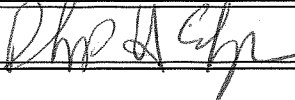


Dean Lee

U.S. Department of Agriculture Accomplishments Report AD-421 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, State Agricultural Experiment Stations and Other Institutions			Date (Month, Day, Year) 01/08/2013
1. Accession 0190301	Agency Identification No. 2. SAES 3. LAB	5. Work Unit/Project No. LAB03540	6. Status Final Report
7. Title Performance Testing of Beef Bulls in Central Louisiana			
12. Investigator Name(s) (Last Name and Initials) DeRouen, S.; Sanson, D. W.			
20. Termination Date 09/30/2012		40. Period Covered (mo/da/year): 10/01/2001 TO 09/30/2012	
Outputs: Performance reports from grain-fed tested bulls were made available on Dean Lee Research & Extension Center's website. These reports were also e-mailed or postal-mailed to breeders and producers as well as to interested individuals on a 28-day basis during the two 112-day performance test periods conducted each year. In addition to the actual weight gain and frame size evaluations, the testing station also provided adjusted yearling weights and a within breed index of overall bull performance along with other information (i.e., ultra-sound and breeding soundness exams) to breeders to further assess and evaluate future herd sires. An annual sale of performance-tested bulls was conducted at the conclusion of the fall-winter test in 2012.			
Outcomes/Impacts: A total of 1,366 bulls were evaluated from 2001 to 2012 over twenty-two (Tests 87-108) 112-day grain-fed performance tests. Average daily gains averaged 3.60 pounds and adjusted yearling weight averaged 1,102 pounds over the 22 tests. The 112-day average daily gain was the most important measurement in performance testing because this evaluates growth during the period when the bulls are together under uniform environmental conditions. Selection for 112-day gains should improve economically important traits, including weaning and yearling weights as well as feedlot rate of gain because these growth traits are moderately to highly heritable and positively correlated. Performance testing of future beef sires is a powerful tool that can be used to identify sires that are genetically superior for growth. Louisiana beef cattle producers can improve performance of calves, stockers or finished cattle by using performance-tested bulls.			
Publications: DeRouen, S.M. 2012. One-Hundred Seventh Bull Test: Final Report. Web cit. http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/research_stations/Deanlee/Features/bull_test_station/ DeRouen, S.M. 2012. One-Hundred Eighth Bull Test: Final Report. Web cit. http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/research_stations/Deanlee/Features/bull_test_station/			
Participants: Sid DeRouen (PI), Danny Coombs, LSU AgCenter.			
Target Audiences: Seed-stock beef cattle producers, commercial beef cattle producers, extension specialists and agents and research scientists.			
Project Modifications: Not relevant to this project.			



Approved (Signature)	Title	Date
		1-15-2013