



Greetings,

July 11, 2018

From:


Jacob Segers, Extension Animal Scientist – Beef


Jason Duggin, Extension Animal Scientist - Beef

Enclosed are the rules, and entry form for the 2018-19 Georgia Heifer Evaluation and Reproductive Development (HERD) programs. Please carefully read over this letter as well as the rules.

Program Objectives:

1. To educate and serve the beef industry in Georgia.
2. To demonstrate feeding and health programs that result in replacement heifers reaching target weights required for successful breeding performance.
3. To provide a method of evaluating heifers including performance, reproductive traits, and disposition.
4. To develop heifers which are source identified and genetically verified.
5. To demonstrate the benefits of cooperative efforts involving cattle producers, animal health professionals, the Georgia Cattlemen's Association, the UGA Animal and Dairy Science Department, the UGA Diagnostic Lab & College of Veterinary Medicine, and Georgia County Extension Agents.

Important Notes:

- **In order to better manage the number of sale eligible cattle, each station will be imposing a limit on the number of consignments from a specific operation.** Cattle that are comingled under the same management by the same family are considered to be a single operation. Cattle from the same operation that are entered under different names (e.g. children or grandchildren's names) must not exceed the total number of heifers allowed in the sale for a single operation. The rules set the initial number of consignments allowed per operation at 10 head; however, the program reserves the right to reduce this number in order to allow more consignors access to the HERD program if the number of heifers nominated exceed the station's capacity.
- Tifton will evaluate heifers born September – November of 2017, Calhoun will evaluate December, 2017 – February, 2018 heifers. Our AI sire will be SS NIAGARA Z29. Heifers related to Niagara will be AI'd to MCR HORIZON 081. Both stations will synchronize the heifers and breed once AI, followed by at least 45 days with our clean-up bulls. If you wish to specify a different AI sire, you may do so, but you must furnish the semen at the time of heifer delivery.
- We will also continue testing for Persistently Infected - BVD upon arrival. If you have already tested your heifers, please bring a copy of the results at delivery. Any heifer found to be positive will be removed from the program immediately.
- Optional genomic testing will be performed on heifers designated by the consignors at their own expense.
- Heifers must be permanently identified with a readable tattoo or brand prior to delivery. If heifer(s) has missing or illegible tattoos and have to be re-tattooed upon arrival, the consignor will be charged \$25 per head for each heifer requiring a tattoo.

Important Dates:

- **Tifton Bull Test Entry Deadline – August 15th**
- **Tifton HERD Program Entry Deadline - September 1st**
- **Calhoun HERD Program Entry Deadline – November 1st**