

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



Upcoming events:

- June 7—Mississippi Hereford Association Annual Field Day, Mississippi State, MS
- June 7—Mississippi Angus Association Annual Field Day, Raymond, MS
- June 30-July 3—Beef Improvement Federation Annual Convention, Hyatt Hotel, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- **August 4—Mississippi Feeder Calf Board Sale, TBA**
- August 26-27—MSU-ES Pasture and Forage Short Course, Mississippi State, MS
- September 1—Mississippi BCIA Fall Bull Sale nomination deadline
- October—MSU Extension Service Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State, MS, TBA

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Mississippi Beef Cattle Producers offer Top Genetics at Home

Whether searching for seedstock for breeding or commercial cattle for production, Mississippi beef cattle producers offer quality genetics throughout the state. Advantages to purchasing local genetics include: 1) adaptability benefits, 2) reduced freight costs, and 3) local customer service.

With regard to adaptability, numerous studies have shown real performance differences in cattle raised in a region compared with cattle introduced into a region. For example, comparisons of Florida-born Hereford bulls versus Montana-born Hereford bulls revealed that in Florida the locally born and raised bulls had a 33-pound advantage at weaning over the bulls introduced into Florida from Montana.

Escalating fuel costs translate to higher livestock trucking expenses. Therefore, a significant difference in freight alone can allow producers to pay even more for locally produced cattle than cattle produced outside the region.

A large part of a seedstock producer's offering includes customer service. Having ready access to seedstock providers in the region allows interested customers the opportunities to easily visit the seedstock operations, entertain visits to commercial operations from seedstock producers, and to better understand production conditions of both the seller and buyer. Many times, similar production conditions will exist between buyers and sellers of locally produced cattle. Producers are often more likely able to select cattle prior to them being "picked over" when dealing with other producers in their area.

The Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association promotes local beef cattle ge-

netics through various sale offerings. The annual Spring and Fall MBCIA Bull Sales are examples of quality seedstock offerings within the state. Evidence in the quality of the sale cattle shows through the increasing demand for MBCIA bulls throughout the region and in the sale results.

Additionally, MBCIA supports the inaugural Mississippi feeder calf board sale set for August 4, 2008. This sale will provide commercial cattle producers an opportunity to showcase their value-added calf crops. It will also target expanding demand from buyers with uniform, truck-load lots of calves and accurate descriptions of calf processing and value-added management.

Also active in Mississippi are several breed-specific organizations that work hard to educate cattle producers on seedstock offerings and advantages of purchasing breeding cattle from within the state. Stay informed of breed association field days, producer tours, youth events, newsletters, and consignment sales held each year throughout Mississippi. State breed association leadership can assist producers in locating seedstock providers in the local area through membership lists and directories.

The Make Mine Mississippi program through the Department of Agriculture and Commerce promotes local purchases of Mississippi agricultural products. Consider participants in this programs as potential sources of home-raised cattle and beef products. For more information visit the Make Mine Mississippi website at www.mdac.state.ms.us.

For a list of Mississippi beef cattle breed associations or to contact the Mississippi BCIA, contact a local office of the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Visit Mississippi beef cattle producers first when searching for cattle to purchase

MBCIA Initiates Mississippi Beef Cattle Seedstock Directory Online



Mississippi Beef Cattle Seedstock Listing Submission Form

Print Form

Submit by Email

Contact Name

Ranch Name

Address

Street

City

State Zip Code

Mississippi County

Daytime Phone Evening Phone

Fax Number E-mail Address

Ranch Website

List all available breeds:

Additional contact information, if any:

By completing this form, I understand that the information provided on this form will be posted on the MSUcares.com website.
msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/seedstock.html

Please complete and return to: Jane Parish, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762.
 662-325-7466 (office), 662-325-8873 (fax), jparish@ads.msstate.edu (e-mail)

CRP Land to Open for Grazing & Haying

Late last month, Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer announced that some of the land currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will become available as a livestock forage source after the end of the primary nesting season for grass-nesting birds.

Over 24 million acres of CRP land will be eligible for use. According to USDA's calculations, this will make 18 million tons of forage available at a value of \$1.2 billion.

