



2008 CLEMSON BULL TEST

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Consignors and Interested Cattlemen

FROM: Dr. Larry W. Olson - Ext. Animal Scientist & Bull Testing Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: 2008 Clemson Bull Test & Heifer Sale Summary

The critical status of the severe hay shortage in South Carolina resulting from the 2007 drought reared its ugly head and slammed down hard on the 2008 Clemson Bull Test Sale on February 2nd. This was the best set of bulls ever tested and sold at the Clemson Bull Test based on their conformation, performance and ultrasound. The 57 bulls brought in \$86,150 – an average of only \$1,511.40 per bull. This was \$463.60 per bull less than the 2007 sale. Buyers were from SC - 42 bulls, NC - 14 bulls and GA - 1 bull. Volume buyer was Bill Buckner from Burnsville, NC who purchased 7 bulls. The bulls averaged 462 days-old, 52.8 inches tall, 5.9 frame score, 1,524 lbs, 3.30 lbs/day WDA and 37.5 cm scrotal circumference on Wednesday before the sale.

Two Angus tied for high-selling bull honors at \$3,600 each. Stillwater Cattle Co.'s 8 senior bull was purchased by Shady Hill Farm at Ridge Spring, SC. Double B Farms 34 junior bull was purchased by Calhoun Creek Farms at Charleston, SC. Black Crest Farms' 24 senior Angus bull was the second high-seller at \$3,000 to Armstrong Farms at Seneca, SC. The top 8 selling bulls averaged \$2,837.50 per bull.

The hay problem greatly reduced the number of heifers nominated for the 2008 Clemson Heifer Sale last fall. Only 5 pens - 16 heifers from 4 farms were consigned. However, the hay situation appeared to have only a limited effect on the heifer sale average. They sold for \$13,550 – an average of \$846.88 per head. This was only \$43.34 per head less than the 2007 sale average. The average weight of the heifers was 933 lbs. The top-selling pen of 4 commercial Angus heifers was consigned by the Kitchens Farms at Edgefield, SC. They brought \$975 per head from Armstrong Farms at Seneca, SC.



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