



IOWA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

BULL EVALUATION PROGRAM

2025-2026 GENERAL GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION:

The governing body of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association (ICA) Bull Evaluation Program (BEP) is the ICA Production Efficiency Committee (PEC). The ICA PEC develops all policy and formulation of BEP guidelines. Throughout the course of ICA BEP season, many questions to problems or situations will invariably arise and in most cases, the answers to these questions or situations will appear in this document. Please keep in mind, however, that the ICA BEP guidelines are developed by the ICA PEC and serve as a roadmap for test and sale management to operate the ICA BEP.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY:

ICA Staff: Cody Jimmerson.....515-296-2266 (O)..... 515-971-3127(C).....cody@iacattlemen.org

Consulting Veterinarian: Dr. John Greving, Audubon-Manning Vet Clinic....712-563-4201 (O)

	Tama TEST		Fall TEST
TEST LENGTH (plus 21 day warm up)	95 days		95 days
ELIGIBILITY Weaned bulls born:	12/16/24 to 3/15/25		9/1/24 to 12/15/25
VACCINATION DATES	Two rounds with last round no later than 14 days before delivery		
DELIVERY DATE	Tuesday., Oct. 14, 2025 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.		Tues., Sept. 9 2025 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
TEST LOCATION	Kirkwood Community College Tippie Beef Center Cedar Rapids, IA		
TEST SITE DIRECTIONS	Off Hwy 30, take Exit 254 Kirkwood Blvd. Go south to 76 th Ave. Go east 1 mile		
SALE FACILITIES	To Be Determined		
SALE DATE	Sunday, March 22, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.		

The ICA reserves the right to change the maximum number of bulls consigned per breeder to allow more breeders to participate or to fully utilize the breed space allotment.

CONSIGNOR REQUIREMENTS:

1. Each consignor may bring up to **three bulls per breed at Tama**, if space allows.
2. Must be an active member of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association for 2026.
3. **Provide complete pedigree information including actual birth weight, adjusted 205-day weight with ratio and health information on forms supplied by ICA. Consignors must provide registration and EPD information no later than Dec. 12, 2025.**
4. **If registration papers arrive after Dec. 12, 2025, a \$100 per head late fee will be charged until Jan. 9, 2026. If registration papers are not in hand prior to Jan. 10, 2026, the bull will **NOT** be eligible for the sale.**
5. Provide assistance in marketing bulls by submitting all information pertinent to the sale of the bull.
6. Deliver bulls between 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. on the designated delivery date. There is no exception to bringing bulls a day early or a day late.
7. If a consignor's bull does not make the sale, then the bull must be picked up on the designated date. If arrangements have not been made with the Iowa Cattlemen's Association or test site manager, the bull will go to slaughter.

8. Reserve pen space with a \$60 per bull reservation fee by Aug. 30 for falls, Sept. 12 for springs, 2025, or until tests are filled.
9. Provide feed and yardage deposit of \$300 per bull **on delivery** to test location and a non-refundable promotional fee of \$50 per bull..
10. All bulls will be on a 21-day probation period to adapt to feedlot conditions. If a bull is unable to adapt, a notice will be sent to the consignor informing them of the problem. Consignors must either pick-up their bull to go home or they will be sent to market.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR BULLS:

1. Must be born within designated birth date limits of each test.
2. Must have a minimum weight per day of age of 2.5 pounds on arrival at the test. No shrink allowance or exceptions.
3. Received all mandatory vaccinations prior to or during the suggested vaccination dates.
4. Purebred bulls must be 75% or higher and out of a registered female. **Bulls (purebred and composite) must be registered by Dec. 12, 2025** (see Consignor Requirements #3) in a beef breed association recognized by the National Records Association. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
5. Composite bulls need to be registered within the breed registry of which they qualify, and a sufficient number of entries must be available to compile a contemporary group as described in the guidelines. ICA will accept breed contemporary groups based on each national breed registration description.
6. Bulls must arrive at a minimum of **45-days weaned** for all test sites.
7. All cattle that are potential carriers by pedigree will be tested for known genetic defects such as AM, NH, CA and DD. Carriers will be listed as such in the catalog and DDA (affected) cattle will not be eligible to sell in an ICA sale.
8. **All bulls will be in one contemporary group. There will be no minimum number of each breed for the sale.**

HEALTH AND VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS:

Bulls will be allowed to enter a test only upon meeting the following requirements and being certified by a veterinarian on a health form to be provided. ICA will have a designated person checking health papers and vaccination sheets at the unloading gate to screen all paperwork and cattle BEFORE anything is unloaded for health status.

