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MI Cattlemen Association's Bull Test Sale Focuses on Performance

CRYSTAL – An excellent set of bulls, standing-room only crowd and steady cattle prices played a significant role in creating a successful MCA-MSU Bull Test Sale. Sixty-eight bulls representing five breeds grossed \$127,850 to average \$1,880. The top selling animal was the Lot 3 Angus bull owned by Fitzner Farms, from Bellevue, and was purchased by Neil Schumacher of Mt. Pleasant, MI for \$3,800.

Fifty-four buyers bought superior, performance tested bulls that were evaluated for growth, structural soundness, disposition and reproductive potential. All bulls were ultrasounded to evaluate rib eye area, external fat and percent intra-muscular fat. Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) for growth, maternal and carcass traits were available to assist buyers in evaluating bulls for their operations.

The sale results were as follows: 36 Angus bulls averaged \$2,019, 1 Red Angus bull sold for \$2,200, 1 Charolais bull sold for \$1,300, 3 Herefords averaged \$2,133 and 27 Simmentals averaged \$1,676. Mark Sears, from Horton, MI was the volume buyer when he purchased 5 bulls.

The 2009 MCA Performance Bull Test was held in cooperation with Michigan State University. The bulls were tested at the Plank Farm in Crystal, MI.

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