

Live Oak BBA Bull Development Test

The Live Oak Beefmaster Breeders Association (LOBBA) officers and directors, on February 16, 2013, approved formation of the LOBBA Bull Development Test beginning the Summer 2013. Two tests per year will be held at the Tom Brothers Ranch in Campbellton, Texas. The bull tests will begin January 1st and June 1st each year. The bulls will then have a two week “cool down” period after the test before being sold and/or taken back to the ranch.

Tommy Perkins, Ph.D., Executive Vice President of Beefmaster Breeders United, said, “BBU is very excited about the level of interest exhibited by the Live Oak Beefmaster breeders toward the bull test. This new program will join the growing list of performance bull tests available to Beefmaster breeders.”

Bull test participants must be a member of LOBBA to consign bulls to the program. LOBBA consists of Beefmaster breeders throughout the United States and membership is open to any interested Beefmaster breeder at a cost of \$30 per year. The consignment fee per bull is \$25 per head to cover cost of the data analysis.

All consigned bulls will be tested for a 112 day feeding period following a three week “warm-up” period and followed by a two week “cool down” period. Bulls that complete the test will have all yearling data collected. The bulls will be weighed both on and off test and at the 56-day mid-point. In addition, the bulls will have ultrasound performed (scanned) for rib fat, rump fat, ribeye area and percent intramuscular fat during the test. The bulls will also be measured for pelvic area, scrotal circumference and hip height.

Cost of yardage, feed, medication, and data collection will be determined by the Tom Brothers Ranch (e.g. yardage: \$0.40/head/day; feed cost plus 4% and medication: \$10 pull fee plus cost plus medication plus 2%). Additional services offered by Tom Brothers Ranch include sale preparation which includes clipping, videoing, breeding soundness exams, sale tags, and/or delivery to the sale facility. Breeders will be invoiced monthly.

The bulls will have a 21-day warm-up and will be fed at two percent (2%) of body weight during the feeding phase. This will include a Grower 1 (48% corn, 38% cotton burrs, and 14% protein pellet) ration, Grower 2 (56% corn, 30% cotton burrs, and 14% protein pellet) ration and a Gain (67% corn, 19% cotton burrs, and 14% protein pellet) ration. CalMin and ZinPro will be fed to prevent acidosis and to maintain food and rumen health. The bulls will have access to free choice coastal hay as well.

The first test will conclude on November 21st or so with a two week “cool down” period. The second test will conclude on May 23rd or so with a two week “cool down” period. Both tests will end in time to allow consignors the option to consign their bulls to the LOBBA Beefmaster Bull Sale in January each year if they choose. A Field Day may be held at some point during each of the 112 day test for LOBBA members, BBU members and commercial cattlemen.

For more information contact Bob Siddons, LOBBA President; Tommy Perkins, BBU EVP; or Ellen Tom, Tom Brothers Ranch.

Eligible Age Range (Birthdate) to Enter

Test One - September 1st – December 31st

Test Two – January 1st – April 30th

Test One General Schedule

Test One - June 1 First Date to Deliver

Test One - June 15 Last Date to Deliver

Test One - July 1 Test Begins

Test One - August 26 Intermediate Weight

Test One - October 21 End Test, Final Weight



Test Two General Schedule

Test Two – January 1 First Date to Deliver

Test Two - January 15 Last Date to Deliver

Test Two - February 1 Test Begins

Test Two - March 26 Intermediate Weight

Test Two - May 23 End Test, Final Weight

Health Requirements

Weaned at least 45 days prior to delivery

Veterinarian or vet supplier approved

vaccinations for *Pasteurella*, 7-way

Clostridium, IBR, BVD, PI3,

BRSV, *Haemophilus Somnus*

Two rounds of vaccinations with at least one of those rounds using a modified live vaccine

Benefits of Consigning Bulls to a 112 day Performance Bull Test

1. *Collection of accurate and uniform yearling data and reported to BBU.*
2. *Ease of collecting yearling scrotal and ultrasound measures with larger contemporaries.*
3. *No wear and tear on your ranch facilities because of growing mature bulls.*
4. *Uniformity of Sale bulls of the same age.*
5. *Sale bulls will be ready to sale and breed at a younger age.*
6. *Beef Improvement Federation recognized 112-day gain test with 14 day adaptation period.*
7. *Additional data collection means improved EPD accuracy.*
8. *The bulls will be grown and developed in the South Texas Environment where sold.*
9. *Friendly competition of Beefmaster breeders to improve genetics of the sale offering.*

Costs

1. An initial consignment fee of \$25 is due to LOBBA or BBU before delivery to test facility.
2. The total All-Inclusive fee for the full 147 days per bull will be \$1,000 or less. This includes feed costs, yardage, medicine, carcass ultrasound, and yearling measurements.
3. Breeding soundness exams, clipping, video services, etc. will be extra costs to consignors.
4. Veterinary expenses will be charged on an as needed basis.

Feed Ration

Grower 1: 48% corn, 38% cotton burrs, and 14% protein pellet including vitamins & minerals.

Grower 2: 56% corn, 30% cotton burrs, and 14% protein pellet including vitamins & minerals.

Gain: 67% corn, 19% cotton burrs, and 14% protein pellet including vitamins & minerals.

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