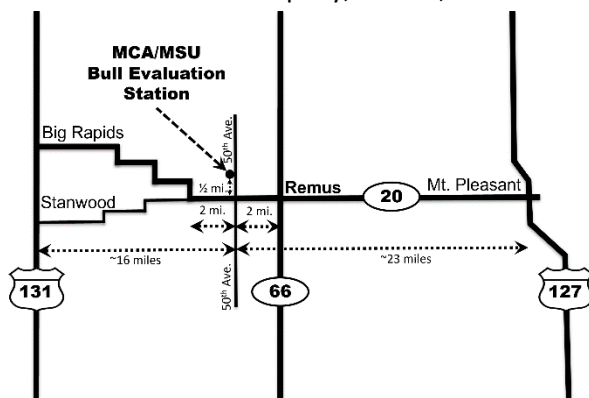
Consignors must provide breed association calculated adjusted weaning weights to the MSU office. Each bull without this data on Nov. 18, 2022, will be charged \$50, and will be ineligible for sale if data are not provided by Dec. 16, 2022.

### SCHEDULE

Eligible birth dates	Sep. 1, 2021, to Mar. 31, 2022
Nominations postmarked on or before	Sep. 2, 2022
Weaned on or before	Sep. 16, 2022
First vaccinations (per label, usually 2-3 weeks before booster)	
Booster vaccinations between	Sep. 7 & 23, 2022
Nomination fee refundable	Sep. 23, 2022, or before
Negative BVDV test	Before receiving
Bull receiving	Oct. 7, 2022
Warm-up period	Oct. 7 to Oct. 21, 2022
Start evaluation weights	Oct. 20 & 21, 2022
28-day weight	Nov. 18, 2022
Performance data due	Nov. 18, 2022
56-day wt. & mid eval meeting	Dec. 16, 2022
84-day weight	Jan. 13, 2023
Mid-evaluation payment due	Jan. 13, 2023
End evaluation weights	Feb. 9 & 10, 2023
Open house	Mar. 4, 2023
Sale	Mar. 18, 2023

### EVALUATION PROCEDURES

1. Bulls will be evaluated at the MCA/MSU Bull Evaluation Program Station, which is located at Wernette Cattle Company, Remus, MI.



2. Bulls will be ear-tagged with identification that will be their evaluation and sale lot number.

3. Bulls will be divided into four pens of no more than 28 head per pen based on incoming age and weight. The oldest bulls (one pen) will be classified as 'Senior', with the remaining bulls classified as 'Junior'. Bulls within a classification will be fed an identical diet formulation.
4. Following station arrival, all bulls will receive a general examination for health and soundness, retreatment for control of external and internal parasites, and MLV booster vaccination for IBR, BVD, PI<sub>3</sub>, and BRSV.
5. Individual initial and final weights will be the average of weights taken on two consecutive days at the start and end of the 112-d evaluation period, respectively. Interim weights will be taken every 28 days during the evaluation.
6. Bulls will receive a total mixed ration. The Bull Evaluation Committee will approve the diet composition which will be available to consignors on request. Feed delivery will be recorded for each pen.
7. Individual hip height will be measured at the end of the 112-d evaluation as an average of hip heights taken on two consecutive days and used to calculate frame size.
8. Veterinary service for any bull will be obtained when deemed necessary by the station manager. The consignor will be responsible for veterinary service fees and medication costs. Necropsy fees will be paid from the contingency fund if deemed necessary for herd health by the station manager.
9. All bulls will have ultrasound measurements of ribeye area, rib fat, rump fat, and intramuscular fat as part of the evaluation. Measurements will be taken in Nov. for bulls born Sept. through Nov. 2021. It is acceptable for consignors to ultrasound older bulls, prior to delivery to the station to maintain contemporary groups. Bulls born after Nov. 2021 will be measured in Feb. 2023.

10. All bulls will receive a complete breeding soundness exam (BSE) as defined by the Society for Theriogenology. Bulls born between Feb. 1 and Mar. 31 will be subject to meeting all requirements of a BSE, except they will need a minimum of 50% morphologically normal sperm to pass (as compared to 70% for bulls born prior to Feb. 1). Bulls not passing the BSE requirements will be ineligible for sale, however the Bull Evaluation Committee reserves the right to allow a BSE rechecks on conditions likely to resolve before sale day.

### REMOVAL OF BULLS

Bulls must remain at the station for the duration of the 112-day evaluation. Bulls may not be removed from the evaluation without a release from the station's veterinarian, or consent of the Bull Evaluation Committee. Violation of this requirement by a consignor will forfeit future evaluation privileges. Station management reserves the right to request a consignor remove any bull from the station because of health, disposition, or failure to meet requirements. Consignors will be responsible for all incurred costs while the bull is at the station, including feed and overhead. All fees must be paid before bulls are released from the station.

