

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
44th SIU BULL TESTING PROGRAM 2025-2026

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!!!
Some changes and additions have been made.

Bull Eligibility Requirements:

1. **Senior Division:** Calves must have been born on or after 09/01/2024 (Exception: Charolais – 09/07/2024 & Gelbvieh – 09/17/2024) and on or before November 15, 2024. **Junior Division:** Calves must have been born on or after December 01, 2024, and on or before 02/28/2025.
2. The calf must be owned by the person entering the bull.
3. All bulls must have a legible ear tattoo upon delivery to the station (10/20/2025). Station personnel will place ear tags into each bull's ear.
4. All bull calves must meet registration requirements set forth by their respective breed associations.
5. Calves must have an initial weight of at least 2.4 pounds each day of age when delivered to the station. All cattle will be allowed a 4% shrinkage when weighed at the station. Any calf not meeting the above weight requirement will not be placed on the test.
6. Consignors must be enrolled in an official performance testing program. Records of calves that have completed the weaning phase of such a program should be submitted at the time of delivery or when completed. **The following information must be supplied by delivery:**
 - Tattoo number of calves, Sire name, and registration #, Birth date of calf, Birth weight of calf and Calf registration # (if already assigned)
 - Adjusted 205-day weaning weight per the association with which the bull is registered, if available.
7. Calves should be weaned at least three (4) weeks before delivery to the station. It is beneficial for calves to be creep-fed for 3 to 4 weeks before delivery or at least be accustomed to eating grain. It is recommended that calves eat a minimum of 5-8 lbs. of grain/starter with *ad libitum* access to grass hay or pasture before delivery to the station.
8. The calf must be dehorned and healed before being delivered to the station.
9. Estimated progeny differences (**EPDs**) **are mandatory** on all bulls. EPDs are to be calculated and supplied by the registering breed associations. Before entering your bull, check with your breed association and ensure EPD information is available.
10. The health form must be filled out by your veterinarian and turned in when the bull is delivered to the station. Bulls from IL, IN, KY, or MO do not need Tuberculin testing. **Any bull with warts** on delivery day **will NOT** be allowed into the Bull Test Station and must be hauled back home.
11. **All bulls must be genetic free!** However, a bull with positive confirmation DD may participate in the test, but must be identified in the catalog. If the pedigree suggests that your bull is a carrier of any genetic disorder, it must be tested; if the pedigree suggests that it is genetic free, then that is acceptable. If you have questions, please contact your breed association.

New for the 2025-2026 Bull Test!!!

1. The bull test station is working on the purchase and installation of a brand new **Arrowlock 88 series cattle chute and digital scale.**
2. The bull processing area will be remodeled to facilitate the installation of the new chute that will streamline low-stress animal handling and accurate data collection.

Upon Arrival at the Test Station (10/20/2025):

1. All health paperwork and fees will be due to the station personnel.
2. **Each bull MUST remain at the test station for the entire 84-day testing period** unless the station personnel agree that the bull should be removed. In that case, the consigners **must arrange a date and time with the farm personnel** to remove their bulls from the pens at the end of the test.

Number of Entries:

1. Entries will be accepted until **October 25, 2025**. If one bull from each consignor has not filled the station, those consignors who have indicated that they would like to enter two or more bulls can do so.
2. **At the end of the test, a performance index will be utilized, and up to the bottom 25% of bulls will not be eligible for sale. This index will only pertain to ADG and F:G. If there is a tie, then the bull's \$Beef, according to the association on the day that cuts are made, will be used to break any ties.**
3. **If the test station is not full, a consignor may "only test" their bull, but you must indicate that on your application!!! NOTE: All bulls that start testing MUST finish testing, whether you sell them or not.**

Facilities:

1. Bulls will be penned according to weight and breed as much as possible. Groups of up to 12 bulls will be placed in **27' x 104' pens** with 27' x 24' shelters open to the south end. Six pens can handle a **maximum of 72 bulls** per test period.
2. Bulls will be fed using the automated **SmartFeed system**. Each pen will also contain an **automatic watering system**.
3. The bull test station is working on installing a brand new **Arrowlock 88 series cattle chute and digital scale**.

