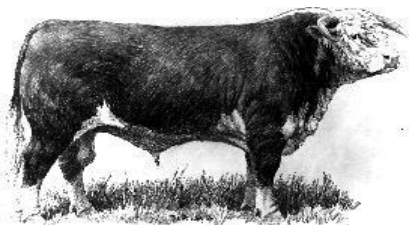


Pennsylvania Livestock Evaluation Center
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Agriculture
Russell C. Redding, Secretary



2024-2025 BULL TESTING PROGRAM
PA LIVESTOCK EVALUATION CENTER
Greg Hubbard, Station Manager
1494 West Pine Grove Road
Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865
Phone: 814-238-2527
E-mail: ghubbard@pa.gov

Nominations accepted between August 1, 2024 and August 20, 2024

PURPOSE:

1. To complement and validate genetically sound testing programs that allows both small and large beef producers to participate.
2. To promote performance testing of beef cattle in Pennsylvania, and to serve as an educational method to continually acquaint producers with its overall value.
3. To provide a common test for evaluating rate of gain, structural soundness, muscularity, condition, and estimated carcass merit.
4. To provide an opportunity for purebred breeders and commercial producers to purchase performance tested bulls which have been evaluated after weaning under similar, unbiased, environmental conditions.

SPONSORS:

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Department of Animal Sciences of The Pennsylvania State University, the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:

Representation on this committee will include Animal Science faculty members involved in beef cattle teaching, research and/or extension, the Center veterinarian or their designee, a representative of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Center Station Manager, and two producers nominated by the current committee members. The terms of service for producer members will be two years, and producer members may be reappointed.

Committee members for 2023-2024 are: Ben Williamson (chairman), Dr. Lester Griel, Jr., Dr. Tara Felix, Lance Kauf, Delbert Voight, Dr. Alex Hamberg and Greg Hubbard.

SALES COMMITTEE:

All members Technical Committee automatically make up the general sales committee and may make suggestions at any time. A working sale committee, appointed by the co-chairmen of the Executive Committee, will act on all suggestions and handle all events relating to the sale. Representation on this smaller committee will consist of five test participants and two technical committee members.

TESTING TIMETABLE (approximate):

Nomination Period	August 1-August 20
Delivery to Center	October 8

Registration Numbers due	Upon Entry
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Start Test	October 29
28-Day Weighing	November 26
56-Day Weighing	December 24
84-Day Weighing	January 21

All Updates to Breed Association EPD's January 21
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112-Day Weighing	February 18
**SALE	March 28, 2025

(Note: Summary Of Deadlines On Page 6)

LIABILITY:

The breeder retains ownership of the bull(s) while at the Test Center. However, the breeder waives any rights to press claims, of any type, against any individuals or groups sponsoring, supervising or working with the programs at the Center, and will sign a testing agreement stating that the breeder assumes full responsibility. A minimum of \$1500 insurance will be carried on each bull. **Each owner has the option to carry more insurance.** The cost of minimum insurance is automatically included in the testing charges to be paid by the owner.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY:

1. The dam of the bull **must be owned by the consignor prior** to the birth of the bull nominated for the LEC test program. In the case of bulls born as an result of reproductive technology (i.e., Embryo Transfer), the pregnancy must be owned prior to the birth of the bull nominated.
2. **All breeders submitting bulls to be tested must have their herds actively enrolled with their national breed association's performance program.** In the case of composite bulls, weaning weights will be taken at delivery.
3. It is important that the owner and the local veterinarian be very thorough in their pre-delivery examination of both the individual animal and the herd of origin before signing the health certificate. Animals with detectable abnormal health status will be rejected on delivery. **Please note that the name of the attending veterinarian must be given on the nomination form.**
4. **All Bulls on test will be classified as a "Purebred Bull" or "Composite Bull" of a respective Beef Breed.**
 - a. **A Breed is defined as a recognized beef breed with a national registry and herd book.**
 - b. **A "Purebred Bull" is a consigned bull which is recognized as a purebred by their respective breed registry with an official registration number associated with purebred registration (not an appendix number representative of percentage breeding).**
 - c. **A "Composite Bull" is either defined as one which is composed equally of two recognized breeds as defined above with registration numbers for both the sire and the dam from each of their breed registries OR a bull of at least 50% parentage and recognized by a beef breeds respective breed registry with a regular registration number (or an appendix number if applicable to the breed registry for the use of percentage breeding).**
5. **All Purebred and registerable Composite bulls must be registered with their National Breed Association. An applicable Registration Number for every bull is due upon delivery to the center. Bulls without this information will not be accepted to the test.**
6. Test bulls must be born between January 1 and April 15.
7. EPDs, if available from the breed association, are required for sale for purebred bulls, it is required that the bull be properly weighed and weights be recorded with the respective national breed association. Also, it is required that EPD's be genomically enhanced if their respective breed association has the capacity to incorporate genetic information within their calculations. It is strongly recommended that weaning weights be obtained as close as possible to 205 days of age to increase accuracy.

