

Welcome - Terms & Conditions 2018 'The Maine Bull Sale'

Comments & Opening Words

As I reflect over the past 14 years of setting up 'The Maine Bull Sale' I think of all the hardships that we in the cattle business have witnessed. To say its been a roller coaster ride is probably an understatement. From the shock and recovery of BSE to the dry years and recently a market that we thought was only achievable in a dream.

With the demand from global buyers for red meat produced in North America at an all time high - why should we worry about what we buy or how we raise it? That is a question I sometimes ask myself. Premiums are starting to be paid for quality genetics and for good reason - both packers and feeders are realizing the advantages that genetics from top end producers are worth and they are paying larger premiums compared to the averages that the industry was accustomed to pay. Both technology and data collection in today's industry is allowing us to follow thru inventories and in the end I believe it's benefiting our customers with their Maine Anjou and Mainetainer calves at marketing time.

From lean meat yield, feed efficiency, conversions, quality grade and marbling we offer a lot. Everyone thinks of the Maine Anjou breed as a showring breed but to our customers we understand that most of you show your's just once a year! That is the time when you sell them - if it's in the fall as a bawling calf or in the spring backgrounded or maybe out of the feedlot to the packer. We realize why their is a difference in value for cattle and we try to breed our herd to help our customers realize the genetic advantage in using our bulls.

Over the 45 plus years my parents, especially my Dad, have marketed our program worldwide but I think the best job they have done in promoting the benefit of Maine Anjou genetics is right here in Western Canada. We are proud of the job that our breed has done over the past 45 years but I look forward to the years ahead more than what is behind us.

It's good times to be in the cattle business today but we must remember one thing to stay in the business we still need a momma cow! That cow better be fertile, maternal and easy to handle when needed. That is why we believe in the Maine Anjou and Mainetainer influence in the cowherd and why we are so eager for our bull offering to get to work out in your fields. Again this year we have witnessed right at 80% of our calves born in the first 3 weeks of our season - fertility means uniformity and profit.

As for this years offering we continue to manage and grow our calfcrop as the majority of our customers do. We utilize no creep on our calves and the cows live on a diet of hay or graze on forage with no silage or grain supplemented to their diet.

The bull calves are weaned mid Sept yearly and started at home for 6 weeks on hay and tame hay pasture and receive 6 lbs of a rolled growing ration before being moved to Schunicht Farms around November 1st - where they are programmed on a growing & limited fed silage & chopped hay ration. We feed so the bulls have an opportunity to prove performance but by no means are they pushed on a high energy ration. We believe that longevity is not only genetic but proper management can help that process as well. We have stepped away from showing for various reasons but the main reason is that it has helped compare all of our calfcrop on the same management program to enable our customers the opportunity to compare our genetics on a truthful straightforward feeding program.

We look forward to March 21 and hope that you will be able to stop by and inspect the bulls for yourselves. We think that this years offering is our most uniform and best set ever and as you go thru the offering you will notice the sire groups offer numerous 3/4 brothers to help enable you a chance for a uniform set of calves from these bulls. Please feel free to call and discuss if you have any questions on the offering.

All bulls will be Semen tested at the end of March - as always all the scrotals are actual to Feb 19 - in the past we see these bulls change from 1-4 cm when we semen test as they bulls are just reaching puberty and will be approx 13 months of age at test time. We stand behind these bulls 100% on their breeding soundness. We will work with our buyers to get the bulls to your location in April and for an US buyers we will test and help get the bulls to you at cost.

Thanks for the business and help yourselves to the bulls,
The Wilson Families