Feed:

1. The feed will be a **total mixed ration (TMR)**. There will be starter, test, and post-test rations. The TMR will comprise **grass hay, dry rolled corn, DDGS, and/or SBM, and a vitamin-mineral supplement**. The starter ration will contain **Purina Stress Care 5** during the receiving period. Bulls will be stepped up to 0.54 Mcal/lb NEg during the test while maintaining ~20% hay in the diet (**~20:80 forage:concentrate**) to allow the bulls to express their genetic potential while making diets less hot.
2. The TMR will be designed so that if the bull's genetics allow, they should have an **ADG of >3.0 lbs/d**.
3. Feel free to visit the bull test station regularly to check on the bulls and diets. If you have any questions or concerns about the bulls or diets, don't hesitate to talk to the faculty or beef center staff promptly for improvements.

Costs:

1. A testing fee of **\$300 per bull** will be charged for the care, management, and husbandry of the animals and the maintenance of the facilities. **The testing fee will be charged at the time of application.**
2. Consignors will be charged only for the feed fed to their bulls at the actual cost.
3. Any professional veterinary services required during the test period will be charged to the owner.
4. Consignors are required to transfer the registration papers to the new owner. The consignors will be charged if the bull test station is required to send the registration papers to the new owners.
5. All expenses (feed, bedding, veterinary, etc.) must be paid within 30 days of receiving the billed invoice.
6. A **\$55 fee for clipping** the bulls before the sale will be charged.
7. All bulls (juniors and seniors) will be evaluated for breeding soundness. **Young bulls** (12-14 months) will be evaluated about a week before the auction. These bulls may not electro ejaculate at the time of evaluation, may not pass the BSE, and will be classified as **deferred**. Many of these bulls, if evaluated at a later stage, will ejaculate and pass the BSE. The charges for BSE for 2024-2025 were **\$80 per head plus charges for the vet technician.**
8. A CUP-certified technician will ultrasound the bulls for the ribeye area, back fat thickness, and marbling. The charges for 2024-2025 were **\$27 per bull** or a minimum of \$150 if the number of bulls is <5
9. The auctioneer is Brian Curless, and the standard auctioneer rate is 1% commission across the block, with a **\$1,500 minimum plus travel expenses** (approximately 400 miles at the reimbursement rate).
10. The auctioneer and other related “ring” expenses will be split among the bulls and heifers that are consigned. **The expense for ringmen for 2024-2025 was \$500 per person.**
11. Sale day expenses (advertising and catalog expenses) will be divided equally among each lot in the catalog.
12. The average costs for 2024-2025 were **\$949 for Jr bulls and \$1078 for Sr. bulls.**

Buyers:

1. If a bull is left at the test station for more than 5 days post-sale, then a \$15/day fee will be charged at the time of pickup.
2. At the time of auction, **the buyers must select a date and time** to pick up the bulls to facilitate the loading and transportation.

Liability:

1. Southern Illinois University Carbondale is not responsible for loss by fire, theft, sickness, injury, or death. The bulls will be under the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) protocol 23-018 for care and management during the bull test, and every effort will be made to safeguard the animals' health and safety.
2. The University will not insure the bull. The station encourages each breeder to purchase mortality insurance on each bull. If insurance is desired, contact local insurance companies for a policy on your bull.

Reports/Catalog:

1. After each weighing period, official reports will be e-mailed to consignors (hard copy available upon request). Upon request, bull test reports will be sent to interested people. Reports will also be available online at **bulltest.siu.edu**
2. The name of each consignor will be published in the sale catalog and provided on the bull test website. Information about the bull will also be published. It will include the bull's sire, registration number, date of birth, birth weight, adjusted weaning weight, adjusted yearling weight, average daily gain (ADG), feed to gain (F:G) and ratios, RFI rank, sale index, frame score, scrotal circumference, pelvic measurement, ultrasound measurements and the CED, BW, WW, Milk, RE, Marb, Doc, and \$B or API EPDs.

Sale:

1. The sale will be held on **March 6, 2026, at 6:30 PM.**
2. The bulls will be indexed within a breed and based on the following calculation:
Index = 20% EPDs (CED%, BW%, WW%, YW%, and MM%) + 10% ADG ratio + 20% Feed Efficiency ratio + 20% RFI + 20% REA + 10% IMF
Thus, based on 20% EPDs, 50% performance, and 30% carcass characteristics.
3. A **consultant** will be entrusted to prepare **photos and short videos** of individual bulls to facilitate the sale. The files for the bulls will also be made available to the consignors to reach potential buyers further.
4. The bulls will run through the ring.
5. The cost of DVAuction was very high, so alternatives are being sought to decrease costs.
6. Bulls will be sold under guarantees used by the respective breed associations.
7. The sale catalog will identify low birth weight EPD bulls that would be considered a **Heifer Bull (HB).**
8. The ultrasound data, including ribeye area, back fat thickness, and marbling, will be included in the sale catalog.
9. **Your bull will not SELL and MUST BE PICKED UP by the owner if:**
 - Minimum scrotal circumference of 32 centimeters at one year of age
 - Minimum adjusted pelvic area of 140 sq. cm. at one year of age
 - **Senior bulls** that do not pass the breeding soundness exam. **Young bulls** (12-14 months) may not ejaculate during the breeding soundness evaluation and may be classified as **deferred.**
 - Structurally unsound or has a foot score of 1 or 9 based on third-party verification
 - Poor disposition
 - Performed in the **bottom 25%** of his division and breed

