

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 12, 2009**

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Bloomfield bulls start the 112-day performance test. Sale is March 22.

AMES, IOWA – On Monday, Oct. 12, a total of 59 spring-born bulls were delivered to the Amana Test Station in Amana, Iowa for the Iowa Cattlemen's Association (ICA) Bloomfield test.

The bulls completed a 21-day warm-up period following delivery that ended on Nov. 2. Bulls were weighed twice going on-test at the completion of this warm-up. The two weights are averaged and this marks the starting point of the performance test.

Going on test, the Angus bulls averaged 259 days of age and 776 pounds with an average weight per day of age of 3.00 pounds. The Chi-Angus bulls averaged 252 days of age, 696 pounds and had a weight per day of age of 2.77 pounds. The Simmental bulls averaged 264 days of age, 797 pounds, and had a weight per day of age of 3.02 pounds.

Bulls will be fed a ration intended to achieve maximum gain during a 112-day test period. One interim weight will be taken at the mid-point of the testing period on Dec. 28. At off-test, all bulls will be weighed twice and the weights averaged once again to mark the end of the test period. The off-test is scheduled for Feb. 22-23, 2010, and at this time all bulls will be ultrasounded and semen checked.

Bulls will be evaluated for carcass merit, reproductive soundness, structural correctness, disposition and growth. The top two-thirds of each breed making test requirements as outlined in the guidelines by the Production Efficiency Committee are catalogued to sell March 22, 2010, at the Bloomfield Livestock Auction Market in Bloomfield, Iowa.

ICA bull test information is available for all three tests and sales on the ICA Web site at www.iacattlemen.org. The site includes a calendar of all weight dates for the 2009-10 season.

For more information, contact Kellie Carolan, 515-296-2266, or e-mail kellie@iabeef.org.

Bloomfield fall bulls start 112-day test at Kirkwood Community College. Sale is March 22.

On Monday, Oct. 12, a total of 16 spring-born bulls were delivered to the Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for the Iowa Cattlemen's Association (ICA) Bloomfield fall bull test. The bulls completed a 21-day warm-up period and going on-test, the fall bulls averaged 1,093 pounds with an average weight per day of age of 3.51 pounds. The fall bulls will be sold as a part of the Bloomfield sale on March 22, 2010.

Amana private test bulls start the 112-day performance test.

In addition to the Bloomfield test bulls, Amana Farms is also feeding 21 head of ICA private test bulls and Kirkwood Community College has two head of private fall bulls. These bulls were delivered with the sale groups and will be fed along with those bulls. The Amana private test bulls averaged 701 pounds at the start of the test and the fall private test averaged 1,002 pounds.