1. **Weaned at least 45 days before delivery to all test sites.**
2. **Vaccinated with TWO rounds of the following with the second round being no less than 14 days prior to delivery:**
 - BVD (*Bovine Virus Diarrhea*)
 - IBR (*Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis*)
 - PI3 (*Para-Influenza 3*)
 - Pasteurella - New Generation Vaccine
 - Clostridium Chauvoeri, Septicum (*Blackleg & Malignant Edema*)
 - Haemophilus Somnus (*Shipping Fever*) - Somnugen
 - BRSV (*Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus*)
3. Have had a veterinarian check the calf's scrotum at time of vaccination for any abnormalities.
4. **All bulls must have state health certificates upon delivery. Bulls originating outside Iowa must conform to official interstate health regulations.**
5. Treated for worms, lice, and grubs prior to delivery **and** free from evidence of warts, ringworm, or mange.
6. All calves must be **dehorned and healed** prior to delivery. Horned bulls will not sell.
7. Bulls will receive the following booster shots at delivery to the test station, at the consignor's expense:
 - Modified Live BVD
 - Nasal IBR
 - Haemophilus Somnus
 - BRSV
 - Pasteurella
 - Receiving Antibiotic
 - Dewormer
8. All bulls will be tested upon delivery for persistent Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV). A small ear notch will be taken on delivery day and sent in for testing. Any animal diagnosed as persistently infected with BVDV will be confirmed with a second test and sent home should confirmation be obtained.

GENOMIC TESTING:

1. **Genomic testing of all sale bulls will be mandatory to be eligible to sell in the 2026 ICA 'Symbol of Excellence' Bull Sale.**
2. **Producers bear the responsibility of testing all bulls entered into the respective tests** with results due to the ICA immediately following delivery.
3. Optionally at the consignor's request at delivery, Iowa Cattlemen's Association will perform testing requirements at a charge of \$50 per bull sample submitted.
4. The cost of the testing is dependent on the breed association and the lab that is performing the test. Each association offers

different genomic testing panels so we will use the most cost-effective panel that offers data such as, parent verification and EPD accuracies.

5. The consignor will assume the cost of the test and trait tests should be requested during this same testing protocol to assess other phenotypic characteristics (e.g. polled, color, etc).

CONSIGNOR PROGRAM FEES:

1. A reservation entry fee of \$60/bull must be received by **Oct. 1, 2025**, or until tests are filled. Reservation fees will be accepted on a first postmark date basis until all tests are filled.
2. A fee of \$300 + \$50 non-refundable promotional fee per bull must be received at or prior to delivery of the bulls on **Oct. 21st 2025** for Tama ..
3. Consignors of sale eligible bulls will share all costs of the sale and promotion of the sale.
4. NO last minute changes to test entries into the test will be accepted.
5. **Reservation entry fees (\$60 per bull) are NOT refundable for bulls not delivered or bulls which fail to make the 2.5 pounds weight per day of age requirements.**

OUT-OF-STATE CONSIGNORS:

1. \$160 reservation fee per bull must be received by **Sept. 12, 2025**, or until tests are filled. \$100 is refunded for each bull meeting **all sale requirements** and this amount is applied to entry fees.
2. A fee of \$300 + non-refundable \$50 promotional fee per bull must be received at or prior to delivery of the bulls on **Oct. 21, 2025** for Tama. At the conclusion of the sale the eligible bulls will pay for the remaining promotion cost.
3. NO last minute changes to test entries into the test will be accepted.
4. **Reservation fees (\$160 per bull) are NOT refundable for bulls not delivered or bulls which fail to make the 2.5 pounds per day of age requirement.**

PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES FOR ICA FALL AND YEARLING BULL SALE:

1. Bulls will be in competition **within their breed group.**
 - a. Minimum Top 85% of the bulls indexed will make the sale
 - b. Minimum 1,100 pound adjusted yearling weight
 - c. Minimum 11.5 square inch ultrasound ribeye area measurement (for yearling & fall bulls)
 - d. Minimum 32-centimeter scrotal circumference measurement
2. All bulls qualifying for sale will have a reproductive soundness exam. Bulls with unsatisfactory semen will **not** be sold.
3. A permanent sale selection committee will evaluate all sale eligible bulls and remove any unsound, unsuitable, or bad disposition bulls from the sale group. They are authorized to make final decisions on any bull's inclusion in ICA sponsored sale using the above guidelines to help ensure the best sale outcome for the majority of participants, quality bulls will be emphasized.
4. Ten-percent culling rate for soundness, structure, and disposition problems has been built in for 2026 sale bulls.

FINAL INDEX:

All sale bulls must meet the four minimum guidelines listed above. Those bulls (within the respective breeds) placing in the top 85% (of all bulls, including fall bulls, starting the test within their group) based on average daily gain will be eligible for sale. Sale order within the breed will be based on a terminal index that is composed of average daily gain, weight per day of age, weaning weight EPD, yearling weight EPD, marbling, and retail product. The following is the formula used for calculating the terminal index.

