

# Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



### Upcoming events:

- **January 10—Nomination Deadline, Mississippi BCIA Spring Bull Sale**
- **January 31—Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Winter Commodity Conference, Hilton Hotel, Jackson, MS**
- **February 1—Mississippi BCIA Annual Membership Meeting, Regency Inn, Jackson, MS, 1:00 P.M.**
- **February 1-2—Mississippi Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention and Trade Show, Regency Inn, Jackson, MS**
- **March 6—Mississippi BCIA Spring Bull Sale/ Hinds Bull Test Sale, Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility, Raymond, MS, 12:00 noon**

### Inside this issue:

U. S. Beef Breeds Update	2
MBCIA Annual Membership Meeting Reminder	3
Census of Agriculture in Progress	3
MBCIA Membership Application	4
BCIA Genetic Profit Tips	4

## Mississippi BCIA Seeking Bull Sale Nominations for Spring Sale

Mississippi BCIA is pleased to now offer two bull marketing opportunities per year. Starting in 2008, Mississippi BCIA will host a Spring bull sale on the first Thursday in March and a Fall bull sale on the second Thursday in November. Preparation is now underway for the Spring 2008 Mississippi BCIA Bull Sale to be held on March 6, 2008 at 12:00 noon at the Hinds

Community College Sales Facility in Raymond, Mississippi. This sale will be held in conjunction with the Hinds Community College Bull Test Sale on the traditional Hinds Bull Test sale date. Mississippi BCIA looks

forward to the new Spring BCIA Bull Sale and Hinds Community College Bull Test Sale partnership that begins this year.

If you are interested in nominating bulls to the Spring BCIA Bull Sale, nomination forms must be completed and received in the BCIA office by January 10, 2008. Bull sale rules and nomination forms are available on the BCIA website at [msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia](http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia) or by contacting a local Extension office.

**Mississippi BCIA  
Spring Bull Sale  
Nomination  
Deadline**

**January 10, 2008**

## TEN REASONS TO MARKET BULLS THROUGH THE SPRING MBCIA-HINDS BULL TEST SALE

- ✓ Partnership between Hinds Bull Test and MBCIA
- ✓ Top notch sale facilities and strategic location
- ✓ Two established distance bidding sites in North Mississippi
- ✓ Excellent advertisement opportunity for individual breeders
- ✓ Opportunity to highlight Mississippi beef cattle breeds
- ✓ Marketing cost well below industry averages for consignment sales means more dollars for consignors
- ✓ High sale standards keeps focus on beef cattle improvement
- ✓ Promotes Mississippi beef cattle breeders and operations
- ✓ Provides the option of marketing fall-born bulls at older ages
- ✓ Sale date is Hinds Bull Test traditional bull sale date and a prime date for marketing herd sires for spring breeding



**Two Proven Programs  
One Progressive Partnership**  
Hinds CC Bull Test Sale  
MBCIA Spring Bull Sale  
Thursday, March 6, 2008 • 12:00 Noon





The nation's cowherd continues to change breed composition

## U.S. Beef Cattle Breed Registrations Update

The National Pedigreed Livestock Council released data from their member organizations that show the 15 largest beef cattle registries recorded at least 7,500 animals. Registrations of those 15 largest associations, and comparative numbers from 10 years ago, are shown below:

Angus and Red Angus together had almost 50% of registrations. Breeds with the highest percentage increases from 1997 to 2007 were Charolais, Angus, Red Angus, Salers, and Shorthorn. Breeds with the highest percentage decreases were Beefmaster, Brahman, Limousin, Hereford, and Santa Gertrudis.

By functional type for the fifteen largest beef cattle breeds, the four British breeds made up 62%, the seven Continental breeds 30%, and the four Brahman/American breeds

8%. Those respective figures in 1987 were 53%, 32%, and 15% and in 1997 were 55%, 31%, and 14%.

Purebred registrations are about two percent of the nation's beef cow numbers, which has not changed much over the years. According to the Council's report, the number of cattle registered per active association member is as low as three. The larger associations generally register more per member. But even the highest figure is 28 registered per member.

