

For Immediate Release
FAIR PLAY, SC
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Final Performance Report On Bulls Being Readied For February 28 Spitzer Ranch Professional Cattlemen's Bull Sale

Group 2014-1 bulls finished development 11/07/14 weighing 1053 pounds at 360 days of age and gained 3.38 pounds per day on test. The group average 365-Day adjusted yearling weight was 1075 pounds with WDA of 2.90 pounds. Group 2014-2 bulls completed development 11/28/14 with an actual weight of 1141 pounds at 376 days of age and an average daily gain of 3.16 pounds on test. Adjusted 365-Day yearling weight was 1124 pounds with WDA of 3.04 pounds.

Pay particular attention to the EPDs on these bulls compared to the Brangus breed average EPDs for all nonparent bulls. The "average bull" offered in the February sale has a BW EPD a huge 1.1 pound lower and CED EPD almost a full point better than Brangus breed average. Additionally that "average Spitzer Ranch bull" has 7 pounds more WW EPD, 12 pounds more YW EPD, 9 pounds more TM EPD, a larger SC, bigger REA and better %IMF EPD than the Brangus breed average bull. These calves were produced by a program with thirty two years of selection pressure for low birth weight, high growth "curve bender" genetics.

Another way to look at the EPDs on these bulls is that 78% have BW EPDs less than Brangus breed average with 69% having CED EPDs better than breed average. At the same time they have curve bending growth as 84% and 97% have WW and YW EPDs, respectively, better than Brangus breed average. We must never forget that cows have to milk to raise a calf which is why 97% and 94% of these bulls have MK and TM EPDs greater than Brangus breed average. Additionally 63% of these bulls have greater REA EPDs and 69% have %IMF EPDs better than the Brangus breed average.

In short, if you need to get bulls into your cow herd that have the bred-in genetics to sire calves with **lower birth weights** while at the same time **increasing growth** to weaning and yearling ages; if you need to produce replacement females with **more milk** and **better maternal ability**; if you need to add **muscle** and produce those reputation calves with a **greater percentage of choice** grading carcasses; then you need to give these bulls serious consideration.

Additionally, if you need to breed virgin heifers, over one half of these calves have BW EPDs and birth weights earning them the right to be classed as **Calving Ease Bulls** in the Spitzer Ranch Bull Sale Catalog. While there are almost no Brangus bulls that sire calves with any calving difficulties in mature cows, those bulls that earn the right to be designated with the “**calving ease flag**” in the Spitzer Ranch program all but guarantee first-calf-females a really easy time at calving.

The Spitzers continually evaluate yearling bulls by ultrasound scans for the traits of rib eye area (REA), marbling as measured by percent intramuscular fat (%IMF) and fat cover over the rib (FAT). Since 1998 all bulls and females have been scanned by Dr. Andy Meadows, Springwood Livestock Management from Wytheville, VA and all scans sent to a Centralized Ultrasound Processing laboratory. This eliminates all possible bias as a neutral, third-party technician evaluates all scans and verifies absolute correctness of all data.

On December 8, 2014 the thirty two yearling bulls had an average scan weight of 1126 pounds. The REA averaged 12.9 sq. in. (1.15 sq. in. per hundredweight), the %IMF averaged 3.22% and these bulls were only carrying .23 in. of external fat. In perspective, all data show that bulls have IMF 1.5% less than they would exhibit if they were feedlot steers. Therefore, if these bulls were steers they would be expected to have IMF of about 4.72%. It takes 4.5% IMF for an animal to reach the CHOICE quality grade so they would sure be CHOICE. But, feedlot steers are typically fed to have about .50 in. (1/2 in.) of external FAT and weigh about 1300-

1400 pounds at finish. What that means is these bulls fed to .50 in. external FAT at 1300+ pounds would surely meet carcass specifications for Certified Angus Beef (CAB). These are the kind of bulls that will sire calves with big REA and marbling genetics to make money on any quality grid. If you do not retain interest in your calves thru the feedlot, they will absolutely earn a reputation that begs the buyers of your calves to want them again next year, and the year after.

Heifer mates to bulls were scanned the same day and weighed 918 pounds. Their REA averaged 10.9 sq. in. (1.19 sq. in. per hundredweight), %IMF averaged a fantastic 5.10% and while they were a little fatter, they still only had .32 in. of external FAT. They are already close to specification for CAB and they are far short of the 1200-1300 pounds and the .50 in. FAT typical of most feedlot finished heifers.

These bulls will sell **Saturday, February 28, 2015 at the SPITZER RANCH PROFESSIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BULL SALE in Fair Play, SC (Sale starts at 1:00 PM EST.)** You will find the kind of performance tested Brangus bulls with the proven genetic value to improve your pounds of calf weaned and create profitable Brangus Commercial Cows. Your cows will be glad you were there because --- **“If your cows could speak, we wouldn't need to advertise.”**

The Bull Sale Catalog will be available on the Spitzer Ranch website by late January and should be in the mail by February 1. If you want a catalog and/or wish your name added to their mailing list call 864/972-9140, write SPITZER RANCH, 1511 HWY 59, Fair Play, SC, 29643 or send an email note to spitzeranch@mindspring.com. Be certain to visit their WEB SITE at www.srbulls.com where there will additionally be a sale order video of each bull for your viewing pleasure. They would also invite you to join over 1500 individuals who have “LIKED” the Spitzer Ranch Facebook Page and follow their QUOTE OF THE WEEK.

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