DATE: May 20, 2010

TO: All Virginia BCIA Members and Others

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

RE: 1. Central Bull Test Station Rules & Regulations, Entry Information, and Forms for 2010-11

Dear Member:

Enclosed you will find the Rules and Regulations for the Virginia central bull test stations for the upcoming 2010-11 season. Complete details of last year’s tests and sales can be found in the summary enclosed. 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 attached sheet (on back) 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 couple years. Accordingly, please read the enclosed summary and entire Rules and Regulations carefully.

We will continue to utilize the Intentions Card which you need to return to the BCIA office by no later than June 15, relative to your intentions to bring bulls to the test stations. An entry form for bulls is also provided in this packet for you. We will not be sending the entry forms from the BCIA office unless requested. Please copy the entry form for multiple bulls/tests and get them to us early. Reminder: Culpeper Senior entries are due June 15.

All of the enclosed information and forms, as well as historical data can be found on the BCIA website at http://www.bcia.apsc.vt.edu. This website 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: Culpeper & SW Test and Sale Committees
Dr. Dee Whittier / Dr. John Currin
Mark McCann / Bill McKinnon / Ike Eller
Extension Animal Science Agents / State Breed Associations
Breed Association Field Representatives
Central Bull Test/Sale Rules & Regulations Notes for 2010-11

The following are primary 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.

Specific Changes for 2010-11

Southwest Junior Test Length: The Junior test at Southwest will be 112 days instead of 133 days. This will put the Juniors on the same schedule as the Senior bulls. This change will allow us additional marketing time for the sale, reduce feed costs on bulls not making the sale, and improve our ability to effectively market non-sale bulls for slaughter. Analysis of our historical data confirms that this change will not compromise our ability to evaluate performance on the bulls.

Sale Index: A slight modification to our Sale Index, which is used to establish the top two-thirds for sale qualification and establish sale order within test group. MB and REA EPD percentiles have been added to the EPD portion of the index. The new Sale Index will include 2/3 Station Index (comprised of 2/3 YW ratio and 1/3 ADG ratio) and 1/3 EPD Index (20% CE EPD percentile + 20% WW EPD percentile + 20 YW EPD percentile + 20% Milk EPD percentile + 10% MB EPD percentile + 10% REA EPD percentile). Evaluation of our sale data provides evidence that inclusion of MB and REA in our index is more closely associated with the value of our bulls as determined by the buyers. See rules and regulations for additional details.

Culpeper Junior Test: There will not be a Culpeper Junior test and sale in 2010-11. Several significant changes were made in 2008, and due to small consignment numbers the Junior test was not held a year ago. Several of you directed your spring-born bulls to the Southwest Junior test, and we encourage you to evaluate that option for the coming year.

Additional Notes

Vaccination Protocol: Last year, a modification to our vaccination procedures at delivery was implemented. Administration of modified live 5-way viral vaccine was delayed until the on-test date (rather than at delivery). The product we will be using for the Culpeper Senior bulls will be Express (Boehringer Ingelheim). Please follow our pre-delivery health and vaccination requirements closely (see Rules and Regulations).

NH and AM Genotyping: All Angus and Angus-influenced bulls must be free of AM and NH. Note that potential carrier Angus bulls must be genotyped prior to being registered, and it is to your advantage to test bulls (if necessary) prior to delivery to the station.

In addition to the above, I would share several other items which have been implemented over the course of the last couple years:

- Semen evaluation for all Senior bulls
- Consignor Agreement
- Enhanced Bull Guarantee
- Discounts for volume buyers at sales

See Rules and Regulations for complete details of these items.