



M I S S I S S I P P I

BCIA

BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

- March 1—BCIA Annual Meeting and Supper
- March 2—Hinds Bull Test and BCIA Bull Sale
- March 9— BQA Meeting, Prentiss
- March 14— BQA Meeting, Starkville
- March 16-18— Spring AI School
- April 6—BQA, Meridian
- April 21— Beef Cattle Boot Camp, Starkville
- April 29— MSU Beef Unit Field Day, Starkville

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## Mark your Calendar!

**T**here aren't many things that make me happier than a completed project. Twice a year Dr. Karisch and I begin accepting nominations for BCIA sponsored sales. From a management standpoint, each bull is scrutinized for performance traits. Often times we really do not get a true appreciation for what we have until the sale catalog is finished. I feel like this bull offering truly has something for everyone.

### General Comments

At the time of print, there were 46 BCIA bull consignments. Half of those herd sire prospects are sired by popular A.I. studs. Others are sired by herd sires who are products of the consignor's breeding program or have been purchased from reputable seedstock operations.

Every one of the BCIA bulls were born and raised in Mississippi. This is important as we all need herd sires who are adapted to our climate and forages. These bulls must have a minimum adjusted weaning weight of at least 500 lbs. Interestingly, the average adjusted weaning weight of the consigned bulls was 178 lbs over the minimum requirement! We can rest assured the consignors are bringing the best of their calf crops!

### Calving Ease Prospects

For producers who breed heifers, the BCIA sale has 10 bulls that are sure-bet calving ease sire prospects. To make this determination, a bull must possess a

Calving Ease or Birth Weight EPD in the top 30% of their respective breed and in the top 75% of the breed for weaning or yearling EPDs.

### Balanced Trait Prospects

For producers who desire a bull that can be used heifers (with discretion) and cows, we recommend producers chose a balanced trait bull. While there are some bulls in this category who also fall into the Calving Ease designation, most of these bulls will have a little more, but acceptable, birth weight. 26 bulls in this offering are Balanced Trait sire prospects. To make this determination, a bull must possess a Calving Ease or Birth Weight and a Weaning Weight of Yearling Weight EPD in the top 60% of their respective breed.

### Terminal Prospects

Terminal prospects are those bulls that will most likely add growth and performance to your calf crop. While some of these bulls also have calving ease and/or balanced trait designations, most of these bulls offer a little more birth weight are more suitable for cows.

