

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI GAIN-ON-FORAGE BULL TESTING PROGRAM

Rules and Plans for 2009 – 2010 Test

- I. The primary purpose of the South Mississippi Gain-On-Forage Bull Test is to provide productive educational opportunities for beef cattle producers throughout the Southeastern United States. This educational process is grounded in the bull performance test – an official venue through which beef cattle breeders can evaluate several performance parameters of young bulls for utilization in making informed breeding management decisions. Information collected during each 140-day test is very valuable in helping producers evaluate the utility of their breeding programs and the genetic merit of their foundation breeding stock. Additionally, this test serves as a marketing tool for cattle breeders to sell eligible bulls via private treaty transactions and as a source from which commercial beef cattle producers throughout the region can locate and acquire genetically superior, high quality, forage-tested herd sires.
- II. Decision of South Mississippi Gain-On-Forage Bull Test Committee shall prevail in the event no rule or plan exists or there is a disputed rule or plan. President of the committee is Mr. Richard Hay, Amite County Extension Director.
- III. Eligibility requirements for animals to be enrolled in the test:
 - A. Bulls eligible for full or percentage registration with an established breed association and bulls of composite breeding approved by the Test Committee are eligible for this test. Complete sire and dam information (and other supportive pedigree information for composite bulls) on each bull (a copy of registration certificate for each bull is preferred – *DO NOT send original*) **must** be submitted with nomination form (due October 1, 2009) or when bulls are delivered to the Test Station on October 31, 2009. The HHH farms Test Station facility is located at 565 Stallings Bridge Road southwest of Tylertown, Mississippi.
 - B. Age. Birthdates of bulls eligible for this test shall fall between:
September 01, 2008 and March 31, 2009
 - C. Bulls must be identified with an easily read numbered tag *in each ear*.
 - D. **Bulls MUST be from a Brucellosis Certified Free Herd or must have one negative Brucellosis Test within thirty days of delivery to Test Station.**
 - E. **Bulls MUST TEST NEGATIVE for Bovine Viral Diarrhea Persistent Infection (BVD-PI) via the “EAR NOTCH TEST” (immunohistochemistry) prior to delivery to the Test Station.**
 - F. **All bulls must be weaned at least 45 days prior to delivery to the Test Station.** Each bull must be dewormed (dewormer should be effective against lungworm), de-grubbed, deloused, and **treated with a coccidiostat**. The vaccination protocol for all bulls shall include **a modified-live virus vaccine** containing IBR, PI-3, BVD, and BRSV. A five-way *Leptospira* vaccine and a seven-way *clostridial* product are also required. A *Mannheimia haemolytica* (Pasteurella) vaccine that contains both a bacterin and leukotoxoid is required. Additionally, vaccination against *Histophilus somni* (formerly known as *Haemophilus somnus*) is required. **Vaccines and dewormer should be given twice (14-21 days apart) with the second round administered 21 days before delivery to Test Station.** Bulls will be dewormed and vaccinated a third time when they arrive at the Test Station and will be treated for coccidiosis with Rumensin minerals.
It is very important to follow recommended procedures for administering vaccines and boosters to achieve effective immunity. Please refer to the attached information sheet for additional details about how to properly handle and administer vaccines.
 - G. The Test Committee reserves the right to remove any bull from test based upon unfavorable disposition.

South Mississippi Gain-On-Forage Bull Testing Program
Rules and Plans for 2009 - 2010 Test *(continued)*

- IV. Charges for testing (per bull):
- A. Basic Care and Feeding¹:..... **\$350.00**
¹\$350.00 per bull fee is payable in full upon delivery of bull(s) to Test Station on October 31, 2009.
 - B. Supplemental Feeding: Bulls will be maintained on an adequate plane of nutrition at all times. Ration will consist of cool season annual forage grazing, Rumensin minerals, and free choice hay. Should forage growth conditions result in less than adequate amounts of grazing, supplemental feed will be provided. **Actual costs of supplemental feed will be prorated evenly on a per bull basis. Bull owners will be billed accordingly.**
 - C. If total veterinary costs on an individual bull exceed \$15.00, additional charges will be billed to consignor.
 - D. Applicable Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE) veterinary fees must be paid by the breeder prior to execution of any private treaty sale transaction.
- V. Private Treaty Sales:
- A. It is neither the responsibility nor the right of the South Mississippi Gain-On-Forage Bull Test to negotiate private treaty sale agreements. It is the obligation of the seller and buyer to negotiate terms and conditions of private treaty sale transactions. The South Mississippi Gain-On-Forage Bull Test makes no warranty or guarantee of any kind or nature on bulls enrolled in the test that are purchased via private treaty transactions.
 - B. Bulls may be sold via private treaty sale at any time during the test, provided the following eligibility requirements are met:
 - 1) Registered bulls must be registered through the appropriate breed association; bulls of composite breeding must be approved for sale by the South Mississippi Gain-On-Forage Bull Test Committee (See Items C-1 and C-2 below).
 - 2) Minimum adjusted 205-day weight shall be 500 pounds.
 - 3) Passage of Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE).
 - C. Before private treaty negotiations can begin on any bull, the following **must** be submitted to Test Manager Frank Holmes:
 - 1) Copy of registration certificate
 - 2) For bulls of composite breeding, complete sire and dam and other supportive pedigree information must be submitted for approval by the South Mississippi Gain-On-Forage Bull Test Committee
 - 3) Current EPD information
 - 4) Written notification of the price being asked for each bull
 - D. Breeders must remit payment of Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE) veterinary fees prior to execution of any private treaty sale transaction.
 - E. If a private treaty sale is transacted prior to the end of the test, the bull(s) must remain on test until the April 13, 2010 final weighing and processing date.
- VI. Bulls must remain on test for the entire 140-day test period (unless sickness, injury, or unfavorable disposition mandates early removal).

