

# Expanding Opportunities in Beef Industry

## Claire Woodard

Claire Woodard hasn't been in the beef cattle industry very long, but this 15-year-old from Madison is already making waves.

Her first entry into the Tifton Bull Evaluation Test did not make the sale this year, but Georgia Cattlemen's Association leaders are still pleased to see Woodard's efforts.

"It's encouraging to see something like that," says Josh White, GCA executive vice president. "It's exciting to see young people interested in the production side of the cattle business."

Woodard began her Simmental herd several years ago after beginning a show career with Herefords. Her first-year Simmental cow threw a bull calf, which was steered and harvested. This year, the same cow threw another bull.



"One of my goals was to produce quality bulls that will be easily marketable," Woodard says. "The bull was very structurally sound and really clean up front, which was what we were going for. Because of her having a bull I chose to put him in the Tifton Bull Test because it was a way to get cash flow, and I also wanted to see how our bulls would do on a performance test."

Woodard says she's pleased with how the Bull Test process is run, but was a little disappointed when her bull didn't make the sale, despite the compliments she heard about him being aesthetic and phenotypically sound.

The Tifton Bull Test looks at average daily gain and weight per day of age to determine a test index, and though Woodard's Simmental didn't gain as well as other bulls, she praises his other attributes.

"Out of all the Simmentals, he had the third-largest scrotal circumference there. He didn't have a bad average daily gain; he actually started as one of the top Simmentals but it went down just enough," she says. "At the end, he had a 3.39 average daily gain and a 3.11 weight per day of age."



Woodard brought the bull back home and ended up selling him for \$3,000, a price that only four other Simmental bulls brought at the bull test sale in March.

And though she's a bit disappointed, she's not discouraged.

"I know that I do want to continue with my beef herd and take on more responsibilities, and maybe even one day own [Whippoowill Farm] by myself or just me and my brother," Woodard says.



**15-YEAR-OLD CLAIRE WOODARD, MADISON, ABOVE, was one of two young cattle producers to enter bulls into the Tifton Bull Evaluation Test.**