



MISSISSIPPI BCIA BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Upcoming events:

- June 18-21—Beef Improvement Federation Annual Convention, Lincoln, NE
- August 4—Homeplace Producers Feeder Calf Board Sale, Hattiesburg, MS
- August 8—Deep South Stocker Conference, Meridian, MS
- September 15—BCIA Fall Bull and Heifer Sale Nomination Deadline
- October 16-18—Cattle Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State, MS
- November 12—MBCIA Educational Meeting and Supper, Raymond, MS
- November 13—MBCIA Fall Bull and Heifer Sale, Raymond, MS

Plan Ahead to Attend Mississippi's 2014 Cattlemen's College

Cattlemen's COLLEGE



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MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION SERVICE

MISSISSIPPI
CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION



August 27: Town Creek • West Point

August 28: Mathis Farm • Brookhaven

Registration starts at 8:00 a.m.

Workshops Include:

Summer Annual Grazing Demonstration
How Do You Get The Most For Your Calves?
Pasture Herbicide Spray Plots
Policy Updates
Farm Tours



Don Ball

Professor Emeritus – Auburn University
Dr. Ball has authored two books, *Southern Forages and Practical Forage Concepts*, as well as numerous other articles and publications. He is a former President of the American Forage and Grassland Council.



Jennifer Houston

NCBA Federation Division Vice Chairman
Jennifer Houston and her husband own and operate a progressive livestock auction market in Sweetwater, TN where they sell approximately 50,000 head of cattle each year. Jennifer also runs a stocker operation, commercial cow-calf herd and feeds cattle in Texas and Kansas.

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Lunch will be provided • There will be door prizes and giveaways from vendors!

Mississippi Cattlemen's Association

680 Monroe St. Suite A • Jackson, MS 39202 • (601) 354-8951

www.ms cattlemen.org

BQA Guidelines- How often should a needle be replaced?



Proper injection techniques are an important part of the Beef Quality Assurance program.

“...Why do we need to replace needles after 15 head? What does a needle look like only after a few uses? Can't I use a needle until it visually looks damaged?”

The goal of biosecurity is to protect animals from disease. This may be accomplished by preventing, minimizing or controlling cross-contamination either directly (animal-to-animal) or indirectly (animal-to-feed or animal-to-equipment-to-animal). Therefore, an on-farm practice that may need to be highlighted during a BQA Certification event is to change needles after processing ten to fifteen head of cattle.

Anaplasmosis. While not contagious, it may be spread through the use of contaminated needles or dehorning or other surgical instruments (Merck Veterinary Manual, 1998). Therefore, one way to inhibit the disease transmission cycle from occurring on cow-calf farms is to encourage changing needles more frequently, even to the extreme that a separate needle may need to be utilized per cow.

Questions are often asked related to needle usage, wear and possible biological contamination – Why do we need to replace needles after 15 head? What does a needle look like only after a few uses? Can't I use a needle until it visually looks damaged? Who, what, where, when, why, etc....Therefore, a sufficient number of questions were posed during a given interval to set the stage for a small on-farm experiment to provide concrete examples of used needles to

demonstrate to beef producers during a BQA Certification event.

The needle project was conducted by a feedyard operator and crew in Iowa. The feedyard manager was provided a full box of 16 ga. X 1” needles for administering an intramuscular (IM) product to a group of calves sourced from a similar region of the United States. The working crew was instructed after a needle was used on one head to put it into a bag labeled (1 hd), used on two head put into a labeled bag (2 hd), and continued in this manner until a needle was used on fifteen consecutive head (15 hd) of processed cattle.

Each individual needle was evaluated and photographed under a high powered Scanning-Electron Microscope. The picture below provides a snapshot of needles used on sequential number of cattle administered an IM product before changing to a new needle.

*Disclaimer: While there was an attempt to minimize on-farm variables by utilizing the same person to administer all injections, same box of needles and group of sourced cattle, these magnified results may not be representative in all situations. This resource tool demonstrates the importance of regularly changing needles.

How often do you replace your needles?

