

For Immediate Release
FAIR PLAY, SC
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Professional Cattlemen's Bull Development Program Off-Test Reports

Developing bulls from weaning age into functional breeding bulls requires a great deal of science with a little art thrown in for good measure. Push calves for maximum gain and you can create a total disaster if your expectation is a sound, athletic, long lived breeding bull. But, rough them along and first of all, you cannot get enough separation in gain to determine true genetic potential and secondly, you may never get enough growth to have a useful animal. Spitzer Ranch is relentless in developing calves into productive breeding bulls for their customers. Bulls in Test 2011-1 were processed for yearling data on October 22, 2011. They had an average daily gain (ADG) of 3.25 pounds for the entire 168-day development program. Bulls in Test 2011-2 had yearling weights and measures taken December 10, 2011. Their ADG over the 168-day period was 3.11 pounds.

These gains are exactly as expected as bulls are on grass (crabgrass from weaning until it plays out, fescue to fill the gap and rye/ryegrass to finish out the test and through sale day) with a commodity blend ration and free choice Coastal Bermuda hay. The computer projects a gain of 3.10 to 3.25 pounds per day. Bulls in the Spitzer Ranch program are developed on a "growth test", not a "gain test", and bulls historically have less than a quarter inch of outside fat. All bulls were ultrasound scanned December 6 and those data are currently being processed by Ultra-Insights CUP Laboratory and will be available soon.

By SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2012, this year's sale date, these bulls will be long yearling bulls of 15 to 18 months of age and will average very close to 1350 pounds without

carrying excess fat. Spitzer Ranch bull customers expect these bulls to breed 20 females in a 60-70 day breeding season and not fall apart like many test station bulls that have become overly fat as a result of being pushed for maximum gain.

This absolutely will be one of the most useful set of Brangus bulls offered this spring. The Spitzers are consistent with using disciplined genetic selection placing pressure for lower birth weights. That's why seventy seven percent of these bulls have BW EPDs less than the Brangus Nonparent breed average. But, since Spitzer Ranch customers sell pounds, there has been no ground lost what-so-ever on growth as the average bull in this sale ranks in the Top 30% for both WW and YW EPDS. They are called **CURVE BENDER BULLS** and Spitzer Ranch plans their entire breeding program to produce lots of them!

If you have lots of virgin heifers you need to breed to bulls that will virtually eliminate calving problems, sixty two percent of these bulls will carry the "**Calving Ease Flag**" making them ideal heifer bulls. Finally these bulls additionally have the genetics to sire those productive Brangus females much in demand across the cattle industry. On average their Milk EPD ranks them in the Top 15% and their Total Maternal EPD ranks bulls in the Top 20%.

Following are summary statistics for all bulls in both Test 2011-1 and Test 2011-2:

- ✓ **62%** Are Flagged True Calving Ease Bulls to Breed to Heifers.
- ✓ **77%** Have BW EPD Less Than Brangus Breed Average.
- ✓ **85%** Are Spitzer Ranch CBI (Curve Bender Index) First and Second Quartile.
- ✓ **Zero%** Are Spitzer Ranch CBI Last Quartile.
- ✓ **100%** Of These Bulls Will Put Pounds on the Ground and Dollars in Your Pocket.
- ✓ EPDs Rank the Average Bull Selling (compared to all Brangus Nonparent bulls from the FALL 2011 Sire Summary):

- BW Top 20%
- WW Top 30%
- YW Top 30%
- MK Top 15%
- TM Top 20%

The **2012 SPITZER RANCH PROFESSIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BRANGUS BULL SALE** will be at the ranch in Fair Play, SC **Saturday, February 25, 2012**. A downloadable Sale Catalog will be available at www.srbulls.com for you to print for yourself approximately February 1, 2012. If you do not have access to a computer they will be pleased to mail a printed copy on request. To receive their twice yearly Newsletters with complete performance reports on bulls being developed for sale get in touch and they would be pleased to add your name to their mailing list. Their increasingly popular Newsletters always provide data on the current crop of bulls, educational tips, inspiration and insights into a wide variety of timely topics of interest to those cattlemen whose goal is increased profitability. Call 864/972-9140, write SPITZER RANCH, 1511 HWY 59, Fair Play, SC, 29643 or send an email to spitzeranch@mindspring.com. You are invited to visit them at www.srbulls.com and follow their posts on Facebook. The Spitzer family hopes to see you at this year's sale!

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