

# Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



### Upcoming events:

- May 9—South Mississippi Gain on Forage Bull Test Sale, Tylertown, MS
- May 11—Beef Cattle and Forage Field Day, North Mississippi Branch Experiment Station, Holly Springs, MS
- May 15—Cattlemen’s Exchange (Winona group) - Tour of Hull Farms and Riverdale Ranch, Meet at Valden truck stop, Vaiden, MS, 3:30 p.m.
- May 19—Beef Cattle Source Verification Short Course, distance education sites throughout MS, LA, and AL, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- May 27—Mississippi Gelbvieh Association annual field day, Lake, MS
- June 17—Mississippi Angus Association annual field day, Leveck Animal Research Center Beef Unit, MSU campus, Mississippi State, MS
- June 26-28—Mississippi Junior Cattlemen’s Association Making Tracks Leadership Camp, Mississippi State University
- August 4—Brown Loam Branch Experiment Station field day, Raymond, MS

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## Beef Improvement Federation Convention Highlights

- Nearly 500 attendees from 32 U.S. states, Canada, and South Africa participated in the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) 38th Annual Research Symposium and Annual Meeting in Choctaw, MS on April 18-21, 2006.
- The MSU Extension Service distance education team broadcast live coverage of the BIF 2006 general sessions and concurrent committee meetings to the Mississippi State University campus for students and staff to watch in real time.
- The National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium debuted their new 76-page Beef Sire Selection Manual. (Free copies are available upon request while they last by calling Extension Animal and Dairy Sciences at 662-325-3516).
- The 124 BIF convention attendees were from Mississippi .
- 6 golf teams teed off in the BIF golf tournament at Dancing Rabbit Golf Club.
- 15 ladies participated in the BIF 2006 spouses tour of Meridian, MS.
- Attendees received copies of the 134-page BIF 38th Annual Research Symposium and Annual Meeting Proceedings (Additional print copies are available for \$10 each by calling Extension Animal and Dairy Sciences at 662-325-3516).
- 94 people toured the Mississippi beef industry on the last day of the convention with stops at the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Leveck Animal Research Center, EE Ranches, Inc., the Gaddis Farms, and the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum.
- BIF 2006 caps and computer bags were a big hit among convention attendees. Caps are still available upon request for \$7 each, and the computer bags are \$20 each. Contact the Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association office at 601-354-8951 for more information.
- Jack Evans of EE Ranches, Inc. in Winona, MS was elected to the Beef Improvement Federation Board of Directors in an at-large producer position.
- Convention goers enjoyed excellent beef dishes and Southern cuisine including 600 lbs. of fresh crawfish.
- Mississippians, Harlan and Dorotheann Rogers and Dave Pingrey were honored as BIF Pioneers during the Wednesday awards luncheon.
- Baseball hall of fame pitcher, Nolan Ryan, served up delicious beef steaks and fine stories as he visited with the Wednesday night supper crowd at Neshoba County Coliseum.
- Angus Productions, Inc. provided Internet coverage of the meetings. Proceedings papers, slide presentations, and presentation summary articles are available online at [www.bifconference.com/bif2006/index06.html](http://www.bifconference.com/bif2006/index06.html)
- BIF 2006 educational programs were outstanding. DVDs of the programs will soon be available.



## Harlan and Dorotheann Rogers Honored as BIF Pioneers



BIF President, Lynn Pelton, presents the BIF Pioneer Award to Harlan and Dorotheann Rogers

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) honored Harlan and Dorotheann Rogers with the Pioneer Award during the organization's 38th annual meeting April 18-21 in Choctaw, Mississippi. The award recognizes individuals who have made lasting contributions to the improvement of beef cattle.

Harlan Rogers is the founder of Rogers Bar HR, which is located 100 miles from the Gulf of Mexico in Collins, Miss. He and his wife, Dorotheann, began a lifelong partnership more than 50 years ago. Both have been recognized on local, state and national levels for their contributions to the improvement of cattle.

In 1959 Harlan completed dental school, and he and Dorotheann moved back to Collins. Harlan started ranching with 27 acres of inherited land, four half-breed Charolais cows and one young bull. In 1961 he began performance testing his herd and has diligently worked to improve the Charolais breed since then.

