



RIO GRANDE VALLEY BEEF IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
BEEF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Bull Gain Test, Heifer Development Program

2023-2024 Information Packet

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Want to share this with others? This information is available on the gain test web page located at:
<https://hidalgo.agrilife.org/home/agriculture/beef-development-program/>

The Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association was created in 1998 to assist cattlemen in improving the quality of their livestock. The bull gain test is an official gain test conducted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, under the direction of Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist and County Extension Agents in Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, and Starr counties. Successful bull gain tests and heifer development programs have been conducted every year since 1998. A total of 1,845 bulls and 1,156 heifers have been entered in the program.

Purpose

To provide objective information on weight gain, ribeye size, marbling score, scrotal circumference (bulls), reproductive tract scores (heifers), pelvic area, and frame size to breeders of yearling purebred and commercial bulls and heifers for use in selection and marketing to beef cattle producers in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

Objectives

- To provide uniform, economical, nutritional and health management to allow optimal growth and fair comparisons of genetic differences between animals in similar age groups.
- To provide a uniform method of collecting performance data in a timely and cost-effective manner and providing it to consignors and other interested parties.
- To conduct educational activities on the results of the program and provide them in a timely manner to consignors and other interested parties.

Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association Leadership

Larry Sidebottom- Santa Gertrudis
Carlos Guerra, Jr- Brahman
Xavier Pena- Beefmaster

Wayne Reavis- Simbrah
Bill Wentz-Simbrah
Mike Risica - Rio Beef Feedyard

This form is due with animals upon arrival at the feed yard.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN
RIO GRANDE VALLEY BEEF IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION,
RIO BEEF FEEDYARD, EDINBURG, TEXAS and
CONSIGNOR OF BULLS/HEIFERS TO BEEF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

On this the _____ of _____ 2023, this
Memorandum of Agreement between the Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association (RGVBIA), Rio
Beef Feed yard, Edinburg, Texas and

_____ has been put into effect covering
name of consignor (type or print legibly)
all bulls and heifers listed on the attached Application for Entry for the period beginning **October 4, 2023**, until
their removal from the feed yard.

PROGRAM PROVISIONS AND INFORMATION

1. Each consignor must be a member of RGVBIA. Dues are \$50 per year per ranch and the consignment fee is \$50 per head for Calf bulls, \$85 per head for Junior, Intermediate and Senior bulls (includes fertility testing) and \$30 per head for heifers.
2. Registration papers must accompany the **registered bulls** upon delivery to the feedlot. Heifers may be any breed or cross breed. Papers are not required for heifers.
3. For bulls, this is an official 112-day gain test. Bulls will be divided into 4 age groups based on birth date:

Calf	01/01/23 - 04/30/23
Junior	09/01/22 - 12/31/22
Intermediate	05/01/22 - 08/31/22
Senior	01/01/22 - 04/30/22
4. Bulls will be ranked within each age group and within each breed using the ratio of the Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association index:
Average Daily Gain 30%, Rib Eye Area/cwt 20%, Weight per Day of Age 20%, Marbling 20% and Scrotal Circumference 10%
5. **Online Sale. At the conclusion of the gain test, the highest-ranking bulls will be consigned to an online sale provided they meet these requirements:**
 - Rank in the top 50% RGVBIA index of their breed within each age group
 - Pass a BSE (breeding soundness exam)
 - Pass a Trichomoniasis test
 - Pass a disposition score
 - Pass a sheath score
 - Be structurally sound and in good health
6. **New!** The bull sale is **optional** to all breeds and must be determined at the time of delivery. Once the bulls are committed to the sale, decisions cannot be changed. The steering committee will determine if there will be enough bulls to have a sale.

