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Scrotal size

The political season was definitely different this past year. I never expected repeated mentions of who had them or references during debates about getting them surgically removed. Testicle size probably shouldn't be used literally to select a president but does have important consideration when selecting a bull for your cow herd.

Scrotal circumference (SC) can have a lot of impact on the reproductive performance of your cows. Most bull sellers will report SC in their sale catalogs for your use when making your bull buying decisions. SC is not the only factor to consider but can be used to narrow down potential bull options. With all other factors being equal the bull with the bigger SC would be the better bull.

Scrotal circumference can be measured in yearling bulls and adjusted to 365 days for use in genetic evaluation. Many breed associations will use this data to calculate an EPD for SC. A scrotal circumference EPD can be used to estimate the bull's genetic potential. Scrotal circumference is positively correlated with puberty and fertility in the bull's daughters that you keep in your herd. Selecting for improved fertility in the heifers is fundamental to making sure they will become profitable mother cows in the long term.

Typically, SC can also be measured during a breeding soundness exam prior to the bull sale. This measurement will usually be reported as the "actual SC." Benchmarks have been established for a minimum SC of 30 cm for bulls that are 15 months of age or less, 31 cm for bulls that are 15-18 months of age, 32 cm for 18-21 months, 33 cm for 21-24 and all bulls over 24 months should have at least 34 cm.

Besides genetic potential of offspring the actual SC can be used to predict the likelihood that the bull will be a successful breeder for you. The SC is a reflection of daily sperm production which is why benchmarks are used in breeding soundness exams to determine if the bull is satisfactory as a potential breeder. There is some research data that indicates that the pregnancy rates of cows exposed to bulls with larger SC are greater than the rates for smaller SC. This does not necessarily mean that you can decrease your bull:cow ratio because other factors are involved in determining the capacity that a bull has to breed cows. However, bulls that produce more sperm cells are more likely to get their cows pregnant than bulls that produce less sperm.

Thankfully, all the presidential candidates have left town but there is still a lot of bull out there. While we are probably better off without references to testicles in the presidential race, scrotal size is definitely important when you are sizing up bulls. Hope your calving season is fruitful and the rest of spring is enjoyable.



Angus on-test for Dunlap

Lot 113 a March son of TC Freedom 104
 BW: 73 • ADG: 2.77 • WDA: 2.99
 CE: 9 BW: 1.1 WW: 57 YW: 99

Simmental on-test for Dunlap

Lot 146 a March son of Sands Ranch Hand
 BW: 74 • ADG: 3.62 • WDA: 2.87
 CE: 10.3 BW: .4 WW: 64 YW: 99

Lot 147 a March son of JBS Big Casino 336Y
 BW: 90 • ADG: 2.46 • WDA: 3.11
 CE: 6.3 BW: 1.9 WW: 80.6 YW: 123.5

Lot 150 a March son of JBS Big Casino 336Y
 BW: 81 • ADG: 5.00 • WDA: 3.45
 CE: 7.6 BW: .6 WW: 70 YW: 116.8

Simm Composite for Dunlap

Lot 163 a February son of Triple U Bull U43
 BW: 81 • ADG: 3.71 • WDA: 3.15
 CE: 11.2 BW: -1.5 WW: 58.6 YW: 85.8

Triple U Ranch

Craig, Elaine & Nathan Utesch 712-372-4569 4194 - 100th St.
 Cody & Jessica Wilson 712-253-7259 Correctionville, IA 51016

All 3 bulls have been i50k tested

Lot 36 Fall bull testing for Bloomfield

Sept. son of GA Upward 102

Dam is the mother of the 2nd high-selling bull in last year's sale purchased by Belgin Acres.

BW: 70 • ADG: 4.95 • WDA: 3.08
 CE: 8 • BW: 1.1 • WW: 54 • YW: 95

2 bulls gaining 4.06+ lbs./day for Dunlap!

Lot 103

March son of Sandpoint Butkus X797

BW: 77 • ADG: 4.06 • WDA: 3.41
 CE: 15 • BW: -.9 • WW: 68 • YW: 114

Lot 104

March son of 44 Point After 3025

BW: 78 • ADG: 4.82 • WDA: 3.38
 CE: 4 • BW: 2.8 • WW: 53 • YW: 102

GA **Graham Angus Farm**
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