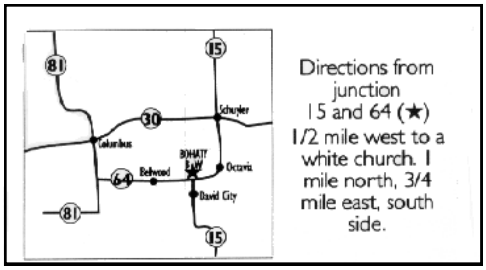
Bohaty Farm Bulletin

July 2012

Bohaty's British Whites—
Quality You Can Count On!

Thanks to everyone
Who came to our
20th Annual
Open House & Sale,
what a great day we all had.
Thanks also to those who have
purchased animals
following the sale.
All the females listed have been
sold; however there are
Several bulls left to pick from.
Take a look at our on-line
Catalog for your
herd sire prospects.
Top Selling bull $3500
Top Selling Female $2800

Selling American Full Blood Yearling Bulls tag numbers 30W (above) and 82R (below). Check our Internet catalog for details.



Directions from junction 15 and 64 (★) 1/2 mile west to a white church. 1 mile north, 3/4 mile east, south side.

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Buzz Killers By Wes Ishmael

Excerpts from Beef April 2012

One common bull management practice could do more harm than good when breeding season rolls around.

"Several pyrethroids can have devastating effects on the semen quality of bulls", says Dietrich Volkmann, DVM, a professor of food animal theriogenology at the Univ of Missouri Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. "aerial sprays as well as pour-on formulations have been implicated in the development of severe secondary sperm defects and very poor motility in exposed breeding animals."

Various pyrethroids may inhibit production of an enzyme necessary for the conversion of testosterone to dihydrotestosterone (DHT). DHT is necessary for the proper function of multiple accessory sex glands, including the seminal vesicles and prostrate, as well as the epididymedes.

"The toxic effects have been observed within a few days after the first exposure of bulls to the insecticides & lasted for as long as the pyrethroids exposure continued," Volkmann says. "After the last exposure, the sperm quality and motility of the vast majority of bulls recovered to normal, but only after 2 to 4 weeks."

Case studies Volkmann has been involved with point to the same results.

Here's one example: A seedstock producer brought 50 bulls (15-24 months old) to Volkmann and his crew for breeding soundness examinations (BSE) ahead of their annual sale.

"We stopped the examinations after about 20 bulls because only 3 had acceptable semen quality," Volkmann says. "When I prompted the client, he told us that he had poured these bulls for ectoparasites 2 weeks earlier; the product contained a pyrethroids. A sample of the bulls was retested almost 4 weeks after they had been exposed, but semen quality was still too poor for the majority to pass the BSE. A sample of the group was then tested a third time 8 weeks after the initial exposure, and these bulls all had normal semen."

In another example, a commercial contractor showed up unannounced to spray the barn walls of a commercial bull stud for fly control. There were about 50 bulls in the barn.

"Within days of the application of the insecticide, ejaculate volume, sperm motility and the freezabliity of semen declined sharply," Volkmann says.

"Sentinel animals were used to demonstrate the presence of bifenthrin in semen, blood, and urine for about 10 days. Semen quality returned to normal about 4 weeks after exposure."

He adds that bifenthrin was the active ingredient in the spray. It's a synthetic derivative of native pyrethrin, which has much longer residual activity than the native compound.

Volkmann understands these examples aren't controlled studies. But, he add, "The evidence generated in lab animals over the last 10 years or so demonstrates rather convincingly that pyrethroids are potent endocrine disruptors and do cause malfunctioning in DHT-dependant organs."

Consequently, Volkmann recommends that all pyrethroids treatments for bulls be discontinued or avoided no later than 4 weeks before the start of the breeding season. "No live-virus vaccines or any type of pyrethroids insecticides should be administered this late before the onset of a breeding season," says Volkmann.