Attention:

- All consigned bulls will be parentage, and i50K tested once delivered to the test station.
 - IF the bull also needs to be tested for a genetic defect, that will also occur at the same time. Please provide the details of the sires and dams of your bulls in the reservation application (Page 6)
- The Bull Test Advisory Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action if there is a discrepancy between the stated age and apparent age or any other information provided.

IMPORTANT DATES
2025-2026

August 15, 2025	Send applications out
September 27, 2025	Applications due
October 03 - 04, 2025	Call consignors about acceptance of bull(s)
October 20, 2025	Delivery of bulls to Test Station
November 03 - 04, 2025	Test period begins – Weigh on 03 & 04 – start test Nov 04, 2025
November 10, 2025	Ultrasound Senior Division bulls
December 02, 2025	28-day weights taken
December 30, 2025	56-day weights taken
January 15, 2026	Ultrasound Junior Division bulls
January 26- 27, 2026	Test period ends – Weigh on 26 and 27 – end test January 26, 2026
February 04, 2026	Adjusted 205-d and 365-d WTs due – must have all weights turned into the association and then contact the test station with those adjusted weights ASAP
02/06/2026	BSE Seniors
03/02/2026	BSE juniors
March 6, 2026	44th SIU Performance Tested Bull Sale @ 6:30 pm

Contact Information: Advisory Committee

- Glenn Brammeier – 618-246-3974
- Matt Gajewski – 618-314-0435
- Erik Meier – 618-267-9670
- Tom Saxe – 618-627-2243
- Delson Wilcoxon – 309-338-1724
- Jacob Rich – 618-555-5158
- Jeff Crisp – 618-559-9848
- Justin Lewis – 217-251-5020
- Dr. Jay Nair – 618-453-7105
- Samantha Wuest – 618-978-4976

Also contact jay.nair@siu.edu with any questions!

RESERVATION APPLICATION
Southern Illinois University Performance-tested Bull Program 2025-2026

If you wish to enter more than one bull, fill out this form for each bull and then rank the priority of each bull next to the bull's name. Please provide all the available information.

◇ Consignor's name (as you want in the catalog) _____

◇ Farm name (as you want in the catalog) _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____

E-mail address _____ Cell Phone # _____

Rank: _____
Bull's name: _____ Registration # _____
Birth date: _____ Actual Birth WT: _____ Adj. birth WT: _____ Tattoo _____
Sire's name: _____ Sire's tattoo # _____ Sire's registration # _____
Dam's name: _____ Dam's tattoo # _____ Dam's registration # _____
Breed _____ If not purebred, what percentage(s) _____
_____ Place an X in the blank on the left if you are ONLY testing this bull (NOT FOR SALE).

Rank: _____
Bull's name: _____ Registration # _____
Birth date: _____ Actual Birth WT: _____ Adj. birth WT: _____ Tattoo _____
Sire's name: _____ Sire's tattoo # _____ Sire's registration # _____
Dam's name: _____ Dam's tattoo # _____ Dam's registration # _____
Breed _____ If not purebred, what percentage(s) _____
_____ Place an X in the blank on the left if you are ONLY testing this bull (NOT FOR SALE)

Rank: _____

Bull's name: _____ Registration # _____

Birth date: _____ Actual Birth WT: _____ Adj. birth WT: _____ Tattoo _____

Sire's name: _____ Sire's tattoo # _____ Sire's registration # _____

Dam's name: _____ Dam's tattoo # _____ Dam's registration # _____

Breed _____ If not purebred, what percentage(s) _____

Place an X in the blank on the left if you are ONLY testing this bull (NOT FOR SALE)

