2014 MSUE Bull Breeding Soundness Exam Clinics

Program Summary
2014 Michigan Bull Breeding Soundness Exam Clinics

The MSU Beef Extension Team will once again be organizing regional Bull Breeding Soundness Exam Clinics. Last year, the program tested over 300 bulls for 110 different operations. By identifying these potential male fertility problems, producers were able to reduce the risk of a less than optimum breeding season. The MSUE Beef Team encourages you to have BSE conducted on your breeding bulls every year. Contact your veterinarian or take advantage of the following Breeding Soundness Exam Clinics organized by MSUE. Cost is $55 per bull when done at one of the MSUE clinics. To schedule an appointment at one of these BSE clinics, please call the appropriate contact person as soon as possible. All Clinics start at 8:30 AM. In addition, the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine regularly schedules at-farm appointments for BSE’s. To schedule an appointment contact the MSU CVM Large Animal Clinic at 517-353-9719.

Location: Gary Voogt Farm, 2831 Hayes St, Mame MI
Date: Friday, March 14th, 2014
Contact: Kevin Gould @ 816-627-3357 or Gary Voogt @ 816-677-3900

Location: Matt Miller Farm, 2686 E. Bellvue Rd, Charlotte MI
Date: Friday, March 20th, 2014
Contact: Beede Lake Veterinary Clinic @ 269-441-9233

Location: Darryl Brazeul Beef Farm, 666 Hoffman Road, Gladwin MI
Date: Friday, April 11th, 2014
Contact: Katie Thurlow @ 989-426-7741

Location: MSU Lake City Experiment Station, 5401 W. Jennings Road, Lake City MI
Date: Thursday, April 17th, 2014
Contact: Katie Thurlow @ 989-426-7741 or Doug Carmichael @ 231-838-4608

Location: Kevin Wernette, 9144 50TH AVE, Ramus MI
Date: Saturday, April 19th, 2014
Contact: Kevin Gould @ 816-627-3357 or Dr. Todd Miller @ 231-932-3000

Location: Upper Peninsula of Michigan
Date: April 21-25th, 2014
Contact: Frank Wardynski @ 906-684-4386

Location: Chuck Preston Farm, 4780 County Line Road, Prescott MI
Date: Saturday, April 26th, 2014
Contact: Phil Durst @ 989-387-5346 or Chuck Preston @ 989-673-4164

Location: Apple Hill Angus Farm, 1691 S. King Rd., Harrisville MI
Date: Saturday, May 10th, 2014
Contact: Phil Durst @ 989-387-5346 or John MacMaster @ 989-736-8020
## Summary of BSE Results 2007-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Locations</strong></td>
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<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Owners</strong></td>
<td>47</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>106</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non MSU DVM's Involved</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MSUE Educators Involved</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MSUE Campus Faculty</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>159</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Passed BSE</strong></td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>0.82</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Did Not Pass BSE</strong></td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>0.18</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred</strong></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unsatisfactory</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.04</td>
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</table>

<sup>a</sup>Drs. Barbu, Heinze, Miller, Kroll, Coyer
<sup>b</sup>Gould, Thurlow, Lindquist, Wardynski, Durst
<sup>c</sup>Drs. Grooms, Ames
Summary of BSE Clinic Survey Results 2007-2014

A survey was prepared to gather demographic information on those participating in the BSE clinics. The survey was completed by 53 of 106 (50%) owners who participated in the BSE clinics.

- Number of surveys completed – 53

- Number of counties represented by respondents – 24
  - Green – Counties where bull owners came from that completed survey (n=24)
  - Red – Counties where bull owners came from that surveys were not completed (n=12)
Total number of cows exposed to bulls in 2014 – 3,716
Average number of cows/herd in 2014 – 73
Range of cows/herd in 2014 – 8 to 270
Number of cows exposed to bulls in 2013 – 3740
Average number of cows/herd in 2013 – 71
Number of open cows that were exposed to bulls in 2013 – 347
Average percent open cows exposed to bulls in 2013 – 5.0%
Range of open cows exposed to bulls in 2013 in 2013 – 0% to 44%
30 of 53 (57%) of those surveyed has had at least 1 bull classified as an unsatisfactory breeder
10 of 53 (19%) of those surveyed have had more than one bull classified as an unsatisfactory breeder

