The Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association hosted the 55th Annual Culpeper Senior Bull Sale on Saturday, December 8, 2012 at Culpeper Agricultural Enterprises near Culpeper, Virginia. Fifty-three fall-born bulls representing the top end of the 86 bulls tested sold for an average price of $3160. The sale included 43 Angus bulls which averaged $3047, 2 Purebred Simmental bulls at $2,050, 6 SimAngus bulls at $4617, 1 Purebred Gelbvieh bull at $2100 and 1 Gelbvieh Balancer bull at $2600.

The high-selling bull was a SimAngus, Lot 407, consigned by Quaker Hill Farm of Louisa, Virginia. Kowpoke Cattle Company of North Tazewell, Virginia became partners with ABS Global, purchasing ½ semen interest and full possession for $14,500. This homozygous black September 2011 son of Ellingson Legacy had a test YW of 1148, ratio 107, and test ADG ratio 122 along with +14.8 CED EPD, -1.1 BW EPD, +30.9 Milk EPD, MB EPD of +0.40 and RE ratio of 113. His API and TI indexes were 139.0 and 71.0 respectively, placing him in the top 10th percentile of the breed.

The high sale order index Angus bull was Lot 64, consigned Edgewood Angus of Williamsburg, Virginia and was sold to Martin Farrier of Newport, Virginia for $4900. This October 2011 son of Rito 2X15 of Rita 8Z22 EXP had a yearling weight of 1338, ratio 121 and an ADG of 3.64, ratio of 104, along with +0.6 BW EPD, +101 YW EPD, +33 Milk EPD, +0.48 RE EPD, and + 70 $B value.

The strong Angus offering also included Lot 7, consigned by Quaker Hill Farm of Louisa, VA, which sold to David W. Cady of Scottsville, Virginia for $4200. This low birth weight, high growth son of GAR New Design 5050 had a CED EPD of +11, WW EPD +59 and YW EPD +104, in addition to +0.75 MB EPD, +0.69 RE EPD and $B value of +$76.82. Lot 58, a GAR Expectation 4915 son bred by Legacy at Pine Hill of Forest, VA sold to Spring Creek Farms of Craigsville, WV for $4100. This bull scanned with a 15.4 RE, ratio 123 along with EPDs of +29 Milk, +0.66 RE, +37.69 $W, and +69.31 $B. Edgewood Angus also sold Lot 63 to Griffin Farms of Freeman, VA for $3900. This calving-ease son of GAR New Design 5050 posted CED EPD +10, BW EPD +0.2, MB EPD +0.63, RE EPD +0.67, and +73 $B, as well as scanning a ratio of 135 and a 112 on %IMF and RE, respectively.

The high station index bull was awarded to Lot 49, consigned by Lucas Farm, Joe and Timmy Lucas of Blacksburg, Virginia and commanded $2600 from Spring Hill Farm of Marshall, Virginia. This September 2011 born son of HARB Pendleton 765 JH had a test YW of 1257, ratio 114, and test ADG ratio 121 along with +9 CED EPD, +98 YW EPD, and +0.54 MB EPD and scanned a %IMF ratio of 132. The breeder group award was also presented to Lucas Farms for their consignment of Angus bulls. In addition to
the high station indexing lot, Lots 48, 50 and 51 commanded prices of $2800, $2600 and $3000, selling to C.J. Parsons or Lunenburg, VA, Tom Owen or South Boston, VA, and St. Omer Farm of Mitchells, VA, respectively. This group of bulls averaged an ADG of 3.90 with a ratio of 117, average YW of 1216, ratio 111.

The strong group of SimAngus bulls also included Lot 409 consigned by Deer Creek Farm of Lowesville, Virginia. This homozygous black, polled son of GAR Predestined commanded $3300 from Bar-C Farm of Lebanon, VA. This September 2011 bull posted a test YW ratio of 109, ADG ratio of 106, and scanned a 138 ratio for %IMF, in addition to a +71.5 WW EPD, +114.0 YW EPD, +0.81 MB EPD, and +0.69 RE EPD. Lot 405, another Quaker Hill Farm consignment sold to C.J. Parsons of Lunenburg, VA for $2900.

Quaker Hill Farm of Louisa, Virginia was the consignor of both the purebred Simmental lots featured in the sale. A September 2011 homozygous black, polled son of RCR Stetson T17, Lot 401, EPDs of +11.7 CED, +13.1 CEM, +28.3 Milk, an API Index of 132 and sold to Forrest Miller of Bridgewater, VA for $2000. Lot 402, a September 2011 Triple C Invasion R47K son, sold to ICW Farms of Luray, VA for $2100. This homozygous black, polled bull had a test YW ratio of 105, along with a +0.89 RE EPD, -0.07 Fat EPD, and a -0.37 YG EPD, as well as scanned a 108 ratio on RE.

The purebred Gelbvieh bull, Lot 601, was consigned by Little Windy Hills of Max Meadows, Virginia and sold for $2100 to James Wiles of Amissville, VA. This homozygous black, homozygous polled bull was sired by DCSF Post Rock Granite 200P2. Lot 602, a Gelbvieh Balancer bull, also consigned by Little Windy Hills commanded $2600 from Vaughan Cattle Company of Amelias, VA.

In addition to the strong offering of bulls, Glenmary Farm featured 60 commercial females that were sold following the bulls. This group of commercial females included 20 cow/calf pairs, 9 bred heifers, and 20 yearling heifers. Demand was strong and prices steady, as the fall cow/calf pairs averaged $1937, the bred heifers averaged $1778 per head and the yearling heifers averaged $1300 per head.

All bulls in the test and sale were consigned by members of the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association. Bulls were tested at the Culpeper bull test station operated by Glenmary Farm, owned by Tom and Kim Nixon of Rapidan, Virginia. The sale was managed by Virginia BCIA and the Virginia Cattlemen's Association, and the auctioneer was Mike Jones.