



**Upcoming events:**

- April 1—Cattlemen’s Exchange Feeder Calf Board Sale, Winona, MS
- April 4—Beef Cattle Boot Camp, Mississippi State, MS
- April 10—Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo, Raleigh, MS
- April 11—Beef Cattle Boot Camp, Raymond, MS
- May 17—Mississippi-Louisiana Beef and Forage Field Day, Tylertown, MS
- June 18-21—Beef Improvement Federation Annual Convention, Lincoln, NE
- August 4—Homeplace Producers Feeder Calf Board Sale, Hattiesburg, MS
- August 8—Deep South Stocker Conference, Meridian, MS

**Mississippi BCIA—Hinds Bull Test 2014 Spring Sale Results**

The Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association wrapped up its 7th Annual Spring Bull Sale on March 6, 2014. The MBCIA Spring Bull Sale was held in conjunction with the Hinds Community College Bull Test Sale in Raymond, MS. The MBCIA Sale featured 30 performance-backed bulls from breeders across the state, while the Hinds Bull Test Sale featured 50 bulls. Thank you to all of the consignors and buyers for supporting these Spring 2014 cattle sales.

The top-selling lot was R&R 5050 219, an Angus bull. This bull was consigned by Elwood Cattle Company in Quitman, MS and sold for \$5,200. Other breeders marketing bulls in the Hinds Test sale included Blackberry Farms, Cooper Farm, D & E Farms, DeSantis Angus LLC, Diamond S Farm, Double C Farm, Elwood Cattle Company, Fitch Brothers Charolais, Fulper Angus Farm, JH Graydon Farm, The John B Ranch, Monogram Farms, and Patricks Cattle Ranch. In the MBCIA sale consignors included 4 Neal Farms, Cuevas T3 Brangus, Gaines Angus Farm, Good Cattle Company, MAFES, Sloan Farm, Southern Shine Pastures, Thames Angus Farms, and Yankee Cutoff Angus Ranch.

Charolais—9 bulls  
Gross receipts—\$29,050  
Average price—\$2,641  
High-selling lot—\$3,900

Brangus—1 bull  
Gross receipts—\$2,550

SimAngus—1 bull  
Gross receipts—\$3,600

Ultrablack—1 bull  
Gross receipts—\$4,000



Appreciation is extended to the many buyers who helped make these sales a success. Thanks also goes out to our friends at Hinds Community College for help both in hosting and conducting the sale. The Hinds Community College Agriculture Club served the hamburger meal prior to the sale.

Mississippi BCIA looks forward to another successful sale in Raymond, Mississippi in November 2014. Breeders interested in nominating bulls or bred heifers to the Fall BCIA Sale should complete and submit nomination forms to the MBCIA office by September 15, 2014. Sale rules, nomination forms, and other information on Mississippi BCIA are available on the BCIA website at: [msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia](http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia) or by contacting 662-325-3516.

The Hinds Community College Bull Test is a 112-day feed-based gain performance test held annually at the Bull Test Station in Raymond, Mississippi. The Bull Test sale is held each year on the first Thursday in March in conjunction with the Mississippi BCIA spring bull sale. Contact Kenny Banes at 601-857-3351 for information on the 2013-2014 Hinds Community College Bull Test.

All breeds—80 bulls  
Gross receipts—\$208,600  
Average price—\$2,897  
High-selling lot—\$5,200



Angus—62 bulls  
Gross receipts—\$169,400  
Average price—\$2,921  
High-selling lot—\$5,200

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The Mississippi BCIA Board of Directors is an elected board of persons interested in genetic improvement of Mississippi cattle

## Mississippi BCIA Elects Board of Directors for 2014

At the Mississippi BCIA annual membership meeting in Raymond on March 5, 2014, attendees enjoyed a meal sponsored by AgriLabs and an educational program on fetal programming presented by Dr. David Caleb Lemley of the MSU Animal and Dairy Sciences Department.

