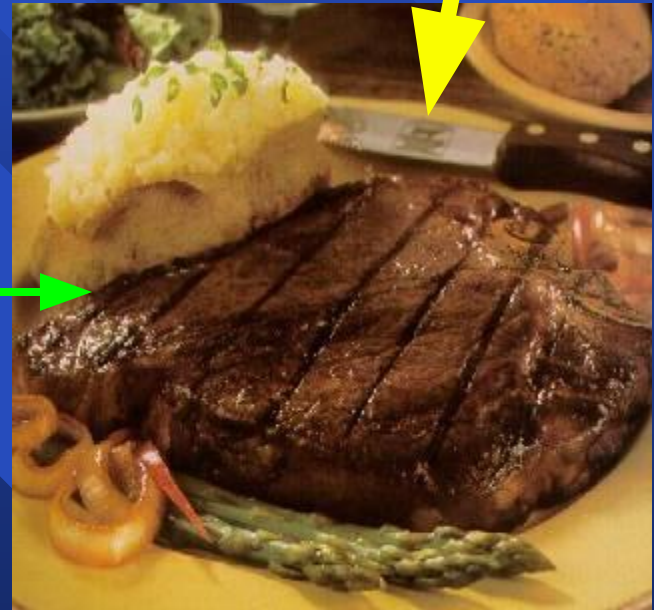


MANAGEMENT OF BULLS FOR REPRODUCTIVE AND ECONOMIC SUCCESS

**Cliff Lamb
Beef Specialist
University of Florida**





Management of Breeding Season

- ☞ 10% well-defined breeding season
- ☞ 40% somewhat defined breeding season
- ☞ 50% “Bull of the Month Club”

Why define and reduce breeding season?

- ☞ More calf uniformity
- ☞ Reduced time and labor
- ☞ Target specific markets

Paying Same For all Cattle

	YG 1	YG 2	YG 3	YG 4	YG 5
Prime	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
CAB	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	N/A	N/A
Choice	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Select	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Standard	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Dark Cutter	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Commerical	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Heavy Choice	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Heavy Select	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Light Choice	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Light Select	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00

Typical Grid Using a \$120 Market and a \$8.00 Choice Select Spread

	YG 1	YG 2	YG 3	YG 4	YG 5
Prime	\$133.60	\$132.10	\$130.10	\$110.60	\$105.60
CAB	\$129.10	\$127.60	\$126.10	N/A	N/A
Choice	\$126.60	\$125.10	\$123.60	\$103.60	\$98.60
Select	\$118.60	\$117.10	\$115.60	\$95.60	\$90.60
Standard	\$100.60	\$100.60	\$100.60	\$95.60	\$90.60
Dark Cutter	\$88.00	\$88.00	\$88.00	\$88.00	\$88.00
Commerical	\$92.00	\$92.00	\$92.00	\$92.00	\$92.00
Heavy Choice	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$90.00	\$85.00
Heavy Select	\$92.00	\$92.00	\$92.00	\$82.00	\$77.00
Light Choice	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$85.00	\$85.00
Light Select	\$87.00	\$87.00	\$87.00	\$77.00	\$77.00

Management and Selection Bulls

- ☞ Structural Soundness (longevity)
- ☞ Purebred or composite
- ☞ Genetically superior
- ☞ Herd health protocol
- ☞ Nutritional considerations
- ☞ Breeding soundness exam

Immunization Strategies for Bulls

- 👉 Deworm at least once yearly, treat for lice and grubs
- 👉 IBR, PI-3, BRSV, BVD
- 👉 Leptospirosis
- 👉 Clostridium 7 way
- 👉 Monitor body condition scores

EPD

Expected Progeny Difference

used to compare the genetic merit of animals for a variety of traits

the *difference* in performance of future offspring of a parent, compared to progeny of other parents, when each are bred to mates of equal value

Sire Summary Traits

Calving Ease

Birth Weight

Weaning Weight

Yearling Weight

Milk

Maternal Weaning Weight

Daughters Calving Ease

Yearling Hip Height

Mature Size

Mature Weight

Scrotal Size

Carcass Weight

Marbling / IMF

Ribeye Area

Fat Thickness

% Retail Product

Stayability

Docility

Gestation Length

Heifer Pregnancy

Cow Efficiency

\$Value Indexes

Expected Progeny Difference

EPDs are
calculated for
17 traits relative
to **Growth,**
Reproduction,
and **End Product**



Bio-Economic
\$Values



\$Values

Wean \$W

Feedlot \$F

Grid \$G

Beef \$B



Weaned Calf Index (\$W) ...

