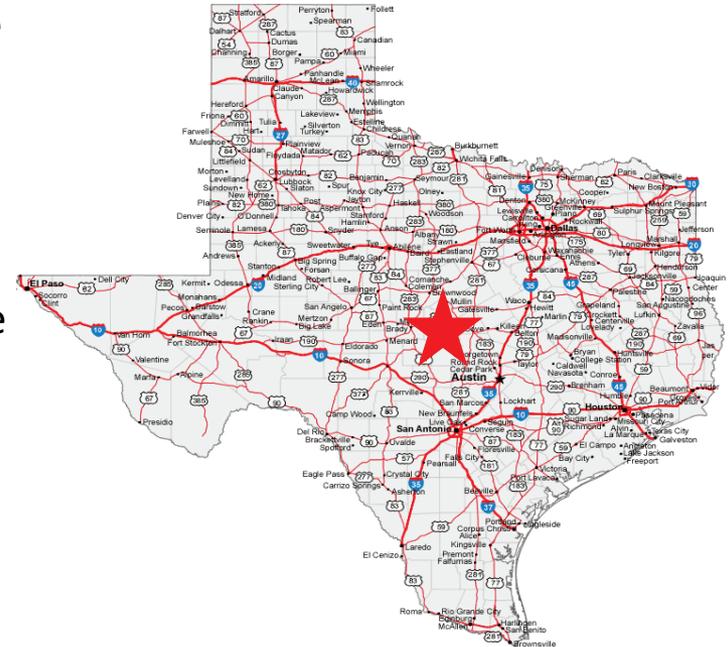


Summer 2017 Texas Wagyu On Feed Test Overview

SUMMER 2017
TEXAS
WAGYU ON FEED
BULL & HEIFER TEST

- A group of TWA members has been working towards creating a “gain and feed efficiency” test using a “Growsafe” system to measure average daily gain, feed efficiency and residual feed intake, and this test is scheduled to commence with animals delivered in early June.
- Bubba Kay, Brandon Baker, Larry Tebben, Josh Eilers and Jim Long have worked on this project over the past several months. Bubba Kay will be the test manager.
- The group desires to ultimately create an entity with capital sufficient to purchase and install at a feedlot a Growsafe system to be used year-round exclusively for Wagyu tests.
- Until a Growsafe system can be purchased, the group has negotiated with the Beefmaster breed association to use their Growsafe system installed at PX Feeders in Evant, Texas (60 miles west of Waco).
- We hope to create in the future a dedicated performance-tested bull sale to sell the bulls that went through the test and which thus have data that will make the bulls more valuable.
- For this first test in the summer of 2017, there will be no bull sale following the test, and participants can take their bulls home or leave them on a maintenance ration at PX Feeders until the Salado 2018 Steaks Are High sale.



Summer 2017 Texas Wagyu On Feed Test

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What Is A Growsafe System?

- The Growsafe system measures individual animal feed intake, weight gain and residual feed intake (“RFI”). This is done by measuring the amount of feed eaten by each animal real-time, using scales on individual feed bunks that only one animal can eat from at any given time, and recording the animal’s electronic ear tag and the weight of the feed eaten each time the animal comes to the trough to eat, and recording animal weight each time the animal comes to drink water.
- Growsafe systems have been used to do the past Wagyu sire progeny testing, and this system is widely used and is the most popular system of measuring feed efficiency, ADG and RFI.
- The Growsafe system has recently been installed at a feedlot in Australia to perform sire progeny testing of Wagyu.
- The Growsafe system can be expanded by adding additional sets of bunks.
- The current size of the system installed at PX feeders will allow testing of 60 bulls and 60 heifers, which is the maximum size of the tests we have planned for this summer.



Summer 2017 Texas Wagyu On Feed Test

Benefits Of Testing

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- Today the Wagyu breed lacks “data” in the United States, and even Australia’s data is limited.
- EBV data, while a goal of the AWA, will not be available based upon large populations of data for years.
- The proposed type of testing provides a method of having data in the very near future, but only for the animals tests (although tested animal’s sire and dam data can be extrapolated from the individual tested animal’s data).
- Feed efficiency is critically important to the Wagyu breed because of the extended time on feed to produce the higher levels of marbling that Wagyu are capable of producing.
- While animals are at the testing facility, other tests can also be performed such as ultrasound, other key measurements (weight, height, scrotal, pelvic, etc.). The end result will be a large basket of data that comes out of the test for all animals that go through the test.
- This test will result in a higher value being placed on animals that test in the upper portion of the test as compared to their peers in their contemporary group, with the animals that test the highest within their contemporary group having the highest theoretical value on a relative basis.

Summer 2017 Texas Wagyu On Feed Test

Test Measurements

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	Bulls	Heifers
Start Weight	X	X
Scan Weight (Yearling)	X	X
End Weight	X	X
ADG	X	X
WDA	X	X
RFI	X	X
Hip Heights	X	X
REA	X	X
IMF	X	X
Rib Fat	X	X
Rump Fat	X	X
BSE	X	
Scrotal Circumference	X	
Pelvic Area		X

Summer 2017 Texas Wagyu On Feed Test

Cost And Participation In The Test

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- Cost, including feed, is estimated to be \$800 for bulls and \$700 for heifers, the majority of which cost is for feed.
- Space is limited to 48 bulls and 52 heifers; “first come first served” subject to test manager acceptance.
- Animals must be delivered between 6/4/2017 and 6/9/2017.
- To learn more about the test, or to enter animals into the test, see the Test Rules posted on the TWA website, or contact Bubba Kay at KayRanch@gmail.com or (512) 801-1424.