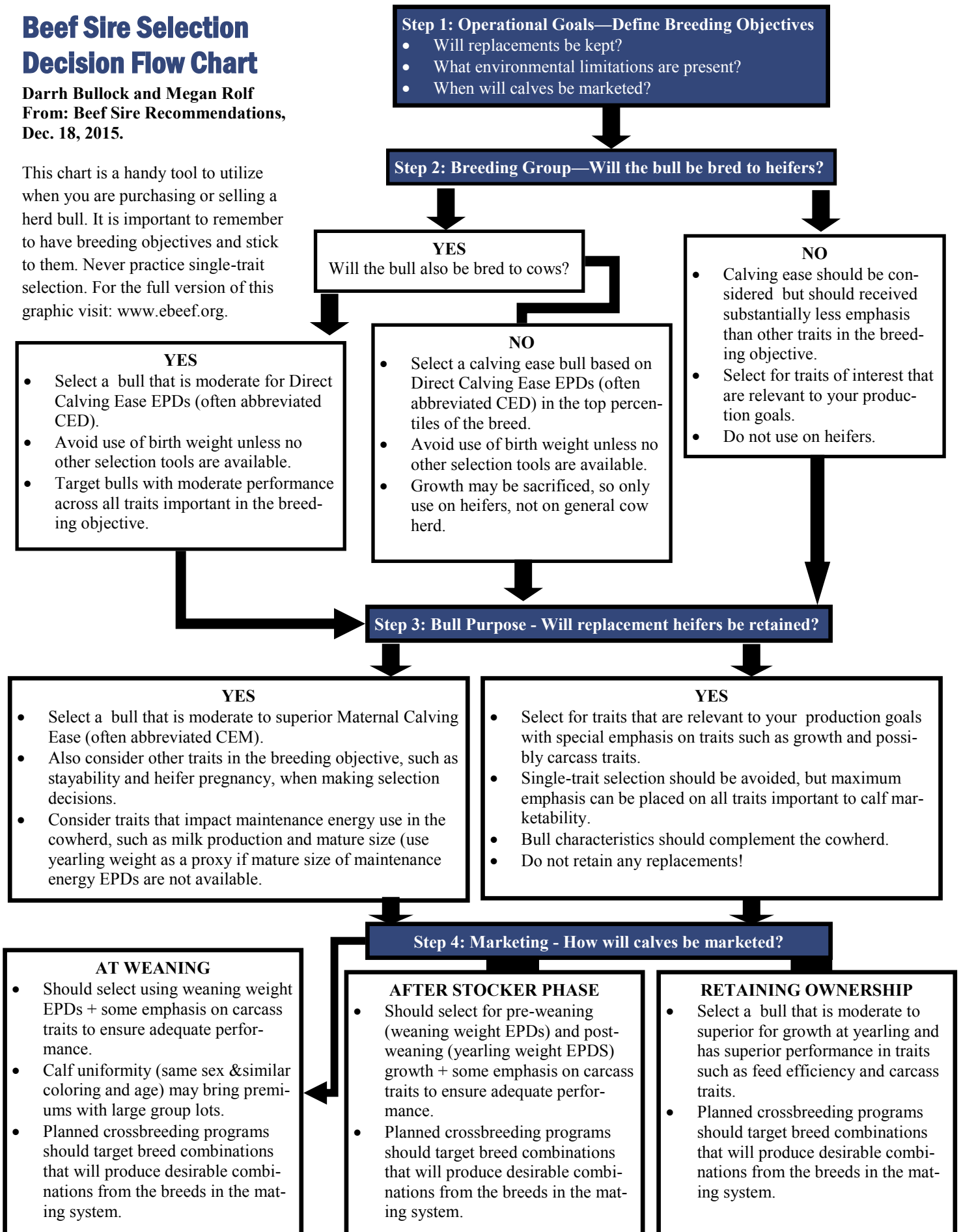
### Carcass Merit Prospects

If you retain your animals through harvest or feed out animals for freezer beef, pay attention to the carcass merit prospects. These bulls should sire animals that excel on the rail! **We hope you make plans to join us for the annual meeting and joint BCIA/Hinds Bull Test Sale!**

# Beef Sire Selection Decision Flow Chart

**Darrh Bullock and Megan Rolf**  
**From: Beef Sire Recommendations,**  
**Dec. 18, 2015.**

This chart is a handy tool to utilize when you are purchasing or selling a herd bull. It is important to remember to have breeding objectives and stick to them. Never practice single-trait selection. For the full version of this graphic visit: [www.ebeef.org](http://www.ebeef.org).



**Step 1: Operational Goals—Define Breeding Objectives**

- Will replacements be kept?
- What environmental limitations are present?
- When will calves be marketed?

**Step 2: Breeding Group—Will the bull be bred to heifers?**

**YES**  
 Will the bull also be bred to cows?

**NO**

- Calving ease should be considered but should received substantially less emphasis than other traits in the breeding objective.
- Select for traits of interest that are relevant to your production goals.
- Do not use on heifers.

**YES**

- Select a bull that is moderate for Direct Calving Ease EPDs (often abbreviated CED).
- Avoid use of birth weight unless no other selection tools are available.
- Target bulls with moderate performance across all traits important in the breeding objective.

**NO**

- Select a calving ease bull based on Direct Calving Ease EPDs (often abbreviated CED) in the top percentiles of the breed.
- Avoid use of birth weight unless no other selection tools are available.
- Growth may be sacrificed, so only use on heifers, not on general cow herd.

