

# Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

*Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality*



## Upcoming events:

- March 10—Cattlemen's Exchange: (Adams/Amite/Franklin/Jefferson/Wilkinson County) Forages, Gloster Public Library, 6:00 p.m.
- March 14—Cattlemen's Exchange: (Covington/Jeff Davis/Simpson/Copiah County) Forages-Tall fescue vs. annual ryegrass, Simpson County Extension office, 6:00 p.m.
- March 17-18—South MS Grazing School, MAFES White Sand Unit, Poplarville, MS
- March 21—Cattlemen's Exchange: (Choctaw/Oktibbeha/Webster County) Herd health, Webster County Extension office, Eupora, MS, 7:00 p.m.
- April 4—Cattlemen's Exchange: (Verona) Production and financial record keeping, North MS Research and Extension Center, Verona, MS, 7:00 p.m.
- April 9—Mississippi Angus Association Field Day, Ingram Cattle Company, Water Valley, MS, 9:30 a.m.
- April 11—Cattlemen's Exchange: (Jones/Perry County) Spring vs. fall calving/controlled breeding season
- April 12—Cattlemen's Exchange statewide meeting, Live from the MSU meats lab, distance education sites across MS, 6:00–9:00 p.m.
- April 19—Cattlemen's Exchange: (Neshoba/Kemper/Noxubee/Newton County) Pasture management, Neshoba County Coliseum, Philadelphia, MS, 6:00 p.m.
- April 22-23—Cattlemen's Exchange Mississippi Beef Tour

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## Cattlemen's Exchange Statewide Meeting—Live from the MSU Meats Lab

After months of local educational roundtable programs, Cattlemen's Exchange is offering its first statewide interactive meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2005. The program will originate live from the Meats Lab elevated classroom in Ballew Hall on the Mississippi State University campus from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It will be broadcast out to sites across Mississippi over the Extension distance education system.

The program will consist of an interactive demonstration and discussion. Attendees across the state will watch live as a whole side of a beef carcass is broken down into wholesale and then retail cuts. Participants can ask questions and discuss beef production and end-product as the meeting goes along. The program is open to anyone interested in attending, even if you have never been to a local Cattlemen's Exchange meeting before.

Distance education sites offered will be based on availability and requests. Interested producers are encouraged to visit with their local Extension office to find the most desirable local site to attend. To request that a particular distance education site be connected to this meeting, Extension personnel should contact Susan Seal directly or call Blair McKinley or Jane Parish in Extension Animal and Dairy Sciences at 662-325-3516.



Cattlemen's Exchange will meet as a statewide group for the first time to discuss beef end product.

For more information on this meeting or the Cattlemen's Exchange program, contact your local Extension office or area livestock/forages agent. Cattlemen's Exchange is a joint effort of the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association, Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, and Mississippi State University Extension Service.

## Hinds Bull Test Wraps Up 2004-2005 Test with Sale

Producers on hand at the recent Hinds Community College Bull Test Sale watched as some quality, performance backed seedstock were offered to the public. Bull breeds represented in the March 3 sale included Angus, Brangus, and Charolais from four Mississippi breeders. It was a buyer's day at the sale as producers had tremendous opportunities to purchase powerful genetics for their herd improvement efforts.



Performance backed bulls were recently marketed at the Hinds Bull Test Station

Bull performance data available included birth, weaning, and yearling weights, weights per day of age, performance test average daily gains, hip heights, frame scores, pelvic areas, scrotal circumferences, expected progeny differences (EPDs), ultrasound body composition scan data, and performance ratios. For more information on the Hinds Bull Test program, contact Kenny Baner at 601-857-3351.



Free choice minerals are up for grabs for the April prize

## March Beef Innovator

For March, the Beef Innovator program features a production idea from Hull Farms in Vaiden, MS. Charlie Hull built a telescoping panel into each side of his loading chute to make positioning a trailer easier. When the trailer is backed within a few feet of the chute, the panels slide out for a snug fit. The March Beef Innovator prize is an assortment of sorting flags and poles from Kerndt Livestock Products, 1015 19th Ave. NE, Rochester, MN 55906.



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](mailto:jparish@ads.msstate.edu) or [bmckinley@ads.msstate.edu](mailto:bmckinley@ads.msstate.edu). Each submission should include a brief description of the innovation along with

a photograph of the idea. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

Next month’s prize will be two bags of free-choice mineral courtesy of Land O’ Lakes Feed. Beef Innovators is a joint effort between the Mississippi BCIA, Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association and the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

## Cattlemen’s Exchange Tour Deadline Approaching

A deposit of \$25 is required by March 21, 2005 to reserve a spot on the upcoming Mississippi Cattlemen’s Exchange tour. Tour spots are available on a first-come first-served basis to the first 50 paid registrants. Tour participants will need to pay \$75 in addition to the initial deposit by April 11, 2005. This \$100 total payment covers the cost of tour transportation and lodging for one night. Meal expenses will be separate and the responsibility of each tour participant. Tour participants will be contacted with details on tour transportation and accommodations.

### Tour Schedule

#### Friday, April 22, 2005

10:00 a.m. Dudley Williams Farm, Clarke Co. The Williams brothers run a cow-calf operation where ownership is retained through the feedlot phase.

Noon—Lunch, Quitman

2:30 p.m. Tim Wise Farm, Perry Co.

This farm uses intensive grazing with all calves marketed in organized feeder calf sales.

4:00 p.m. Flying B Farms, Petal

*Flying B Farms is a registered Simmental operation relying greatly on the use of artificial insemination and embryo transfer.*

Overnight in Pascagoula

#### Saturday, April 23, 2005

8:30 a.m. Mallette Farms, Jackson Co.

