

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



Upcoming events:

- October 5-16—Mississippi State Fair, Jackson, MS
- October 25—Hinds Community College Bull Test begins, Raymond, MS
- October 27-29—MSU Artificial Insemination School, Prairie Research Unit, Prairie, MS
- November 1—Beef Cattle Genetics Short Course: Beef Cattle Genetics Basics, Distance education sites across MS, 6:00—9:00 p.m.
- November 8—Beef Cattle Genetics Short Course: Adaptability and Crossbreeding, Distance education sites across MS, 6:00—9:00 p.m.
- **November 10—BCIA Annual Fall Bull Sale, Raymond, MS, 12:00 p.m.**
- November 15—Beef Cattle Genetics Short Course: Beyond Expected Progeny Differences, Distance education sites across MS, 6:00—9:00 p.m.
- April 18-21, 2006—Beef Improvement Federation annual meeting, Pearl River Resort, Choctaw, MS

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BCIA to Market Quality Bulls on November 10

BCIA Fall Bull Sale Information

Thursday, November 10, 2005
12:00 Noon

Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility
Raymond, Mississippi

Angus · Hereford
Charolais · Gelbvieh · Simmental
Santa Gertrudis

Mississippi BCIA is once again proud to offer a tremendous set of performance backed bulls in our 2005 Fall Bull Sale. All bulls are screened for structural problems, disposition, and performance and are guaranteed as breeders. These bulls have passed breeding soundness examinations and met minimum growth and scrotal circumference requirements as well.

Bulls will be available for viewing starting on the afternoon of November 9. For more information or to request a catalog, contact Jane Parish at (662) 325-3516 or go to http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/bcia_bullsale.html. Catalogs will be available in mid-October.

The objective of the Mississippi BCIA Bull Sale program is to encourage production and identification of genetically superior bulls by purebred breeders and to encourage the purchase and use of these bulls by commercial producers.

BCIA 2005 Fall Bull Sale Consignors

- ▶ Bethesda Farm
- ▶ Edwards Charolais
- ▶ Evans Angus Farm
- ▶ Harvey Farms
- ▶ Hull Farms
- ▶ Ingram Cattle Co., Inc.
- ▶ J and J Farms
- ▶ Jones Angus Ranch
- ▶ Kiani Angus
- ▶ Lakeview Angus
- ▶ Lou-Jen Farms
- ▶ Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station
- ▶ Monogram Farms
- ▶ Phil Slay
- ▶ S&J Farm
- ▶ Sedgewood Plantation
- ▶ SouthernShine Pastures
- ▶ Tony Thames
- ▶ V C Angus Farm
- ▶ Windy Ridge Angus Farm
- ▶ Woodpile Ranch
- ▶ Woods Angus



Hurricane Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Fences are down throughout South Mississippi. What can be done?

Answer: Use of solar chargers and polywire electric fencing is a quick temporary fix for producers who have access to this equipment. Cattle should be gathered up and kept off of roadways as best possible. Watch for downed power lines and other hazards in the process of rounding up cattle. Be careful not to overcrowd cattle in small areas for ex-

tended periods of time. Perimeter fencing is the first priority. Portable facilities should be shared among neighbors when available.

Question: Many trees were downed in the hurricane. What trees in South Mississippi could cause potential livestock disorders if their leaves or nuts are consumed?

Answer: Buckeye (horse chestnut), wild cherry (black cherry), oak



Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama are teaming up for the November genetics short course

Beef Cattle Genetics Short Course to Span Three States

The Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association is working with the Mississippi State University Extension Service in cooperation with Louisiana State University and Auburn University to conduct a Beef Cattle Genetics Short Course for beef producers in November. This short course will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on three consecutive Tuesday nights. It will be broadcast over interactive video from Mississippi State University to distance education sites throughout Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama on November 1, 8, and 15, 2005.

Leading beef cattle geneticists from six states will present and answer producer questions during the short course. Call Animal and Dairy Sciences Extension at 662-325-3516 or contact your local Extension office for a list of distance education sites and registration information. The registration fee is \$15 per person and is due by October 17, 2005. Registration information is also available online at <http://msucares.com/livestock/beef>.