### COSTS AND PAYMENT

Veterinary and medical costs, administered individually, will be charged to the respective bull. Feed costs will be prorated according to weight gain for each bull within their pen. All other evaluation costs will be equally divided on a per bull basis. A \$15 fee will be deducted for each bull enrolled in the evaluation for improvement of the station facilities, and a data management fee (MSU) of 1% of the sale gross will be equally assessed to all enrolled bulls. Sale expenses will be calculated as a percentage of the sale (or floor) price for bulls that qualify for the sale. Sale expenses will include an administrative fee (MCA) of 2% of the sale gross. The complete settlement will be made to consignors by MCA after deducting all evaluation and sale expenses from the sale receipts for each bull. Payments toward evaluation costs must be made according to the following schedule. **Each past due payment will be assessed a \$50 penalty per bull.**

### Payment schedule

Payment	Due date
\$350	At nomination
\$350	At receiving
\$350*	January 13, 2023
Settlement	Wrap-up meeting

\*Adjustment of the final payment may be required if market conditions dictate. Make checks payable to **Michigan Cattlemen's Assoc.**

### LIABILITY


Professional veterinary service will be obtained, when necessary, but neither the station managers, nor the Bull Evaluation Committee, nor its designated veterinarians, nor member breed associations, nor the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, nor Michigan State University can be held liable in case of loss by fire, theft, injury, morbidity, or mortality of animals. Insurance is the owner's responsibility for his/her bull while at the station.

### RECORDS PROVIDED

Evaluation data will be made publicly available online following each weigh period or in the sale catalog. Information summarized during the evaluation will include:

1. Initial, interim, and final weight, weight per day of age (WDA), and average daily gain (ADG)
2. Frame score, Final WDA ratio, ADG ratio, and sale index
3. Breeding soundness examination, including scrotal circumference and pelvic area
4. Ultrasound fat thickness, ribeye area, and intramuscular fat data submitted to breed association for inclusion in carcass EPDs. Note that late March-born bulls may be too young to conform to breed association guidelines for calculation of ultrasound carcass EPDs. Also, bulls must be part of a breed association recognized contemporary group for carcass ultrasound EPD publication.

**SALE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Breeders who do not wish to sell bulls must notify the station manager prior to the end of the 112-d official evaluation period.
2. Bulls must gain 2.8 lb./day or more during the evaluation, and pass evaluation of breeding soundness, disposition, and structural soundness including foot conformation. Only bulls with a foot angle score of 3 through 7 and a claw set score of 3 through 6 will be eligible for sale. See [mibulls.com/consignors](http://mibulls.com/consignors) for details on foot scoring.
3. All bulls that are eligible and cataloged must sell through the sale on March 18, 2023. All non-sale bulls must be removed from the station by March 4, 2023.
4. Bulls that successfully meet all sale criteria will be freeze branded with the Bull Evaluation Program brand. 
5. Sale order will be determined by a weighted sale index including percentile ranking of calving ease EPD, weaning weight EPD, yearling weight EPD, milk EPD (20<sup>th</sup> percentile threshold), average daily gain during evaluation, weight per day of age, marbling EPD, and ribeye area EPD.
6. The Program Committee will set the sale floor price at the mid-test meeting in December. Bulls that are bid less than the sale floor price will not be sold. No-sale bulls are charged sale expenses as a percentage of the sale floor price. Consignors are urged to not sell “no-sale” bulls at home for less than the floor price, which serves to undermine the program. In 2022, the sale floor price was \$2,250.
7. Registration transfer within 45 days following the sale payment is the responsibility of the consignor. MCA will defer the final settlement until bulls are transferred to their new owner.

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

The MCA/MSU Bull Evaluation Program Committee is responsible for program supervision and direction.

**Michigan Cattlemen’s Association**

Dave Girton, President  
 George Quackenbush, Exec. V.P. 517-347-8117  
 2145 University Park Dr., Ste. 300, Okemos, MI 48864

**Michigan State University Extension**

Dan Buskirk 517-432-0400  
 buskirk@msu.edu  
 474 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing, MI 48824

Kevin Gould 616-527-5357  
 gouldk@msu.edu

**Station Management**

Karl Wernette 989-506-7715  
 karl.wernette@gmail.com  
 9144 50<sup>th</sup> Ave, Remus, MI 49340

**Breed Representatives****Angus**

Paul Dawson (Vice Chair) 989-259-8725  
 Kevin Beckington 734-368-8430  
 Mark Benaske 517-204-4747

**Simmental**

Phil Smith (Chair) 989-314-3018  
 Randy Longcore 616-644-4516

**Red Angus**

Mike Karweik 616-293-6019

**Commercial**

Mark Sears 517-563-2460

