

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



Upcoming events:

- December 6—Beef Quality Assurance trailer tour, Simpson County
- December 9—Cattlemen's Exchange: Initial meeting, Understanding feed and mineral tags, Amite/Franklin/Wilkinson/Adams County, Gloster, MS, Gloster Public Library, 6:00 p.m.
- December 13—Cattlemen's Exchange: Understanding feed and mineral tags, Covington/Jeff Davis/Simpson/Copiah County, Simpson County Community Center (Hwy. 49), 6:00 p.m.
- December 14—Cattlemen's Exchange: Understanding feed and mineral tags, Winona, MS, EE Ranches cafeteria, 6:00 p.m.
- January 11-12—Cattle reproduction short course, Distance education sites throughout Mississippi
- January 17—Cattlemen's Exchange: Understanding feed and mineral tags, Jones/Perry County, Calhoun, MS, Community Center, 6:00 p.m.
- January 18—Cattlemen's Exchange: Cattle nutrition and understanding feed and mineral tags, Oktibbeha/Webster/Choctaw County, Starkville, MS, Oktibbeha County Extension office, 6:00 p.m.
- January 18—Cattlemen's Exchange: Facilities, Clarke/Lauderdale County, Quitman, MS, Clarke County Extension office, 6:00 p.m.
- February 2-5—Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show, San Antonio, TX
- February 11—Mississippi BCIA annual membership meeting, Jackson, MS, Hilton, 1:00 p.m.
- February 11-12—Mississippi Cattlemen's Association annual convention, Jackson, MS, Hilton

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Mississippi BCIA Wraps Up Successful Fall Bull Sale

The annual Mississippi BCIA fall bull sale was held in Raymond on November 11. It featured 41 performance-backed bulls from breeders across the state. The top-selling lot was Ingrams Rito 616 M817, an Angus bull. Ingrams Rito 616 M817 was consigned by Ingram Cattle Company and sold for \$3,550.

Hereford—4 bulls
Gross receipts—\$4,425.00
Average price—\$1,106.25

Red Angus—1 bull
Gross receipts—\$2,200.00
Average price—\$2,200.00

Other breeders selling bulls in the BCIA sale included Monogram Farms, Wayne Hughey, Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, Evans Angus Farm, Boyles Farm, Richardson Angus Farm, Carson Farms, Woodpile Ranch, Martin Polled Herefords, Waggoner Farms, and Unity Creek Farm. The high-selling Red Angus, Charolais, and Hereford bulls went for \$2,200, \$1,800, and \$1,700, respectively. Sale results were as follows:

All breeds—41 bulls
Gross receipts—\$78,225.00
Average price—\$1,907.93

Angus—35 bulls
Gross receipts—\$69,800.00
Average price—\$1,994.29



Producers viewing bulls and visiting with breeders before the BCIA sale

Charolais—1 bull
Gross receipts—\$1,800.00
Average price—\$1,800.00

Thanks go out to all of the consignors and buyers who supported the sale. Buyers included: George Magee, Gene Graves, Charles Avery, Dennis Ray McCurdy, Dudley Bozeman, J. D. Sharp, John Smith, George Boyd,

Ralph Martin, H. D. Berryhill, Russell Canada, S. A. Sykes, Mary Jane Coign, Jody Wagner, John Prestage, Bobby Rhodes, H. D. Berryhill, Jr., W. P. Dickey, Jr., James Crowder, Circle S Ranch, LLC, Jim Anderson, John Love, Jr., Tillman Farr, Gary Smith, W. A. Norsworthy, and Steve White. The help from the folks at Hinds Community College in hosting and conducting the sale is also greatly appreciated. We look forward to another successful sale in 2005.

Make Plans to Attend MBCIA Annual Membership Meeting

Mississippi BCIA will hold its annual membership meeting on Friday, February 11, 2005 at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson, MS in conjunction with the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association annual convention. The BCIA session will start at 1:00 p.m. and will feature Dr. Scott Greiner, Extension Beef Cattle and Sheep Specialist from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Dr. Greiner serves as the educational advisor for the Virginia BCIA and will share information on Vir-

ginia BCIA programs and activities. He has a strong background in beef cattle breeding and genetics and meat science and will also speak on the "Pitfalls of Single Trait Selection". Educational presentations at the MCA convention will be part of the Pfizer Cattlemen's College that will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 11 and continue through Saturday, February 12. For the complete schedule of events, call the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association at (601) 354-8951.