Speakers and Topics

Beef Cattle Genetics Basics **Tuesday, November 1, 2005** **6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Beef Genetics and Measurement Basics
Lisa Kriese-Anderson, Auburn University

Expected Progeny Differences and Indexes
Scott Greiner, Virginia Tech University

Adaptability and Crossbreeding **Tuesday, November 8, 2005** **6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Selecting Cattle for the Environment
Don Franke, Louisiana State University

Heterosis/ Crossbreeding Systems
Tom Field, Colorado State University

Beyond Expected Progeny Differences **Tuesday, November 15, 2005** **6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Custom Sire Ranking Excel Program
Daryl Strohbehn, Iowa State University

Technology in Beef Cattle Breeding
Dan Moser, Kansas State University



Beef Cattle Genetics Short Course – Registration Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Number attending: _____ Registration fee enclosed: \$ _____ (\$15 per person)

*Preferred Site: _____

Registration deadline: October 17, 2005

Please make checks payable to *Beef Genetics Short Course* and send along with this registration form to:
Beef Genetics Short Course - Mississippi
Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762

*For information on participating distance education sites or other short course questions contact your local Extension office or contact:

Blair McKinley / Jane Parish Phone: (662) 325-3691 / (662) 325-7466
E-mail: bmckinley@ads.msstate.edu / jparish@ads.msstate.edu

“Leading beef cattle geneticists from six states will present and answer producer questions during the short course...”

Hurricane Questions (Cont.)

Question: Cattle are roaming together free-range due to fencing problems. What are the potential impacts of unwanted commingling of cattle?

Answer: Unwanted commingling of cattle can create herd health and breeding issues. Make notes of commingling situations, and separate cattle once necessary facilities

and/or fencing issues are resolved. Electric fencing with solar chargers is a rapid, temporary solution for separating cattle where permanent fencing is down and electricity is unavailable. It is important to resume a herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian to address possible disease concerns.

Hurricane Questions (Cont.)

Question: Salt water washed over pastures and ponds as a result of Hurricane Katrina. What concerns does this create for live-stock?

Answer: Cattle must have adequate supplies of fresh water to survive. Water consumption needs are particularly high during periods of hot or warm temperatures. Providing fresh water is the first priority. Use water tanks, and solicit assistance from neighbors and local fire departments for immediate water needs. Forages contaminated by salt water may be unpalatable to livestock. Be sure to provide livestock with another source of forage or feed until pastures are cleansed by rains or otherwise. In addition, salt water contamination of soils or water standing on pastures or hayfields for extended periods of time may result in stand losses and render soils unproductive for acceptable forage growth. Bermudagrass and bahiagrass are fairly tolerant of high salinity. Overseeding cool-season species may be problematic if salinity is still present during seeding as these forage species are less tolerant of high soil salinity levels.

Question: Salt water washed over pastures and ponds as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Will applying gypsum to pastures contaminated by salt be effective in improving soil conditions for forage growth?

Answer: This works. When soils contain a lot of salt, e.g., after a hurricane, the sodium ions bind to the soil particles which impedes drainage (even in sandy soils) and stops the roots from getting down into the soil (sodium ions are big). Gypsum displaces these sodium ions and allows them to leach from the soil thereby removing the salt. Drainage will improve and root development will be better.

Question: Feed supplies are storm damaged, and available feed does not necessarily match what cattle are accustomed to consuming in terms of ingredients and/or nutritional value. How should this situation be handled?

Answer: Beware of feeding moldy or otherwise unsafe feeds to livestock. Make sure that feed is not contaminated by chemicals as a result of the storm. Abruptly changing cattle diets can result in bloat or other nutritional disorders that threaten livestock health. Attempt to slowly shift animals onto

new diets by increasing the amount of the new diet offered to animals in 0.5 to 1 lbs. increments over several weeks. Watch cattle closely for signs of distress, and make sure that plenty of forage or other roughage is available to them along with free-choice quality mineral supplements and clean water. Young, growing animals may be most susceptible to nutritional disturbances.

Question: Winds from Hurricane Katrina destroyed the protective wrapping on baleage. What can be done with the baleage?

Answer: Baleage exposed to the elements will spoil rapidly if not fed immediately to livestock. Uncovered baleage is most likely a loss unless it can be rewrapped or placed in a sealed bunker rapidly.

