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FAIR PLAY, SC  
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## **Final Data Report For Bulls Selling In Spitzer Ranch/Hunts H+ Professional Cattlemen's Performance Tested Brangus Bull Sale February 27, 2016**

Thirty bulls have completed the Spitzer Ranch 168-Day Forage-based Development scheme and all data are now available. Overall the 30 bulls in Test 2015-1 and Test 2015-2 finished the program with a 3.14-pound average daily gain (ADG) at an average of 370 days-of-age with a weight per day of age (WDA) of 3.02. This may be the leanest set of bulls ever grown at Spitzer Ranch as they averaged a slim and trim 2/10" FAT with an ultrasound scan rib eye area (REA) of 12.4 sq. in. and a solid 3.02% intramuscular fat (%IMF). In perspective, research would say that if these bulls had been steers, they would have 1.5% more IMF and probably more as they would have been sent to the packing plant at about 1/2" FAT. Since the %IMF required to be a CHOICE graded carcass is 4%, these bulls (had they been steers) would have graded really well, mostly CHOICE and PREMIUM CHOICE (CAB).

Because of how bulls are developed in their program, with calves coming straight off the cow and on test, with no warm-up period and no creep feed, they have grown and not fattened. Bulls have grass under their feet at most all times beginning with fall crabgrass/fescue and then a "winter mix" of Rye/Ryegrass/ Radish usually by late October. They additionally supplement with a ration primarily consisting of soy hulls and corn gluten feed. The Spitzers have learned over 34 years that bulls on this program with somewhere close to a 3.10 to 3.25 ADG result in sound, athletic 14 to 17 month old bulls ready to go to work breeding cows. Because they were never pushed for maximum gains they also lead a long and successfully productive life in the breeding pasture. By sale day these bulls will weigh a hard 1300-1500 pounds and you don't

need to worry about the dollars you invested wasting away or falling apart.

If you were to purchase the average bull from this set his comparison to the Non-Parent Brangus Breed Average (BBA) would be impressive. While it would be very unlikely to have an individual bull that had the average EPDs for the entire group of bulls, assume there was such a bull. Mr. Average for these sale bulls then ranks in the Top 50% for CED, Top 35% for BW, Top 25% for both WW and YW, Top 10% for both MK and TM, Top 20% for SC, Top 45% for REA and Top 35% for %IMF. The average BW EPD for the 30 bulls is 0.5 pounds less than BBA and 63% of SR/H+ bulls have lower BW EPDs than BBA. That's pretty impressive, but those same bulls also have YW EPDs averaging 12 pounds heavier than BBA. A full 80% of SR/H+ bulls have heavier YW EPDs than BBA. How's that for real world positive **Curve Benders!** Furthermore, bulls that earn the "Calving Ease (CE) Flag" in the Spitzer Ranch program allow you to "sleep easy" all night during calving season. In this group of bulls, 16 of the 30 have birth weights and BW EPDs that allow designation with the "CE FLAG" in their data block in the sale catalog. While there are almost no Brangus bulls that sire calves with any calving difficulties in mature cows these CE bulls have the genetics to all but guarantee first-calf-heifers a really easy time at calving.

While the folks at Spitzer Ranch are genuinely proud of their reputation earned for producing those sought after curve bender bulls, don't ever think we would ignore the rest of the production picture. If you need bulls to service 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 high percentage of choice grading carcasses; then you need to give serious consideration to attending this sale.

The Spitzer and Hunt families hope to see you at the twenty-third annual **PROFESSIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BRANGUS BULL SALE** scheduled for **Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 1:00 PM EST at Spitzer Ranch just north of Fair Play, SC.** If you wish to receive either the Winter 2016 Newsletter or a Sale Catalog you can get your name added to their mailing list by calling 864/972-9140, sending an email note to [info@srbulls.com](mailto:info@srbulls.com) or writing SPITZER RANCH, 1511 HWY 59, Fair Play, SC, 29643. The SPITZER RANCH Facebook page now has over 1900 followers of their posts and QUOTE OF THE WEEK. They invite you to "LIKE" them on FB. For the most current information about the Spitzer Ranch Program and their February Bull Sale be sure to visit their WEB SITE at [www.srbulls.com](http://www.srbulls.com).

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