

# Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



## Upcoming events:

- August 4—Mississippi Farm to Feedlot Project conference, MCA office, Jackson, MS, 6:30 p.m.
- August 8—MS-LA Stocker Cattle/ Heifer Development Short Course, Lincoln County Multipurpose Building, Brookhaven, MS, 9:00 a.m.
- August 15—BCIA Annual Fall Bull Sale Nomination Deadline
- August 16—Southeastern Livestock Network, RFID cow sale demonstration, Tylertown, MS
- August 17—Southeastern Livestock Network RFID cow sale demonstration, Luucedale, MS,
- September 10—Farm to Feedlot Fall 2005 consignment deadline
- November 1, 8, 15—Beef Cattle Genetics Short Course, Distance education sites across MS, 6:00–9:00 p.m.
- November 10—BCIA Annual Fall Bull Sale, Raymond, MS, 12:00 p.m.
- April 18-21, 2006—Beef Improvement Federation annual meeting, Pearl River Resort, Choctaw, MS

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## BCIA Fall Bull Sale Nominations Still Sought

It is not too late to nominate bulls for the Fall 2005 Mississippi BCIA Bull Sale. The sale scheduled for Thursday, November 10 at the Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility in Raymond, MS. The nomination deadline is August 15, 2005, and a \$25 nomination fee is required at that time for each bull nominated. Be sure to carefully read all sale rules and regulations. Complete BCIA bull sale information and forms are available online at [http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/bcia\\_bullsale.html](http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/bcia_bullsale.html) on the MBCIA website.

The annual fall BCIA bull sale brings out bull buyers from several states in search of performance backed bulls. The high-selling lot in the most recent BCIA bull sale brought \$3,550. The sale averaged \$1908 per bull in 2004 and \$2179 per bull in 2003. At the 2004 sale, the average sale price of bulls

with ultrasound scan results, ultrasound EPDs, and/or carcass EPDs was \$2,029. The average sale price of bulls in the same sale without any ultrasound or carcass data was \$1,753.

**While ultrasound data is not required for the Fall 2005 sale, remember that proper yearling ultrasound measurements should be taken on bulls currently being developed for the November 2006 sale.**

The Mississippi BCIA Fall Bull Sale Program is a great opportunity to make contacts with commercial bull customers interested in genetic improvement and to advertise your seedstock operation. Contact Jane Parish in Extension Animal and Dairy Sciences at [jparish@ads.msstate.edu](mailto:jparish@ads.msstate.edu) or (662) 325-7466 with any questions.

## Cattlemen's Exchange Featured on Farmweek

The highly successful Cattlemen's Exchange Program was recently featured on the television show, Farmweek. The seven-minute program appeared on the June 17 Farmweek broadcast. The show highlighted a Winona Cattlemen's Exchange group meeting, the April 2005 Cattlemen's Exchange statewide beef tour, and the statewide Cattlemen's Exchange meeting live from the Mississippi State University meats lab. Several Mississippi beef cattle producers were interviewed about their experiences with Cattlemen's Exchange. To view the Farmweek feature on the Cattlemen's Exchange program, go to either of the following websites:

<http://msucares.com/news/farmweek/featurestories2005.html>

<http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/exchange.html>

Farmweek Television airs on:  
Mississippi Public Broadcasting Television  
Friday 6:00 a.m.  
Sunday 5:30 p.m.

RFD-TV (nationwide satellite network)  
DIRECTV channel 379  
DISH Network channel 9409  
Central Standard Time  
Friday 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.  
Saturday 5 a.m.  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Farmweek Radio airs on Mississippi Public Broadcasting Radio on Thursday at 6:33 a.m. and 4:33 p.m.

Cattlemen's Exchange is a joint venture between the Mississippi State University Extension Service and the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association.