Question: Many oak leaves and acorns are down in hayfields due to Hurricane Katrina. Is this a problem for cattle consuming the hay?

Answer: Winds from Katrina left oak twigs with acorns attached scattered across many hay fields. Cattle would need to consume a considerable amount over several days to create a toxic condition. There are likely not enough acorns in the hay to create a problem. Many acorns will sift out during hay raking and baling as well. Typically, acorn poisoning is not seen until late fall or early winter. In most cases grazing cattle with a good supply of forage and or hay will not eat acorns. However, this is an unusual situation. Cattle should be checked on a regular basis. Also be sure to keep water tanks as free of debris as possible.

Question: The lack of electricity from the hurricane resulted in a loss of refrigeration for many cattle vaccines. Can they still be used?

Answer: Most vaccines have a very limited shelf life when left unrefrigerated. This means that they will not be effective in boosting cattle immunity when administered. Carefully read product labels, and discard unused product as appropriate.

Up to date livestock-related hurricane relief and recovery information is online at <http://msucare.com/livestock/beef/hurricane.html>. This website contains public service announcements, contact information for livestock assistance, livestock disaster publications, and relevant press releases.

You can help!

Anyone wishing to make tax-deductible contributions to the relief efforts for affected cattlemen can send them marked "Katrina Relief" to: Mississippi Cattlemen's Foundation, 680 Monroe St., Jackson, MS 39202.



Fencing supplies and repair assistance are needed by many Mississippi producers


*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, Mississippi State University
Extension Service

Jane Parish 
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: _____ Email: _____

(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—October 2005

GENERAL

Help your neighbors with hurricane recovery efforts. Summer pasture quality rapidly declines from now til frost. Graze permanent summer pastures closely, and plant winter forages where appropriate. Watch nutrition closely when grazing stalks and stubble and be prepared to supplement. Remove cattle from sorghum crops after the first frost because of the risk of prussic acid poisoning. Keep proper free-choice minerals and clean water available for cattle at all times. Continue monitoring supplemental feed prices. Corn and by-product feeds such as cottonseed are often less expensive in the fall. Test the quality of stored forages if not already done. Watch body condition, and group the herd into winter-feeding groups such as mature cows with average condition, thin mature cows, and first-calf heifers. Match forage and feeding programs to the nutritional needs of each group. Keep up with lime and fertilizer needs. Maintain a complete herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian including internal and external parasite control and vaccinations. Remove any remaining fly tags. Continue good production and financial record keeping. Secure a premises identification number for your farm or ranch from the Mississippi Board of Animal Health.

SPRING CALVING—January, February, March

Pregnancy check herd females identifying and culling less productive or problem cattle. Finish weaning late calves using weaning strategies that minimize calf stress. Implement calf preconditioning, marketing, or retained ownership plans as appropriate considering seasonal price risks and breakevens on calves. Weigh calves and

calculate adjusted weaning weights and ratios. Seedstock producers should send weaning records to breed associations for processing. Assess weaning percentage (calves weaned/cows exposed to breeding). Identify and cull bulls that have sired calf groups that are well below the herd average for growth performance and carcass traits. Implement a nutritional program to get thin cows in proper body condition before next calving. Use weaning weights to put a heifer selection and development program in action to reach target breeding weights (65% of expected mature weight) by the start of the next breeding season. Heifers will likely need to grow at a rate of 1 to 1.5 lbs. per day. Separate bred heifers from the cows and provide adequate supplemental nutrition as fall forage quality declines. Establish permanent identification (tattoos or brands) for bred heifers that will remain in the herd.

FALL CALVING—October, November, December

Keep calving supplies on hand, including calf identification tags and obstetric equipment. Move fall-calving heifers and cows close to handling facilities and observe cattle frequently. After calving, plan to move cow-calf pairs to clean pasture. Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as appropriate. Consult with a veterinarian for scheduling pre-breeding vaccination needs. Weigh yearling cattle and calculate adjusted weights and ratios. Plan for herd sire needs by evaluating bulls and arranging breeding soundness exams. Consider the Fall 2005 BCIA Bull Sale as a source of bulls with performance information. The sale is scheduled for noon on November 10, 2005 at the Hinds Community College Sales Facility in Raymond.