Rank: _____

Bull's name: _____ Registration # _____

Birth date: _____ Actual Birth WT: _____ Adj. birth WT: _____ Tattoo _____

Sire's name: _____ Sire's tattoo # _____ Sire's registration # _____

Dam's name: _____ Dam's tattoo # _____ Dam's registration # _____

Breed _____ If not purebred, what percentage(s) _____

Place an X in the blank on the left if you are ONLY testing this bull (NOT FOR SALE)

Rank: _____

Bull's name: _____ Registration # _____

Birth date: _____ Actual Birth WT: _____ Adj. birth WT: _____ Tattoo _____

Sire's name: _____ Sire's tattoo # _____ Sire's registration # _____

Dam's name: _____ Dam's tattoo # _____ Dam's registration # _____

Breed _____ If not purebred, what percentage(s) _____

Place an X in the blank on the left if you are ONLY testing this bull (NOT FOR SALE)

RESERVATION APPLICATION
Southern Illinois University Performance-tested Bull Program 2025-2026

Please certify and sign

I certify that this bull meets all eligibility requirements set forth in the rules and regulations of the Southern Illinois University Beef Evaluation Station. If selected, I will deliver the bull on October 20, 2025, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. I agree to pay the testing and reservation fee of \$300 at the time of application. I also agree to pay the cost of feed and veterinary services and other expenses associated with the testing and sale of the bull.

I also agree to hold the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University, its agents, and employees harmless of any loss I may suffer for whatever cause as a result of my participation in the Bull Test program; however, Southern Illinois University will make every effort to safeguard the health and safety of the bull.

Enclosed is a check for \$300 for each bull entered, made payable to **Southern Illinois University**.

Owner's signature _____ Date _____

Return this completed form and payment by **September 27, 2025**, to:

Beef Evaluation Station
Ag. Bldg. – MC 4417
Carbondale, IL 62901

**HEALTH CERTIFICATE
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BULL TEST STATION**

Bring the completed form when the bull is delivered to the station. Please type or print legibly.

Owner _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____

Tattoo _____ Date Weaned _____ Weaning Weight _____

Adjusted 205-d WT according to association _____

The following must be accomplished before delivery to the station.

The **FIRST** series of vaccinations should be accomplished 4-6 weeks before weaning.

Vaccinations	Serial Number	Brand	Date given
Endovac Beef	_____	_____	_____
IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV	_____	_____	_____
5-way Leptospirosis Bacterin	_____	_____	_____
Hemophilus somnus	_____	_____	_____
7-way Clostridia	_____	_____	_____

If you do not dose Endovac-Beef:

Pasteurella haemolytica/multocida toxoid _____

The **SECOND** series of vaccinations should be accomplished 1-2 weeks before weaning.

Vaccinations	Serial Number	Brand	Date Given
Endovac Beef	_____	_____	_____
IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV	_____	_____	_____
5-way Leptospirosis Bacterin	_____	_____	_____
Hemophilus somnus	_____	_____	_____
7-way Clostridia	_____	_____	_____

If you do not dose Endovac-Beef:

Pasteurella haemolytica/multocida toxoid: _____

Procedures/Date (Please fill in the blank.) Provide the date for the worm treatment

Worm Treatment _____ Method/Product _____ Date _____

I hereby verify that the above procedures have been followed and that the above bull is, to the best of my judgment, free from infection and contagious diseases, including warts, ringworm, and mange, and external parasites.

Veterinarian Signature _____ Date _____

Veterinarian's Address/Phone No. _____

The owner can give the vaccines, but their veterinarian must verify that they were administered.

Description of bulls for the catalog

Adjusted 205-day weight - _____

Adjusted 365-day weight - _____

Description of bulls for the catalog

Bull #	Description to include in the catalog

If you have more bulls, please print a copy of this page and enter the details.

Documents for consigners to facilitate prompt payment

Please read carefully!!!

If you are a new consigner (have not participated in last year’s bull test), please send the following documents along with the nomination form. If you are a returning consigner (participated in last year’s bull test), you don’t need to send any of the documents listed below.

- 1. W9 (attached)
- 2. Independent contractor analysis form (attached)
- 3. New/Change supplier request (attached)

If you have contact information for any fellow beef producers and want us to reach out to them or send the sale catalog, please provide the details below.

Sl. No	Name	Address	Phone	Email
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

If you have more contact information, please print a copy of this page and enter the details.

