

# RIO GRANDE VALLEY BEEF IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION BEEF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Bull Gain Test, Heifer Development Program and Pen of Steers



## 2014-2015 Information Packet

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Wish to share this with others? This information is available on the gain test web page located at: <http://hidalgo.agrilife.org>

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 Beef 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.

### 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.

### 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

**Ben Olivarez** - Olivarez Ranches, Mission

**Bill Wentz**- Wentz Cattle Co., Olmito

**Javier Moreno**- La Negra Cattle Co., Edinburg

**Larry Sidebottom**- Lazy JV, Edcouch

**Wayne Reavis**- Reavis Farms, Mission

**Carlos Guerra, Jr**- La Muñeca Cattle Co., Edinburg

*This form is due with animals upon arrival at the feedyard.*

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 \_\_\_\_\_ 2014, this Memorandum of Agreement between  
day month  
the Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association (RGVBIA), Rio Beef Feedyard, 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 23, 2014 until  
their removal from the feedyard.

**PROGRAM PROVISIONS AND INFORMATION**

1. Each consignor must be a member of the RGVBIA. Dues are \$30.00 per year per ranch and the consignment fee is \$30.00 per head.
2. Bulls and heifers may be any breed or cross breed.
3. For bulls, this is an official 112 day gain test. All bulls consigned must be from 15 to 6 months of age at the start of the program. Bulls will be divided into three groups: Group 1, Late Summer Yearling Bulls: calved 7/20/13-10/19/13; Group 2, Late Senior Bull Calf: calved 10/20/13-1/19/14; Group 3, Early Junior Bull Calf: calved 1/20/14-4/20/14.
4. For heifers, this is a development program. All heifers consigned should be from 15 to 6 months of age (calved 7/20/13-4/20/14) at the start of the program. Heifers may be fed during the entire feeding period or may be picked up earlier at the owner's discretion. If sonogram data is desired on heifers, they must be present at the feedyard when the bulls are sonogrammed.
5. All animals will be visually evaluated for age upon arrival at the feedyard. Animals not fitting the age criteria will not be accepted into the program. The RGVBIA reserves the right to refuse entry into the program animals that in the Association's opinion do not fit the criteria of the program.
6. 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 insure safety. It is required that bulls and heifers be vaccinated twice for IBR, PI3, BRSV and BVD with the second dose given 2-4 weeks before they arrive. An additional requirement is that all heifers be calthood vaccinated for Brucellosis, Vibro and Lepto. A copy of the TAHC Brucellosis Vaccination Form (VS form 4-26) must accompany heifers to the feedlot. Proof of vaccination will be checked. Unvaccinated heifers must be picked up immediately. 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 on the bull gain web page.
7. 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.
8. 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 kept segregated at all times while at the feedlot.
9. **All bulls and heifers must be permanently identified.** Ear tags, brands and tattoos are acceptable. Make sure the method or methods used are legible. All animals will be ear tagged with an RGVBIA assigned number to insure correct identification during their stay at the feedlot.

10. Bulls will be placed on feed for 14 days before initial weights are taken. Initial and ending weights of the bulls will be figured 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.
11. Data may be collected on bulls and heifers for demonstration purposes with the approval of the RGV BIA.
12. Upon arrival, bulls and heifers will be processed and vaccinated with IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV, TSV2. Pasturella, vitamins A, D, & E, 7-Way, dewormer, delice will be administered.
13. Information gathered will include: initial and final weights, average daily gain, body condition score, scrotal circumference, sheath score, reproductive tract score, pelvic area measurement and hip height. Every attempt will be made to include ultra-sound measurement of backfat thickness and ribeye area.
14. A growing ration will be fed. Bulls and heifers will be fed in 10 acre traps when available and in regular feedyard pens when traps are not available. Bulls and heifers will be kept in separate traps or pens. Animals will be fed twice daily.
15. Cattle will be monitored daily by the feedyard management for health purposes. Animal health care will be administered and charges will be made to consignors on animals feedyard management deems necessary. If necessary, sick animals will be segregated.
16. Rio Beef Feedyard 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 feedyard manager is to notify the owner of health problems among the cattle as they arise. **Rio Beef Feedyard, 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.**
17. Rio Beef Feedyard reserves the right to segregate, or, if necessary remove any problem animals at the discretion of the feedyard manager. Concerns and/or problems consignors have will be routed to the feedyard manager Mike Risica, 956-642-3617.
18. Feed, medicine, processing, chute charge, ear tag, Elisa test and ultrasound exam will be billed directly to the consignor by Rio Beef Feedyard on a bimonthly basis. All bills must be paid in full prior to cattle being removed from the feedyard.
19. 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: <http://hidalgo.agrilife.org/home/agriculture/beef-development-program>.
20. The consignor hereby grants to RGV BIA/Rio Beef Feedyard 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.

