



"Serving Michigan's Cattlemen Since 1960"

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**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

MI Cattlemen Prepare for Bull Evaluation Sale March 21 in Crystal

Preview the sale offering at the Open House March 7, 2015

February 18, 2015 - The Michigan Cattlemen's Association has announced the completion of the 2015 MCA/MSU Bull Evaluation Program. The 27th Annual Bull Evaluation Sale will take place Saturday, March 21 at the test station, 325 Mt. Hope Road, Crystal, MI starting at 12:30 p.m. Bulls can be previewed during an Open House at the station on March 7.

The MCA/MSU Bull Evaluation is the region's premier central bull appraisal program and is a joint effort between the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, Michigan State University, and Plank Farm. The program strives to aid beef producers in obtaining superior bulls that have been evaluated in a common environment for growth, breeding and structural soundness and carcass merit. It promotes performance-evaluated beef cattle and helps facilitate the successful improvement of beef cattle genetics.

The 112-day evaluation report is available at www.MIBulls.com Beef producers can preview the sale offering at an Open House on March 7 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the test station. The event will give cattlemen and women the opportunity to view the bulls and visit with consignors. In addition, MI State University Beef Specialists will be available to discuss bull buying strategies, bull development diets and interpret performance information. Merck Animal Health will be providing complementary ribeye sandwiches.

Seedstock producers from across Michigan, Indiana and Ohio have placed their best junior and senior bulls in the MCA/MSU Bull Evaluation Program. Each bull that sells will have ultrasound data for ribeye area, external fat and percent intramuscular fat. In addition, all bulls making the "sale cut" must meet a minimum average daily gain of 2.8 lbs. and pass evaluations for reproductive potential, disposition and structural soundness.

The 2015 evaluation included six major breeds – Angus, Charolais, Polled Hereford, Red Angus, SimAngus and Simmental. The Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) for growth, maternal and carcass traits on each bull will be published in the sale catalog. Catalogs will be available online and through the MCA office in early March. Off-site bidding is available through United Producers. For more information, contact the MCA office at (517) 347-8117, the Plank Farm at (989) 506-2061 or visit www.MIBulls.com

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