

To: All UT Bull Test Consignors

Dear Breeders:

Time is quickly approaching to make decisions for the 2024 class of prospective herd sires for entry into the UT Bull Development and Evaluation program here in Spring Hill. I know many have and are currently weaning and making selection decisions for entrees. We would like to take this opportunity to provide some useful information and reminders concerning your consignments.

We were extremely honored to host the outstanding set of young sires last year and are very excited to see your programs' progress in this year's class of consignments. As you all are aware many benefits are yield from this unique program. First, is the value each seedstock producer gains from competition and comparison. Second, is the tremendous genetic value obtained by the commercial producers purchasing these outstanding prospects. Third is our states' agricultural economy that yields the benefit of improved feeder cattle production and reputation due to this program and your efforts.

As you are beginning to make selections for nominations please note a listing of important dates for this upcoming class of bulls. PLEASE, PAY EXTRA ATTENTION WITH DATES THIS YEAR AS WE HAVE MOVED EVENTS. First, we shifted birthday eligibility two weeks, so mid-August bulls are eligible, and since we haven't had any late November bulls, we shortened that in two weeks. Thus, the range in age will stay the same. Further, we are receiving bulls earlier this year (approximately 1 month), and we are anticipating our sale to December instead of January. With Current changes, all bulls will still be over 12-month-old at Breeding Soundness Exam (BSE). One last update, we have been providing a Bull Selection Seminar for the past few years, we noticed a good attendance and the producers that attended these seminars were some of the buyers. We would highly encourage our consignors to promote these seminars when the hard date is set. Also, we encourage our consignors to attend these seminars, as it can be another point of contact with potential buyers for the sale or your home bulls. This and additional information can be found at the Bull Testing Program Website - <https://utbeef.tennessee.edu/bull-development-and-evaluation-program/>

In addition to the important dates listed below please note the **hoof scoring diagram** included. I would ask that each of you inspect your prospective consignments hooves as this is one factor that can result in your bull not being accepted on the day of delivery. Ideally your bulls' feet should present between a **4 and 6 for both foot angle and claw set** upon delivery. It should also be understood that hoof growth can continue in a negative manner and the bull may be disqualified at a later point during the test period and even on sale day. If you have any questions or concern regarding your bulls' hooves I will be glad to inspect prior to delivery through a series of photos.

**2024 BULL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

Management/Events	Dates
Birthdates	08/15/2023 – 11/20/2023
Nomination Deadline	06/28/2024
Delivery	07/09/2024
On test	07/22/2024 and 07/23/2024
28 Day Weight	08/20/2024
56 Day Weight	09/17/2024
Off test	10/14/2024 and 10/15/2024
Carcass Ultrasound	10/15/2024
Bull Selection Seminar	November, 2024
Bull Selection Seminar	December, 2024
Bull BSE	December 2 - 4, 2024
<b>Sale</b>	<b>12/12/2024</b>

**Foot Angle: 5 is ideal**



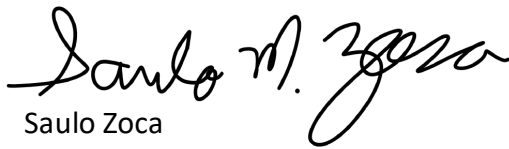
**Claw Set: 5 is ideal**



We have a great team assembled to provide detailed care, evaluation and marketing of your programs herd sire prospects. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns throughout this process, as we desire this to be a meaningful and positive part of your operation.

Taking advantage of this communication, I would like to inform that in **2025 UT Bull Development and Evaluation Program** will be moved to our Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center in Lewisburg – TN, where bulls will be housed in five pastures of approximately 15 acres each. We will share more information about the move in a later communication.

Respectfully submitted,



Saulo Zoca  
Assistant Professor &  
Extension Beef Cattle Specialist – Reproductive Management  
Department of Animal Science  
PO Box 160  
Spring Hill, TN 37174  
Office 931-486-2129  
Cell 208-301-7438