

## **Bull Consignment Screening Policy**

### **Why We Screen Bull Consignments**

Beginning in **2024**, Southeast Highland Cattle LLC implemented a bull screening policy to ensure that only above-average quality bulls are offered through our sale. This policy will continue for the **2026 Southeast Highland Cattle Auction** and future events.

A herd sire contributes half of the genetics to every calf he produces, giving him a far greater influence on the direction and genetic progress of a herd than any single female. Because of this significant impact, we believe bulls should be held to a higher standard and subjected to greater selection pressure than other sale animals.

Our goal is to offer buyers a smaller selection of outstanding herd sires rather than a larger number of average-quality bulls. This helps maintain buyer confidence, supports stronger sale prices, and promotes long-term improvement of the Highland breed.

### **Screening Process**

All bull consignments are reviewed by a panel of experienced and impartial Highland breeders selected by the sale committee. Panel members do not evaluate bulls they have bred or own.

Each bull is assessed using photographs, videos, pedigree information, and any additional information provided by the consignor. Evaluations focus on factors including:

- Structural correctness
- Overall breed character and Highland type
- Growth and fleshing ability
- Maternal trait potential
- Temperament
- Movement (when it can be evaluated)
- Overall quality and suitability as a breeding bull

The committee reserves the right to accept or decline any bull entry based on these evaluations.

### **Why This Benefits the Sale**

There are typically far more bulls entered than the market can reasonably support, while the number of serious herd sire buyers remains limited. Offering only the highest-quality bulls creates stronger competition among buyers, supports higher sale averages, and provides greater confidence that every bull offered is worthy of becoming a herd sire.

While this means not every bull entered will be accepted, we believe this policy benefits consignors, buyers, and the Highland breed as a whole by maintaining high standards and encouraging continual genetic improvement.