South Mississippi Gain-On-Forage Bull Testing Program
Rules and Plans for 2009 - 2010 Test *(continued)*

VII. Calendar of Events:

- A. October 1, 2009 - Nomination forms due to enroll bulls on test.
Mail nomination forms and photocopies of registration certificates (or declaration of sire and dam genetics and other supportive pedigree information about bulls of composite breeding) to:
 Richard Hay
 Amite County Extension Director
 P. O. Box 373
 Liberty, MS 39645

- B. October 1, 2009 - Plant cool season forages on prepared seedbed at the rate of one acre per bull.

- C. October 31, 2009 - Bull Delivery to HHH Farms (Test Station)
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
565 Stallings Bridge Road • Tylertown, MS
Telephone: 601-876-5204

- D. November 13, 2009 - Place bulls on cool season forage pasture
(Or when adequate grazing is available)

- E. November 23 and - Weigh and process bulls to mark beginning of
24, 2009 official 140-day test.

- F. February 1, 2010 - Weigh and process bulls to collect
mid-test data.

- G. April 12-13, 2010 - Weigh and process bulls to mark
end of official 140-day test

- H. Date to be Determined - South Mississippi Gain-On-Forage Bull Test
Educational Conference/Field Day

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SAFE HANDLING AND ADMINISTERING OF VACCINES TO ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE IMMUNITY

Revised August 2007 by: Lamar Adams • Former Walthall County Extension Director
Mississippi State University Extension Service • 250 Ball Avenue • Tylertown, MS 39667

Telephone: 601-876-4021 • Facsimile: 601-876-0077 • E-mail: walthall@ext.msstate.edu

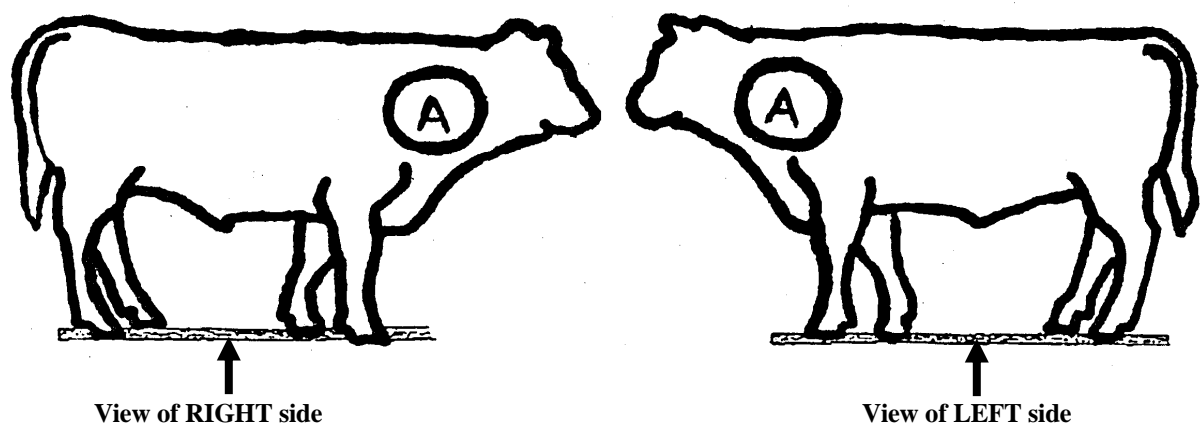
It is very important for cattle producers to follow recommended procedures for purchasing, storing, handling, and administering vaccines and needed boosters in order to achieve effective immunity. Three keys to a successful vaccination program are effective vaccines, animal response, and proper timing of the vaccination.