Harlan and Dorotheann live on their 2,500-plus-acre ranch in Covington County where they manage about 500 registered Charolais cattle. Their four sons also live and are involved in various businesses in Covington County. Oby studied law and now has a practice in Collins; Bernie manages his own backgrounding operation; Doug, a West Point graduate, has become the managing partner of Rogers Bar HR; and Joey has assumed his father's dental practice. All four are still involved in the cattle business. The family hosts two sales annually, one in March and one in May. Their air-conditioned sale barn, built in 1975, has hosted 60 sales to date. Dorotheann handles all advertisements for the ranch and is the sale manager.

Harlan has been performance-testing his Charolais herd since 1961. Pedigrees in the Rogers Bar HR herd are stacked with accurate trait leaders. They have 156 females in the top 1% of the breed for Total Maternal and 117 females in the top 1% of the breed for Milk.

Rogers Bar HR bulls have won central bull tests in South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, New Mexico, Montana and Alabama (forage and grain). The ability to gain rapidly is im-

portant because it is closely related to feed efficiency — the most important trait in the feedlot.

Rogers Bar HR DNA-types herd sires for tenderness and marbling markers. They are now in the process of testing their top cows and have plans to test all of their cattle in the near future.

The Rogerses currently oversee a stocker operation through which they background more than 10,000 head a year and develop several hundred commercial Brangus replacement heifers. Adding diversity, their commercial operation has also kept them in tune to the needs of commercial cattlemen and feedlots where they feed several thousand head. They have worked to increase rate of gain, feed efficiency, marbling and calving ease in their Charolais herd. It has always been their belief that the purpose of the seedstock breeder is to produce a product that is beneficial and helpful to the commercial cattlemen.

Harlan has been president of many organizations, including the Covington County Cattlemen, Mississippi Charolais Breeders, Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA), Southeast Charolais Breeders Association and American-International Charolais Association (AICA). He has served as a director of the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association; Forrest County Cooperative; Mississippi Federated Cooperative; and SF Services, a large regional cooperative in Little Rock, Arkansas.

He was named the 1985 Mississippi Cattleman of the Year, and in 2003 received the Mississippi Network Louis N. Wise Award for Mississippi Cattle Farmer of the Year. In 2005 he was selected as the AICA Seedstock Producer of the Year and was awarded the Mississippi Livestock Environmental Stewardship Award.

Says Harlan, "There is no higher form of art, nor a more pleasing task, than that which deals with the genetic manipulation of an animal's genes in a way that molds the resulting offspring into a creature that is pleasing aesthetically and performs to the expectations of the person who, with God's help, created it."

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*"Harlan has been performance-testing his Charolais herd since 1961..."*

## BIF Honors Dave Pingrey with Pioneer Award

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) honored the late Dave Pingrey with the Pioneer Award during the organization's 38th annual meeting April 18-21 in Choctaw, Mississippi. The award recognizes individuals who have made lasting contributions to the improvement of beef cattle.

Pingrey was born and raised in Minnesota, graduated from Iowa State University (ISU), and resided in Mississippi for more than 50 years. He first distinguished himself in the livestock arena as a member of the 1947 ISU livestock judging team, which won both the judging contests at the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo., and the International Livestock Show in Chicago, Ill. He was high individual at the International and in the top 10 at the American Royal. These accomplishments led to his hire by Mississippi State University as livestock judging coach in 1948.

Pingrey left teaching to go into the purebred Angus business, moving to Macon, Miss., where he developed and managed his first Angus herd at Prairie Point Farms. From 1963 to 1969, he served as executive secretary of the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association. While working with the cattlemen's organization, Dave gained great respect and appreciation of all cattle producers, especially the small-scale commercial cattle owners.

In 1970 Pingrey, in partnership with Harris Swayze, established Black Bull Cattle Co. in Yazoo County, Mississippi. Pingrey was

strongly motivated by Mississippi State's Leroy Boyd to develop a performance evaluation program. It simply involved the identification of superior performers in his environment and the use of these superior performers at Black Bull Cattle Co.

