

# Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



## Upcoming events:

- August 12-13—Deep South Stocker Conference, Moultrie, GA
- August 24-25—Pasture and Forage Short Course, Mississippi State, MS
- August 28—Mississippi Angus Association field day, Tanner Farms, Shuqualak, MS
- **September 1—Mississippi BCIA Fall Bull Sale nomination deadline**
- November 4-6—MSU Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State, MS
- November 11—Mississippi BCIA Fall Bull Sale, Raymond, MS, 12:00 noon
- November 17—Mississippi Forage Conference, Starkville, MS
- January 20—Mississippi BCIA Spring Bull Sale nomination deadline
- March 3—Hinds CC Bull Test Sale and Mississippi BCIA Spring Bull Sale, Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility, Raymond, MS

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## Deep South Stocker Conference this Month

The second annual “Deep South Stocker Conference” will be held on August 12-13, 2010 at Spence Field in Moultrie, Georgia, home of the Sunbelt Ag Expo. This conference is a joint effort between the Mississippi State University Extension Service, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. It will be held in each cooperating state on a triennial rotation. The concept is based on the successful Triennial Stocker Conference held at Auburn University. Next year the conference will be held in Alabama. It will return to Mississippi in 2012.

This year's conference is a 2-day event with several education seminars on Thursday, and production tours on Friday. The seminars will cover pertinent topics in economics and marketing, forage management, health,

and nutrition. In addition, a trade show will be held in conjunction with the conference to allow stocker operators the opportunity to network with industry professionals and to become aware of products and services that can improve their profitability and/or product quality.



The cost of this year's Deep South Stocker Conference is \$150 (prior to July 30). Late registration fee is \$200. This covers all education seminars, meals, and tours.

Registration is available online or by mail. Online registration accepts credit or debit cards. Mail-in registration accepts check or credit/debit cards. If you would like to attend, go online to [www.deepsouthstocker.com](http://www.deepsouthstocker.com) or contact Jane Parish at 662-325-7466 or [jparish@ads.msstate.edu](mailto:jparish@ads.msstate.edu).

## MBCIA Bull Sale Nomination Deadline Approaching

Plans are being made for the 2010 Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association Fall Bull Sale. The Mississippi Fall BCIA Bull Sale program encourages production and identification of genetically superior bulls by purebred breeders and purchase and use of these bulls by commercial producers.

The 2010 sale is scheduled for Thursday, November 11, 2010 at 12:00 noon at the Hinds Community College Sales Facility in Raymond, Mississippi. This is an excellent sale facility that allows for a very professional presentation of the bulls.

Mississippi beef breeders are encouraged to nominate quality bulls that meet all the re-

quirements for the sale. Rules and Regulations for the BCIA Bull Sale along with a nomination form and other current bull sale information is posted on the BCIA website at [msucare.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/bcia\\_bullsale.html](http://msucare.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/bcia_bullsale.html).

If you are interested in consigning bulls to this sale, please complete the nomination form and return it to Jane Parish at Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762 no later than September 1, 2009. Be sure to include the nomination fee, a signed registration certificate, actual birth weight, and adjusted weaning and yearling weights and ratios for each bull.

## 2010 Mississippi Pasture and Forages Short Course

2010 Mississippi State University  
Pasture and Forages Short Course  
August 24 and 25, 2010  
Bost Conference Center  
Mississippi State University Campus

### Agenda Day 1, August 24, 2010

7:30 – 8:00  
Registration/Coffee and Pastries

8:00 – 8:15  
Welcome and Introductions (Dr. Rocky Lemus)

8:15 – 8:55  
Nutrient Cycling: Soil and Fertility Management in Pasture Systems (Dr. Larry Oldham)

8:55 – 9:30  
Weed Management in Forage Systems: Chemical vs. Mechanical (Dr. John Byrd)

9:30 – 10:10  
Economics Considerations in Grazing Systems: Cost and benefits. (Dr. John Michael Riley)

10:10 – 10:35  
Break/Trade Show

10:35 – 11:15  
Practical considerations in designing a grazing System (Dr. Bisoodat Macoon)

11:15 – 12:00  
Hay Production and Quality (Dr. Rocky Lemus)

12:00 – 1:00  
Lunch

1:00 – 1:40  
Forage Varieties and Evaluation (Mr. Jimmy Ray Parish)

1:40 – 2:20  
Perennial Peanut for Hay Production (Dr. Yoana Newman, FSU)

2:20 – 2:40  
Break

3:00 – 3:30  
Electric Fence Demonstration (Mr. A.J. Ebert/Mr. Doug Gevedon)

3:30 – 4:30  
Forage Availability and Allocation Demonstration (Dr. Rocky Lemus and Mr. Jimmy Ray Parish)

4:30 – 5:00  
Sprayer Calibration (Mr. Scott Wright)/Weed Wiper Demonstration

5:20 – 6:00  
Trade Show

6:00 – 8:00  
Dinner

### Day 2, August 25, 2010

8:00 – 8:40  
Stockpiling warm-season grasses (Dr. Rocky Lemus)

8:40 – 9:20  
How to manage, utilize and maintain legumes (Dr. David Lang)

9:20 – 10:00  
Complementing pasture-based nutrition and mineral supplementation for livestock (Dr. Daniel Rivera)