A vaccine is a suspension of attenuated (weakened) or killed microorganisms, or the antigenic proteins derived from them. Two key components are required for successful vaccination: (1) an efficacious (effective) vaccine, and (2) a functioning immune system within the animal.

For a vaccine to work the immune response that it elicits must occur prior to the challenge of the infectious agent – i.e., the vaccine must be administered before the animal becomes exposed to the disease to be truly effective. If a vaccine is used in any fashion other than prior to disease exposure, vaccine efficacy (effectiveness) will be somewhat less than desirable.

Vaccines are not always 100% effective. There can be many reasons for vaccine failure which include:

- The animal may have been incubating the disease when it was vaccinated.
 - **Something may have happened to the vaccine to make it ineffective, such as mishandling (i.e., exposure to sunlight, heat, and adverse climatic conditions).**
 - The immune status of the animal may make it unresponsive to the vaccine. The immune system of the calf may not be fully functional, antibodies derived from the colostrum of the cow may still be present and inactivate the vaccine, or the nutritional program may be inadequate and not allow an immune response to occur.
 - The animal may be exposed to an overwhelming dose of the infectious agent.
 - The duration of immunity after vaccination was not adequate.
 - **A booster may be required for proper vaccine response. Be sure to read and follow label directions.**
 - Important antigenic differences exist between the vaccine and field strains.
- Only purchase vaccines from reputable dealers that have taken steps necessary to ensure the product remains potent (i.e., kept at recommended temperatures, shelf-life/expiration date of product is not exceeded, etc.).
 - Store vaccines according to manufacturer's recommendations.
 - Prepare (constitute) vaccines according to label directions **only when ready to be used.**
 - **Keep vaccines cool and in the shade while in use (it is best to keep them in an insulated cooler).**
 - **Do not leave vaccines in direct sunlight (especially on vehicle dash boards and seats).**
 - Work cattle in the coolest parts of the day and avoid unnecessary stress on animals while handling them.
 - Do not inject into areas where the skin is dirty.
 - Do not utilize dull or bent needles.
 - Recommended needle sizes for subcutaneous – sub-Q – (S.C.) injections are 1/2 or 3/4 inch 18 gauge.
 - For intramuscular (I.M.) injections use 1.0 or 1.5 inch 18 gauge needles.
 - **Do not use disinfectants to clean syringes or needles to be used with modified-live virus vaccines.**



A = Location acceptable for administering vaccines which require intramuscular (I.M.) injections and those which can be administered through subcutaneous (sub-Q) injections.



Appreciation is expressed to Retired Mississippi State University Extension Service
Beef Cattle Specialist Blair McKinley for contributing portions of the information used in this document.

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SOUTH MISSISSIPPI GAIN-ON-FORAGE BULL TESTING PROGRAM
2009 - 2010 Test • Bull Nomination Form • (Please Print Or Type All Information)

Name of Breeder and/or Farm Name:	<p>RELEASE FORM</p> <p>Frank Holmes agrees to take responsibility of the bulls; supervising the grazing, feeding, and necessary health care; but will be released of all responsibility in case of death or injury of the animal. Any breeder desiring insurance on the bull(s) should obtain such coverage from the provider of his/her choice prior to delivery of bulls to Test Station.</p> <p>My signature indicates I agree to the conditions stated above and that I have read and understand all rules governing this test.</p> <p>Owner Signature:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>_____</p>
Address:	
E-mail:	
Telephone Number:	
Bang's Certification Number and Date:	

BULLS NOMINATED (make additional copies of this form if necessary):

Eartag Number	Birth Date	Birth Weight	205 Day Adj. Wt.	Breed	~~ Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) ~~								
					Birth Weight	Acc.	Weaning Weight	Acc.	Yearling Weight	Acc.	Maternal Milk	Acc.	
					Acc. = Accuracy of EPD								

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An easily read numbered identification tag MUST be placed in each ear. PHOTOCOPIES OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES (OR DECLARATION OF SIRE AND DAM GENETICS AND SUPPORTIVE PEDIGREE INFORMATION FOR COMPOSITE BULLS) MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH TEST REGISTRATION FORM BY OCTOBER 1, 2009 OR UPON DELIVERY OF BULLS TO HHH FARMS ON OCTOBER 31, 2009.

The information requested on this form is necessary to compile, calculate, and process descriptive characteristics and performance parameters of your bulls. It is also necessary for providing factual information in the course of all private treaty sale considerations. Therefore, you must provide as much of this information as possible.

Return this form prior to October 01, 2009 to:

Richard Hay
Amite County Extension Director
P. O. Box 373
Liberty, MS 39645