

# Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

*Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality*



## Upcoming events:

- April 9—Mississippi Angus Association Field Day, Ingram Cattle Company, Water Valley, MS, 9:30 a.m.
- April 11—Cattlemen's Exchange: (Jones/Perry County) Spring vs. fall calving/controlled breeding season
- April 12—Cattlemen's Exchange statewide meeting, Live from the MSU meats lab, distance education sites across MS, 6:00—9:00 p.m.
- April 15—Farm to Feedlot spring shipment consignment deadline
- April 16—Rankin County Cattlemen's Field Day, Brandon, MS
- April 19—Cattlemen's Exchange: (Neshoba/Kemper/Noxubee/Newton County) Pasture management, Neshoba County Coliseum, Philadelphia, MS, 6:00 p.m.
- April 21—Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo, Raleigh, MS
- April 22-23—Cattlemen's Exchange Mississippi Beef Tour
- May 21—South Farm Beef Cattle Field Day, MSU campus, South Farm Beef Unit, 9:00 a.m.

## Inside this issue:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| April Beef Innovator   | 2 |
| State Beef Checkoff Signed into Law                          | 2 |
| South Mississippi Replacement Heifer Sale Seeks Consignments | 3 |
| Farm to Feedlot Spring Shipment Deadline in April            | 3 |
| MBCIA Membership Application                                 | 4 |
| BCIA Management Calendar                                     | 4 |

## Mississippi Premises Identification System Up and Running

Dr. Jim Watson, Mississippi state veterinarian, announced in March that the Mississippi premises identification system is now in place. Voluntary premises identification is part of the initial implementation of the National Animal Identification System. Premises registration is accomplished by just taking a few minutes to fill out the premises registration form and then sending the form to the state veterinarian's office at the Mississippi Board of Animal Health.



The Mississippi Board of Animal Health will administer the state premises ID system

The voluntary state premises identification registration form asks for only a few key pieces of information. The Mississippi form is available online at <http://www.mbah.state.ms.us/> on the Mississippi Board of Animal Health website. Forms can also be obtained by calling the Board of Animal Health at 601-359-1170.

The National Animal Identification System currently being implemented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on a voluntary basis is intended to identify animals and poultry and record their movements over the course of their lifespans. USDA's ultimate goal is to create an effective, uniform national animal tracking system that will help maintain the health of U.S. herds and flocks. When fully operational, it will allow animal

tracing to be completed within 48 hours of a disease detection.

Producers should register their premises in the state where that premises is located. For more information on premises registration or the National Animal Identification System, contact your local Extension office or area livestock/forages agent.

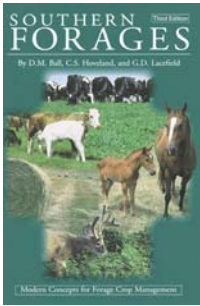
## MSU South Farm Beef Cattle Field Day Set for May 21

The Mississippi State University South Farm will host a beef cattle field day on Saturday, May 21, 2005. The field day will feature Angus, Charolais, and Hereford cattle and will start at 9:00 a.m. at the South Farm Beef Unit on the Mississippi State University campus farm. Field day topics will include the South Farm forage plan, South Farm herd health program, bull development/breeding program and research, breed association programs for seedstock producers and com-



The South Farm Beef Cattle Field Day will feature Angus, Charolais, and Hereford

mercial customers, electronic animal identification demonstration, and a beef quality demonstration. After lunch a drawing will be held for two free slots at a fall artificial insemination school offered by the MSU Extension Service. A tour of the South Farm will also be provided. The South Farm is adjacent to the Southern end of the Mississippi State University campus. For more information on the field day or directions to the farm, call 662-325-3516.



The winning beef innovator idea for next month wins a copy of Southern Forages

## April Beef Innovator

For April, the Beef Innovator program features a method for reducing hay feeding waste by elevating the bale in a hay feeder. This idea comes from a beef cattle operation in Carroll County. A skidder tire is used to keep the bale off the ground. Reducing hay feeding waste is an important step towards reducing winter feeding costs. The April Beef Innovator prize is two bags of free-choice mineral courtesy of Land O' Lakes Feed.



If you have a beef or forage “innovation” that you would like to share with fellow producers to improve their operations, please send it to Beef Innovators, Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762. Ideas can also be submitted by e-mail to [jparish@ads.msstate.edu](mailto:jparish@ads.msstate.edu) or [bmckinley@ads.msstate.edu](mailto:bmckinley@ads.msstate.edu). Each submission should include a

brief description of the innovation along with a photograph of the idea. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

Next month's prize will be a copy of the third edition of Southern Forages. Beef Innovators is a joint effort between the Mississippi BCIA, Mississippi Cattlemen's Association and the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

## State Beef Checkoff Bill Signed into Law

On March 21, 2005, Governor Barbour signed Senate Bill 2952 authorizing the creation of a state checkoff program should the national beef checkoff program cease to exist. The bill authorizes a referendum for producers to vote on continuation of a \$1.00 per head checkoff to be administered by the Mississippi Beef Industry Council. Any producer could request and receive a refund of assessments levied. Mississippi is one of the last major cattle-producing states to pass such legislation.

The Supreme Court will rule on the pending constitutionality suit concerning the national beef checkoff before its current session ends on June 30.

The Beef Checkoff Program was established as part of the 1985 Farm Bill. The checkoff

assesses \$1 per head on the sale of live domestic and imported cattle, in addition to a comparable assessment on imported beef and beef products. States retain up to 50 cents on the dollar and forward the other 50 cents per head to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board, which administers the national checkoff program, subject to USDA approval. The checkoff assessment became mandatory when the program was approved by 79 percent of producers in a 1988 national referendum vote. Checkoff revenues may be used for promotion, education and research programs to improve the marketing climate for beef.