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Signature of Consignor

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Date

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Signature of Feedyard Manager

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Signature of RGV BIA Representative

☆ *This form is due with animals upon arrival at the feedyard* ☆  
 Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association • Beef Development Program  
**2014-2015 APPLICATION FOR ENTRY**

Ranch Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner or Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone mobile): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (office): \_\_\_\_\_

RGVBIA Annual Membership Dues Required				\$ 30.00
Number of Bulls Consigned →		X	\$30.00/hd	\$
Number of Heifers Consigned →		X	\$30.00/hd	\$
Number of Steers for Pen of Steers Program Consigned →		X	\$10.00/hd	\$
Bring this form and payment for this total when delivering cattle to the feedyard.				Total \$

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

**Cattle Delivery Dates**  
 Bulls and heifers: Tuesday, October 23, 2014 from 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.  
 Pen of Steers: Friday, November 14, 2014 from 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.  
**Delivering cattle late causes problems.**  
**If cattle can not be delivered during above times, arrange to bring early.**

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)
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

attach Brucellosis Vaccination Form (VS form 4-26) for all heifers

**Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association  
Beef Development Program  
2014-2015 Schedule**

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

Date	Time	Description
Friday, October 17, 2014		RSVP Due, click on the link below <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?fromEmail=true&amp;formkey=dGYyT3JuOXpPaUMwWTcxeGZkNU5kQXc6MA">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?fromEmail=true&amp;formkey=dGYyT3JuOXpPaUMwWTcxeGZkNU5kQXc6MA</a>
Thursday October 23, 2014	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Bulls and heifers delivered to feedlot, weighed, tagged
Thursday November 6, 2014	9:00 a.m.	Weigh bulls (beginning weight A) optional date to deliver heifers
Friday November 7, 2014	9:00 a.m.	Weigh bulls (beginning weight B)
Friday November 14, 2014	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Pen of Steers go in the feedlot
Tuesday February 24, 2015	9:00 a.m.	Weigh bulls (ending weight A) Sonogram bulls and heifers (tentative date)
Wednesday February 25, 2015	9:00 a.m.	Weigh bulls (ending weight B)
Saturday March 14, 2015	10:00 a.m.	Santa Gertrudis Awards to be presented prior to the Open Santa Gertrudis Show at the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show
Thursday March 19, 2015	3:00 p.m.	Simbrah Awards to be presented prior to the Open Simbrah Show at the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show

Awards presentations times and locations for other breeds to be determined

**Bull Ranking Protocol**  
**RGVBIA Bull Gain Test**  
 2014-2015 Gain Test

All bulls will be divided into three age groups:

Late Summer Yearling Bulls    07/20/13 - 10/19/13  
 Late Senior Bull Calf            10/20/13 - 01/19/14  
 Early Junior Bull Calf            01/20/14 - 04/20/14

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

**RGVBIA Index**

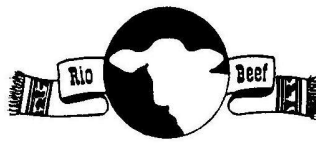
Within each age group, bulls of all breeds will be ranked using the ratio of the Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association Index.

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 or less	Champion
4 - 19	Champion Reserve Champion
20 or more	Champion Reserve Champion First Runner Up



## Rio Beef Feedyard Pen of Steers Program

Co-sponsored by AgriLife Extension, RGV Beef Improvement Association and Rio Beef Feedyard

Purposes: ● Provide an opportunity for producers to retain ownership of steers on through the feedlot by combining small numbers of steers together to make up a pen. ● Allow producers to determine how their cattle perform in the feedlot and if their animal genetics are on target for top performance by receiving carcass and feedlot data on individual animals, if so desired. ● Allow purebred breeders to collect carcass data on progeny of bulls for carcass merit and EPD calculations.

1. Consignment fee: \$10 per head plus an additional charge per head (\$7-10) if carcass data is desired. Must also be a member of the Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association, annual dues are \$30 per ranch, paid once annually when first entering either this program or the Bull Gain Test and Heifer Development Program.
2. Cattle will be placed on feed November 14, 2014.
3. Animals must weigh between 550 and 750 pounds.
4. Both steers and heifers are eligible and will be fed together. Bulls are not eligible.
5. Bulls needing to be castrated may have the feedlot do that for an additional fee if desired. One option is to bring bulls to the feedlot in late October, have them castrated, take them back home for a few weeks of recovery and then bring them back for the start of the feed period on November 14. Another option is to bring bulls on November 14 and have the feedlot castrate them as they go on feed.
6. It is strongly recommended that animals receive at least 7-way black leg and 4-way respiratory (preferably 2, initial and booster) vaccinations. For additional vaccination information see the Value Added Calf (VAC) Vaccination Program of Texas AgriLife Extension Service. The VAC publication is available from the RGV Beef Development Program website. The web address is: [hidalgo.agrilife.org/home/agriculture/beef-development-program](http://hidalgo.agrilife.org/home/agriculture/beef-development-program)
7. Steers will be vaccinated with IBR/P13/BRSV/BVD, 7-way and Pasteurella upon arrival to boost their immunity. They will also be dewormed and implanted. Due to implants, heifers cannot be removed from the feed program.
8. The feedlot strongly recommends that animals be weaned at least 30 days prior to delivery and be taught to eat out of a bunk/feed trough.
9. Animals that require treatment for illness will be treated following guidelines established by the feedyard veterinarian. Costs of treatment will be charged to the owner. The feedyard management will make every effort to safeguard the health of all animals, but assumes no responsibility for sickness or death loss.
10. Time on feed will be 180-250 days. The feedyard will make all decisions on the marketing of the cattle.
12. Once the feedlot receives payment for the cattle sales, all expenses will be deducted (including interest) and the balance will be paid to the owners of the cattle based on live weight taken on each animal at the conclusion of the feeding period, less a 4% pencil shrink.
13. **RSVP of cattle is required by October 17, 2014. A minimum of 40 head is required to conduct this program. Click on the link below to RSVP:**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?fromEmail=true&formkey=dGYyT3JuOXpPaUMwWTcxGZkNU5kQXc6MA>