Harlan and Dorotheann Rogers are congratulated at BIF

## Mississippi Breeders Honored at BIF Meeting

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) held its 37<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Billings, Montana on July 6-9, 2005. Mississippi representatives invited the record 752 attendees, who included scientists, educators, and producers from 11 different nations and across the U.S. to the Magnolia State where the BIF annual meeting will be hosted in 2006 for the first time in its thirty-nine year history. The Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association will co-host the 2006 BIF annual meeting in Choctaw, Mississippi on April 18-21, 2006 in cooperation with the Mississippi State University Extension Service and the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association.

The Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association is a long-standing member of the Beef Improvement Federation. The Beef Improvement Federation is a national organization comprised primarily of state and national organizations involved in beef improvement efforts across the country. It is the premier organization involved in developing and promoting beef cattle performance evaluation and genetic improvement. The Beef Improvement Federation also pays tribute to outstanding seedstock and commercial operations and exceptional contributions to the beef industry. Both Ingram Cattle Company and Rogers Bar HR Charolais represented Mississippi at BIF 2005 in the seedstock producer award competition. The Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association nominated Ingram Cattle Company, and the American International Charolais Association nominated Rogers Bar HR for the award. Both the Rogers and Ingram operations received plaques from the Beef Im-

provement Federation as nominees for the prestigious award.

At the 2005 BIF annual meeting, reproductive efficiency, cow adaptability, multi-breed evaluation, Web-based decision-support tools, selection indexes and producer profitability were just some of the topics discussed. Industry leaders from across the U.S. and around the world shared information and interacted with the crowd on a wide variety of advancements in cattle breeding and genetic evaluation. The convention wrapped up with daylong tours of the Montana beef industry. Streaming video clips, proceedings papers, and PowerPoint® presentations of the BIF meeting are online at <http://www.bifconference.com/>. The official BIF website is located at <http://www.beefimprovement.org/>.

The 2006 BIF annual meeting in Mississippi is themed "21<sup>st</sup> Century Genetics – Rising to the Challenge Southern Style". In the coming months, program and registration information will be advertised. Beef producers interested in a tremendous educational and networking opportunity should go ahead and block April 18-21, 2006 out on the calendar to attend the 2006 BIF meeting. Strong local attendance at BIF 2006 in Mississippi will go a long ways towards breaking the BIF attendance record set in Montana and ensuring that Mississippi beef producers capitalize on the wealth of practical information presented at the BIF meeting. For more information on BIF 2006, contact Jane Parish at 662-325-7466 or Blair McKinley at 662-325-3691.

## Farm to Feedlot Fall Consignments due in September

*"Over the last 12 years, local beef producers have retained ownership...of over 7,000 head in the Mississippi Farm to Feedlot Project."*

The Mississippi Farm to Feedlot Project is once again seeking consignments. Cattle enrolled in the project will be shipped to DM&M Feedlot in Cimarron, Kansas in mid to late October 2005.

Over the last 12 years, local beef producers have retained ownership through the feedlot of over 7,000 head in the Mississippi Farm to Feedlot Project. This project has allowed these producers to evaluate performance

and carcass characteristics of their cattle and make profitable changes in their breeding, health, and management programs.

Farm to Feedlot consignments are due by September 10, 2005. Brochures with consignment forms are available online at <http://msucare.com/livestock/beef/ftf/index.html> or can be picked up at your local Extension office. For more information, contact Blair McKinley at 662-325-3691.

## August Beef Innovation

Reducing input costs can help make Mississippi beef operations more profitable. The Beef Innovation for August is an inexpensive electric fence spool that can save producers money. All it takes is: one small snap, a three-foot piece of nylon cord, and a short piece of stiff wire. Then BAM, an electric fence spool that cost less than \$4.00 compared to the \$50.00 dollar ones from the dealer. This idea comes from a producer in Attala County. Thanks to Ron Ladner for submitting this Beef Innovation.

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.

Beef Innovators is a joint effort between the Mississippi BCIA, Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association, and Mississippi State University Extension Service.



