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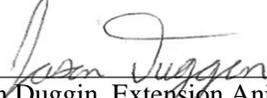
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2016-17 Georgia HERD Program

July 20, 2016

TO: Georgia HERD Consignors

From: 
Jacob Segers, Extension Animal Scientist – Beef


Jason Duggin, Extension Animal Scientist - Beef

Enclosed are the rules, and entry form for the 2016-17 Georgia Heifer Evaluation and Reproductive Development (HERD) programs. It is time to make plans for the coming year.

Once again, the September - November heifers will be evaluated in Tifton. The December - February heifers will be evaluated at Calhoun. **Our new AI sire for 2016-17 will be MCR Horizon 081.** Heifers that are closely related to MCR Horizon 081 will be AI'd to SS Niagara Z29. Heifers at Tifton and at Calhoun will be heat-synchronized and bred AI (once at each location) followed by at least 45 days with a clean-up bull. If you wish to specify a different AI sire, you may do so, but you must furnish the semen at the time of delivery. CIDRs (Controlled Internal Drug Release devices) will again be used in both locations to synchronize heat in the heifers. We will also continue testing for Persistently Infected - BVD upon arrival. Any heifer found to be positive will be removed from the program.

Please pay close attention to the new rule concerning genetic defects in the section “Eligibility for Sale.” As it has changed for this program year: “Registered heifers will be accepted into the program on ancestral or tested free pedigrees at the time of program entrance. If a new genetic defect were to arise after the program has already begun, any potential carrier heifer will be eligible for sale with notation in the sale catalog.”

There is also a new option for consignors to choose if they would like to have Zoetis Genomic testing performed on their heifers at their own expense: “Genomic testing will be conducted with consignors having the option to test their heifers at their own expense. Consignors may exercise an additional option to include genomic testing results in the sale supplement, provided that the consignor agrees to disclose results from all of their sale consignments.”

Reminders to note:

1. Heifers must be permanently identified with a readable tattoo or brand prior to delivery. Consignors are subject to a fee (\$25 per head) if heifers have to be tattooed upon arrival.
2. Please indicate on your entry form if you might have additional heifers to enter if space is available. In some years, we've had to limit the number of heifers that can be entered; in other years, consignors have been invited to enter additional heifers if space permitted.

Dates to remember:

September 1: Entries due for Tifton HERD Program and Bull Test; the delivery date is October 3 for the heifers.
November 1: Entries due for Calhoun HERD Program; the delivery date is December 1.

If you have questions, please call or email any one of us. All forms can be found on our website

Join us on August 31st for the HERD Field Day in Alapaha!

Enclosure

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