DATE: June 2, 2015

TO: All Virginia BCIA Members and Others

FROM: Scott P. Greiner, Extension Beef Specialist, BCIA Educational Advisor

RE: 2015-2016 Central Bull Test Station Rules & Regulations, Entry Information & Forms

Dear Members:

Enclosed you will find the Rules and Regulations for the Virginia central bull test stations for the upcoming 2015-16 season. We just completed another record year for BCIA, with an overall bull sale average of $4794. The outlook is very strong for the cattle business, and we look forward to another great year. The success of our state bull test program depends on a strong partnership with you as a consignor as well as our buyers. We invite you to participate this coming year, and look forward to your involvement.

An enclosed sheet summarizes the primary updates and changes that have been made to the Rules and Regulations for the coming year. Based on your input and feedback from our customers, several enhancements have been made to the BCIA central test program over the course of the last few years. Accordingly, please read the entire Rules and Regulations carefully.

Key dates to keep in mind:

**June 15** – Culpeper Senior Entry Forms due in BCIA office (bull delivery will be Tuesday, June 30) One entry form for bulls is provided in this packet for you (copy or download additional forms from the website). Please get your entries to us as soon as possible.

**June 30**– Intention Cards for Southwest due in BCIA office relative to your intentions to bring bulls to the SW Test Station (please return as this will assist us in communicating with you and for our planning purposes).

All of the enclosed information and forms, as well as historical data can be found on the BCIA website at [www.bcia.aps.c.vt.edu](http://www.bcia.aps.c.vt.edu). Please see the website for a summary of last year’s tests and sales. This web site has proven to be a very efficient means to provide information to you quickly, and our evidence suggests the site is viewed frequently by potential bull buyers as well.

If you have questions, please let us know. We look forward to working with you during the upcoming year.

cc: Dr. Dee Whittier / Dr. John Currin / Mark McCann
Central Bull Test/Sale Rules & Regulations Notes for 2015-16

The following are updates and changes to the BCIA Bull Test Program for the coming year. These changes were brought forth by bull buyer and consignor input, and recently approved by the BCIA Board of Directors, with the goal of continuing to build on and strengthen our program.

Southwest Test Station: The change to a silage-based ration two years ago has worked well, with more cost effective development as well as enhanced overall health and welfare of the bulls. Additionally, the $75 per bull collected at delivery for Hillwinds Farm to enhance and sustain the BCIA bull development program will remain the same in 2015-16.

Genomic Testing: Again this year, BCIA will facilitate the collection and submission of DNA on bulls for genomic testing for enhanced EPDs. BCIA encourages the use of this technology to enhance the quality of our product. Genomic testing will be voluntary, with consignors electing if they would like their bulls (or portion thereof) tested (testing cost borne by consignor).

DD Genetic Condition: Our policy on Developmental Duplication (DD) will be the same as last year – potential carrier bulls must be genotyped, and genotype result will be published in the catalog.

Marketing: The use of video has proven to be an excellent tool. We also plan to implement internet bidding options again this year, with hope that this tool will continue to develop in acceptance and use.

Consignor Agreement: Note that we have added to the Consignor Agreement a statement regarding involvement and participation at the stations on weigh-days, open houses, etc. The success of our program very much depends on a collaborative relationship among all parties. We fully recognize that there are numerous factors which dictate one’s ability to physically be present on a regular basis, but felt it important that the importance of this collaboration be conveyed.

Identification: Virginia has updated import regulations, which impacts bulls from out of state. All out of state bulls will need to have approved permanent identification at delivery.

Vaccination Protocol: A few years ago, we made a modification to our vaccination procedures at delivery. Administration of modified live 5-way viral vaccine is delayed until the on-test date (rather than at delivery). Please follow our pre-delivery health and vaccination requirements closely (see Rules and Regulations).

Genetic Defects: Per our rules, all bulls must be eligible for registry (including genetic condition requirements). All bulls of all breeds must be free of AM, NH and CA. Bulls at risk of being carriers for any genetic defects (based on pedigree) will be genotyped as part of our test procedures. We encourage consignors to continue to genotype prior to delivery.

Other: In addition to the above, several other items which have been implemented over the course of the last couple years (please see Rules and Regulations for all details), including semen evaluation for all Senior bulls, the Consignor Agreement, an Enhanced Bull Guarantee, and discounts for volume buyers at sales.