**Premises Registered  
in the United States  
as part of the  
National Animal  
Identification System**

**91,082  
as of 07/27/05**

## Notable Quotes from BIF 2005

“We stand at a unique point in time where we can take advantage of improvements in methods to control the estrous cycle in cattle, as well as a changing market structure where quality is being rewarded.”

— *David Patterson, Univ. of Missouri*

“Web-based decision support is more than simply online customized indexes... early adopters of this technology have the opportunity to identify sires that they can be confident will increase their profit, rather than using sires that may simply lead to genetic change, without providing genetic improvement.”

— *Dorian J. Garrick, Colorado State Univ.*

(Addressing BIF attendees) “You recognize being here helps you find an edge to be competitive in the U.S. and global market.”

— *Randy Blach, CattleFax*

“(In preparation for age and source verification)... It does not need to be fancy, but a recordkeeping system needs to be put in place by each cow-calf producer.”

— *Cara Gerken, IMI Global, Inc.*

“Certification of field (scanning) and lab (interpreting) technicians serves to... add additional credibility to ultrasound process... and ensure the highest quality data to breed associations for genetic evaluation”

— *Lisa Kriese-Anderson, Auburn Univ.*

“Entrepreneurial producers have to wear a lot of hats. They can’t work in a vacuum. They need to understand all segments (of the beef industry), gather information and figure out how to get a bigger piece of the action.”

— *Vern Pierce, Univ. of Missouri*



Mississippi producers visiting with other producers from across the U.S. on the BIF tour

*Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement  
Association—Productivity and Quality*

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Send questions or comments about this  
newsletter to Jane Parish, Extension Beef  
Specialist, Mississippi State University  
Extension Service

*Jane Parish* **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,

**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—August 2005**

### **GENERAL**

BCIA Bull Sale nomination deadline is August 15. Start planning winter grazing and feeding programs evaluating cool-season pasture options and by-product commodity alternatives. Keep proper free-choice minerals, adequate shade, and clean water available for cattle at all times, and check mineral and water supplies often. Remove fly tags as they become ineffective, and implement additional fly control methods as needed. Maintain a complete herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian including internal and external parasite control and vaccinations. Rotationally graze summer pastures, clipping overgrown pastures or harvesting excess for hay. Avoid grazing heavily nitrogen fertilized sudangrass, sorghum-sudan hybrid, or pearl millet pastures during drought or cool, cloudy weather. If cattle are grazed on these pastures, they should be observed carefully for signs of nitrate poisoning. Continue harvesting hay at 4-5 week intervals when possible for optimum forage maturity and quality. Fertilize hay fields between cuttings or on a regular interval to replace soil nutrients removed by hay production and improve hay yield and quality. Continue recording hay yields and forage testing each cutting. Store hay to minimize storage losses and allow matching of forage test results with individual lots of hay for use in hay feeding and supplementation decisions. Continue good production and financial record keeping.

### **SPRING CALVING—January, February, March**

Plan for fall cattle working by determining vaccination, deworming, and implant needs and acquiring supplies ahead of time. Wean calves based on market and pasture conditions using weaning strategies that minimize calf stress. Monitor herd performance and nutritional status by recording weights and cow body condition scores at weaning. Assess weaning percentage (calves weaned/cows exposed to breeding) and cow efficiency (calf weight/cow weight). Put a heifer development program in action to reach target breeding weights by the start of the next breeding season keeping an eye on declining forage quality. Implement calf preconditioning, marketing, or retained ownership plans as appropriate considering seasonal price risks and break-evens on calves. Pregnancy check herd females 60 to 90 days after the end of the breeding season and implement an effective culling procedure for less productive or problem cattle. Establish permanent identification (tattoos or brands) for bred heifers that will remain in the herd.

### **FALL CALVING—October, November, December**

Start preparing for the upcoming fall calving season. Cows need to be in moderately good condition prior to calving. Purchase or assemble calving supplies including calf identification tags and obstetric equipment. Move fall-calving heifers and cows close to handling facilities and observe cattle frequently.