Bulls from eight of these fifteen largest breeds have been offered through the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association bull sales in the last three years.

Source: National Pedigreed Livestock Council 2007-2008 Annual Report.

BREED	2007 Registrations	Percentage of 2007 Total	1997 Registrations	Change from 1997-2007
Angus	347,572	43.5	239,476	+45%
Beefmaster	18,202	2.3	47,349	-62%
Brahman	8,300	1.1	16,000	-48%
Brangus	25,097	3.1	27,727	-9%
Charolais	74,569	9.3	49,223	+51%
Chianina	9,270	1.2	7,864	+18%
Gelbvieh	36,222	4.5	30,178	+20%
Hereford <sup>1</sup>	69,344	8.7	106,608	-35%
Limousin	37,742	4.7	61,462	-39%
Maine-Anjou	12,316	1.5	12,300	+0%
Red Angus	47,064	5.9	33,875	+39%
Salers	14,399	1.8	10,809	+33%
Santa Gertrudis	7,500	0.9	11,000	-32%
Shorthorn	19,700	2.5	15,474	+27%
Simmental <sup>2</sup>	52,258	6.7	51,390	+2%
TOTAL	779,555	100.0	738,629	+6%

*"...Bulls from eight of these fifteen largest breeds have been offered through Mississippi BCLA bull sales in the last 3 years."*

<sup>1</sup> Horned and polled  
<sup>2</sup> Includes Simbrah

## MBCIA Annual Membership Meeting Ahead in February

Mississippi BCIA will hold its annual membership meeting on Friday, February 1, 2008 at the Regency Inn in Jackson, MS in conjunction with the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association annual convention.

The BCIA session will start at 1:00 p.m. It will feature Dr. Trent Smith, Beef Cattle Geneticist with the MSU Animal and Dairy Sci-

ences Department, speaking on "Making Sense of DNA Markers."

Educational presentations at the MCA convention will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 1 and continue through Saturday, February 2. For the complete schedule of events, call the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association at (601) 354-8951.

*"...The 2008 MBCLA annual membership meeting features a presentation on DNA markers."*

### MBCIA Annual Membership Meeting

**Friday, February 1, 2008, 1:00 p.m.  
Regency Inn, Jackson, MS**

## 2007 Census of Agriculture in Progress

### What is the Census of Agriculture?

The Census of Agriculture, taken every five years, is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and many other areas. For America's farmers and ranchers, the Agriculture Census is their voice, their future and their responsibility.

### Why is the Census of Agriculture important?

The Census provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation. Through the Census, producers can show the nation the value and importance of agriculture and they can help influence decisions that will shape the future of American agriculture for years to come. By responding to the Census, producers are helping themselves, their communities and all of U.S. agriculture.

### Who uses Census of Agriculture data?

Census data is used by all those who serve farmers and rural communities – federal, state and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations and many others. For instance, companies and cooperatives use the information to determine the locations of facilities that will serve agricultural producers. Community planners use the information to target needed services to rural residents. USDA uses the information to ensure that local service centers are staffed at appropriate levels. Legislators use the information when shaping farm policies

and programs. And, of course, farmers and ranchers can use Census data to help make informed decisions about the future of their own operations.

### How is the Census conducted?

Report forms for the 2007 Census of Agriculture will be mailed to farm and ranch operators on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the option of filling out the Census online via a secure web site.

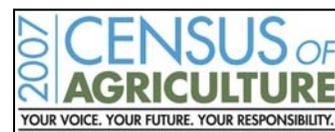
### Will my information be kept confidential?

Absolutely. Respondents are guaranteed by law ([Title 7, U.S. Code](#)) that their individual information will be kept confidential. NASS uses the information only for statistical purposes and publishes data only in tabulated totals. The report cannot be used for purposes of taxation, investigation, or regulation. The privacy of individual Census records is also protected from disclosure through the Freedom of Information Act.

### What if I only have a small operation or do not participate in govt. farm programs?

The Census of Agriculture is the responsibility of every farmer and rancher, regardless of the size or type of operation. For Census purposes, a farm is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year.

