

# Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



### Upcoming events:

- May 9—Cattlemen's Exchange: Forage budget and plan, EE Ranches, Winaona, MS, 7:00 p.m.
- May 9—Cattlemen's Exchange (Copiah/Simpson County): Marketing, Copiah County Fairgrounds, Gallman, MS, 7:00 p.m.
- May 9—Cattlemen's Exchange (Verona group): Beef cattle reproduction, Prentiss County Farm Bureau office, Booneville, MS, 7:00 p.m.
- May 10—South Mississippi Gain on Forage Bull Test Sale, Tylertown, MS, 12:15 p.m.
- May 14—Mississippi Gelbvieh Association annual field day, Lou-Jen Farms, Kiln, MS, 10:00 a.m.
- May 17—Cattlemen's Exchange (Webster/Oktibbeha/Choctaw County): Choctaw County Extension office, Ackerman, MS, 7:00 p.m.
- May 19—Cattlemen's Exchange: Heat synchronization, Rankin County Extension office, Brandon, MS, 7:00 p.m.
- May 21—South Farm Beef Cattle Field Day, MSU campus, South Farm Beef Unit, 9:00 a.m.

## Beef Improvement Federation Annual Meeting

The 2005 Beef Improvement Federation Annual Convention will be held in Billings, Montana July 6-9, 2005. The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana (phone 406-248-7701), and there is a block of rooms under BIF if reserved by June 23. The registration deadline for BIF is June 1, 2005.

Visit <http://www.beefimprovement.org/convention.html> online for the latest convention details. A full convention schedule is available along with registration details. Montana State University and the Montana Stockgrowers Association along with the BIF board of directors have put together an outstanding program for the convention. Contact Dr. Janice Rumph with BIF 2005 convention questions at 406-994-7146.



Mississippi will host the Beef Improvement Federation Annual Convention in April 2006

Mark your calendars for April 18-21, 2006. That is when Mississippi BCIA and other Mississippi organizations involved in

beef improvement efforts will host the

2006 Beef Improvement Federation Annual Convention. The Mississippi delegation to BIF 2005 will invite convention attendees to Mississippi for BIF 2006. BIF 2006 details will follow later this year.

Contact your local Extension office or area livestock/forages agent for more information about the Beef Improvement Federation.

## MCA Summer Conference Scheduled for Natchez in June

The Mississippi Cattlemen's Association will host a summer conference at the Eola Hotel in Natchez, MS on June 3-4, 2005. The educational program will feature Dr. Darrell Busby from Iowa State University and Dr. Wink Alison from Louisiana State University.



The MCA summer conference will feature educational programs and demonstrations

Mississippi Cattlemen's Association

A demonstration on animal identification and feed efficiency is also planned.

For more information on the MCA summer conference, contact the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association at 601-354-8951

### Inside this issue:

Interesting Results from Producer Bull Selection Exercise	2
May Beef Innovator	2
Cattlemen's Exchange 2005 Mississippi Beef Tour Highlights	3
MBCIA Membership Application	4
BCIA Management Calendar	4

## MSU Meats Lab Demonstration Video Available

In case you missed the recent Cattlemen's Exchange statewide meeting (Live from the MSU Meats Lab), it is now available on the web. Go to <http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/> and click on the video link. Real Player is needed to play the video and can be downloaded free of charge by going to

<http://www.real.com>. The video is also available on CD for \$5 per copy. Please contact Sabrina Montgomery in Extension Animal and Dairy Sciences at 662-325-3516 or Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762 to request a copy. Be sure to include your name and address along with the \$5.

## Interesting Results from Producer Bull Selection Exercise



Producers evaluated bulls on appearance and performance information

At the recent Mississippi Angus Association Field Day at Ingram Cattle Company in Water Valley, MS, producers were challenged with ranking four bulls. Bulls were first ranked from one to four based on physical appearance only. Then actual birth weights, weaning weights, and yearling weights along with weaning and yearling weight ratios were provided on the same bulls. Bulls were ranked again based on this new information. In the third round, birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, and milk EPDs were provided. Bulls were then re-ranked. Finally, ultrasound EPDs were disclosed, and the four bulls were ranked based on all available information.

