The 31st Annual Southwest Virginia Performance Tested Bull Sale sponsored by the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association was held Saturday, March 27, 2010 at Wytheville. The 127 bulls offered commanded an average price of $2232 per head. Breed averages were as follows: 81 Angus averaged $2226, 14 purebred Simmental averaged $2129, 17 Simmental Hybrids $2682, 6 Charolais $1517, 4 Gelbvieh Balancers $2400, 4 purebred Gelbvieh $1725, and 1 Polled Hereford at $2150. The BCIA-influenced Virginia Premium Assured plus Bred Heifer Sale held in conjunction with the bull sale sold 24 heifers for an average price of $1308 per head.

The strong sale was paced by the high indexing Senior Angus bull, Lot 73, bred by J & M Windy Acres, Mike Connatser of Maryville, TN. This December 2008 son of SS Objective T510 0T26 sold to Robert Myers of Draper, VA for $5000. His EPDs of +12.0 CED, +118 YW, +31 MM, and +$37.85 $W all rank in the top 5% of the breed. In addition, this bull had an adjusted yearling weight of 1447, ratio 128, making him the top growth bull in the test.

The second high selling Angus bull was Lot 7, consigned by Edgewood Angus, Pete Henderson of Williamsburg, VA and selling to Alan Graybeal of Blacksburg, VA for $4000. This calving ease son of Mytty In Focus had CED EPD +11, BW EPD +0.7, WW EPD +53 and YW EPD +100, in addition to ADG ratio of 119 and had an adjusted YW of 1215. Edgewood Angus also consigned Lot 3, a calving ease son of ALC Big Eye D09N, which brought $3800 and was sold to Bobby and Martha Jackson of Draper, VA.

Echo Ridge Farm of Atkins, VA was recognized with the Breeder Group Award for their consignment of Angus bulls in the Senior Test. Their Lot 13 led this consignment group, selling for $3500 to Bobby and Martha Jackson of Draper, VA. This son of GAR Prime Design posted YW EPD +91, MB EPD +0.50 and $B +55. Echo Ridge Farm also consigned the high-indexing Junior bull, Lot 96, which commanded $3200 from Dean Pratt of Draper, VA. This bull was also a son of GAR Prime Design and gained 4.06 on test and had an adjusted YW of 1280 pounds which was backed by a WW EPD +50, YW EPD +92, MM of +28, and IMF EPD +0.58.

Legacy at Pine Hill Farm consigned Lot 122, which sold to Aubra Paul Dean of Jonesville, VA for $3500. This attractive son of SAV Final Answer 0035 posted EPDs of +13 CED, -1.4 BW, +103 YW along with ratios of 107 and 113 for YW and ADG. Grassy Valley Farm, Lee Duckworth from Greenville, TN received the Junior test Breeder Group Award. Lot 129, sired by Boyd Forword 6025, was their lead bull which sold for $3100 to Kenneth Blackwell of Floyd, VA.

Demand was particularly strong for the SimAngus bulls, which were paced by Lot 431 consigned by Hounshell Farms of Wytheville, VA. This September-born homozygous black son of Triple C Invasion R47K brought $4500 and sold to Warner Farms, Mark Warner of Dailey, WV. He posted a test ADG of 3.26 pounds, along with EPDs of +62.9 YW, +0.45 MB and +0.18 REA. J&M Windy Acres consigned a pair of homozygous black SimAngus bulls sired by GAR Predestined. Lot 436, the top indexing Senior Simmental Hybrid brought $3600 and sold to Hoot Owl Farm and Laurel Hill Farm of Amelia, VA. Lot 435 commanded $3500 from James Gregory of Java, VA. This pair of bulls excelled in growth and carcass merit. Another SimAngus from J&M Windy Acres, Lot 448, sold to Kenneth Anderson of Culpeper, VA for $3000. Sunny Heights Simmental, Jessee Webster
of Vinton, VA sold a SimAngus sired by ALC Big Eye D09N, Lot 441, for $3100 to Aubra Paul Dean of Jonesville, VA.