**Step 3: Bull Purpose - Will replacement heifers be retained?**

**YES**

- Select a bull that is moderate to superior Maternal Calving Ease (often abbreviated CEM).
- Also consider other traits in the breeding objective, such as stayability and heifer pregnancy, when making selection decisions.
- Consider traits that impact maintenance energy use in the cowherd, such as milk production and mature size (use yearling weight as a proxy if mature size of maintenance energy EPDs are not available).

**YES**

- Select for traits that are relevant to your production goals with special emphasis on traits such as growth and possibly carcass traits.
- Single-trait selection should be avoided, but maximum emphasis can be placed on all traits important to calf marketability.
- Bull characteristics should complement the cowherd.
- Do not retain any replacements!

**Step 4: Marketing - How will calves be marketed?**

**AT WEANING**

- Should select using weaning weight EPDs + some emphasis on carcass traits to ensure adequate performance.
- Calf uniformity (same sex & similar coloring and age) may bring premiums with large group lots.
- Planned crossbreeding programs should target breed combinations that will produce desirable combinations from the breeds in the mating system.

**AFTER STOCKER PHASE**

- Should select for pre-weaning (weaning weight EPDs) and post-weaning (yearling weight EPDS) growth + some emphasis on carcass traits to ensure adequate performance.
- Planned crossbreeding programs should target breed combinations that will produce desirable combinations from the breeds in the mating system.

**RETAINING OWNERSHIP**

- Select a bull that is moderate to superior for growth at yearling and has superior performance in traits such as feed efficiency and carcass traits.
- Planned crossbreeding programs should target breed combinations that will produce desirable combinations from the breeds in the mating system.

## BCIA Bull Sale - March 2, 2017

### Beane Cattle - Angus

Beane Cattle, owned by David Beane of Fulton, MS has consigned 2 Angus bulls to the BCIA Sale. For more information on these bulls contact David at 662-231-0943.

### Gary Powell - Angus

Gary Powell of Mantachie consigned 3 Angus bulls. For more information on the Powell Angus consignments to the BCIA Sale, contact Gary Powell at 662-640-1957.

### MSU Beef Unit - Angus & Hereford

The Mississippi State University Beef Unit has consigned five Angus bulls and one Hereford bull. For more information contact the MSU Beef Unit Manager, Cody Glenn at 601-508-8689 or cody.glenn@msstate.edu.

### GLB Farms - Gelbvieh Balancer

GLB Farms of Monticello consigned three Gelbvieh Balancer bulls. For more information on the GLB Farms consignments to the BCIA Sale, contact Billy Sumrall at 601-669-0072 or glbbeef@yahoo.com.

### McMillan Angus - Angus

McMillan Angus, owned by Will McMillan of Newton has consigned 4 Angus bulls. For more information contact Will at 601-692-6020 or wmc6466@aol.com.

### Phil Slay Farms - Charolais

Phil Slay Farms has consigned 2 Charolais bulls. For more information contact Phil at 601-209-6200.

### Punkin Ridge Farm - Hereford

Punkin Ridge Farm, owned by Ammon Herring of Beaumont has consigned a Hereford bull. For more information contact Ammon at 601-964-0534 or Taylor Baker at 601-964-1522 or bakertaylor@gmail.com.

### Thames Angus Farms - Angus

Thames Angus Farms of Jayess, MS has consigned 5 Angus bulls to the BCIA Sale. For more information on these bulls contact Tony at 601-756-1357 or thamesfarm@gmail.com.

### TPC Farm Property - Angus

TPC Farm Property of Richland, MS has consigned 9 Angus bulls to the BCIA Sale. For more information on these bulls contact Theo Costas at 601-940-3733 or David Knighton at 601-906-2054 or dknighon@yahoo.com.

### Yankee Cutoff Angus Ranch - Angus

Yankee Cutoff Ranch Angus of Saucier, MS has consigned 9 Angus bulls to the BCIA Sale. For more information on these bulls contact Crystal or Carl Schossow at 228-326-3371 or 228-234-3210 or ycarangus@aol.com.

