The purpose of the test is to develop and evaluate the performance and quality of young bulls on an all forage diet. The data generated will help breeders and beef producers identify young bulls that excel in forage based performance.

The upcoming test will begin January 15, 2015 after a transition period with capacity for 50 bulls at the Cornell University Ruminant Center in Dryden, NY. Due date to consign bulls is October 1.
FAQs: 2015 Cornell All Forage Fed Bull Test

What is the Cornell All Forage Fed Bull Test?
The purpose is to develop young bulls on an all forage diet and collect data on performance useful for producers interested in breeding bulls to be used in environments typical of New York.

Following an adjustment period, weaned bull calves will be fed an all forage diet (haylage) for the test period.

When will the test be conducted?
1. Bulls are to be delivered to the Cornell University Ruminant Center in Dryden NY, January 8 or 9, 2015. The official winter 140-day test will begin January 15, 2015 and conclude June 4, 2015.
2. Following the test bulls can be taken back to the farm of origin or sold private treaty.

Where?
Cornell University Ruminant Center, 681 Cornell Lane, Dryden, NY.

What are the requirements for the test?
A few highlights:
1. Test station capacity is 50 bulls. If capacity is reached there will be a limit of 4 bulls per farm. Bulls born between January 1 and June 1, 2014 will be accepted.
2. De-horning is to be completed, healed and dry prior to bull delivery to the test station.
3. Cattle are to be weaned no later than November 25, 2014. Initial vaccination is to be completed at least 21 days prior to weaning. Vaccines requiring boosters must be completed by November 25.
4. Vaccinations are to include BRSV, IBR, PI-3, BVD, 7-way Clostridial, Histophilus somnus, and Mannheimia haemolytica (formerly Pasteurella haemolytica) and Pasteurella multocida. (leucotoxin). Booster is to be given according to label. For more information contact Dr. Belinda Thompson, DVM, New York State College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, N.Y. at 607-253-3908, bt42@cornell.edu, or Mike Baker, contact information below.
5. If bulls have not been receiving a trace mineral salt with selenium to provide a daily intake of 1 mg of selenium, they will receive injectable selenium on arrival. Bulls will be de-wormed, treated for grubs, and free of ringworm and warts.
6. Bulls will be required to be tested for PI BVD before arrival at the bull test station. A certificate showing a negative finding must accompany the bull(s) when they arrive at the bull test station. If not provided, bulls will not be accepted.
7. Beef Quality Assurance guidelines of neck only and when possible subcutaneous injections are to be followed. Beef Quality Assurance certification is required.

What information will be collected during the test?
At a minimum, consignors will receive:
1. Performance-total gain, average daily gain, model predicted dry matter intake and feed efficiency, temperament, and structural soundness and undergo a breeding soundness exam.
2. Carcass ultrasound measurements: ribeye area, backfat, and intramuscular fat.

What's the cost for the test?
Cost for consigning a bull to the test will be $650. Nomination and non-refundable deposit of $50 is due October 1, 2014. Balance of $600 is due upon bull delivery to the test station.

To consign bulls or for more information, visit http://beefcattle.ansci.cornell.edu/eventsprograms, or call Nancy Glazier, Cornell Cooperative Extension, (585)315-7746 or Mike Baker, Cornell University, (607)255-5923.