

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



Upcoming events:

- March 1—Hinds CC Bull Test Sale and Mississippi BCIA Spring Bull Sale, Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility, Raymond, MS
- March 13—Beef Cattle Handling Facilities Workshop, MSU, Biloxi, Oxford, Raymond
- March 15-17—MSU Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State, MS
- April 3—Cattlemen’s Exchange Feeder Calf Board Sale, Winona, MS
- April 12—Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo, Raleigh, MS
- April 13—Beef Cattle Boot Camp, MSU, South Farm Beef Unit
- April 20—Beef Cattle Boot Camp, Poplarville, MS
- April 18-21—Beef Improvement Federation meeting, Houston, TX

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MBCIA Sponsors Mississippi Beef Cattle Pocket Guide

The Mississippi Beef Cattle Producer Pocket Guide is a 238-page pocket reference covering a wide variety of production and marketing topics. It includes information specific to Mississippi beef cattle production in an easy to use format. Developed by beef cattle specialists with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, this pocket guide is currently available online.

pocket guide. All MBCIA members will receive a complementary printed version of the pocket guide as soon as they are available in March 2012.

Printed copies of the pocket guide are free of charge while supplies last thanks to the support of the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association (MBCIA). The MBCIA sponsored an initial printing of 1,500 copies of the



msucares.com/pubs/publications/p2714.pdf

MARCH 1, 2012 • Noon
BULL SALE
 HINDS BULL TEST • MBCIA



Distance Bidding VERONA • BATESVILLE

Raymond, MS



Improving the
beef industry
through
performance
evaluation

TAMU AgriLife Extension, Brahman Breeders to host BIF

The 44th Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Research Symposium and annual meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Houston on April 18 – 20, 2012. This year's meeting is hosted by Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Animal Science and the American Brahman Breeders Association (ABBA). The symposium's focus is the impact of *Bos indicus* genetics in the U.S.

On the evening of Wednesday, April 18, the symposium will hold an opening night reception, as well as have presentations on the influence of *Bos indicus* genetics in the global beef industry.

The symposium will host a variety of events on Thursday, April 19 and Friday, April 20, including presentations on current beef issues, committee sessions to discuss current research, an educational event hosted by the American Breeds Coalition, and the Producer Award nominees will be announced.

Registration for the event is \$185, but will increase to \$285 after March 25. Rooms can be reserved at a rate of \$119 per night. Those who choose to remain in Houston over the weekend have the choice of three optional bus tours to South Central and Gulf Coast ranches for an additional cost of \$50.

Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Animal Science and the American Brahman Breeders Association are proud to co-host the 2012 Beef Improvement Federation Research Symposium and annual meeting. To register for the 2012 BIF meeting, go to agriliferegister.tamu.edu and enter Beef Improvement. For hotel information and to book a room call 1-800-627-6461.

For more information on the BIF, contact Joe C. Paschal at 361-265-9203, j-paschal@tamu.edu, or Chris Shivers 713-349-0854, chivers@brahman.org.

www.bifconference.com

Hands-on Knowledge—Beef Cattle Boot Camps

The Beef Cattle Boot Camps offered through the Mississippi State University Extension Service and Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Stations (MAFES) are a new opportunity to gain hands-on experience with cattle management skills.

The 2012 Boot Camp topics include:

- ✓ Implants
- ✓ Heifer development
- ✓ Newborn calf feeding
- ✓ Vaccinations
- ✓ Fertilizer planning
- ✓ Making hay and baleage
- ✓ Troubleshooting reproduction
- ✓ Mycotoxin management
- ✓ Input purchasing



The 2012 Boot Camps are scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2012 at the MAFES South Farm Beef Unit on the Mississippi State University campus and Friday, April 20, 2012 at the MAFES White Sands Unit in Poplarville, MS. The program will be the same at each location.

Registration fees are \$35 per person in advance and \$45 per person at the door. A lunch meal will be provided to Boot Camp participants. For more information on the Beef Cattle Boot Camps, contact Jane Parish, in the MSU Animal and Dairy Sciences Department at jparish@ads.msstate.edu or 662-325-7466. Boot Camp brochures are available online at msucares.com/livestock/beef/beef_calendar.html

"The Beef Cattle Boot Camp topics change each year, so past attendees can learn new information at each Boot Camp..."

**BEEF CATTLE
BOOT CAMP**

Cattle with Anthrax in Coahoma County

A case of anthrax in Mississippi livestock has been detected in Coahoma County near Clarksdale. The State Veterinarian quarantined the premises based on the report of the disease by the local veterinarian. Samples from one of the two affected animals were submitted to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory which confirmed the diagnosis. The carcasses have been cremated, and the rest of the cattle have been vaccinated by the attending veterinarian as required by law.

