Cornell All Forage Fed Bull Test Recruiting Consignors

Planning is underway for the fourth year of the Cornell All Forage Fed Bull Test. Gain on last year’s 140-day test was a success with an average gain of 2.1 lb on a diet of ensiled forages and mineral. Monthly updates were provided to consignors and other producers with the information posted to: http://beefcattle.ansei.cornell.edu/. The 25 bulls were body conditioned scored and weighed every 28 days. Hip heights were measured to determine frame scores. Breeding soundness and carcass ultrasound exams were performed at the conclusion of the test.

New York is well positioned to take advantage of the growing demand for pasture-finished beef due to its rich grazing resources and proximity to large urban markets. One of the keys to profitable production is the use of genetics that will result in a quality product within a feasible timeframe. Raising animals through a second winter presents challenges both from an economical and production standpoint. The forage based test is a cost-effective option to help breeders and buyers assess and compare bull cohorts raised under commercial conditions.

Comments from one of last year’s consignors Roy Brubaker, Blue Rooster Farm in East Waterford, PA, says, “For not a whole lot more than what it would cost me to feed our young bulls, the test provided a full range of data from ADG to ultrasound and breeding soundness; all within the context of an all-forage diet which is how we raise our cattle. But the value of having good data at an affordable price is only the tip of the iceberg. What matters even more to us is the collective learning opportunity the test provides for those interested in providing both objective information and real genetic value within the grass-finishing segment of the beef industry.”

The upcoming year’s test will be 112 days. Discussion is underway to add an optional 84-day grazing component. Delivery dates are January 6 and 7 with the test beginning January 13. Nomination form with a non-refundable $50 deposit is due by October 15. If you are interested in consigning or want additional information, contact Nancy Glazier at (585) 315-7746, nig3@cornell.edu or Mike Baker at (607) 255-5923, mjb228@cornell.edu. Test rules and forms can be found at http://beefcattle.ansei.cornell.edu/eventsprogram.