A sale highlight were the purebred Simmentals, which were led by Lot 411, consigned by Virginia Tech of Blacksburg, VA and selling to Clyde Cutlip of Warm Springs, VA for $3300. This high performing February-born, homozygous black son of SVF/NJC Mo Better M217 had a test ADG of 4.21, ratio of 132, along with an adjusted YW and ratio of 1261 and 110, respectively. Huckleberry Hill, Matthew and Sara Miller of Rural Retreat, VA had the top indexing Junior Simmental bull with Lot 421 which sold to Aubra Paul Dean of Jonesville, VA for $3000. This growth and carcass bull sired by CNS Dream On L186 posted EPDs of +10.8 CED, +69.1 YW, +0.24 MB and +0.32 RE in addition to YW and ADG ratios of 110 and 108. Virginia Tech also sold Lot 410 Junior Simmental for $3000 to J. H. Carter of Pearisburg, VA. Sired by Sand Ranch Hand, this bull had a CE EPD of +11.4, BW EPD -1.7, MB EPD +0.26, REA EPD +0.26, and an API of 121. Lot 405 also demanded $3000 and was sold to Leonard Noonkester of Lowgap, NC. This Senior bull consigned by Rocky Hollow Simmental, Tommy Cline of Whytheville, VA was sired by SVF Star Power S802.

The top selling Gelbvieh lots were Lot 617 and 616, both Balancers bred by Little Windy Hill Farm of Max Meadows, VA and selling to Gale Rippey of Galax, VA for $2800 and $2600, respectively. Lot 617 is a homozygous black son of KCF Bennett 208 S102 and had an adjusted YW of 1276, YW EPD +94, MB EPD +0.08 and RE EPD +0.15. Lot 616, another homozygous black high growth bull is a son of GAR Predestined and posted EPDs of +98 YW, as well as carcass EPDs of +0.08 MB and 0.20 RE.

The BCIA-Influenced Bred Heifer Sale consisted of 24 fall-calving commercial bred heifers. All heifers were designated as Virginia Premium Assured Plus females. Demand was strong and prices steady, as the heifers averaged $1308 per head. Hillwinds Farm of Dublin, VA consigned Lot 7 to top the sale at $1550 each and selling to Leonard Noonkester of Lowgap, NC. This trio of AI-sired heifers due to calve in October were bred to LWHF Objective 232T. Lots 1 and 2 from Hillwinds Farm sold for $1450 per head. Lot 1 consisted of a single entry bred to Rito 2X15 of Rita 8222 EXP and went to Mountain Vista L & L of Eggleston, VA. Lot 2 was sold to Leonard Noonkester and consisted of a pair of heifers AI-bred to calve in September.

All bulls and heifers were consigned by members of the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association. Bulls were developed at Hillwinds Farm at Dublin, VA owned and operated by Tim Sutphin. The sale was managed by Virginia BCIA and the Virginia Cattlemen’s Association, and the auctioneer was Mike Jones.

Virginia BCIA and the Southwest Bull and Heifer Sale consignors would like to thank the Bank of Marion, Farm Credit Country Mortgages, First Bank AgCredit, Genex Cooperative Inc., Select Sires, and Southern States for their sponsorship.

Special thanks to all the bull and heifer buyers at the 2010 Southwest Virginia BCIA Sale:

Akers Farm, Dublin, VA  
Bill Rice, Sutherlin, VA  
Alan Graybeal, Blacksburg, VA  
Blaine Myers, Cedar Bluff, VA  
Aubra Paul Dean, Jonesville, VA  
Bobby & Martha Jackson, Draper, VA  
Banners Farm, Castlewood, VA  
Bundy Farm, Lebanon, VA  
Bar C Farm, Lebanon, VA  
C.R. Tanner & Sons, Madison, VA  
Barry Nunley, Bluefield, VA  
C.G. Dishman, Bristol, VA  
Belcher Farms Angus, Pound, VA  
Caldwell Farms, Pipestem, WV  
Ben F. Fore, Glade Spring, VA  
Cedar Hill Farm, Newport, VA