**Common Sents Heifer Classic
Spring 2026
Bred, Open, First-calf, Commercial, or Registered**

All Heifer Eligibility Requirements

1. Please contact the SIU Bull Test Advisory Board by January 31, 2026, if you are interested in participating in the heifer sale. Heifers will be inspected by a minimum of two members of the SIU Bull Test Advisory Board, farm or research personnel from SIU, by late January or early February 2026, and the heifer must pass inspection before being enrolled:

- Frame: minimum is medium framed = mature weight of 900 – 1100 lbs.
- Good muscling
- Structurally sound
- Good disposition

2. Enrollment form is due at the time of inspection, along with the enrollment fee.

3. Heifers should be managed so they have their first calf before 27 months of age and reach a body condition score of 5-6. If you're selling open heifers, they should weigh around 700 lbs.

4. Heifer must be identified with an ear tag and legible tattoo. In the case of duplicate numbers, one of the consignors will be asked to change the ear tag prior to the sale

5. Heifer must have been vaccinated to protect against all diseases listed on the health certificate that immediately follows this documentation of requirements. **The certificate must be mailed to the SIU Beef Evaluation Station by January 31, 2026.**

Bred Heifer – additional requirements

1. All heifers must have been bred to a low-birth-weight bull and have the EPD requirements as below

Table 1. Acceptable sire birth weight and calving ease direct EPDs for breeding to heifers.		
Service sire breed	Maximum birth weight EPD	Minimum calving ease direct EPD
Angus		7.0
Charolais		9.8
Gelbvieh		13.0
Limousin		10.0
Red Angus		9.0
Simmental		13.6
Simm/Angus		13.6
Polled & Horned Hereford		2.7
Shorthorn		6.0

2. If you utilize artificial insemination, you must report breeding dates and cannot expose the heifer to a bull for natural service for 14 days following AI to allow for a distinction between AI and natural service.
3. Natural service breeding season cannot exceed 65 days
4. A pregnancy exam should be performed prior to 120 days of gestation to confirm pregnancy and again two weeks prior to the sale by a licensed veterinarian
5. If consigning a bred heifer and the fetus is aborted at any time prior to or on the day of sale, the heifer will no longer be eligible for sale

Costs

1. A **\$150 enrollment fee per heifer** is required upon inspection and acceptance of consignment.
 - If a consigned heifer is withdrawn from the sale, the \$150 fee will not be refunded. **The fee is all-inclusive and covers advertising, catalog, sale day expenses, and auctioneer fees for the heifer sale.**

If you have a heifer(s) you want to be inspected for possible consignment, please email, text, or call any of the advisory committee members by January 31, 2026. Once all possible consignments have been listed, you will be notified, and a day and time for the inspection will be set up.

Note: Please bring the enrolled heifers by 05 March 2026, the day before bull sales. Temporary pens will be set up by the SIU Bull Test Station to house heifers. Feed and water will be made available to the heifers until the auction.

Heifer details will be included in the sale catalog and mailed to you.

HEALTH CERTIFICATE

Please complete the form and mail it to SIU Beef Evaluation Station, 1205 Lincoln Dr, Carbondale, IL 62901, by **January 31, 2026**

Consignor/Farm

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

	Date	Product Name	Company	Serial No.	Booster date
Pre-Weaning 4-way IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV					
5-way Leptospirosis					
7-way Clostridia					
Haemophilus Somnus					
Pasteurella H & M					
Parasite Control					
Brucellosis, recommended					

Weaning Date _____

	Date	Product Name	Company	Serial No.	Booster date
Pre-Breeding 4-way IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV					
5-way Lepto + Vibrio					
Parasite Control					

Breeding Season

Natural Service _____

Artificial Insemination _____

60-120 d pregnant:

YES NO

Veterinarian Signature: _____

Date of veterinarian

exam: _____

CATALOG INFORMATION
Due by January 31, 2026

Need a form for each heifer and fill in information that is applicable to the heifer

Heifer Breed: _____

Birth WT: _____ Weaning WT: _____ Yearling WT: _____

Weaning date: _____ Adjusted 205 d WT: _____

Adjusted 365 d WT: _____

If registered, please provide the details.

Heifer Name: _____ Reg #: _____

Heifer ID: _____ Heifer Tattoo: _____ Birth Date: _____

Heifer's Sire: _____ Reg #: _____

Heifer's Dam: _____ Reg #: _____

Pelvic measurement: _____ Hip Height: _____ Date Hip Height was taken: _____

Bred to: _____ Reg #: _____

Date bred: _____

Footnote for catalog: _____