Interestingly, the twenty-seven participants in the bull selection exercise as a whole ranked the bulls on visual appraisal differently than the bull breeder and Extension specialists. Each group agreed on the first and third ranked bulls, but the second and

fourth ranked bulls were swapped between the two groups of judges. In addition, the bull the producer participants had ranked as fourth on visual appraisal moved to second when his birth, weaning, and yearling weight data were revealed. This same bull then jumped into the first place slot when his ultrasound information was used as part of the selection criteria. Just over 8% of producers placed this bull first based on visual appraisal alone. The addition of actual weights and ratios to the selection process resulted in over 30% of producers selecting this bull as the first place bull, and 45% of these producers ranked the bull first when all performance and ultrasound data were made available.

This is a good illustration of the importance of balanced selection using visual appraisal, performance data, EPDs, and ultrasound. Mississippi BCIA promotes the use of performance records in herd improvement.

## May Beef Innovator

Don't climb that fence again! A child's ball in a cattle water trough provides a highly visible gauge of the water level. For May, the Beef Innovator program features an easy method for monitoring water trough water levels. This idea comes from a beef cattle operation in North Mississippi. The May Beef Innovator prize is a copy of the third edition of *Southern Forages*.

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 the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

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*"... a beef or forage innovation (can be shared) with fellow producers to improve their operations ..."*



## Cattlemen's Exchange 2005 Mississippi Beef Tour Highlights

Thank you to Dudley and Leslie Williams, Tim Wise, Flying B Farms, Mallette Farms,

Holton King, and GLB Farms for hosting the recent Mississippi Beef Tour.

*"... It is always helpful to interact with others about cattle." — — —  
Cattlemen's Exchange beef tour participants,  
Ernie and Lynette Lally*



The Mississippi Cattlemen's Exchange Beef Tour was both educational and eventful

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

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Visit MBCIA online at  
<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—May 2005

### GENERAL

Fertilize warm-season pastures (bermudagrass, bahiagrass, etc.) according to soil test recommendations. Stay on top of weed control. Sprig hybrid bermudagrass before moisture becomes limiting. Plant summer annual forages. Graze sodseeded ryegrass pastures to prevent shading of warm-season forages. Manage pastures to graze young growth and harvest excess for hay. Check hay equipment to make sure it is ready for operation. Record hay yields, forage test each cutting, and develop a hay storage program that will minimize storage losses and allow matching of forage test results with individual lots of hay for use in hay feeding and supplementation decisions. Provide proper free-choice minerals and fresh water at all times. Make sure adequate shade is available for cattle going into the summer months. Watch for flies, and implement a fly control program when needed. Maintain a complete herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian including internal and external parasite control, calfhood (Bangs) vaccinations for heifer calves four to eight months of age, and blackleg (7-way) vaccinations for all calves over three months of age if not done earlier. Keep good production and financial records.

### SPRING CALVING—January, February, March

Calving should be done. Complete management practices

for late calves, and castrate and dehorn any calves missed at birth. Implant calves that will not be retained as breeding stock. Read implant product labels to determine when calves that were implanted at birth may be re-implanted. 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 to make sure that cows are settling. 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.

### 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. To precondition calves, vaccinate for respiratory diseases (IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, and others upon veterinary advise), and wean for at least 45 days before shipment. Implement weaning strategies, such as fenceline weaning, that minimize calf stress. Train calves to eat from a bunk and drink from a water trough during the preconditioning period. Pregnancy check herd females about 60 days after the end of the breeding season. Cull cows based on pregnancy status, soundness (eyes, udders, feet, legs, teeth), and performance records. Develop plans for marketing cull cows based on market conditions and cow body condition.