

To: All UT Bull Test Consignors

Dear Breeders:

Time is quickly approaching to make decisions for the 2026 class of prospective herd sires for entry into the UT Bull Development and Evaluation program here in **Lewisburg**. We 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 truly honored to host an outstanding group of young sires last year, and we are excited to see the continued progress of your programs in this year's class of consignments. As you all know, this unique program offers numerous benefits. First, it provides valuable opportunities for seedstock producers through competition and performance comparison. Second, it delivers exceptional genetic value to commercial producers who purchase these high-quality prospects. Third, it strengthens our state's agricultural economy by enhancing the quality and reputation of our feeder cattle, thanks to this program and your ongoing commitment.

The bull test will be held at the **Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Lewisburg** (1070 New Lake Road, Lewisburg, TN 37091). The bulls will be housed in five 15-acre pastures, with each group consisting of approximately 20 bulls. This new setting is expected to promote better health and more natural behavior among the consigned bulls. Additionally, the pasture-based environment will encourage grazing behavior, helping the bulls become better adapted to forage-based systems. As a result, they should transition more smoothly to their new operations following the sale.

As you begin selecting nominations for this year's bull test, please refer to the table below for a list of important dates. Over the past few years, we've hosted **Bull Selection Seminars** that have consistently drawn strong attendance. Notably, many of the producers who participated in these seminars have gone on to become buyers. We encourage all consignors to help promote these seminars. We will also advertise them on our social media channels. In addition, consignors are encouraged to attend the seminars themselves. These events provide a valuable opportunity to engage directly with potential buyers, whether for bulls offered in the sale or for those available from your own operation. More details and updates can be found on 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. We 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, we will be glad to inspect prior to delivery through a series of photos.

Lastly, but not least, bull temperament is of critical importance to ensure the safety of MTREC employees, visitors, and prospective buyers. No leeway will be given for bulls exhibiting poor temperament or disposition. Animals may be removed from the test at delivery or at any time during the testing period at the discretion of bull test management. Decisions to cull bulls based on temperament are final and not subject to appeal. The consignor will be responsible for promptly arranging pickup of any animal removed for this reason.

2025 BULL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Management/Events	Dates
Birthdates	08/15/2025 – 11/20/2025
Nomination Deadline	06/26/2026
Delivery	07/07/2026
On Test	07/20/2026 and 07/21/2026
28 Day Data	08/18/2026
56 Day Data	09/15/2026
Off Test	10/12/2026 and 10/13/2026
Carcass Ultrasound	10/13/2026
Bull Selection Seminar	11/05/2026
Bull Selection Seminar	11/24/2026
Bull BSE	11/30/2026 to 12/02/2026
Sale	12/10/2026

Foot Angle: 5 is ideal



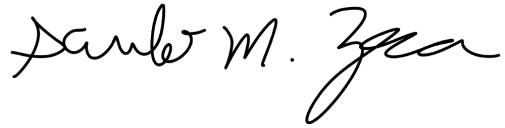
Claw Set: 5 is ideal



Figure 1. Foot scoring system for Foot Angle and Claw set.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Saulo M. Zoca". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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