**2014 NY All Forage Fed Bull Test 112-Day Report**

May 7 concluded this year’s bull test. The bulls continued to do well through this period, though they spent more time fighting and riding. Average daily gain for pen 14 was 1.7 lb., cumulative gain for the 112 days was 1.6 lb. Average daily gain for pen 15 was 1.8 lb.; cumulative gain was 1.8 lb. Overall gain of the 16 bulls was1.7 lb.

Feed was switched at the midway point of the test**.** Pen 14 was fed alfalfa hay silage. Pen 15 was fed triticale silage plus calcium carbonate added to meet calcium requirements. Both groups’ feed was supplemented with Kent Feeds minerals donated by Sammi Clark with Kent Feeds. Feed intake will be calculated and shared at a later date.

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| **NY All Forage Fed Bull Test, May 7, 2014, weights, BCS** |
| **Pen 14** |  |  | 15-Jan AvgWt Start | 12-Feb Wt (S)1 | 11-Mar Wt (S)1 | 9-Apr Wt (S)1 | 7-May AvgWt End1 | 7-May pdADG2 | 7-May cADG3 | 7-May BCS4 | 7-May BCSchange5 |
| CID | Farm ID | Last | Breed |
| 1401 | 2 | Lucenti | Ch | 826 | 858 | 899 | 989 | 1051 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 6.5 | 0 |
| 1403 | 313 | Kraszewski | GV | 1008 | 1008 | 1046 | 1142 | 1184 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 7 | 0.5 |
| 1405 | Moon light | Saner | HP | 647 | 697 | 735 | 797 | 863 | 2.4 | 1.9 | 6.5 | 0.5 |
| 1406 | Red Dog | Saner | AR | 617 | 636 | 649 | 680 | 710 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 6.5 | 0.5 |
| 1407 | YC | Coombe | AN | 563 | 578 | 651 | 718 | 744 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 6 | 0 |
| 1409 | 3B26 | Welytok | AN | 550 | 561 | 584 | 607 | 632 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 5.5 | -0.5 |
| 1412 | 40 | Hartman | AR | 623 | 678 | 737 | 793 | 857 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 6.5 | 0.5 |
| 1415 | Z30 | Engh | DV | 566 | 582 | 651 | 712 | 780 | 2.4 | 1.9 | 6 | 0 |
|  |  |  | **Avg** | **675** | **700** | **744** | **805** | **853** | **1.7** | **1.6** |  |  |
| **Pen 15** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1402 | 1013 | Kraszewski | GV | 970 | 994 | 1061 | 1099 | 1099 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 7 | 1 |
| 1404 | Red Bull | Saner | AR | 564 | 609 | 662 | 712 | 744 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 6.5 | 0.5 |
| 1408 | 3B25 | Welytok | AN | 631 | 664 | 760 | 828 | 848 | 0.7 | 1.9 | 6.5 | 0.5 |
| 1410 | A469 | Titus | DV | 548 | 557 | 653 | 682 | 712 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 6.5 | 0.5 |
| 1411 | 31AD | Martin | AN | 764 | 822 | 899 | 994 | 1024 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 7 | 1 |
| 1413 | 41 | Hartman | AR | 498 | 536 | 611 | 684 | 718 | 1.2 | 2.0 | 6.5 | 0 |
| 1414 | Jack Black | Leighow | HPAN | 660 | 714 | 778 | 820 | 844 | 0.8 | 1.6 | 6.5 | 1 |
| 1416 | Z36 | Engh | DV | 561 | 618 | 730 | 789 | 836 | 1.7 | 2.5 | 6.5 | 0.5 |
|  |  |  | **Avg** | **649** | **689** | **769** | **826** | **853** | **1.0** | **1.8** |  |  |
| 1Weights adjusted for gut fill. End weight was average of weights taken May 7-9. 2Period Average Daily Gain.3Cumulative Average Daily Gain, 112 days. 4Body Condition Score. 5Change in BCS since 9-April. |

Breeding soundness exams were completed on the bulls May 8. Report is below.

I talked about the breeding soundness issues with my colleague veterinarian and dairy specialist, Dr.

Jerry Bertoldo. He shared Dr. Gilbert’s findings without any names or location attached to the Bovine Veterinary Practitioners’ listserv asking for feedback. Below are some of the thoughts from beef veterinarian L.

E. Steadman, VMD, MS, MSc, Dipl. ACT, Chadron Veterinary Clinic, Chadron, NE who has worked extensively with bulls. The summary of the comments are below with Dr. Steadman’s permission to share.