A new Board of Directors was nominated and approved. The Board is comprised of slots representing a variety of groups and individuals involved in MBCIA. These slots are allocated based on the by-laws adopted at the 2003 annual membership meeting.

The 2013 MBCIA Board of Directors consists of the following individuals:

### Commercial Producers

- Charles Barland (Term expires 2015)
- Peter Patridge (Term expires 2015)
- Ron Woods (Term expires 2016)
- D. R. Bozeman (Term expires 2017)

### Purebred Producers

- John White (Term expires 2015)
- Tony Thames (Term expires 2015)
- Don Sims (Term expires 2016)
- Ron Melancon (Term expires 2017)

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

Sammy Blossom

### Mississippi Cattlemen's Assoc. President

Price Wallace

### MSU Animal and Dairy Sciences Department

Trent Smith

### Extension Animal Scientist

Daniel Rivera

### Area Extension Agent

Lance Newman

### Hinds Bull Test Station

Kenny Banes

### South Mississippi Forage Bull Test

Richard Hay

### Past Presidents of Mississippi BCIA

### Locations of BCIA sponsored sales

Rhonda Vann

### Officers (Terms expire 2014)

#### President

Jimmy Ray Parish

#### Vice-President

Danny Martin

#### Secretary

Jane Parish

#### Treasurer

Brandi Karisch

Mississippi BCIA appreciates the service and dedication of the 2013 Board of Directors.

*"...Preparation for a disaster should be part of routine planning on cattle operations. Waiting until something happens is too late."*

## Disaster Preparedness for Beef Cattle Operations

As the onset of spring weather brings the promise of longer growing days and lots of activity on cattle operations, it also serves as a reminder that disastrous weather events may occur this time of year as well. Disaster preparedness resources are available to beef cattle producers to help in planning ahead for the unexpected.

The Mississippi State University Extension Service maintains a Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Information website covering a wide variety of topics relevant to Mississippians. That information is at [msucares.com/disaster](http://msucares.com/disaster)

The extension beef cattle website also has disaster information specific to livestock operations. These websites contain answers to frequently asked questions, links to publications, contact information for resource persons, and links to other helpful websites for disaster preparedness and recovery.

[msucares.com/livestock/beef/hurricane.html](http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/hurricane.html)

[msucares.com/livestock/beef/drought.html](http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/drought.html)

## Beef Producers Benefit from Smart Technology

Today's cattle producers have a variety of technological applications available on their smartphones, which are about the size of the little notebooks their predecessors once carried in their shirt pockets for record keeping.

Brandi Karisch, an assistant professor of animal and dairy sciences and Extension beef cattle specialist at Mississippi State University, said use of smartphones and their apps is growing among beef cattle producers.

"Producers are using apps on their phones to monitor the weather and market prices. They also use apps for herd management, record keeping and employee work hours," she said. "In addition to the apps, producers can connect to websites or records stored on their home computers from anywhere on their farm or beyond."

Jane Parish, MSU professor of animal and dairy sciences and Extension beef cattle specialist, said this increased use of technology allows beef producers to take the Internet with them to the field to solve problems.

"Producers are even joining social media platforms, including Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, with apps on their smartphones," Parish said.

Cattle producers are invited to follow the MSU Extension beef specialists on Twitter at @MSUBeefCattle. The group also has four- to five-minute educational videos on YouTube, which are also available in app form, that cover a wide range of beef cattle topics. These videos can be found on the MSUBeefCattle channel.

Karisch and Parish provided technical information to develop the MSUES Cattle Calculator, which was released in December for Apple devices. The free app, created at the request of Mississippi beef cattle producers, calculates a variety of factors that impact livestock management decisions.

"The app helps with reproduction-related calculations, such as expected calving dates, the number of days a cow has been pregnant and breeding season timelines," she said. "The calculator will help producers monitor growth and overall performance of their cattle. Management guidance includes dosage calculations for dewormers and other medicines based on an animal's weight and the manufacturer's recommended dosage. It also provides frame scores and trailer stocking density."