Proudly Producing Safe, Wholesome and Healthy Beef

Custom Rates for Farming and Ranching Services in Mississippi

The rates presented in this publication represent the responses of a statewide survey conducted from February to March 2013 by Mississippi State University Extension agricultural economists. Survey respondents include both providers and users of custom services, and data reflect the prices paid for typical farm and ranch custom operations.

The survey data in this publication include rates for tractor rental, row crop field operations, harvesting, hay baling, and various land improvements and livestock services. Some items have very few responses, so the average rate may not be representative of rates in your area. Because of differing types or size of equipment used and the size of the job, some items may have a wide range of responses.

This publication is intended only as a guide. Farmers and ranchers desiring to perform or have custom work performed should realize that these rates are often negotiable. Also, per-acre costs and hours of annual use will likely vary for each producer and operation; therefore, producers should use their own costs whenever possible. Additionally, input costs and interest rates could change at any time, so consider any needed adjustments accordingly. If you do not have your own data to calculate machinery operation costs, estimates for various machinery operations are included in MSU budget publications available through local county Extension offices or at

<http://www.agecon.msstate.edu/what/farm/budget/>.

In order for the custom work to be truly economically beneficial for the contractor, the custom rate must at least cover fixed and direct costs and provide some additional return. When using your own costs, the fixed and direct costs need to be adjusted upward to achieve a profit. In Mississippi, a markup in the range of 20–40 percent is suggested by custom operators and farmers (Martin, 2007). Farmers providing custom work may desire a lower or higher return, depending on the level of management required.

Costs of Ownership and Operation:
The management decision to own a machine, to custom hire operations performed, or to custom perform operations is partially determined by cost, which is heavily influenced by the amount of use realized over the period of machine ownership. Estimates of fixed and variable costs per hour are described in detail in the complete publication. Unless accurate records are used to estimate costs, variability in machine and operator efficiencies can cause actual results to be significantly different from estimated results (Doye and Sah).

A small portion of the reported rates relevant to livestock producers is shown below. The complete publication may be found at: <http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/p2776.pdf>

“The management decision to own a machine, to custom hire operations performed, or to custom perform operations is partially determined by cost, which is heavily influenced by the amount of use realized over the period of machine ownership.”



Hay baling is one custom service many beef producers utilize.

LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS (Includes labor and equipment)	Average Rate	Range in Rates			Number Reporting	
		Low	Median	High		
Cattle:						
Pregnancy testing	Dollars per head	\$4.63	\$2.50	\$4.50	\$8.00	12
Spraying	Dollars per head	\$3.50	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$6.00	6
Cattle processing (dehorning, branding, castrating, vaccinating, deworming)	Dollars per head	\$11.50	\$1.00	\$10.00	\$30.00	23
Cattle hauling, flat rate (no extra charges):						
18-wheeler	Dollars per loaded mile	\$3.29	\$2.00	\$3.50	\$5.00	5
All other trucks and trailers	Dollars per head	\$10.77	\$3.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	9
All other trucks and trailers	Dollars per load	\$55.50	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	10
All other trucks and trailers	Dollars per loaded mile	\$2.52	\$1.15	\$2.63	\$4.50	10

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality

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 Mississippi State, MS 39762
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Send questions or comments to Brandi Karisch, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Mississippi State University Extension Service

Brandi Karisch



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Visit MBCIA online at <http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/>

MISSISSIPPI BCIA 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
 Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762

DID YOU KNOW?

From 1997 to 2012 the average age of Mississippi farmers increased from 55.3 to 60.4. Just 4.4% of Mississippi farmers were under the age of 34.

257,454



The number of Millennial Generation farmers age 34 or younger in the U.S. in 2012.

That's more than 4 times the enrollment of Texas A&M University.

Deep South Stocker Conference

August 8th, 2014

Kahlmus Auditorium, MSU Campus

Meridian, MS



This conference will address issues that affect:

Stocker Operators (Winter & Summer Grazing)

Backgrounders & Pre-conditioning Yards

Cow-Calf Producers

Tradeshow During Breaks and Meals

For more information, visit our website (www.DeepSouthStocker.com), or contact Dr. Brandi Karisch, Beef Cattle Extension Specialist (662-325-7465, bkarisch@ads.msstate.edu)