10:00 – 10:40  
Break/Trade Show

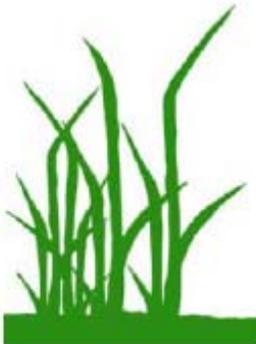
10:40 – 11:20  
Matching forage supply to animal needs (Dr. Stephanie Hill)

11:20 – 12:00  
Fence, Water, and Shade Considerations for Your Grazing System (Dr. Jane Parish)

12:00 – 1:00  
Lunch

1:15 – 2:00  
Evaluation of Allocation Exercise

2:00 – 2:30  
Hay Preservation and Utilization (Mr. Scott Chapman)



Well-managed forage production and use is vital to profitable beef cattle production

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*“...A wide variety of forage production and utilization topics will be covered.”*

## Forages Short Course (Cont.)

2:30 – 3:00

Calibrating and adjusting a No-till Drill (Mr. Jimmy Ray Parish)

3:15 – 3:30

Break

3:30 – 4:15

Tour forage variety trials and forage research trials (Dr. Lang, Mr. Parish, and Dr. Lemus)

4:30 – 5:00

Evaluation, Discussion, and Wrap-up

### Registration

The cost of the 2-day workshop is \$100 per individual or \$75 per person if two or more people from the same farm/organization are attending. This fee includes the Mississippi Grazing Manual and other educational ma-

terials, two lunches, and one supper. Reservations are held only by registration form and paid deposit and must be received at least 7 days prior to the beginning of the short course. Cancellations must be made within 7 days prior to the event to obtain a full refund of the \$50 deposit. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and is limited to 120 people per workshop.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Rocky Lemus

Phone: (662) 325-7718/(662) 325-2701

E-mail: RLemus@ext.msstate.edu

RLemus@pss.msstate.edu

Short course website:

<http://msucares.com/crops/forages/shortcourse/index.html>

*“...Pasture and Forages Short Course registration is limited to the first 120 persons.”*

## BIF 2010 Convention Highlights

Some notable quotes from the 42nd annual Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) meeting appear below:

“Selecting for genetic change in a cow herd through female culling is not an effective method for changing overall efficiency. Since an individual cow contributes little to the overall genetic makeup of a calf crop, it is much more effective to select for efficiency through bulls.”

“For the majority of producers, the most efficient cow is the one with the highest milk potential that can, **without reducing the percentage of calves successfully weaned**, repeatedly produce a calf by bulls with growth and carcass characteristics valued most in the marketplace.”

“Cows that shed hair by May had, on average, calves weighing 24 pounds heavier at weaning than calves out of cows that shed hair later. Hair shedding is moderately heritable, which means it may be possible for producers to select for this.”

“Producers should keep an open mind, engage consumers and communicate with them, continually seek to improve animal well-being and be proud of what you do.”

“Interactions between management and genetics are huge. Fetal programming studies that have shown how the nutritional status of pregnant cows can impact the carcass characteristics of their progeny and the fertility of daughters saved as herd replacements. Creep-feeding calves can improve marbling, but also may decrease the long-term productivity of heifer calves retained. And growth-promoting implants can boost weight gain, but they also can have negative effects on carcass merit.”

“Some breeds will complement each other very well. Instead of maxing out one or two traits of those breeds, producers could work on optimizing more traits to possibly get a calf that would lead to more profitability for everyone.”

For more BIF 2010 conference highlights visit [www.bifconference.com](http://www.bifconference.com).



The next BIF Convention is scheduled for June 1-4, 2011 in Bozeman, Montana

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Send questions or comments to Jane Parish,  
Extension Beef Cattle Specialist,  
Mississippi State University Extension Service

*Jane Parish*

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**Visit MBCIA online at  
<http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/>**

## MBCIA Membership Application

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

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

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

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

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

(Check one) Seedstock:  Commercial:

Cattle breed(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*Completed applications and \$5 annual dues or \$100 life-time dues payable to Mississippi BCIA should be mailed to:*

*Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association  
Jane Parish, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist  
Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762*

## Measuring Scrotal Circumference

Scrotal circumference evaluates testicular size and health and estimates the bull's sperm producing capacity. See the table below for the minimum recommended scrotal circumference as outlined by the Society for Theriogenology. Bulls must meet minimum scrotal circumference measurements based on age in order to pass a BSE.

### Minimum recommended scrotal circumference

Bull age in months	Scrotal circumference
< 15 months	30 cm
> 15 ≤ 18 months	31 cm
> 18 ≤ 21 months	32 cm
> 21 ≤ 24 months	33 cm
> 24 months	34 cm

Minimum scrotal circumference requirements for bulls to qualify for the Mississippi BCIA bull sales is somewhat higher than the recommendations listed in this table.

To measure scrotal circumference:

- Testicles must be descended into the scrotum. Hold testicles to the bottom of the scrotal sack by placing your fingers on the side of the scrotum and above the testicles (see figure to right).

- Do not place fingers between the testicles.
- Slip loop formed by the scrotal tape over the scrotum around the widest point.
- Pull tape up snugly.
- Take circumference reading, in centimeters, at the index formed by the small stainless steel crossbar on the scrotal circumference tape thumb piece.
- Any irregular shape or swelling may indicate abnormal structure, illness, or injury.
- Report scrotal circumference as part of yearling measurements.



**Proper method for measuring scrotal circumference**

Source: ANR-1323. Alabama Cooperative Extension System.