For a summary of research projects funded by the national beef checkoff go to <http://www.beef.org/documents/03annual.pdf> on the internet.

---

*“... Should the national beef checkoff program cease to exist ... the bill authorizes a referendum for producers to vote on a (state) checkoff ...”*

## South Mississippi Replacement Heifer Sale Seeks Consignments

The 2005 South Mississippi Replacement Heifer Sale is scheduled for August 27, 2005 at the Southeast Mississippi Livestock Barn. Producers planning on consigning to this year's sale should return consignment forms and fees to Mike Keene, Extension Area Livestock/Forages Agent, by April 30, 2005. Bulls should be pulled by June 30, 2005.

**Age:** Heifers must be born between January 2003 and January 30, 2004.

**Health:** Heifers must originate from a certified brucellosis-free herd or must be tested within 30 days of the sale. Health papers from a veterinarian must accompany the females to the sale. Calfhood vaccination is recommended. Heifers must be dehorned, wormed, treated for external parasites and vaccinated for the following: 7-way Clostridia, IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV, Vibriosis and Leptospirosis. Heifers should not have been implanted.

**Fertility:** Open heifers must be verified as such by a licensed veterinarian and should have a reproductive tract score of 4 or 5 to qualify. Bred heifers must be palpated or ultrasound scanned and confirmed pregnant by a licensed veterinarian. Pelvic measurements must be taken, and the mini-

mum acceptable measurement is 180 cm<sup>2</sup>. Heifers must be of known breed composition and known parentage or NOTED. Heifers will be produced by consignor or sold as ASSEMBLED groups. Heifers must be bred back to performance tested bulls. Breed of bulls used, exposure dates or A. I. service must be noted. Heifers must be structurally sound with no obvious defects.

**Weights:** Minimum adjusted 205-day weaning weights will be 500 lbs. Minimum weights for bred heifers by sale day will be 800 lbs. for British breeds or combinations and 900 lbs. for Continental-Brahman breeds or their combinations.

An impartial committee will be used to look over the heifers before the sale and will have final authority on whether cattle meet sale standards, along with acceptable disposition. Sale order will be determined by a committee of three based on performance, general conformation, quality, interest, and rotation.

For more information on the South Mississippi Replacement Heifer Sale, contact Mike Keene at 601-545-6083 or by e-mail at [mikek@ext.msstate.edu](mailto:mikek@ext.msstate.edu). Completed consignment forms should be mailed to Mike at 952 Sullivan Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

*"... Producers planning on consigning to this year's sale should return consignment forms... by April 30, 2005."*

## Farm to Feedlot Spring Shipment Deadline in April

The Mississippi Farm to Feedlot Project is offering a spring shipment this year. Brochures with nomination forms included are available through county Extension offices and are also online at <http://msucare.com/livestock/beef/ftf/> on the MSUcares website. The nomination deadline for the spring shipment is April 15, 2005.

The Mississippi Farm to Feedlot program evaluates feedlot and carcass performance of beef cattle produced in Mississippi. This program has allowed producers to evaluate performance and carcass characteristics of their cattle and make profitable changes in

their breeding, health, and management programs. The program also provides educational information to beef producers regarding retained ownership as a marketing alternative. Over the last eleven years beef producers have enrolled over 6,700 head of cattle through the Farm to Feedlot program. Farm to Feedlot cattle have returned a profit in nine of the last eleven years.

For more information on the Mississippi Farm to Feedlot Project, contact your local Extension office or Blair McKinley at 662-325-3691 or [bmckinley@ads.msstate.edu](mailto:bmckinley@ads.msstate.edu).



Farm to Feedlot provides an opportunity to gather postweaning performance information

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement  
Association—Productivity and Quality

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



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

Send questions or comments about this  
newsletter to Jane Parish, Extension Beef  
Specialist, MSU 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.



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 Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(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—April 2005

### GENERAL

Continue to watch for grass tetany. Keep a close eye on pasture conditions, and continue supplemental feeding as needed until grass is plentiful. Use outside stores of hay first, and plan storage for new hay. Plant and fertilize pastures according to soil tests to ensure adequate forage supply for late spring and summer. Begin planning the feed supply for next winter. If renovation of existing toxic tall fescue fields to new “friendly” tall fescue is planned for next autumn, chemically eradicate the old toxic tall fescue prior to seedhead development. Provide proper free-choice minerals and fresh water at all times. Start watching for flies. Order fly control products and begin control program before fly population build-up. Consider the type of fly control chemicals used last year and rotate from organophosphate to pyrethroid or vice-versa.

### SPRING CALVING—January, February, March

Place bulls with herd in early April for mid-January calves. Start breeding heifers about a month before the cow herd. For pasture breeding make sure that appropriate bull power is used: one yearling bull to 15 cows, one 2-year-old bull to 20 cows, one mature bull to 25-30 cows. If adequate bull power is available, rotate bulls every 15 days to allow rest. 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 at least twice daily, early morning and late evening, to observe heat activity. Confining cattle to a limited grazing area makes this easier. Modify or establish facilities for artificial insemination if needed keeping ease of cattle handling in mind. Implement a proper heat synchronization protocol if desired. Artificially inseminate cattle about 12 hours after observation of standing heat (about 8 hours after standing heat for purebred Brahman cattle). 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. Make sure the mature cow herd is in moderate to good condition to rebreed, and supplement if cows are thin or spring pastures are coming on slowly.

### 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. Implement a calf preweaning vaccination program as recommended by a veterinarian and make plans for boosters and preconditioning. Consult with a veterinarian for calthood vaccination recommendations for heifers. Pregnancy check herd females about 60 days after the end of the breeding season. Establish permanent identification (tattoos or brands) for bred heifers that will remain in the herd.