



M I S S I S S I P P I

BCIA

BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

- December 1-3- Mississippi Beef Expo, Jackson
- December 7-8—Grass Fed Beef Conference, Purvis
- January 15- Nominations due for Spring BCIA Sale
- February 28- MBCIA Annual Membership Meeting
- March 1- Hinds/MBCIA Spring Bull Sale, Raymond
- March 15-17- Mississippi State University Artificial Insemination School, Animal and Dairy Sciences Department, Mississippi State, MS

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Fall BCIA Bull and Heifer Sale Re-cap

The Mississippi BCIA wrapped up its Fall Bull & Heifer Sale on Saturday, November 4, 2017 at Hinds Community College. The MBCIA Fall Sale featured 22 performance-backed bulls from breeders across the state. Thank you to all of the consignors and buyers for supporting the Fall 2017 Mississippi BCIA Bull & Heifer Sale.

The top-selling lot was from Thames Angus Farm. Lot 11, TAF Upward 1195, was consigned by Thames Angus Farm of Jayess. He was purchased by The Gaddis Farms of Bolton, Mississippi. Other breeders marketing bulls in the MBCIA sale included Kiani Angus, Vista Farms Cattle Company, and Monogram Farms. Sale receipts on 22 bulls totaled \$47,300 for a sale average price of \$2,368.

The top selling females were consigned by BCIA President, Danny Martin of M&M Farms. John Washburn of Raymond purchased lot 79 & 84 for \$2,000 each. Megehee Cattle Co. sold four bred heifers through the sale. Vista Farms of Fayette, Alabama consigned the twenty open registered Angus heifers.

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. Bulls offered through this sale have passed a breeding soundness exam, met minimum growth and scrotal circumference requirements, and are backed with extensive performance

	All bulls	Angus	Open Heifers	Bred Heifers
Number sold	22	22	20	16
Gross receipts	\$47,300	\$47,300	\$29,285	\$29,760
Average price	\$2,368	\$2,368	\$1,464	\$1,860
High selling lot price	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$1,700	\$2,000

information.

The MBCIA Fall Bull and Heifer Sale is currently held on the first Saturday in November. The Mississippi BCIA looks forward, once again, to joining forces with the Hinds Community College Bull Test on another successful bull sale in Raymond, Mississippi on March 1, 2018.

Breeders interested in nominating bulls to the Spring BCIA Bull Sale should complete and submit the enclosed nomination forms to the MBCIA office by January 15, 2018.

Turns out cow temperament is more than a convenience trait

We often consider temperament a convenience trait. New data shows it affects performance, too.

Accessed from <http://www.beefmagazine.com/genetics/turns-out-cow-temperament-more-convenience-trait>

When does a convenience trait become very inconvenient? When a bad-tempered bull or cow blows snot in your back pocket and puts you over a fence, that's when. And that's also likely when docility goes from the bottom of the list to the top.

Even if it's the last thing you think about at decision time, recent work at Texas A&M suggests disposition affects performance at many points in development.

Researchers sorted heifers from the same ranch into excitable and calm groups based on exit speed from the chute after processing. Like most evaluations by default, that sort produced a group of "fast" or excitable heifers. Interestingly, cattle in this experiment were fed in the same pens, so performance was comparable between these groups within the same environment.

Excitable heifers were 72 pounds lighter upon feedyard entry, suggesting pre-weaning performance was reduced. That says herd operators at all stages along the production chain could realize benefits from selecting for docile cattle.

On the other hand, building on their heavier feedyard entry weights, the calm heifers gained 12% faster during the growing period. That brought with it an 8% greater feed intake, but feed efficiency still favored the calm heifers. No big surprises there, but how these groups behaved during the feeding period offers new insights.

Excitable heifers went to the bunk as often as their calm pen mates, but they were slower to approach the bunk and then spent 3 minutes less time eating. To speculate just a bit, that could be linked to a greater flight response.

The study did not get into that aspect, but we can imagine how the excitable set would challenge the best feedyard cowboy to accurately evaluate their health status. Based on performance results, the researchers suggested the use of disposition as a sorting tool—imagine checking the wild bunch every morning.

While many of the cattle were *Bos indicus*-influenced, performance and behavior results were consistent across breeds. That tells us the excitable, "fast" calves of each breed represented were slower gaining and less efficient.

Further evaluation should quantify the threshold for "slow enough." We all know cattle that are faster than seems ideal, but the acceptable range of exit speed or excitability within a herd or group remains undefined.

In the Texas research, performance results extended beyond the feedyard and into the beef supply chain. Calm heifers had more valuable carcasses because they weighed 24 pounds more; they also had larger ribeyes and 8 percentage points more grading Choice. Tenderness didn't directly contribute to the \$56 carcass value advantage of calm heifers, but they did yield more tender steaks across the aging groups of 1, 7 and 14 days following harvest.

These results are consistent with past studies where calm cattle perform better at the feedyard and on the rail than excitable ones. Most of the existing data were on steers, however, and this look at the heifer side makes us think about

the traditionally built-in option for a pen of growing heifers.

On decision day, we can keep the calm ones with better breeding & performance, but we must keep in mind that the other half probably won't perform as well for anyone on down the supply chain. Whether you keep most, some or none of your heifers as replacements, that's more logic to support culling beyond reproductive failure. Keep whittling off the bottom 10% to 15% of the fast ones may be slowly eroding profitability & consumer demand for the beef community.

