1. Purpose:

The intent of this Animal Care and Use Procedure (SOP) is to describe the methods and procedures for the purchase and care of bulls used for breeding at the Texas A&M University – Commerce farm.

2. Procedures:

A. Bulls should be purchased that are in good health, are conformational and structurally sound, and have estimates of their breeding values (EPDs).

1. If purchase is by private treaty, the owner of the bulls should provide health history/health certificate including vaccinations, a breeding soundness exam, and breeding certificate stating the bulls virgin status / or negative trichomoniasis test.

2. If purchase occurs at an auction, the bull must be purchased with a health certificate from a veterinarian, a breeding soundness exam, and breeding certificate stating the bulls virgin status / or negative trichomoniasis test.

B. Bulls must have a quarantine period and the following health requirements before introduction in the herd.

1. Quarantine - 2-3 weeks to allow for observation of disease as well as to complete any of the missing health requirements listed below if needed. The attending veterinarian (AV) or someone designated by the AV should perform an initial examination of the animal(s) at arrival. The animal(s) will be observed daily and must be cleared by the AV at the end of the quarantine period before introduction into the herd.

2. Vaccinations
   i. 7-8 way Clostridial (Clostridia spp.)
   ii. Haemophilus Somnus
   iii. Respiratory (IBR, BVD, BRSV, PI3)
   iv. Vibriosis/Leptospirosis (Campylobacter fetus, Leptospira canicola, grippotyphosa, hardjo, icterohaemorrhagiae, and pomona).
   v. Rabies

3. Must pass a Breeding Soundness Exam performed by a veterinarian

4. Trichomoniasis
i. If a virgin bull
   1. \( \leq 24 \text{ months}; \) must be certified as virgin, by the breeder or his representative, on and accompanied by a breeder's certificate of virgin status
   2. 24 to 30 months; breeder’s certificate must include both owner and veterinarian signature

ii. If not a virgin bull or from a herd of unknown status (a herd that has not had a whole herd test)
   1. be tested negative on three consecutive culture tests conducted not less than seven (7) days apart or one RT-PCR test conducted within 60 days of sale or movement, be held separate from all female cattle since the test sample was collected, and be accompanied by a Trich test record showing the negative test results.

C. Care of Bulls

1. The following vaccinations will be administered annually.
   i. 7-8 way Clostridial (Clostridia spp.)
   ii. *Haemophilus Somnus*
   iii. Respiratory (IBR, BVD, BRSV, PI3)
   iv. Vibrio/Lepto

2. A breeding soundness exam will be given annually.

3. Bulls must begin the breeding season in good condition (BCS 6) and observed during the breeding season for excessive loss of condition.