_____, *Consignor's Initials- I have read and understood page 2 of this Agreement.*

7. The online sale will be conducted **March 15-18, 2024** (tentative dates). Sale expenses will be prorated by the number of bulls in the sale and paid by the owners of the bulls in the sale. A minimum of 25 bulls must meet all the requirements to be consigned to the sale for the sale to be held.
8. **CATTLE RSVP IS MANDATORY.** The deadline to RSVP is Monday, October 2, 2023. Click on the link to the left or RSVP by phone at 956-383-1026.
9. Bulls that do not meet the sale requirements should be picked up at the conclusion of the test. (After performance data is completed)
10. For heifers, this is a 126-day development program. All heifers consigned should be from 6 to 15 months of age (calved 7/20/22-4/20/23) at the start of the program. Papers are not required for heifers.
11. All animals will be visually evaluated upon arrival at the feed yard. Animals not fitting program criteria will not be accepted into the program. The RGV BIA reserves the right to refuse entry into the program animals that in the Association's opinion do not fit the criteria of the program.
12. All bulls and heifers must be dehorned or tipped and weaned at least 45 days before arrival at the feedlot. Horned animals may be tipped by feedlot personnel to ensure safety. It is recommended that bulls and heifers be vaccinated twice for IBR, PI3, BRSV and BVD with the second dose given 2-4 weeks before they arrive. Consignors are urged to use the Tex-Vac 45 program. Contact your County Extension Office for details of the Tex- Vac 45 program. Also, there is a link to it on the bull gain test web page.
13. Animals originating from within a Fever Tick quarantine area must provide paperwork documenting that they were dipped immediately prior to being transported to the feedlot.
14. All consignors should become familiar with new Trichomoniasis regulations in Texas. A copy of a TAHC fact sheet is available on the TAHC website. A link to it has been placed on the bull gain test website. Bulls will be always segregated while at the feedlot. (New- Bulls that have been exposed to females or are 18 months or older at the time of delivery to the feedlot must be Trichomoniasis tested. Trichomoniasis Test papers must be submitted with these bulls upon delivery to the feedlot).
15. **All bulls and heifers must be permanently identified with ear tags, brands, or tattoos.** Make sure the method used is legible. Upon arrival at the feedlot, all animals will be ear tagged with an RGV BIA assigned number to insure correct identification during their stay at the feedlot.
16. Bulls will be placed on feed for 14 days before initial weights are taken. Initial and ending weights of the bulls will be calculated by averaging weights taken on two consecutive days. For the heifer development program, heifers will be weighed once at the beginning and again at the end of the program.

_____, *Consignor's Initials- I have read and understood page 3 of this Agreement.*

17. Data may be collected on bulls and heifers for demonstration purposes with the approval of the RGV BIA.
18. Upon arrival, bulls and heifers will be processed and vaccinated with IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV, TSV2. Pasteurella, vitamins A, D, & E, 7-Way, de-wormer, delice will be administered.
19. Information gathered will include initial and final weights, average daily gain, body condition score, scrotal circumference (bulls), sheath score or navel score, disposition score, reproductive tract score (heifers), pelvic area measurement, hip height (frame score), ultra-sound measurements for intramuscular fat, backfat thickness and ribeye area, and trichomoniasis test and a breeding soundness exam (bulls).
20. A growing ration will be fed. Bulls and heifers will be fed in regular feed yard pens. Bulls and heifers will be kept in separate pens. Animals will be fed twice daily.
21. Cattle will be monitored daily by the feed yard management for health purposes. Animal health care will be administered, and charges will be made to consignors on animals feed yard management deems necessary. If necessary, sick animals will be segregated.
22. Rio Beef Feed yard may obtain the services of a veterinarian for treatment of any animal without prior consent of the RGV BIA or individual consignors. In case of death of an animal, the animal will be necropsied with the expense being born by the consignor. The feed yard manager is to notify the owner of health problems among the cattle as they arise. **Rio Beef Feed yard, the RGV BIA, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and/or the Texas A&M University System will not be held liable for the death, sickness, or injury of any animals.**
23. Rio Beef Feed yard reserves the right to segregate or, if necessary, remove any problem animals at the discretion of the feed yard manager. Concerns and/or problems consignors have will be routed to the feed yard manager Mike Risica, 956-642-3617.
24. Feed, medicine, processing, chute charge, ear tag, test and exam charges will be billed directly to the consignor by Rio Beef Feed yard on a bimonthly basis.
25. **MANDATORY: All bulls and heifers are to be delivered on the same day at the start of the Gain Test. No early or late entries will be allowed.**
26. **MANDATORY: All bulls and heifers need to be picked up on February 22, 2024, no exceptions.**
27. **MANDATORY: Bulls that make the Online Sale will be picked up at the consignor's ranch, not Rio Beef Feed yard.**
28. **MANDATORY: Feed bills must be paid in full on or before the bulls can be picked up.**
29. **Once bulls enter the Gain Test, they are committed to be there until the conclusion of the Test.**
30. **Note: Due to high corn prices, feed costs are projected to be about \$550 to \$1,000 per head.**