Source: <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>



Producer participation in the Census of Agriculture is very important for animal agriculture

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality

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Send questions or comments to Jane Parish or Justin Rhinehart, Extension Beef Specialists, Mississippi State University 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: \_\_\_\_\_ 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  
Jane Parish, Extension Beef Specialist  
Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762

## BCIA Genetic Profit Tips – January 2008

### Breed Selection

With more than 60 breeds of beef cattle present in the United States, the question of “which breed should I choose?” is a difficult question to answer. The top 10 breeds in fiscal year 2001 reported registrations accounting for 91% of the pedigreed beef cattle in the United States. These top 10 breeds and their crosses represent the majority of the genetics utilized in commercial beef production, providing a hint at the breeds that possess the most valuable combinations of traits as recognized by beef producers. The breed or biological type of an animal influences economically important production traits including growth rate, mature size, reproductive efficiency, milk yield, and carcass merit.

Large differences exist today in the relative performance of various breeds for most economically important traits (Table 1). These breed differences represent a valuable genetic resource for commercial producers to use in structured crossbreeding systems to achieve an optimal combination of traits matching the cowherd to their production environment and to use sire selection to produce market-targeted progeny. As such, the selection of the “right” breed(s) to use in a breeding program is an important decision for commercial beef producers. Determining this is highly dependent on a number of characteristics of a farm or ranch; therefore, not every operation should use the same breed or

combination of breeds. Source: National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium. 2006. Beef Sire Selection Manual. B. Weaber, University of Missouri.

Table 1. Breed performance levels for seven traits in beef cattle.<sup>a,b</sup>

Breed Group	Growth Rate and Mature Size	Lean to Fat Ratio	Marbling (Intra-muscular Fat)	Tender-ness	Age at Puberty	Milk Production	Tropical Adaptation
Longhorn	X	XXX	XX	XX	XXX	XX	XX
Wagyu	X	XXX	XXXX	XXX	XX	XX	XX
Angus	XXXX	XX	XXXX	XXX	XX	XXX	X
Red Angus	XXXX	XX	XXXX	XXX	XX	XXX	X
Hereford	XXXX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX	X
Red Poll	XX	XX	XXX	XXX	XX	XXXX	X
Devon	XX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX	X
Shorthorn	XXXX	XX	XXXX	XXX	XX	XXX	X
Galloway	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX	X
South Devon	XXX	XXX	XXXX	XXX	XX	XXX	X
Tarentaise	XXX	XXX	XX	XX	XX	XXX	X
Pinzgauer	XXXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX	XXX	X
Braunvieh	XXX	XXXX	XXX	XX	XX	XXXX	XX
Gelbvieh	XXXX	XXXX	X	XX	XX	XXXX	X
Simmental	XXXXX	XXXX	XX	XX	XXX	XXXX	X
Maine Anjou	XXXXX	XXXX	XX	XX	XXX	XXX	X
Salers	XXXX	XXXX	XX	XX	XXX	XXX	X
Piedmontese	XX	XXXXXX	X	XXX	XX	XX	XX
Belgian Blue	XXX	XXXXXX	X	XXX	XX	XX	X
Limousin	XXX	XXXXX	X	XX	XXXX	X	X
Charolais	XXXXX	XXXXX	XX	XX	XXXX	XX	X
Chianina	XXXXX	XXXXX	XX	XX	XXXX	X	XX
Tuli	XX	XXX	XXX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Romosinuano	X	XXX	XX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Brangus	XXXX	XXX	XXX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Beefmaster	XXXX	XXX	XX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Bonsmara	XXX	XXX	XX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Brahman	XXXX	XXXX	XX	X	XXXXX	XXXX	XXXX
Nellore	XXXX	XXXX	XX	X	XXXXX	XXX	XXXX
Sahiwal	XX	XXXX	XX	X	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
Boran	XXX	XXX	XX	X	XXXX	XXX	XXXX

<sup>a</sup> Cundiff, 2003.

<sup>b</sup> Increasing numbers of Xs indicate relatively higher value.