Beef Innovators

The Mississippi BCIA, Mississippi State University Extension Service, and Mississippi Cattlemen's Association are working together to gather innovative production tips and ideas from Mississippi beef producers. Starting with the January 2005 issue of the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association's *Cattle Business in Mississippi* magazine, beef and forage innovations from around the state will be highlighted. The January issue will feature beef innovations from four Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Stations. Each issue after that, one beef or forage innovation from a Mississippi producer will be featured. Some production tips from the MAFES research stations appear below.



What innovations can be shared from your farm?



At the South Farm on the Mississippi State University campus, David Pinkerton built a device out of 2-inch PVC pipe to protect the cords running from the load bars of the digital cattle scale to a mount for the digital indicator. The PVC pipe not only protects the cords from damage, but it also keeps them out of the way during cattle working.

John Huston and Jimmy Ray Parish developed a calving box for the Prairie Research Station. The box is a lightweight plastic tub that contains essential calving supplies in-

cluding 7% iodine spray, a scalpel for castrating bull calves, tagging supplies, a tattoo kit, obstetric chains, spring scales, and a small digital scale. The tub doubles as a container to hold a newborn calf when collecting calf birth weights. For weighing calves, the tub sits atop an inexpensive digital scale that operates off of a 9-volt battery.



For the White Sand Research Unit at Poplarville, Larry Fitzgerald designed a hay spear that adapts onto the bucket of a bobcat for moving large round bales. The hay spear assembles easily and does not damage the bucket. This equipment modification allows



"... prizes will be awarded to producers submitting innovations that are published in the Cattle Business magazine."

Beef Innovators (Cont.)

more flexibility in handling hay at the research station.



At the Brown Loam Branch Experiment Station, Rhonda Vann constructed a heavy-duty rubber mat to place in front of the squeeze chute. The mat is made from used baler belts that are interwoven. It helps prevent

cattle from slipping and falling as they exit the squeeze chute. Dr. Vann reports that the mat has been a tremendous help in preventing cattle from becoming crippled or seriously injured during cattle working.

If you have a beef or forage “innovation” that you would like to share with fellow producers to improve their operations, please send it to Beef Innovators, Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762. Ideas can also be submitted by e-mail to jparish@ads.msstate.edu or bmckinley@ads.msstate.edu. Each submission should include a brief description of the innovation along with a photograph or diagram of the idea. Be sure to include your name and contact information as well. Prizes will be awarded to producers submitting innovations that are published in the *Cattle Business* magazine.

“... a minimum 365-day adjusted yearling weight of 850 lbs. is required to qualify for the BCIA Fall Bull Sale effective starting with the 2005 sale.”

Bull Sale Requirements Tightened for 2005

In keeping with continued genetic improvement efforts, the Mississippi BCIA Board of Directors recommended and approved the following changes to the annual fall bull sale requirements:

- 1) A minimum 365-day adjusted yearling weight of 850 lbs. is required to qualify for the BCIA Fall Bull Sale effective starting with the 2005 sale.
- 2) The age range requirement to the BCIA Fall Bull Sale will be expanded to include bulls up to 39 months of age effective starting with the 2005 sale.
- 3) At least one of the following 1) ultrasound EPDs, 2) carcass EPDs, and 3) ultrasound body composition scan results will be required for bulls to meet BCIA Fall Bull Sale eligibility effective starting with the 2006 sale.

Beef Quality Assurance Program Offers Producer Certification

The Mississippi Cattlemen Beef Quality Assurance (MS-BQA) program is a joint effort supported by the Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association, Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University Extension Service, and the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation. The program identifies areas in beef production where defects in quality occur and offers guidelines to help avoid them in Mississippi beef production operations. The BQA trailer shared with Louisiana is a familiar site to many producers around the state. Beef Quality Assurance producer certification can be accomplished by attending a MS-BQA training and by completing test questions and the

personal contract. Make an appointment to meet with your Extension county director or veterinarian to complete the process. These professionals should be able to answer or find answers to any questions you have about the reference manual and MS-BQA. The Mississippi Cattlemen BQA Program Reference Manual is available online at <http://msucare.com/pubs/publications/p2258.pdf>. Upon certification, you will be mailed a certificate that shows you have completed the MS-BQA materials and understand the MS-BQA guidelines. For more information about the MS-BQA program, contact Dr. Terry Engelken at (662) 325-1287 or engelken@cvm.msstate.edu.