Pingrey served two three-year terms on the board of directors of the American Angus Association. He served as vice-president of the association in 1979 and as president in 1980. During this time his relationship with Richard Willham, American Angus Association advisor from ISU, and Dale Davis, fellow board member from Belgrade, Mont., gave Dave a better understanding of performance evaluation and its potential benefits to the industry. During his years on the board, he helped shape and guide the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR<sup>SM</sup>) program and the Angus sire evaluation program. The Certified Angus Beef (CAB) Program was initiated during his time with Angus, and the Association purchased the Angus Journal. Pingrey has been honored by his induction into the American Angus Hall of Fame, Mississippi Agricultural Hall of Fame, Mississippi Cattlemen's Hall of Fame and the Mississippi State University Livestock Judging Team Hall of Fame.

He was a man of strong beliefs and influenced many young people in the livestock arena through the years. His dedication to the cattle business will long be remembered.



Catherine Edwards and Jerry Morrow accept the BIF Pioneer Award for Dave Pingrey from BIF President, Lynn Pelton

## Notable BIF 2006 Quotes

"...we put all the ultrasound information we can in the catalog. Buyers have been paying attention." — Tommy Brown, Clanton, AL beef producer and BIF board member

"In the new demand chain, the consumer is king. Consumers say what they want, and it is the responsibility of everyone in the supply chain to deliver." — Kevin Murphy, Vance Publishing Corporation

"As a tool to improve efficiency by selection, EPDs for measures of input and for measures of output are more effective than a new EPD based on some ratio of inputs and outputs." — Dorian Garrick, Colorado State U.

"For some reason, poultry and pork have seemed to figure out how to take advantage of genetic diversity and produce a consistent product. The beef industry has not done so on a widespread basis." — Dave Daley, California State University, Chico

"The need to measure feed efficiency is desirable, when you consider that feed cost represents 60% of the total cost of finishing a steer, and at least 63% of the total cost of maintaining a beef cow." — Daryl Strobehn, Iowa State University

"It's all about documentation to ensure traceability." — Darrell Busby, Iowa State U.



*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

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University does not

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national origin, sex, sexual orientation or group  
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**Visit MBCIA online at  
[http://msucares.com/  
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## MBCIA Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(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—May 2006

### GENERAL

Make plans to attend the Beef Cattle Source Verification short course on May 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. over the MSU Extension distance education system. Fertilize warm-season pastures (bermudagrass, bahiagrass, etc.) according to soil test recommendations. Stay on top of weed control. Sprig hybrid bermudagrass before moisture becomes limiting. Plant summer annual forages. Graze sodseeded ryegrass pastures to prevent shading of warm-season forages. Manage pastures to graze young growth and harvest excess for hay. Check hay equipment to make sure it is ready for operation. Record hay yields, forage test each cutting, and develop a hay storage program that will minimize storage losses and allow matching of forage test results with individual lots of hay for use in hay feeding and supplementation decisions. Provide proper free-choice minerals and fresh water at all times. Make sure adequate shade is available for cattle going into the summer months. Watch for flies, and implement a fly control program when needed. Maintain a complete herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian including internal and external parasite control, calfhood (Bangs) vaccinations for heifer calves four to eight months of age, and blackleg (7-way) vaccinations for all calves over three months of age if not done earlier. Keep good production and financial records. Secure a premises identification number for your farm or ranch from the Mississippi Board of Animal Health if you have not already done so.

### SPRING CALVING—January, February, March

Calving should be done. Complete management practices for late calves, and castrate and dehorn any calves missed at birth. Implant calves that will not be retained as breeding stock. Read implant product labels to determine when calves that were implanted at birth may be re-implanted. Monitor condition of bulls during the breeding season, and hand feed if necessary. Be ready to remove bulls from heifers after a 45-60 day breeding season. Observe breeding herds to make sure that cows are settling. Maintain good breeding records including heat detection records, artificial insemination dates, dates bulls turned in and out, identification of herd females and breeding groups, dates bred, returns to heat, and expected calving dates.

### FALL CALVING—October, November, December

Maintain bulls in small pasture traps and provide a nutritional program designed for starting the next breeding season in good condition. To precondition calves, vaccinate for respiratory diseases (IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, and others upon veterinary advise), and wean for at least 45 days before shipment. Implement weaning strategies, such as fenceline weaning, that minimize calf stress. Train calves to eat from a bunk and drink from a water trough during the preconditioning period. Pregnancy check herd females about 60 days after the end of the breeding season. Cull cows based on pregnancy status, soundness (eyes, udders, feet, legs, teeth), and performance records. Develop plans for marketing cull cows based on market conditions and cow body condition.