

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



Upcoming events:

- September 1—Nomination deadline for the 2006 Mississippi BCIA Fall Bull Sale
- September 5—Beef Quality Assurance Training, Forrest County Multipurpose Complex, Hattiesburg, MS, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- September 6—Getting Back on Track After Katrina Beef Short Course, Forrest County Multipurpose Complex, Hattiesburg, MS, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- September 12—Beef Quality Assurance Training, North MS Research and Extension Center, Verona, MS, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- October 19-21—MSU-ES Artificial Insemination School, Prairie Research Unit, Prairie, MS
- November 6, 14—Beef Cattle Herd Health Short Course, Distance education sites throughout MS, AL, and LA
- November 9—Mississippi BCIA Annual Fall Bull Sale, Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility, Raymond, MS, 12:00 noon

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Mississippi BCIA Bull Sale Nominations Due September 1

The nomination deadline for the 2006 Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association Fall Bull Sale is rapidly approaching. Producers considering nominating bulls to the sale are encouraged to contact sale

management in August. The Mississippi Fall BCIA Bull Sale program encourages production and identification of genetically superior bulls by purebred breeders and purchase and use of these bulls by commercial producers. The 2006 sale is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2006 at 12:00 noon at the Hinds Community College Sales Facility in Raymond, Mississippi. Mississippi beef breeders are encouraged to nominate quality bulls that meet all the requirements for the sale.

The Rules and Regulations for the BCIA Bull Sale along with a nomination form and current bull sale information are posted on the BCIA website at msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/bcia_bullsale.html and are available through county Extension offices across Mississippi. One change worth noting this year is that at least one of the following 1) ultrasound EPDs, 2) carcass EPDs, or 3) ultrasound body composition scan results will be required for bulls to meet 2006 BCIA

**Mississippi BCIA
Bull Sale
Nomination
Deadline**

September 1, 2006

Fall Bull Sale eligibility.

Another change for this year's sale is that it will be broadcast live from the Raymond sale site over the Extension distance education system to interactive

bidding sites in the Panola County Extension office in Batesville, MS and the North MS Research and Extension Center in Verona, MS. Producers at the remote sites will have the opportunity to view video of the bulls immediately prior to the sale, view and hear the sale live, and bid on bulls from Batesville and Verona. Look for sale advertisements in the future with more details on this.

If you are interested in consigning bulls to this sale, please complete the nomination form and return it to Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762 no later than September 1, 2006. Be sure to include the nomination fee, a signed registration certificate, actual birth weight, and adjusted weaning and yearling weights and ratios for each bull. If you have any questions about the sale, please call your local Extension Service office or contact Jane Parish in the MSU Animal and Dairy Sciences Department at 662-325-7466 or jparish@ext.msstate.edu.

“Getting Back on Track” Program Scheduled for September 6

A year after Katrina devastated thousands of Mississippi farms, cattlemen can attend a workshop, aimed at helping improve their herd management. On September 6, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, The Wax Company, the Cattlemen's Foundation and its sponsors will present “Getting Back on Track”, a day-long workshop at the Forrest County Multi Purpose Center near Hattiesburg. For more information contact the MCA office at (601) 354-8951 or view

the program online at msucares.com/livestock/beef/beef_calendar.html.

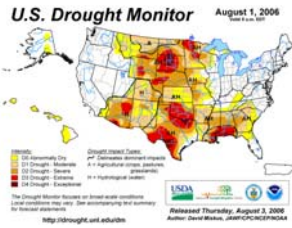


Drought Coping Information Available

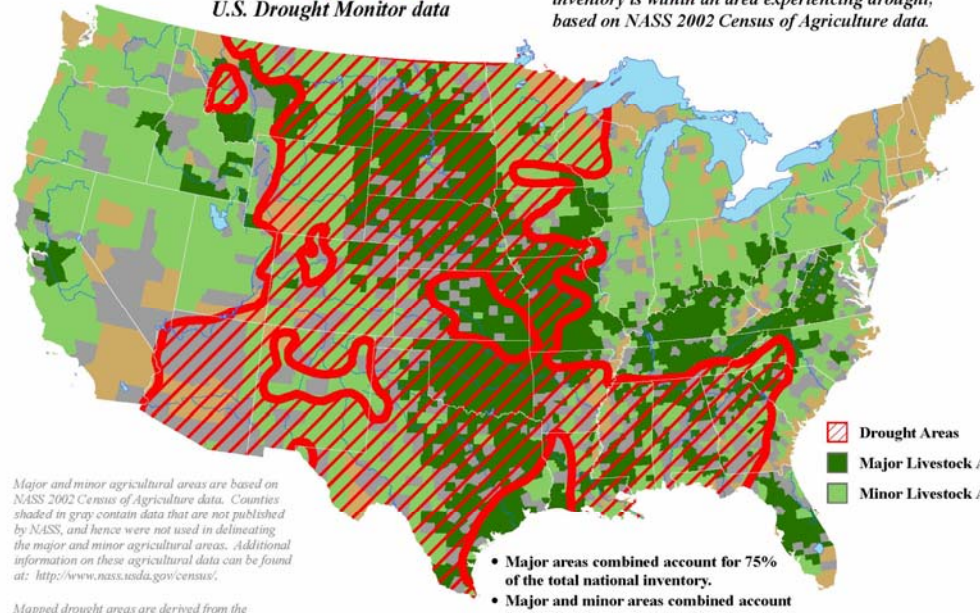
U.S. Beef Cow Areas Experiencing Drought

Reflects August 1, 2006
U.S. Drought Monitor data

Approximately 58% of the domestic beef cow inventory is within an area experiencing drought, based on NASS 2002 Census of Agriculture data.