*“Five bulls failed as potential breeders, two were cryptorchids, three had small scrotal circumference. The latter bulls may not have had the same potential to be successful herd sires as the satisfactory ones.*

*Given the 6 month age spread and multiple breeds doesn't really sound all that bad. The four deferred bulls have conditions that may actually improve to the point where they will also pass. 70% passing in group that includes bulls that are "just under 12 months" is not all that abnormal.*

*Vesiculitis: How was the overall health of the animals while on test? Hematogenous spread of a pathogen is often found to be the cause of seminal vesiculitis. Some of the descriptions of the deferred animals sound like cases that are in the process of resolving. Although less likely in my opinion, the penile/sheath lesions could have been the source of an ascending infection that seeded the vesicles. Most often when I see a significant amount of vesiculitis in young bulls on feed I look at the health history and frequently find areas in the management of overall health that were lacking.*

*Balanitis might be related to nutrition/management. Penis/sheath infection problems in young bulls on feed that were solely related to the diet not being balanced properly, with the resultant urine pH and/or urinary nitrogenous waste levels being the source of the tissue irritation that lead to the lesions. When the ration was corrected the associated pathology went away. I would have a nutritionist take a careful look at the current feeding program at the facility.”*

Upon consultation with the Cornell Veterinary Ambulatory clinic all bulls were treated with Draxxin metaphlactically. This reduced the risk of bovine respiratory disease for the first 10-15 days. Animal care staff observed bulls several times daily and the Ambulatory veterinarians looked at them weekly. Since no animals treated for BRD we’re pretty confident in the health status of the bulls during the test; however we will review the protocols for potential improvements. Regarding the ration, we are working on determining if that could have been the issue, though given the level of protein in the forage (15% - 24% CP), we do not believe that was an cause.

There are no officially sponsored all forage fed bull tests. Therefore there is a learning curve for all of us. Please be assured that we will continue to investigate how to make improvements based on recommendations of experts in the field.

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| **Breeding Soundness Exam, May 9, 2014** |
|  |  |  |  |  | **8-****May** | **total motile/ progressive** | **Sperm Morphology report Dr. Robert Gilbert, 5/8/14** | **Physical Exam** |
| CID | Last | DOB | SC | AdjSC | Wt |  |  |  |
| 1401 | Lucenti | 4/5/2013 | na | na | 1080 | no report | **fail, cryptorchid. L testis subcutaneous in inguinal region.** | **fail** |
| 1402 | Kraszewski | 2/25/2013 | 36 | 32 | 1125 | >80 | **Satisfactory potential breeder.** | **ok, L vesicular gland enlarged at tip.** |
| 1403 | Kraszewski | 2/6/2013 | 35 | 30 | 1220 | 60-50 | **Deferred. Mild vesiculitis. This condition often resolves spontaneously at this age. Recheck.** | **ok, mild, bilateral vesiculitis.** |
| 1404 | Saner | 5/27/2013 | 30 | 31 | 716 | 90-80 | **Satisfactory potential breeder.** | **ok** |
| 1405 | Saner | 5/3/2013 | 31 | 31 | 876 | no report | **Satisfactory potential breeder.** | **ok** |
| 1406 | Saner | 5/6/2013 | na | na | 730 |  | **Fail, cryptorchid** | **fail** |
| 1407 | Coombe | 4/14/2013 | 31 | 30 | 742 | 80+ | **Mild balanitis, expected to resolve. Recheck.** | **ok, mild balanitis.** |
| 1408 | Welytok | 4/30/2013 | 31 | 31 | 868 | 80-70 | **Satisfactory potential breeder.** | **ok** |
| 1409 | Welytok | 5/3/2013 | 29 | 29 | 660 | 90-80 | **Fail due to scrotal circumference** | **ok, penis slightly pendulous** |
| 1410 | Titus | 4/18/2013 | 25 | 24 | 736 | 30-20 | **Fail due to scrotal circumference. Too few sperm for morphology. Wart removed from penis.** | **ok** |
| 1411 | Martin | 2/14/2013 | 34 | 31 | 1070 | 80-70 | **Satisfactory potential breeder.** | **ok** |
| 1412 | Hartman | 3/30/2013 | 32 | 31 | 750 | 40-30 | **Deferred. Hemospermia. Acute vesiculitis, bilateral, L worse than R. Vesiculitis often resolves spontaneously at this age. Recheck.** | **ok, enlarged L vesicular gland** |
| 1413 | Hartman | 5/18/2013 | 31 | 31 | 888 | 70-60 | **Mild balanitis, expected to resolve. Recheck.** | **ok, mild balanitis.** |
| 1414 | Leighow | 6/3/2013 | 31 | 32 | 866 | 90-80 | **Satisfactory potential breeder.** | **ok, R vesicular gland asymmetric** |
| 1415 | Engh | 12/17/2012 | 27 | 22 | 806 | no report | **Fail due to scrotal circumference. Blocked ampullae suspected.** | **ok, dilated ampullae, plugged?** |

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| 1416 | Engh | 12/15/2012 | 30 | 24 | 856 | 80-70 | **Satisfactory potential breeder.** | **ok** |

Carcass ultrasound was performed May 9. Those results will be available in a couple weeks.

Lastly, here is the link to an article that was just printed in north edition of Lancaster Farming. [http://www.lancasterfarming.com/news/northeedition/-NY-All-Forage-Fed-Bull-Test-Wraps-Up-Its-Second-](http://www.lancasterfarming.com/news/northeedition/-NY-All-Forage-Fed-Bull-Test-Wraps-Up-Its-Second-Year-#.U3OAuSj6E9s)  [Year-#.U3OAuSj6E9s](http://www.lancasterfarming.com/news/northeedition/-NY-All-Forage-Fed-Bull-Test-Wraps-Up-Its-Second-Year-#.U3OAuSj6E9s)

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