The economic impact of an infertile bull as estimated by respondents was:
- Average – $2,784
- Range – $0 to $40,000
- Mode – $1,000
- Median – $700

The economic value of a BSE as estimated by respondents was:
- Average – $2,129
- Range – $0 to $22,000
20 of 32 respondents said they learned something at BSE clinic. 7 of 32 respondents claimed they had not learned anything. Here are some of the items that respondents reported to have learned:

- Characteristics of healthy sperm cells
- Different things that can go wrong
- Herd health
- Viable sperm, sperm counts
- About sick calves
- Procedures
- Importance of the BSE
- Dr. Grooms always gives more info on every question we have for him
- We learned what can cause fertility issues
- What yearling bulls testicular size should be
- Vaccination programs, MSU projects
- Sperm deformities, growths on penis
- Trichomonas info, nutrition info, general management info
- The different abnormalities of sperm
- Some bulls will not pass test
- Talking with other producers, technical info from vet on processes
- Good to visit others

19 of 36 respondents say they have made management changes based on things they have learned at BSE clinics. Here are some of the management changes reported to have been made:

- Better wintering of bulls
- Vaccination program
- Have them tested
- Try to have a warm dry area for bulls

2014 Bull BSE Program
More grain per bull
- Important to have bulls tested every year
- Buying bulls with high maternal EPD’s
- Confident in shortening breeding season & vaccinations
- Feed more minerals
- Calving period, body scoring
- Keep bulls drier in winter and more wind protected
- Didn’t know prior about BSE testing and importance of fertility
- Sold infertile bulls
- Provide bedding for bulls
- Management changes for Johnes/Leucosis
- Good winter bedding, good feed
- Feeding programs

The following topics were suggested to be addressed by MSUE:
- Back grounding
- Better access to markets
- TB
- Health
- Bull purchasing- how to?
- Local markets
- Doing a good job know
- Selenium and vitamin deficiencies
- Reproductive improvement
- Forage based low/no antibiotic protocol
- Marketing calves
- Ways to market cattle, internet, advertising
- Vaccination, visual inspection- what to look for (positive/negative)
- Program beef - variation protocols, deworming
- Chute rental for handling/processing cows
- Forage raised beef, medium framed cows
- Nutrition
- Maybe a bred heifer market?
- TB eliminated in deer
- Frame size
- Keeping cows for future, holding cost down to max profitability

- The following were topics to be considered as part of an MSUE led Beef Cattle College:
  - See University of Minnesota (excellent outreach program by mail & on the web)
  - Herd fertility, having availability of a ultra sound service
  - Nutrition, long/short suffrage fiber, measuring calving ease
  - Optimum over maximum
  - Good herd
  - Minerals, bulls
  - Herd health
  - Cost of cattle profit
  - Genetics
  - Fed beef
  - Hay management, marketing
  - Peg check, AI class, collection
  - A.I.
  - At hat stage do we have too many crosses
  - AI breeding synchronizing
  - Fly control, vaccines, forage based organic products
  - Selections AI sires based on cow type
  - Marketing, containing input costs
  - Marketing, vaccines, ration economics
  - Maybe
Calving issues, health with calves, vaccination protocols, cattle trends (type & kind)
All everything
BQA
Marketing, nutrition, how genetics effect cutouts
Yes
Herd health, timed A.I., pasture info
Peg Checking, AI breeding
Profitability
Quality of feed vs. marginal feed acres needed
Keeping cows for future, holding cost down to max profitability
All "new" research
One goal of the MSUE BSE program is to increase BSE capacity among private veterinary practitioners in Michigan. This map shows where there are currently veterinarians providing BSE services for clients in Michigan.

2014 Bull BSE Program
MSUE BSE Team

Dr. Dan Grooms DVM, MSU CVM
Kevin Gould, Ionia County
Kable Thurlow, Gladwin County
Frank Wardynski, Ontenogon County
Phil Durst, Ogemaw County
Jerry Lindquist, Osceola County