Economic Impact

- Birth
- Weaning Direct
- Maternal Milk
- Mature Cow Size



What is the Shortcoming of an General Index?

They aren't an exact fit

What should you do if your operation doesn't fit the mold?

- ✓ Use general indexes anyway, as they tend to rank sires well even if not exact

Using EPDs

- Bull A
 - CE 9 BW 1.7
- Bull B
 - CE 3 BW 2.7
- Bull C
 - CE 4 BW 3.4

Using EPDs

- Bull A
 - CE 9 BW 1.7 WW 46 YW 82
- Bull B
 - CE 3 BW 2.7 WW 49 YW 85
- Bull C
 - CE 4 BW 3.4 WW 58 YW 106

Using EPDs

- Bull A

- CE 9 BW 1.7 WW 46 YW 82 \$W \$30.08
\$B \$49.75

- Bull B

- CE 3 BW 2.7 WW 49 YW 85 \$W \$30.89
\$B \$36.98

- Bull C

- CE 4 BW 3.4 WW 58 YW 106 \$W \$32.10
\$B \$38.21

Breeding Soundness Exam



Why?

- 90% of bulls will pass a BSE
 - 10% will fail a BSE
 - » How much risk are you comfortable with?
- Traumatic events can render a bull infertile
 - Heat stress
 - Frost bite
 - Penile or prepucial trauma
- Allow assessment of most of the bull's repro organs

General

- A BSE should be performed 2-6 weeks prior to the start of the breeding season
 - If there is a reversible problem, this will allow for recovery time (42 days).
- Does not allow assessment of libido
 - Bulls must be monitored to make sure they are finding and breeding the cows that are in heat.

BSE evaluates...

- Structural soundness
 - Feet/legs
 - General health
 - Body condition (ideally 5.5-6.5)
 - Eyes/teeth
- Reproductive anatomy
 - Penis
 - Accessory sex glands
 - » Prostate, seminal vesicles, ampulla
 - Scrotum and Testicles
- Semen Quality
 - Motility
 - Morphology
 - Volume
 - Presence of foreign debris

BSE Summary...

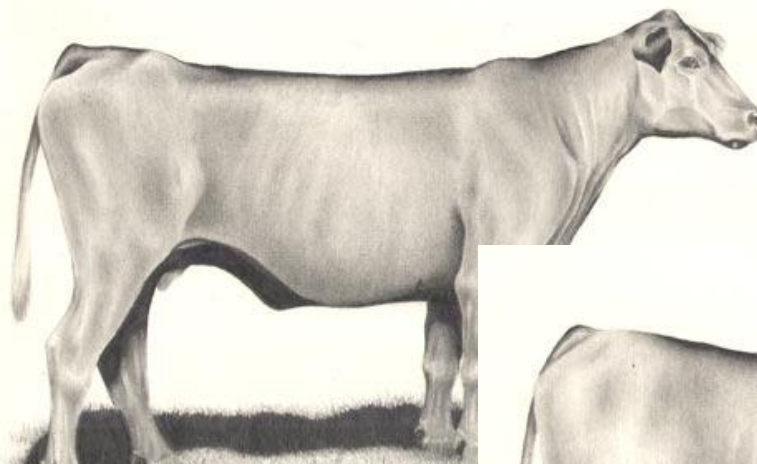
- Remember, a BSE will not assess a bull's libido.
- A BSE is not a guarantee of fertility, but it will help identify problem bulls.
 - Bull insurance policy