Beef Quality Assurance involves more than just proper injection techniques.

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement
Association—Productivity and Quality

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Send questions or comments about this
newsletter to Jane Parish, Extension Beef
Specialist, Mississippi State University
Extension Service

Mississippi State University
does not discriminate on the
basis of race, color, religion,
national origin, sex, sexual
orientation or group affiliation, age, disability, or veteran status.



Visit MBCIA online at
[http://msucare.com/
livestock/beef/mbcia/](http://msucare.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/)

MBCIA Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

(Check one) Seedstock: Commercial:

Cattle breed(s): _____

Completed applications and \$5 annual dues payable to
Mississippi BCIA should be mailed to:

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association
c/o Jane Parish, Extension Beef Specialist

BCIA Management Calendar—December 2004

GENERAL

The quality of any remaining summer grazing or crop residues has likely declined rapidly by now. Protein and Vitamin A supplementation may be needed on these forages. Manage winter annual pastures to maintain at least four inches of stubble height. Limit grazing for a few hours per day is a good way to efficiently utilize winter forages and can provide acceptable protein supplementation to residual summer forages. Overgrazing can reduce winter forage availability over the grazing season and should be avoided. There is still time to test the quality of stored forages, if not already done, and order winter supplements at fall prices. Watch body condition, and group the herd into winter-feeding groups such as mature cows with average condition, thin mature cows, and first-calf heifers. Match forage and feeding programs to the nutritional needs of each group. Stockers, heifers, and fall pairs may be good groups to utilize annual ryegrass and other lush winter grazing. Be ready to handle severe weather conditions. Cattle energy requirements increase as the temperature drops below 15 degrees F. Keep proper free-choice minerals and clean water available for cattle at all times. Provide high magnesium mineral supplementation to cows on lush winter grazing, and watch for signs of grass tetany. Maintain a complete herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian including internal and external parasite control and vaccinations. Continue to watch for lice, and implement a control program as needed. Continue good production and financial record keeping. Plan a labor schedule for the holidays.

SPRING CALVING—January, February, March

Continue developing replacement heifers to reach 2/3 of mature weight by breeding time in early spring. Separate bred heifers from the cows, and provide adequate supplemental nutrition as fall forage quality declines. Monitor

body condition closely for the entire herd, and supplement thin cows and heifers as needed. Nutritional requirements increase about 10 to 15% in the last 30 to 45 days prior to calving. Maintain a good nutritional program targeting a body condition score of 5 (moderate condition) at calving for cows and 6 (high moderate) condition at calving for heifers. Do not underfeed in an attempt to reduce calf birth weight. Gather calving supplies such as calving record books, ear tags, obstetric equipment, disinfectants, and colostrum. Check bred heifers frequently. They should begin calving in December if bred ahead of the mature cow herd. Check expected calving dates on cows, and observe closely as calving approaches. Consult with a veterinarian to schedule pre-breeding vaccinations. Gather information about bulls at central test stations and in purebred herds to locate potential herd sires. Check sale dates and review bull performance information.

FALL CALVING—October, November, December

Take yearling measurements and calculate adjusted weights and ratios if not already completed. Continue observing heavy bred females frequently. After calving, move pairs to clean pasture and watch calves for scours. Consult with a veterinarian for advise on scours prevention and treatment. Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as appropriate, and maintain good calving records. Calculate fall calving percentage when the fall calving season is completed. Cow nutrient needs increase dramatically after calving. Make sure lactating cows are in good condition for breeding. Start breeding heifers about a month before the mature cow herd. They should weigh at least 65% of their expected mature weight. Heifers will also need to be in good condition at breeding for a high percentage to settle. It may be time to start feeding the best quality hay now and supplement according to forage test results. Implement the breeding program by turning out bulls that complement herd females and marketing objectives and have passed a breeding soundness examination.