

NEWS RELEASE

November 16, 2016

24th Annual WCA All Breed Bull Test

One hundred twenty-six bulls consigned by 43 breeders from the Tri-State area WA, OR, ID, consisting of 69 Angus, 31 Hereford (Polled, Horned), 13 Red Angus, 4 SimAngus, and 9 Simmental were weighed on November 1-2, 2016.

This initial weigh-in begins the 120-day feed trial for this year's 24th Annual Washington Cattlemen's Association All Breed Bull Test. The bulls will be fed under the supervision of Bob and Nina Lundgren at their Bonina Feed Facility at Eltopia, WA.

Bill Cox, Pomeroy, WA, WCA Breeds Committee Chairman said *"this is an excellent set of bulls with great genetics will be offered March 22nd"*. Cox went on to remind bull buyers *"not to make this a sale of last resort, be sure to plan on being at the sale to buy one of these quality bulls"*.

"Our health, vaccination, and testing protocol is proven to produce high quality bulls that are ready to work the day they are taken home", said Jack Field, Executive VP of the Washington Cattlemen's Association. Only the top bulls that have passed our performance and quality requirements will be offered for sale.

"This is a tremendous set of bulls that the WCA has put on test" said Rod Wesselman.

The Low BEPD sections for Angus and Herefords will be separated to identify those bulls that would give less calving problems in commercial herds. To qualify for the calving ease division Hereford bulls must have an actual birth weight of 80 lbs. or less, a birth EPD of +2.0 and a CED of 2.0 or greater, in addition to both sire and dam posting a BEPD of +3.5 or less. The qualifications for the Angus low BEPD division requirement has been tightened again this year to require each bull to have an actual birth weight of 80 lbs. or less, a birth EPD of +2.0 or less and a CED of +8 or more and, both the sire and dam must have a birth EPD of +2.0 or less.

Genetic profile enhancement through DNA samples will be used again this year on many of the bulls selling. This testing tool conducted by Neogen, Igenity and American Hereford Association lends more reliability to the EPD's calculated for each individual animal, thus providing buyers with a higher level of accuracy for non-parent sires.

Again, the sale can be viewed on LiveAuctions.TV. Buyers are able to sign up, view and bid as the sale is conducted. Additionally, the bulls will be videoed two weeks prior to the sale and these videos will be available on the LiveAuctions.TV website at that time, plus, the viewing will be run as those bulls sell.

The 120 day test will end on March 1, 2016. At that time breeding soundness exams, semen tests, and ultra-sound data will be compiled prior to the auction sale that will be conducted

on March 22, 2016 at the Bonina Sale facility at Eltopia, WA. Only the top performing bulls will be allowed to sell in this event.

The bulls can be viewed at any time at the Bonina facility located 15 miles north of Pasco, WA. Progress reports can be viewed on the Washington Cattlemen Association website: www.washingtoncattlemen.org.

The 60 day, Final (120 day) reports, and sale catalog are available by mail by contacting the Washington Cattlemen Association office at (509) 925-9871 or email: wacattle@kvalley.com or sale managers Jack Field jfcattle@kvalley.com (509) 929-1711 or, Wesselman Livestock, Rod Wesselman, rwesselman81@gmail.com (509) 750-2185.