*Mallette Farms is a marketing cooperative where 5 producers market 4 to 5 truckloads of calves together each year.*

Noon—Lunch, Hattiesburg

2:30 p.m. Holton King Farm, Monticello  
*Holton King operates a commercial cow-calf operation where performance information collection and genetic improvement are a priority.*

3:30 p.m. GLB Farms, Monticello

*Gerald Sumrall raises registered Brangus and Gelbvieh and is well known for producing Sumrall 007 bermudagrass.*

For more information on the Cattlemen’s Exchange Tour contact your local Extension office, Extension area livestock agent or call Extension Animal and Dairy Sciences at 662-325-3516.

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*“... The Cattlemen’s Exchange Mississippi Beef Tour will showcase innovative beef operations...”*

## BCIA Elects New Board of Directors for 2005

At the Mississippi BCIA annual membership meeting in Jackson on February 11, 2005, a new Board of Directors was nominated and approved. The Board is comprised of slots representing a variety of groups and individuals involved in Mississippi BCIA. These slots are allocated based on the by-laws adopted at the annual membership meeting in 2003.

Several new faces and several familiar faces are on the 2005 Mississippi BCIA Board of Directors.

### Commercial Producers

Wayne Doler (Term expires 2006)

Mike Smith (Term expires 2007)

Cooper Hurst (Term expires 2008)

Mike Keene (Term expires 2008)

### Purebred Producers

Charlie Hull (Term expires 2006)

Mike Howell (Term expires 2007)

Robert Field (Term expires 2008)

Brian Garner (Term expires 2008)

James Townsend (Term expires 2008)

### Mississippi Cattlemen's Assoc. Exec. VP

Sammy Blossom

### Mississippi Cattlemen's Assoc. President

George Alley

### MSU Animal and Dairy Science Department

Terry Kiser

### Extension Animal Scientist

Blair McKinley

### Area Extension Agent

Roy Higdon

### Hinds Bull Test Station

Billie Banas

### South Mississippi Forage Bull Test

Mark Mowdy

### Past Presidents of Mississippi BCIA

### Locations of BCIA sponsored sales

Kenny Banas

### Officers (Terms expire 2006)

President

Jim Anderson

Vice-President

Jack Evans

Secretary/Treasurer

Jane Parish

Mississippi BCIA appreciates the service and dedication of the 2004 Board of directors. The 2005 Board will face many challenges and opportunities in the coming year, particularly as we prepare to host the Beef Improvement Federation annual convention in Mississippi in April 2006.

*"... The (BCIA) Board is comprised of slots representing a variety of groups and individuals involved in Mississippi BCIA."*

## USDA Launches New Animal Identification Website

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Health and Plant Inspection Service recently launched a new website focusing on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The address for the new site is <http://www.usda.gov/nais>. The site features an overview of NAIS, information on premises identification, the evolution of NAIS in the United States, NAIS frequently asked questions and answers, 2004 NAIS state project summaries, explanation of the animal identification number, NAIS goal and vision, and NAIS subcommittee information.

Questions such as "Why is a National Animal Identification System needed?", "What are the benefits for producers to participate in the NAIS?", "How much will the program cost?", "Where do producers get premises identification numbers?", "What forms of identification are used?", "Who will have access to information in the NAIS databases?", "If a producer is currently using an identification program through a private sector or marketing alliance, will that identification be usable in the NAIS?" and many others are answered on the website.



Radio frequency identification technology is used to manage the MAFES beef herds

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Mississippi Beef Cattle  
Improvement Association  
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Email: jparish@ads.msstate.edu

Send questions or comments about this  
newsletter to Jane Parish, Extension Beef  
Specialist, MSU 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  
Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762

## BCIA Management Calendar—March 2005

### GENERAL

Watch for grass tetany, particularly on lactating cows grazing lush pastures. Feed a high magnesium mineral supplement to cows on annual ryegrass/tall fescue pastures. Provide proper free-choice minerals and fresh water at all times. Maintain at least 4" average stubble height on winter annual pastures to avoid overgrazing. Fertilize cool-season grasses according to soil tests if not done by February. Locate hybrid bermudagrass sprigs for planting next month. Spray to control little barley, buttercup, and other winter annual weeds. Plan summer fly control before fly population buildup. Consider vaccination for anaplasmosis and/or pinkeye and develop a complete herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian. Vaccinate all calves more than three months old for blackleg. Consider marketing cull cows.

### SPRING CALVING—January, February, March

Dip navels, identify, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as appropriate at birth. Acquire quality herd sires with performance information from reputable

sources. Make sure that calving ease sires are selected for breeding to heifers. Conduct breeding soundness exams and make sure bulls are in good condition in advance of spring breeding. Vaccinate all open cows and heifers for vibriosis, leptospirosis, and IBR at least 30 days before breeding. Consult with a veterinarian for BVD recommendations for the local area. Cows need to be in moderate to good condition to rebreed early. Place cattle with the highest nutritional needs (lactating first-calf heifers and cows) on the highest quality grazing and hay. Supplement the cow herd as needed according to forage test results. Start breeding heifers about a month before the cow herd.

### FALL CALVING—October, November, December

Remove bulls 283 days prior to the end of the desired calving season (mid-March to end the calving season around late December). Keep bulls in a small pasture traps with effective fences. Feed bulls to start the next breeding season in good condition. Observe the cow herd for returns to standing heat. Castrate and dehorn late calves or those missed in early working.