Anthrax is a naturally occurring disease caused by the bacteria *Bacillus anthracis* found in many parts of the world. In Mississippi the disease is occasionally found in Western Delta counties when weather conditions are favorable. Typically this occurs when there is spring flooding followed by hot, dry weather, although as demonstrated by this case, it can occur anytime. The last documented cases in Mississippi were in 1990 and 1991.

- Grazing animals such as wildlife and livestock (cattle, horses, sheep, goats) are the animals most affected by anthrax.
- Although humans, domestic animals, and wild swine are more resistant to the disease, they should avoid contact with infected animals.
- Symptoms of anthrax in livestock can be non-specific, including high fever or convulsions, or in many cases acute death is the first sign noticed by a producer.
- Anthrax is a reportable disease.
 - ⇒ Immediately report suspect cases to the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH).
 - ⇒ State law requires quarantine and vaccination of affected herds, as well as proper carcass disposal.
 - ⇒ The MBAH reporting hotline number is (888) 646-8731.

The following are general biosecurity tips that should be followed if there is an anthrax-affected animal or carcass:

- Avoid moving the carcass unless necessary for disposal. Carcasses should be cremated. If this is not possible, they must be buried at least 6 feet deep and covered with lime.
- Wear long sleeves and gloves when handling carcasses or livestock thought to be infected with anthrax. See your doctor if you develop any unusual-looking sores on your hands, arms or other exposed skin. Infection requires treatment with antibiotics prescribed by a physician.
- Practice good sanitation. Wash your hands after handling animals (even if you wear gloves.) Disinfect equipment used on the animals or carcasses.
- Keep pets and children away from carcasses or bones of dead animals. Move healthy animals away from a pasture where animals have died from the disease.
- Vaccinate livestock if cases occur in the surrounding areas. Vaccinated animals must be withheld from slaughter for two months.
- Restrict the movement of livestock onto or from an affected premise until animals can develop immunity through vaccination (about 14 days).

For more information regarding anthrax, visit www.mbah.state.ms.us or call (888) 646-8731.

Jim Watson, D.V.M., State Veterinarian
P.O. Box 3889, Jackson, MS 39207
601-359-1170 Office
601-359-1177 Fax

“Consult with a local veterinarian regarding anthrax vaccination recommendations...”



The Mississippi Board of Animal Health works to protect the health of all Mississippi livestock and poultry

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Send questions or comments to
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affiliation, age, disability, or veteran status.

Joe Parish



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

MAFES Research: Cattle Hip Height Data Collection Method Matters

Introduction

Accurate cattle hip height reporting is important for accurate calculation of frame score and yearling and mature height expected progeny differences. Hip height is converted to frame score, a categorical trait (1 to 9; small to large) that describes skeletal size in beef cattle. Frame size is defined by hip height at a particular age and is related to growth rate and slaughter weights at which cattle should grade USDA Choice. Hip height is also related to heifer age at puberty, beef female productivity, and scrotal circumference. Studies of cattle sales reveal that frame size affects prices for feeder calves marketed in the U. S. Southeast and Southern Plains, bulls, and market cows.

Measurement method can affect data accuracy. The recommended site for hip height measurement is a point directly over the hooks (Beef Improvement Federation, 2010). However, no other guidelines regarding measurement technique are provided, and multiple techniques are utilized.

Research Objectives

To refine hip height data collection recommendations this study 1) evaluated the accuracy of these hip height collection methods: visual appraisal using a pre-measured board placed on the opposite side of the animal from the observer, measurement of the difference in distance down to the hips from the distance down to the floor with a descending tape placed above the animal, and measurement using an altitude stick; 2) determined if head restraint or chute score affect hip height data accuracy; and 3) assessed reproducibility of hip height measurements using different observers.

Research Findings

Results indicated that hip height collection method, head restraint, and chute score all affect hip height measurements. Key findings are as follows:

- Cow hip heights may be overvalued with the descending tape and undervalued with the visual approach relative to measurement using an altitude stick. The altitude stick, when used properly, may provide the most accurate hip height measurements.
- Cattle confined to a squeeze chute for hip height measurement should have their heads unrestrained for this measurement or risk undervaluing hip heights.
- Extra time and care in technique may be justified when cattle move during measurement.
- Despite a high degree of reproducibility, operator error could influence hip height measurements.

Implications

Inaccurate cattle hip height data could affect expected progeny differences using this information in their calculations. A given hip height measurement error will impact the calculated frame score of older cattle more so than younger cattle due to the interaction term between hip height and animal age in frame score equations. Selection, management, and marketing decisions considering frame scores may be improved with more accurate hip height data collection.