- **AVERAGE DAILY GAIN (30%)** = ((Individual bull gain - Contemporary group average)/standard deviation*3)
- **WEIGHT PER DAY OF AGE (30%)** = ((Individual bull WDA - Contemporary group average)/standard deviation*3)
- **WEANING WEIGHT EPD (10%)** = ((Individual bull WWEPD - Contemporary group average WWEPD)/standard deviation)
- **YEARLING WEIGHT EPD (10%)** = ((Individual bull YWEPD - Contemporary group average YWEPD)/standard deviation)
- **MARBLING SCORE (10%)** = ((Individual bull % fat score - Contemporary group average)/standard deviation)
- **RETAIL PRODUCT (10%)** = ((Individual bull retail product - Contemporary group average)/standard deviation)
- **RAW SCORE** = Sum of individual standardized traits + 100
- **TERMINAL INDEX** = ((Individual bull raw score - Contemporary group average)/Contemporary group average*100+100))

ICA BULL SALE PROCEDURES:

1. Sale charges – ICA will deduct 4% of the sale price of each bull to defray sale and supervisory costs. Bulls that are offered at the established floor price of \$3,000 and do not sell will be charged a 4% pass-out fee. Any consignor setting a higher floor price must pay the full 4% commission. **The entire bull will be sold unless the breeder specifies to ICA his/her intent to sell a breeding interest any time prior to the final off-test weight.**
2. The following will apply where interests are being sold or retained in sale bulls:
 - a. In the case where a semen interest only is offered for sale, the seller will provide the buyer an opportunity to collect semen from the bull 60 days following the sale; a minimum of 500 straws of satisfactory semen will be available annually to the buyer. If the semen will not freeze and maintain viability, the purchase price will be refunded to the buyer.
 - b. In the case where a breeding interest is being retained by the seller, the seller will be given the opportunity to collect the bull annually at a time suitable to the buyer. A minimum of 500 straws of semen is to be available to the seller annually at their cost of collection.
 - c. Salvage value of the bull is sold with possession.
3. Consignor must provide registration papers and pay for registration and transfer of pedigree to the buyer.
4. Consignors will be charged feed and yardage for bulls left at the test station for a period of up to seven days after the sale date, after which all bulls remaining at the test station will be taken to slaughter.
5. Any bull not qualifying for the sale or not sold in the sale, and that the consignor wishes to take home must have all bills paid in full before the bull will be released.

FEEDER REQUIREMENTS:

1. Be directly responsible to the consignor for care, health, and well-being of consigned bulls.
2. Receive, booster immunize, weigh, and ear tag calves on arrival.
3. Accustom calves to test ration until the start of test.
4. Feed calves as specified by agreement between ICA and feeder. Work with nutrition specialists in monitoring rations.
5. Individually weigh bulls:
 - a. Delivery
 - b. On-test 2
 - c. Interim Weights 1
 - d. Off-test 2
6. Be responsible for communication to ICA if a consigned bull becomes too ill or injured to continue the test and advise ICA when test termination should occur for a bull.
7. Provide ICA with a health report on sick bulls and invoice ICA for consignor's veterinary charges.
8. To not test bulls owned by himself, his immediate family, or farm employees.

IOWA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION WILL:

1. Solicit bulls for test, assist in supervision of the test and in formulation of test and sale policies, authenticate the performance of the bulls tested, advertise, and make payment to consignors for bulls sold.
2. Represent the consignor in allocating payment to the bull feeder for feeding the bulls as specified in a separate contract.
3. Refund money in full to consignor if enough entries have not been received for the test.
4. Present awards to consignors of high ADG and high indexing bulls prior to the start of the sale at each test.
5. Provide payment of sale bulls within 30 days after the sale date.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Calves should be accustomed to consuming a grain ration, i.e. five-to-six-pounds of grain with forage.
2. Ration being fed at the test station will not exceed 0.60 Mcal of NEG per pound of dry matter during the test period.
3. Sale order will be based on a breed rotation determined by performance of each breed group. Consideration of the number of bulls within a breed group is included in the sale order decision.
4. At least a breeding interest of every qualifying bull must be offered for sale.
5. Neither feeder nor ICA may be held liable for sickness or death loss of any bull.
6. Bulls will have fat thickness, loin eye area, and percent fat in ribeye measurements taken with ultrasound. This information and the percent retail product will be provided to potential buyers of bulls, which qualify for the sale.
7. Pelvic area will be measured and reported at all ICA sale.

INSURANCE COVERAGE AVAILABILITY:

1. Livestock Mortality Insurance will be available through Jeanne Conover, Conover Auction Service, Baxter, IA. Jeanne is a licensed agent with American Livestock Insurance Company, a division of Markel Inc. You can insure your bulls at 4% for a six-month period, with a minimum value of \$1,000. This will cover death loss of the animal, paying full price, with no deductible. The policy will be issued to Iowa Cattlemen's Association and they will be responsible for issuance of funds to the producer, less any test costs incurred before time of death.
2. This is not mandatory to participate, but highly encouraged.

AFTER THOROUGHLY READING THESE OFFICIAL GUIDELINES, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING ANY OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN, PLEASE CONTACT THE ICA OFFICE AT 515-296-2266.