All bulls must have an adjusted 205-day weight of 550 lbs.. All bulls must have a minimum 2.5 lbs. lifetime weight per day of age at delivery time. A 4% shrink allowance will be added to the delivery weights. The delivery weight will be used to recalculate the Adjusted 205-Day Weight.
8. All bulls accepted for the test must meet minimum requirements, including those specified above, for structural soundness, acceptable actual birthweight, and acceptable disposition. Extremes in frame size, muscle score or birth weight would also be reasons for not accepting or selling a bull.
9. All breeders who have bulls accepted for test agree to comply with their respective breed association's rules and regulations regarding the sale of breeding animals.
10. Bulls may be accepted for testing that will not be eligible for sale under the following criteria:
 - A. Bulls must be designated as "Non-Sale Bulls" at the time of **nomination**.
 - B. Non-Sale bulls must meet **ALL** requirements (health, registry, and previous performance) of **any** bull being tested at the LEC.
 - C. Bulls nominated and accepted for the official testing and sale program will have priority for pen space at the LEC. **Non-Sale bulls will be penned only if space is available.**
11. All bulls shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection issued within 30 days of arrival by an accredited veterinarian. All bulls originating from states other than Pennsylvania must meet current requirements for importation into the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The following statement must appear on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection: "Johne's Disease (Paratuberculosis) has not been diagnosed within the herd of origin within the past 12 month. There have been no clinical signs of Bovine Virus Diarrhea infection, mucosal disease or type II BVD in the herd of origin within the past six months, or cases of ringworm in the past 30 days.

All bulls must be negative to the following diagnostic tests conducted by an accredited veterinarian and the laboratory procedures performed by the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic System (PADLS) or other lab within the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. All animals must be identified on the lab test report form by an official 840 Half-Duplex RFID tag. The results must be present on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or be readily verifiable through the PADLS system. The following tests are required to be completed within 40 days prior to arrival:

- a. Negative to an ELISA test for Bovine Leukosis
- b. Negative C-ELISA test for Anaplasmosis
- c. Negative to a micro-plate virus isolation or an Antigen Capture ELISA test for persistent infection with Bovine Virus Diarrhea. Samples must be delivered to the Animal Diagnostic Laboratory within 48 hours of collection by no later than Friday of each week and the sample must be maintained at a chilled temperature from the time of collection until arrival at the laboratory.
- d. Negative to a serum agglutination test for Brucellosis.
- e. Negative to a microscopic agglutination test for 5 serovars of Leptospirosis (Pomona, Hardjo, Canicola, Icterohemorrhagica, and Grippothyphosa). The eligibility of animals with reported titers between 1:100 and 1:800 will be determined by the LEC attending veterinarian in consultation with the veterinarian if the farm of origin considering immunization history and herd health history. No bull with a titer of greater than 1:800 will be accepted.
- f. Bulls originating from Pennsylvania herds are exempt from Tuberculosis test requirements. Bulls originating from out of state must follow Pennsylvania import requirements to be eligible to participate.

12. All bulls shall be administered the following immunizations at the farm of origin at least 21 days and not more than 40 days prior to entry to the LEC.

- a. A commercially licensed product against the leukotoxin of *Mannheimia haemolytica* (*Pastuerella*) and at least one dose of an inactivated product against *Haemophilus somnus* (*Histophilus somni*).
- b. At least one dose of an inactivated or modified live product for protection against Bovine Herpes 1 (IBR), Bovine Virus Diarrhea (BVD), Parainfluenza 3 (PI3) and BRSV.
- c. At least one dose of a product containing antigens of 8 Clostridial organisms.
- d. Immunizations must be documented on the health delivery form supplied by the LEC including lot numbers and expiration dates and signed by the attending veterinarian.

13. Bulls must be free of clinical signs of infectious and contagious diseases on arrival at the LEC. This includes active cases of ringworm, pink eye, warts, etc. Bulls meeting any one of the following criteria will not be accepted for penning:

- a. clinical signs of infectious and contagious disease
- b. inability to verify required diagnostic test results.
- c. immunizations not performed at least 21 days prior to delivery.