Drought is widespread this year.



Major and minor agricultural areas are based on NASS 2002 Census of Agriculture data. Counties shaded in gray contain data that are not published by NASS, and hence were not used in delineating the major and minor agricultural areas. Additional information on these agricultural data can be found at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/>.

Mapped drought areas are derived from the U.S. Drought Monitor product and do not depict the intensity of drought in any particular location. This map is not used for USDA programs. More information on the Drought Monitor can be found at: <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>.

- Major areas combined account for 75% of the total national inventory.
- Major and minor areas combined account for 99% of the total national inventory.

USDA World Agricultural Outlook Board
Joint Agricultural Weather Facility

Much of Mississippi, like many of the beef cattle producing areas in the U.S., is dealing with drought conditions. The Mississippi office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is currently reporting that approximately 60% of the hay and pasture in the state is in poor or very poor condition. Information resources to assist beef producers are outlined here.

tronic version is posted on the beef cattle drought website at msucare.com/livestock/beef/drought.html

Statewide Drought Coping Videoconference
For producers who missed the statewide distance education session on August 7 dealing with drought coping strategies, the session is now posted on the MSUCares website. The link to the videoconference is locating on the Beef Cattle website at msucare.com/livestock/beef/

Mississippi Beef Cattle Producer Guide to Coping with Drought Conditions
This 44-page guide is available now in county Extension offices. The guide contains hay replacer diets, commodity feed comparisons, alternative forage crop details, and herd health recommendations. The elec-

Mississippi Beef Cattle Producer Guide to Coping with Drought Conditions

Mississippi State University Extension Service
 Jane Parish, Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences
 Richard Watson and Michael Collins, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
 John Anderson, Department of Agricultural Economics

Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine
 Terry Engelken and Pat McCoy, College of Veterinary Medicine

In cooperation with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center,
 Mississippi Board of Animal Health, Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce,
 Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, and Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation

"...approximately 60% of the hay and pasture in the state is in poor or very poor condition..."

Drought Information (Cont.)

Mississippi Commodity Feed Sources Directory

msucares.com/livestock/beef/feedsources.html

A Mississippi Commodity Feed Sources Directory is now online available to assist Mississippi livestock producers in locating commodity feed supplies. It is comprised of information compiled by Mississippi State University Extension Service personnel and lists manufacturers, brokers, and dealers of feed supplies.

Mississippi Hay Directory

msucares.com/livestock/beef/mshay.html

A Mississippi Hay Directory is now online available to assist Mississippi livestock producers in locating hay supplies. The list provided includes information from individuals and businesses who have submitted a Mississippi Hay Directory Listing Submission Form indicating that they have hay for sale. Listings expire after 30 days. Current listings are from counties throughout the state.

"...The MS-BQA program identifies areas in beef production where defects in quality occur and offers guidelines to help avoid them in Mississippi beef production operations."

Beef Quality Assurance Trainings Ahead

The Mississippi Cattlemen Beef Quality Assurance (MS-BQA) program is a joint effort supported by the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University Extension Service, and the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation. The program identifies areas in beef production where defects in quality occur and offers guidelines to help avoid them in Mississippi beef production operations. The BQA trailer shared with Louisiana has been a familiar site to many producers around the state. It is now being replaced with more portable BQA displays updated with new information.

Beef Quality Assurance producer certification can be accomplished by attending a MS-BQA training and by completing test questions and the personal contract. Make an appointment to meet with your Extension county director or veterinarian to complete the process. These professionals should be able to answer or find answers to any questions you have about the reference manual and MS-BQA. Upon certification, you will be mailed a certificate that shows you have completed the MS-BQA materials and understand the MS-BQA guidelines.

The Mississippi Cattlemen BQA Program Reference Manual is available online at <http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/p2258.pdf>. Upon certification, you will be mailed a certificate that shows you have completed the MS-BQA materials and understand the MS-BQA guidelines. For more in-

formation about the MS-BQA program, contact MS-BQA Coordinator Dr. Carla Huston at the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine:

Carla Huston, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Mailstop 9825
R1105C Wise Center
Mississippi State, MS 39762
(662) 325-1183 (office)
huston@cvm.msstate.edu (e-mail)

Upcoming BQA Trainings

September 5, 2006
Forrest County Multipurpose Center
Hattiesburg, MS
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

September 12, 2006
North MS Research and Extension Center
Verona, MS
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

DVD Version

For the DVD version of the MS-BQA training from the Master Cattle Producer program, contact Jane Parish in Extension Animal and Dairy Sciences at (662) 325-7466 or jparish@ads.msstate.edu.

MS-BQA Website

msucares.com/livestock/beef/bqa/
The MS-BQA website contains an updated list of upcoming BQA training sessions along with the BQA training materials, certification exams, and producer contract.



**Mississippi
Beef Quality
Assurance
Program**

*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

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: _____ 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—August 2006

GENERAL

Fill out a premises identification form for your farm or ranch from the Mississippi Board of Animal Health if you have not already done so. 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 cloudy weather. Drought-stressed corn is another candidate for high nitrate levels. If cattle are grazed on these pastures, they should be observed carefully for signs of nitrate poisoning. Nitrate test can be performed by the MS Chemical Lab or the CVM Diagnostic Lab. 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. **Consider nominating quality bulls to the Mississippi BCIA Fall Bull Sale by the September 1, 2006 deadline.**

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. Consider early weaning this year. 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 breakevens 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.