Nutritional Considerations



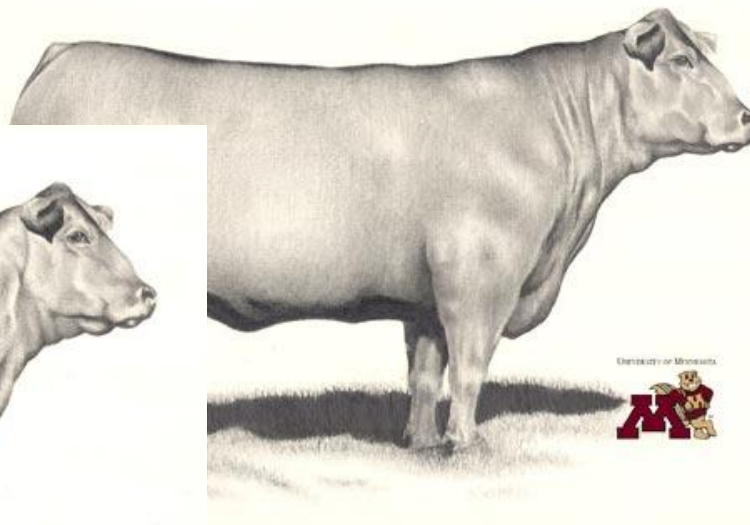


BCS 1

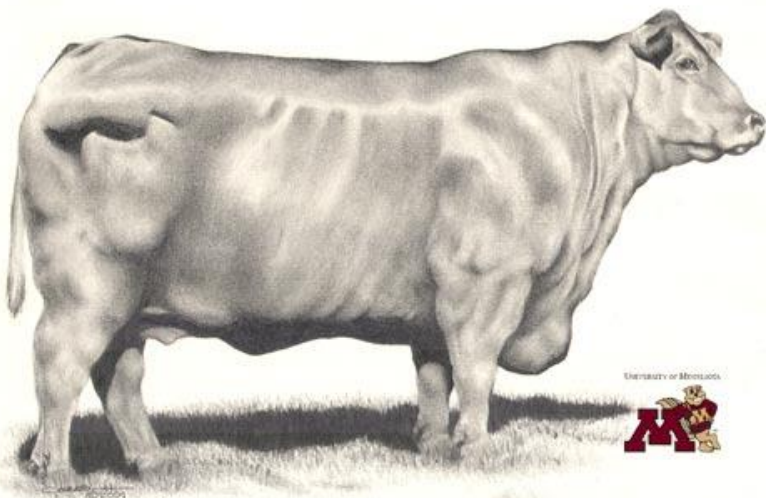


BCS 3

BCS 5



BCS 7

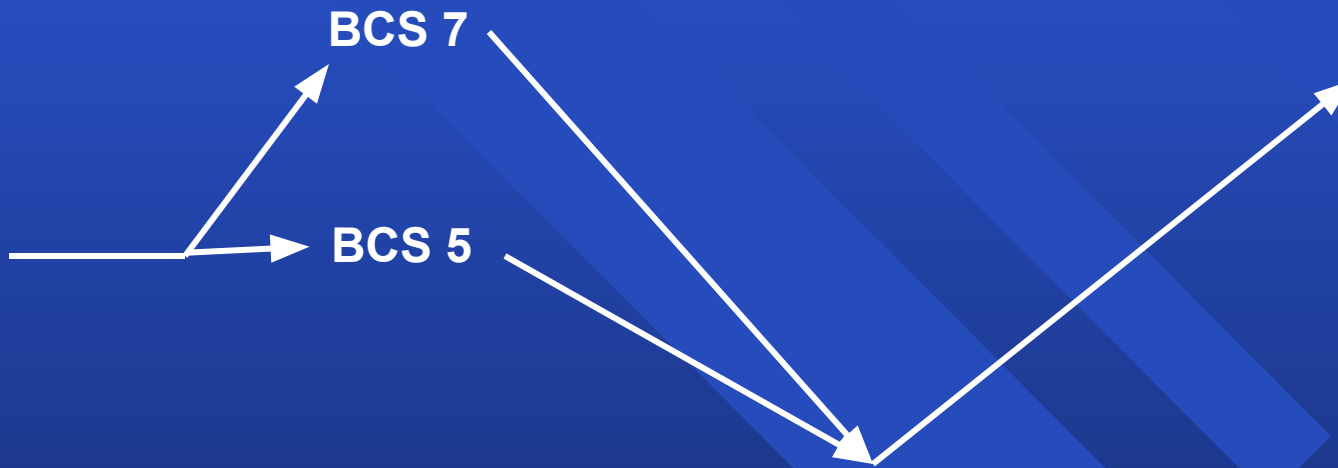


BCS 9

Design

Restriction

Re-feeding



BCS, Nutrition and Reproduction

Item	Moderate	Fat
Initial BW, lb	936 ^a	1133 ^b
Initial BCS	5.0 ^a	7.1 ^b
Anestrus BW, lb	778	835
Anestrus BCS	3.1	3.3
Days to anestrus	66.5 ^a	155.9 ^b

^{a, b} Means differ ($P < 0.05$).

BCS, Nutrition and Reproduction

Item	Moderate	Fat
BW at 1 st cycle, lb	1001 ^a	1128 ^b
BCS at 1 st cycle	5.2 ^a	6.0 ^b
Days to 1 st cycle	67.7	78.9

Conclusions

Restriction

Re-feeding



Management and Selection Bulls

- ☞ Structural Soundness (longevity)
- ☞ Purebred or composite
- ☞ Genetically superior
- ☞ Herd health protocol
- ☞ Nutritional considerations
- ☞ Breeding soundness exam

Thank You!