14. All horned bulls must be dehorned in time to allow for proper healing prior to arrival. In any horny growth on the head of a bull has been altered in any way, the animal will be recorded as horned.

15. No bulls receiving growth enhancing implants will be accepted for the test or sold through the sale. Research data has shown that these growth implants have an adverse effect on testicular development and these animals will not pass a breeding soundness examination at the completion on the test.

16. Bulls must be free of the carrier state of genetic defects recognized by the respective breed associations. Consignors are encouraged to test any potential carrier of a genetic defect prior to entry. All potential carriers of genetic defects as identified by the respective breed associations that have not been tested prior to entry will be tested by the LEC and the testing cost billed to the consignor.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE:

1. Nomination forms must be received at the Center according to the time schedule. **Nominations are available at www.agriculture.pa.gov.**
2. Any person who has bulls accepted for test agrees to abide by all rules, regulations, terms, and conditions of the entire program now in existence, or any that might be adopted by the LEC Executive Committee for the current year.
3. If a bull is accepted and penned at the facility, he may not be removed from the test or the sale unless deemed necessary by station management.

NOMINATION ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE:

1. Nominations will be accepted from August 1 through August 20 and the date of postmark will be used to determine priority for acceptance within each of the following categories. The following categories are the priorities for acceptance.
 - a. **Pennsylvania breeders and individuals whose bulls were owned by the breeder, born, and raised, on a farm or a portion of a farm legally taxed in Pennsylvania.**
 - b. **Out-of-state breeders, who have tested here before, from states which allow reciprocal opportunities for PA breeders to test bulls in their state should those tests exist.**
 - c. Out-of-state breeders who have never tested at the LEC.
2. All bulls accepted for test must meet minimal requirements as previously given. However, in accepting bulls for the test, one **qualified** bull for each PA breeder will be accepted/penned first. Then preference for accepting/penning will be for **qualified** secondbulls from PA breeders and out of state breeders until the pens are filled. **Facility Maximum for the Test is approximately 175 Bulls.**
3. The most economical way to conduct a test is to have the facilities full. But, after the nominations are accepted, there is no way of knowing exactly how many bulls will be delivered. Past experience has shown that 20-30% of the bulls nominated are not delivered for various reasons. All nominations will be accepted and qualified bulls will be penned to the capacity of the facility according to the nomination acceptance procedures.

In the event bulls are sent home, an effort will be made to cut bulls from those breeders with the most nominations providing the bulls in question are equal in quality and performance.

4. Steer or heifer progeny test groups will be accepted if all pens are not utilized for testing bulls.

HEALTH AND VETERINARY CARE:

1. Health of the bulls will be under the supervision of the Attending Veterinarian as designated by the Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services.
2. Any bull deemed clinically unsound during the test will be removed from the test. This decision will be made by the Center Station Manager and the Center veterinarian, or their designee.
3. All bulls will be treated for control of internal and external parasites and be vaccinated for clostridial diseases (blackleg, malignant edema, enterotoxemia), rabies, BRD boosters, and Wart vaccine at appropriate times after entry.
4. Consignors will pay for all incurred veterinary costs.
5. Prior to the sale all bulls will receive a complete examination for breeding soundness according to the standards adopted by the Society for Theriogenology which takes into consideration physical condition, scrotal circumference, sperm motility and amounts of abnormal sperm. Bulls may be rejected for sale based on this examination.

IDENTIFICATION:

All bulls are required to arrive with an inserted 840 USDA Half-Duplex RFID ear tag that is registered to the premise number of their

farm of origin. At the time of delivery all bulls will be numbered, by pen, at the beginning of the test and will carry this number throughout the test and sale.

RATION:

Rations and nutritional balances vary considerably among test stations, much of which is due to availability of local feedstuffs at a cost effective price. Additionally, for the Pennsylvania bull test there are entries that vary in development stages due to both age and breed type.

The overall feeding program and the basic ration will be determined by the technical committee. Rations will be formulated with available components, and calculated for appropriate gains and nutritional needs that best suit the greatest majority of bulls represented on test.