_____, *Consignor's Initials- I have read and understood page 4 of this Agreement.*

- 31. County Extension Agents will certify the weights and data collected. Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, will serve as advisor and assist with data collection and processing. All data is public information and will be given freely to all participants. The official Beef Development Program web page is: <https://hidalgo.agrilife.org/home/agriculture/beef-development-program/>
- 32. The consignor hereby grants to RGV BIA/Rio Beef Feed yard a lien on all cattle placed in the feeding facility. Said lien will be paramount to all others not of record at the time the cattle are placed on the feeding premises. This lien is granted for the purpose of securing payment of all charges and expenses arising from the terms of this agreement. Release of cattle will be subject to payment of all expenses.
- 33. I certify below that I have read and understood this Memorandum of Agreement and agree to these conditions.

Signature of Consignor

Date

Signature of Feed yard Manager

Signature of RGV BIA Representative

☆ *This form is due with animals upon arrival at the feed yard* ☆

Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association • Beef Development Program
2023-2024 APPLICATION FOR ENTRY

Ranch Name: _____

Owner or Manager: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone (mobile): _____ Phone (office): _____

RGVBIA Annual Membership Dues Required				\$ 50.00
Number of Calf Bulls Consigned →		X	\$50.00/hd	\$
Number of Junior, Intermediate or Senior Bulls Consigned		X	\$85.00/hd	\$
Number of Heifers Consigned →		X	\$30.00/hd	\$
Bring this form and payment for this total when delivering cattle to the feed yard.				Total \$

Make check payable to: **Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association**

Cattle Delivery Date
 Bulls and heifers: Wednesday, October 4, 2023, from 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.

List each animal in the table provided. Use the back or attach additional sheet if necessary.

	Breed	Birth Date	Breed Registry #	Identification (Brand, tattoo, ear tag)	Place in Sale?	
					YES	or NO
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						

	Breed	Birth Date	Breed Registry #	Identification (Brand, tattoo, ear tag)	Place in Sale?	
					YES	or NO
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
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☆ *Keep this page for your calendar* ☆

**Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association
Bull Gain Test & Heifer Development Program
2023-2024 Schedule**

All consignors are encouraged to assist with working the cattle as listed below.

Date*	Time*	Description
October 2, 2023	Midnight	Due date to RSVP CATTLE , click on this link to RSVP online or call 956-383-1026
October 4, 2023	9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. 12:00 noon	Bulls and heifers delivered to feedlot, weighed, tagged BBQ Lunch provided for feedlot personnel and those delivering cattle. All consignors/drivers are invited.
October 18, 2023	9:00 a.m.	Weigh bulls (beginning weight A)
October 19, 2023	9:00 a.m.	Weigh bulls (beginning weight B)
February 8, 2024	9:00 a.m.	Weigh and Sonogram bulls and heifers (ending weight A)
February 9, 2024	9:00 a.m.	Weigh bulls (ending weight B)
February 15, 2024		Post Preliminary Sale Order (before BSE/Trichomoniasis tests)
February 15, 2024	9:00 a.m.	BSE/Trichomoniasis Test administered by Veterinarian
?		Clip and video tape Sale Bulls
February 22, 2024		Post Final Sale Order (after BSE and Trichomoniasis results are received)
February 22, 2024	9:00 a.m.	Release Bulls and Heifers
		Bull Gain Test Awards will be given at an educational program – Date yet to be determined.

* Dates and times subject to change

**Bull Ranking Protocol
RGVBIA Bull Gain Test
2023-2024 Gain Test**

All bulls will be divided into four age groups based on the following birthdates:

Calf	01/01/23 - 04/30/23
Junior	09/01/22 - 12/31/22
Intermediate	05/01/22 - 08/31/22
Senior	01/01/22 - 04/30//22

Bull data will only be compared within the breed and the above age groups.

RGVBIA Index

Within each age group and breed, bulls will be ranked using the ratio of the Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association Index.

Description	Percentage
Ratio of Average Daily Gain	30
Ratio of Rib Eye Area/cwt	20
Ratio of Weight per Day of Age	20
Ratio of Marbling	20
Ratio of Scrotal Circumference	10

Awards

Awards will be presented based on the number of bulls of the same breed in each age group as follows:

Number of bulls of the same breed within each age group	Awards to be Presented
3 - 5	Champion
6 - 14	Champion Reserve Champion
15 or more	Champion Reserve Champion First Runner Up