**TWO TRADITIONS OF EXCELLENCE,  
ONE PREMIER BULL SOURCE**

*2017 Spring Bull Sale*

*March 2, 2017 - 12:00 P.M. Noon*

*Hinds Community College Sales Arena | Raymond, MS*



For more information visit [extension.msstate.edu/beef](http://extension.msstate.edu/beef)

Mississippi BCIA Annual Meeting  
Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 6:00 p.m.  
Includes dinner & educational program



**HINDS**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

KENNY BANES - (601) 857-3351

M I S S I S S I P P I

**BCIA**  
BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

DR. BRANDI KARISCH - (662) 325-7465

COBIE RUTHERFORD - (662) 325-4344

## MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!

Mississippi BCIA will hold its annual membership meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility in Raymond, MS. The annual meeting is open to new and current MBCIA members. A sponsored supper will be provided along with an educational program.

The program will feature Ms. Jacee May, speaking on "Pasture Management Strategies."

Please RSVP to Mari Quinn at (662) 325-3516 or [m.quinn@msstate.edu](mailto:m.quinn@msstate.edu) for meal planning purposes if you plan to attend the meeting.

# February 2017 – Management Calendar

## GENERAL

Continue winter-feeding to ensure good rebreeding and calf performance. Evaluate remainder of winter feed supply. Watch body condition, and utilize winter-feeding groups according to cattle nutritional demands and feed and forage supplies. the flush of spring growth based on soil test results. Keep proper free-choice minerals available for cattle at all times, continuing feeding of high magnesium mineral supplements for cows on lush winter pastures to prevent grass tetany. Keep a close eye on water sources, particularly watering tanks that may freeze over. Maintain a complete herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian including internal and external parasite control and vaccinations.

## SPRING CALVING—January, February, March

Continue supplementation of pregnant females so that they will be in good condition at calving. Have calving supplies on hand including calving record books, ear tags, obstetric equipment, disinfectants, calf scales, and colostrum. Check expected calving dates, and observe bred cattle closely as calving approaches, paying extra attention to heifers. If calves do not nurse, administer colostrum with a bottle or stomach tube within the first six hours of life. Provide shelter for newborn calves during severe weather. Separate lactating cows, first-calf heifers, and dry cows into groups to feed more efficiently. After calving, move pairs to clean pasture, and watch calves for

scours. Consult with a veterinarian for advise on scours prevention and treatment. Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as appropriate. Always maintain good calving records including calf birth weights. Consult with a veterinarian to schedule pre-breeding vaccinations or order vaccines. Take yearling measurements on bulls and replacement heifers, reporting performance data on seedstock cattle to breed associations. Make final heifer selection decisions based on genetics, dam performance information, temperament, soundness, breeding goals, and progress to target breeding weights (minimum 2/3 of mature weight by breeding time). Schedule breeding soundness evaluations, and make certain bulls are in good condition and are provided with exercise as the breeding season approaches.

## FALL CALVING—October, November, December

Continue using the best hay (based on forage test results) and feeds for lactating cows now. Monitor breeding activities in herds exposed for fall calving. If a high percentage of cows return to heat after 40 days of breeding, have bulls rechecked for breeding soundness, consult with a veterinarian on possible reproductive disease problems, and re-evaluate the nutritional program. Check on bull condition during the breeding season, and provide supplemental feed as needed. Prepare to remove bulls after a controlled breeding season. Keep bulls in a small pasture traps with effective fences. Castrate and dehorn late calves or those missed in early working.

## Contact Information:

MISSISSIPPI Box 9815 | Mississippi State, MS 39762  
**BCIA** <http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/>  
BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION Fax: 662-325-8873

Dr. Brandi Karisch, Beef Cattle Extension Specialist



Email: brandi.karisch@msstate.edu  
 Phone: 662-325-7465

Cobie Rutherford, Beef Cattle Extension Associate



Email: cobie.rutherford@msstate.edu  
 Phone: 662-325-4344

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[www.facebook.com/MSStateExtBeef](http://www.facebook.com/MSStateExtBeef)



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™**  
**EXTENSION**

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

## 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 lifetime dues payable to Mississippi BCIA should be mailed to:*

*Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association  
 Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762*