RETURN OF BULLS:

Bulls may be returned at anytime to the owner at the owner's expense for any reason deemed necessary by the Center Station Manager in consultation with the Center veterinarian and/or the technical committee. If a bull is removed for clinical reasons from the test pens for 14 days or more, he must be returned to original owner. Reasons for returns include such conditions as:

1. Health (including chronic bloaters)
2. Disposition
3. Lack of identification (registration numbers- due upon entry)
4. Lack of EPD information –**All updated EPD information with breed registry prior to the Ultrasound Scanning date.**
5. Lack of, or invalid, information on bull
6. Unsoundness
7. No Sale
8. Any other reason deemed necessary by the Center Management
9. Carriers of Genetic Defects

LOSS OF BULL:

It is important to note that when bulls are placed on test they will be under considerable stress from shipping, being placed on a TMR ration to receive a free-choice high energy ration and exposed to other animals from 50 to 60 different farms. Occasionally a bull dies as a result of this added stress. We expect and get about the same problems seen in any major feedlot operating under similar conditions. The utmost care is given to all bulls on test, and professional veterinary services are used whenever necessary. However, it is not practical to expect the Center and/or testing program to provide manpower 24 hours per day.

EACH BULL WILL BE INSURED FOR \$1,500.

IF THE OWNER WANTS MORE INSURANCE, HE/SHE MUST SO INDICATE ON THE DELIVERY FORM; THE BREEDER MUST PAY THE ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COST.

PROGRESS REPORT:

1. The progress of the bulls on test will be made available to all cooperators and other interested persons who ask to be put on the mailing list through periodic reports at the end of each 28-day weigh period.
2. For the purpose of promoting the sale, the information from the 84-day weigh period will be widely distributed.
3. A final report giving the performance of all bulls on test will be made available as soon as possible following the conclusion of the test. Information on the test and sale can be found online at www.agriculture.state.pa.

RATING BULLS FOR SALE:

1. Approximately 100 of the bulls that participate in the test will be offered for public auction at the conclusion of the performance test period. The final decision in regards to which bulls are printed in the catalog will be made by the sale committee. This will be done based on a balance of performance and phenotypic quality, and passing of breeding soundness examination. The committee will select the best possible balanced representation of the breeds that have participated in the test.
2. The official on-test weight will be the greater of the actual on-test weight or actual delivery weight plus 21 pounds (1 lb/day gain during pre-test).
3. An Index Ratio will be calculated within breed at the end of the test.
The index to be used will be: (20% Breed Multi-Purpose Index EPD Ratio) + (50% Average Daily Gain Ratio) + (30% ADJ 365 Day Weight Ratio) = Index.

The individual's index divided by the breed average index = INDEX RATIO.

The technical committee will determine the actual weighting of the index ratio (Breeds without a Breed Multi Purpose Index EPD will use BIF Guidelines for Index Calculation).

4. Hip heights will be taken at the end of the test.
5. **ALL EPD'S USED IN INDEX CALCULATION AND CATALOG DISPLAY WILL BE TAKEN AT THE FIRST FULL EPD RECALCULATION FOR THE BREED FOLLOWING THE CALCULATION OF ULTRASOUND DATA TAKEN FROM THE TEST (DATE IS BASED UPON INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATION POLICY). ANY CONSIGNOR BASED UPDATES TO INFORMATION FOR THE BREED REGISTRY CALCULATION OF EPD'S SHOULD BE DONE FOLLOWING THE 84-DAY WEIGHT PERIOD TO ENSURE ACCURACY.**
6. Calving Ease bulls will be identified using approved calving ease criteria set forth by the respective breed association. If the breed association does not have an approved criteria for calving ease, bulls will be identified by: a calving ease direct EPD among the most desirable 35% and a birth weight EPD among the most desirable 50% of the respective national breed population. If the calving ease EPD and birth weight EPD are not available then the bull will not be designated a calving ease bull in the sale catalog. For breeds that do not publish calving ease EPD the birth weight EPD in the top 50% for that breed will be designated calving ease bulls.

BULL SALE:

For a bull to be eligible for sale selection, the consignor of the bull must have a Beef Quality Assurance Certification

1. The purebred breed with the most number of bulls' participating during the test period will sell first, with the remaining breeds selling in descending order based on the number of bulls participating in the test. Composite bulls will sell after purebred bulls.
2. All bulls eligible to sell must be offered for sale. The sale order within each breed or breed group will be determined by the index ratio; ties will be broken by average daily gain on test. The number of bulls offered for sale from one consignor will be limited to 5 qualified bulls. **Out of state consignors will be limited to no more than 3 bulls in the sale; with the bulls to be offered for sale to be determined by the sale committee.**
3. Bulls not eligible to sell must be removed from the premises by the owner, at owner's expense, **no later than 9:00 a.m. on sale day.**
4. All bulls are sold with full possession and full semen rights unless noted otherwise in the catalog, in which case the owner must notify the Center Station Manager in writing prior to February 1st of the test year.
5. **Transfers of breed registration papers for purebred bulls or parentage documentation for composite bulls will be the responsibility of the consignor and should be completed in a timely fashion following sale.**