Billy Ray of Pocahontas has been using this app to monitor cattle on his family's Simmental/Simbrah farm in Hinds County.

"My record keeping is greatly improved because of this app. It is much more convenient than paper methods," he said. "It is right at your fingertips, it does everything, and it's so easy to use. I'm not very computer literate, but this is simple and direct. It's got everything I need."

Ray said he initially used the calculator primarily for reproduction issues but has started using it to monitor calf growth.

"We will weigh calves at birth and weaning time and maybe at yearling weight," he said. "It's hard to manage if you can't measure and track their growth."

Kelli Alexander of the Extension Center for Technology Outreach developed the app with input from producers, Karisch, Parish and other faculty members.

Download the app at [tinyurl.com/msues-cattle-calculator](http://tinyurl.com/msues-cattle-calculator) or by searching MSUES Cattle Calculator in the Apple app store. For more information contact Brandi Karisch at 662-325-7465 or [bkarisch@ads.msstate.edu](mailto:bkarisch@ads.msstate.edu).

News release written by Linda Breazeale, MSU Ag Communications

[msucare.com/news/print/cvm/cvm14/20140318\\_cattleapp.html](http://msucare.com/news/print/cvm/cvm14/20140318_cattleapp.html)

*"...Free mobile apps are available for download from the Mississippi State University Extension Service at [webapps.msucare.com](http://webapps.msucare.com)"*



Apps like the breakeven app developed by Ag Economist, John Michael Riley, allow mobile access to decision-making tools

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement  
Association—Productivity and Quality

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Assn.  
Box 9815  
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Phone: 662-325-7466  
Fax: 662-325-8873  
Email: jparish@ads.msstate.edu

Send questions or comments to Jane Parish,  
Extension Beef Cattle 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.

*Joe Parish*



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

MISSISSIPPI  
**BCIA** Membership Application  
BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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  
Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762

## BIF 2014 Convention Registration is Now Open



The 2014 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Meeting and Research Symposium will be June 18-21 at the Cornhusker Marriot in Lincoln, Neb. The theme for this year's program is "Novel Traits: Needed or Novelty."

Co-hosted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), Nebraska Cattlemen and the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC), the event will start at noon June 18 with registration. A welcome reception begins at 5 p.m., followed by a USMARC Symposium: 50 Years of Service to the Beef Industry.

It's no coincidence that the meeting is in Nebraska in 2014, said Matt Spangler, associate professor in UNL's animal science department. The USMARC is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014. USMARC scientists have contributed to the annual BIF meeting since its start.

The meeting will allow the research community and industry to meet and discuss issues surrounding the genetic improvement of beef cattle and for attendees to learn about technologies and management practices that can aid in the profitability of their operations.

On June 19, the meeting will start at 8 a.m. with a general session and welcome. Presentations and technical breakout sessions will follow through June 20. Attendees are invited to participate in a postconference tour June 21.

Some of the topics to be covered include economic considerations for profitable cow herds, heifer intake and feed efficiency, heifer development strategies, selection for novel traits, genetics of disease susceptibility, genetically changing the nutrient profile of beef, nutritionally changing the fatty acid profile of beef, improving feed efficiency in the feedlot, and the relationship between selection for feed efficiency and methane production.

Online registration for the conference is now available at <http://go.unl.edu/bif2014>. The cost to attend the full conference is \$250. Day-only, student and media discount rates also are available. For a full and up-to-date conference schedule, lodging information or to register, visit [www.BIFconference.com](http://www.BIFconference.com).

The Beef Improvement Federation was formed more than 45 years ago to standardize beef cattle performance programs and evaluation methodology and to create greater awareness, acceptance and usage of these concepts for the genetic improvement of beef cattle. It represents more than 40 state and national beef cattle associations.

For more information about this year's event, contact Matthew Spangler at 402-472-3571.