Sexton is the director of supply development for Certified Angus Beef



Beef Improvement Federation

October 30 at 10:07am · 🌐

Save the date: Plan to be with us in Loveland, Colorado, June 20-23 for the 50th Annual Convention themed "Elevating the Industry." Keep following us on Facebook, Twitter as we will be announcing the program and then speakers as confirmed.



Make Plans to Attend the First Annual Grass Fed Beef Conference on December 7-8 in Purvis, MS

Grass-fed beef conference set for December in Purvis

LAMAR, MS -- Producers of grass-fed beef cattle will learn the latest recommendations to produce high quality and profitable live-stock.

Mississippi and Alabama producers are invited to a two-day conference beginning at 1 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Lamar County Community Shelter in Purvis. Specialists from the Mississippi State University Extension Service, Tuskegee University and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System will be available to answer questions.

On the first day, they will learn about beef production systems, growing forages, nutrient needs, muscle and fat deposition and retail cuts. The day's programs will conclude with a dinner at 5:30 p.m.

On Dec. 8, the program begins at 8 a.m. with sessions on legal considerations and marketing grass-fed beef. Additional topics include developing marketing opportunities and producers' perspectives with a panel discussion. The day will include a tour of the forage variety trials and grazing demonstration plots at the MSU White Sands Research Unit in Pearl River County, a branch of the Mississippi Agricultural and Research Experiment Station.

All participants will receive a copy of Southern Forages and a forage measuring stick. Preregistration is \$35 per person. Onsite registration is \$50 per person.

For more information, contact Brandi Karisch at 662-325-7465 or brandi.karisch@msstate.edu or Cobie Rutherford at 662-325-4344 or cobie.rutherford@msstate.edu.

Grassfed Beef in the Southeast

December 7-8, 2017 | Lamar County Community Shelter, Purvis, MS

Thursday, December 7th

- 1:00 p.m. Welcome, Introduction
- 1:10 p.m. Beef Production Systems
- 1:30 p.m. Growing Forages
- 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. Nutrient Needs
- 3:30 p.m. Muscle and Fat Deposition
- 4:30 p.m. Retail Cuts - What is the end product goal?
- 5:00 p.m. Taste of Beef
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner



Friday, December 8th

- 8:00 a.m. Legal Considerations
- 8:30 a.m. Marketing Grass Fed Beef
- 9:30 a.m. Break
- 9:45 a.m. Developing Marketing Opportunities
- 10:15 a.m. Producer Perspectives
- 11:00 a.m. Producer Panel
- 11:30 a.m. Depart for White Sands
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Grazing demonstration, forage variety trials



Pre-registration is \$35/person. All participants will receive a copy of Southern Forages and a forage measuring stick. On-site registration is available for \$50/person. For more information, visit extension.msstate.edu/beef or contact:
Dr. Brandi Karisch at brandi.karisch@msstate.edu or 662-325-7465
Cobie Rutherford at cobie.rutherford@msstate.edu or 662-325-4344



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



Released: Nov. 2, 2017

Contact: Dr. Brandi Karisch, 662-325-7465, or
Cobie Rutherford, 662-325-4344

November 2017 – Management Calendar

GENERAL

Producers should monitor/record Body Condition Scores of the cow herd. Energy and Protein supplementation may be needed on residual summer grazing such as stockpiled bermudagrass. It is not too late to test the quality of stored forages and order winter supplements. Continue monitoring supplemental feed prices. Keep proper free-choice minerals and clean water available for cattle at all times. Maintain a complete herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian including internal and external parasite control and vaccinations. Remove any remaining insecticidal ear tags as they can release low levels of insecticide and promote the development of resistant flies. As the weather cools down, watch for lice and treat cattle as needed. Deworm and implant stockers as appropriate. Continue good production and financial record keeping. This is also a good time to service equipment.

SPRING CALVING—January, February, March

Check weaned calves regularly for health problems, and make sure the nutritional program is providing adequate gains. If culling is not complete, it should be finished this month. Establish permanent identification (tattoos or brands) for bred heifers that will remain in the herd. Replacement heifers will likely need to continue to grow at a rate of 1 to 1.5 lbs. per day to meet target breeding weights in early spring. Separate bred heifers from the cows, and provide adequate supplemental nutrition as fall forage quality declines. Monitor body condition closely

for the entire herd, and supplement thin cows and heifers as needed. Feed lower quality hay to dry, pregnant cows, saving the best hay for calving season. Start ordering calving supplies now so that they will be on hand in time for calving. Check bred heifers frequently. They should begin calving in December if bred ahead of the mature cow herd.

FALL CALVING—October, November, December

Start feeding a high magnesium mineral supplement about 30 days before lactating cattle are turned out onto lush winter annual or tall fescue pastures. Maintain an adequate inventory of calving supplies, including calf identification tags and obstetric equipment. Keep fall-calving heifers and cows close to handling facilities, observing cattle frequently. After calving, plan to move cow-calf pairs to clean pasture. Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as appropriate, and keep good calving records. Cow nutrient needs increase dramatically after calving. Make sure lactating cows are in good condition for breeding. Begin breeding heifers three to four weeks before the mature cow herd. Replacement heifers should be nearing 65% of their expected mature weight. Consult with a veterinarian to schedule pre-breeding vaccinations if not already done. Weigh yearling cattle and calculate adjusted weights and ratios. Plan for herd sire needs by evaluating bulls & arranging breeding soundness exams.

Contact Information:

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BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION Fax: 662-325-8873


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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*