TESTING COSTS:

1. **A fee of \$400 per bull is due at delivery time. \$50 of the delivery fee will be deducted upon entry and paid to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to cover LEC Facility Expenses.**
2. If a bull/s should die, the owner will pay all testing costs up to that point.
3. Feed costs for each bull will be calculated **using feed intake data assigned to the individual bull with additional percentage for waste.** Other testing costs (yardage, hay, straw, veterinarian, scanning, etc.) will be charged on a per bull basis.
4. Out-of-State participants will also be charged a \$ 50 per bull fee for labor and facilities.
5. Sales expenses will be determined as a percentage of the sale gross and this will be deducted from the sale receipts. **An additional 1% Commission will be added on to the total sales percentage, to be paid directly to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. All Bulls offered for sale will be assessed a Sales Commission on the final sale price. Bulls offered for Sale which do not receive a bid will be assessed a Sales Commission based on the Minimum Bid Price. Bulls offered for sale which do not receive a bid will remain the possession of the breeder.**
6. No bull will be removed from the Center until all testing costs are paid unless otherwise approved by the Center Station Manager. Any breeder with unpaid test bills will not be considered for any future tests until all bills with interest are paid.

FINAL SETTLEMENT:

Final settlement with the owner, either in the form of a payment or a billing will be made approximately 35 days of sale date. It takes about this long to receive all outstanding bills and to calculate test costs.

SUMMARY OF DEADLINES, For Fall-Winter Testing Program

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Dates (Inclusive)</u>
<u>Birth Dates</u>	<u>January 1, 2024 - April 15, 2024</u>
<u>Nomination Period</u>	<u>August 1, 2024- August 20, 2024</u>
<u>TB test out of state</u>	<u>On or after September 8, 2024</u>
<u>BVD, Brucellosis, Anaplasmosis, Leukosis, & Leptospirosis test. Send to PA Animal Diagnostic Lab. System, @ Penn State (Animal Diagnostic Lab). Ship 1 tube (red top vacutainer), cool within 24 hrs of collection. Blood must be received at lab by September 30, 2024 to guarantee results will be available for delivery day.</u>	<u>On or after September 1 2024</u>
<u>Vaccinations of inactivated IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV & Hemophilus somnus. Immunization against Pasteurella</u>	<u>Aug. 30 - September 19, 2024</u>
<u>Delivery date for local producers</u>	<u>October 7, 2024</u>
<u>Delivery date for balance of bulls</u>	<u>October 8, 2024</u>
<u>E.P.D.s submitted to L.E.C.</u>	<u>January 21, 2025</u>

Bulls not complying with all items on this checklist will **NOT** be eligible for sale!

PENNSYLVANIA LIVESTOCK EVALUATION CENTER
Bull Testing Nomination Form

Owner's Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Farm Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Address: _____

Farm Manager _____ Phone _____

County _____ and State _____ where these cattle are being raised.

Your most recent test year here at the Center _____.

1. Number of bulls you want to test _____ Are any of these for testing purposes only? _____
(Not eligible for sale.)

Type of birth (check 1): Single ___ Twin ___ ET ___

2. Breed _____

3. Registration # _____ (Due upon delivery)

4. Breed of sire _____ Breed of dam _____

5. Testing program enrolled in - Assn Herd # _____ Breed Association _____
Breed Improvement Assn # _____

6. Attending veterinarians Name and Address _____

7. Beef Quality Assurance Certified Y/N _____

Upon acceptance of any of my animals for test at the Pennsylvania Livestock Evaluation Center, I, as owner, do hereby accept full and complete responsibility and liability for my animals during all phases of the program, such as pre-test, official test, post-test, sale, etc. I have read and agree to abide by the rules, regulations, terms, and conditions of the program now in existence or hereafter adopted by the LEC Executive Committee for this test.

I understand any information gathered from the test will be available to the public.

I authorize the accessing of breed performance information from the breed association. I further authorize employees of The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, The Pennsylvania State University, The Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association and any other person or organization connected with the management of the program to act as my agents in connection with the program, including any sale of animals. I further agree and stipulate that the above mentioned employees or organizations shall not be liable for any loss, claims or suit by me arising out of my participation in the program, including, but not limited to, the sale of the animals.

(owner's signature)

(date)

Nomination Date -August 1 to August 20

Send nomination form to: PA Dept. of Agriculture, Livestock Evaluation Center, 1494 West Pine Grove Road,
Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865