There are some restrictions to use beyond waiting until after the nesting season. Any land used for livestock must have a conservation plan and a portion of the land, or forage from it, must be reserved for wildlife. The most environmentally delicate land will not be opened to foraging.

According to the USDA Fact Sheet on this program, eligible acres are those devoted to the following practices:

- CP1—Establishment of permanent introduced grasses and legumes
- CP2—Establishment of permanent native grasses
- CP4B—Permanent wildlife habitat: Corridors
- CP4D—Permanent wildlife habitat
- CP10—Vegetative cover: Grass-already established
- CP18B—Establishment of permanent vegetation to reduce salinity
- CP18C—Establishment of permanent salt tolerant vegetative cover

Further restrictions for eligible land include that no more than 50% of the acreage in a contract can be hayed. Grazing restrictions are based on stocking rate. Cattle can be stocked at 100% of NRCS recommendations on 75% of the land or at 75% of the NRCS stocking rate on 100% of the eligible acreage.

Rental payments will not be reduced for land used in this program. In fact, the USDA expects that forage removal will improve some of the habitats by increasing the diversity of the stands.

A \$75 fee will be assessed for contract processing and modification. Signup for the program will begin June 2, 2008. The program is intended for this year only and all forage use must end no later than November 10, 2008.

Unlike last year's emergency haying and grazing program in response to drought, the 2008 opening of CRP land for livestock forage needs is in response to increased costs of production. According to Schafer, "this action will provide much needed feed and forage while maintaining the conservation benefits from the nation's premier conservation program." Aggressive utilization of this opportunity might mean the difference in profit and loss for 2008.

For more details on this program and to read the Fact Sheet in its entirety, please go to the FSA's webpage: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Or, visit your local FSA office.

"...this will make 18 tons of forage available at a value of \$1.2 billion."

Lifetime Dues Established

At the May 5, 2008 meeting of the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association (MBCIA) Board of Directors, a lifetime dues option was established for MBCIA membership. Currently, annual membership dues are \$5. Lifetime dues were established at \$100 each. The membership form with this newsletter is updated to reflect this change.

Dues collections go towards supporting MBCIA activities and communications. Promotion of Mississippi beef cattle genetics, newsletter development and distribution, and sponsorship of educational events are example of MBCIA-supported functions. Current and prospective Association members are encouraged to consider lifetime memberships in MBCIA.



Lifetime MBCIA memberships are now available for \$100

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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 or \$100 life-time 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 – June 2008

Matching Genetic Potential to Production Environment

One of the challenges of breed selection is the interaction of the animal's genotype with its production environment. Table 4 describes common production environments by level of feed availability and environmental stress and lists optimal levels of a variety of performance traits (Bullock et al., 2002).

Here, feed availability refers to the regular availability of grazed or harvested forage and its quantity and quality. Environmental stress includes parasites, disease, heat, and humidity. Ranges for mature cow size are low (800 to 1,000 lb), medium (1,000 to 1,200 lb), and high (1,200 to 1,400 lb). Clearly, breed choices should be

influenced by the production environment in which they are expected to perform.

Table 4. Matching genetic potential for different traits to production environments.¹

Production Environment		Traits					
Feed Availability	Stress ²	Milk Production	Mature Size	Ability to Store Energy ³	Resistance to Stress ⁴	Calving Ease	Lean Yield
High	Low	M to H ⁵	M to H	L to M	M	M to H	H
	High	M	L to H	L to H	H	H	M to H
Medium	Low	M to H	M	M to H	M	M to H	M to H
	High	L to M	M	M to H	H	H	H
Low	Low	L to M	L to M	H	M	M to H	M
	High	L to M	L to M	H	H	H	L to M
Breed role in terminal crossbreeding systems							
Maternal		M to H	L to H	M to H	M to H	H	L to M
Paternal		L to M	H	L	M to H	M	H

¹ Adapted from Bullock et al., 2002.

² Heat, cold, parasites, disease, mud, altitude, etc.

³ Ability to store fat and regulate energy requirements with changing (seasonal) availability of feed.

⁴ Physiological tolerance to heat, cold, internal and external parasites, disease, mud, and other factors.

⁵ L = Low; M = Medium; H = High.

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