

Proposal

The Animal Sciences Department at Auburn University recently received the Beefmaster herd of Arrow T Farms courtesy of Mr. Greg Thomas. The herd is in isolation pending the results of routine serology in accordance with the Department's biosecurity plan. When the cow herd is cleared to enter the existing Wilson Beef Teaching Unit herd, we intend to use them as a representative of a Brahman influence breed, much as we use our Angus herd as a representative of British breed. As such, we offer the following proposals to the Beefmaster Breeders United (BBU).

Faculty in the Animal Science Department will develop a selection plan for our Beefmaster herd emphasizing moderate frame scores and maternal traits (cow efficiency). All bull calves will be castrated. Steers and cull heifers will be fed for teaching and demonstration use, and harvested through the Lambert-Powell Meats Laboratory.

- ❖ The use of this herd will be maximized with a cooperative effort between Auburn University Animal Sciences and BBU. We request the following:
 - A supply of semen to select from to meet the identified selection program
 - Waiver of all fees associated with animal registration and data evaluation.
 - In return, we can provide:
 - Production data on all animals in the herd
 - Carcass data on all Beefmaster cattle processed in our lab
 - Opportunities for field days, tours and other educational events.
- ❖ Individual feed intake data is possible using the Calan gate system at our Beef Cattle Evaluation Center. The current daily charge for the use of this facility is \$1.70/head/day plus feed. The facility has the capacity of 96 head (8 pens, 12 head/pen).
 - If BBU is interested in feed intake and feed conversion data, all Beefmaster cattle will be fed using this facility. Auburn University will provide the feed and BBU will cover the daily use fee for the feeding period (\$20.40/day for 12 head)
 - Ultrasound data is available for up to \$15/head (\$300/year for 20 head)
 - Auburn University can also conduct a feeding trial for BBU, feeding bulls, heifers or steers. The cost of such a test will be negotiated.

The Animal Sciences Department at Auburn University looks forward to working with Beefmaster Breeders United in any arrangement possible.