



# MISSISSIPPI

# BCIA

BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

- May 20—MS/LA Beef & Forage Day , Tylertown
- May 31-June 3—BIF Annual Meeting, Athens, GA
- June 16—Warm Season Forage Field Day, Starkville
- June 16—Beef Cattle Health Field Day—Brown Loam Exp. Station, Raymond
- August 3-4—Stockmanship & Stewardship Conf., Starkville
- August 7—Homeplace Feeder Calf Board Sale, Hattiesburg
- August 26—Southern Producers Replacement Heifer Sale, Hattiesburg,
- October 26-28 - Mississippi State University Artificial Insemination School, MSU
- November 4—Fall BCIA Bull and Heifer Sale, Raymond

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## Geared Up for a Full Summer

Summer break has finally started for students at Mississippi State. For Starkville locals summer break is welcomed, the lines at restaurants are already remarkably shorter, traffic appears to be a tick lighter, and it is easy to get a parking spot on campus. While students are basking on the beaches and taking in summer break, your Beef Extension Team is gearing up for a full summer of events trainings, and sales.

Our first big event of the summer will be traveling to Athens, Georgia for the Beef Improvement Federation Annual Meeting and Research Symposium. To us, it is a chance to hear about some of the latest beef industry research findings, but it is also an opportunity to network with our peers all around the country. Every year, we bring back something that benefits the entire Mississippi cattle industry.

Upon our return, we'll begin getting organized for the Homeplace Feeder Calf Board Sale. During June, we like to get a handle on who wants to consign. That way, we can begin assembling loads. If you are interested in consigning feeder calves to the board sale, contact Dr. Karisch.

The following week is jam packed with beef events. First, we're assisting with the Mississippi Junior Cattlemen's Association's Making Tracks Leadership Camp. Then on Friday, I will be presenting at the Beef Cattle Health Field Day at the Brown Loam Experiment

Station in Raymond. Saturday, Brandi and I will be in Brookhaven for another Field Day at Farmbelt Equipment.

This summer is also unique in the fact that Mississippi is hosting the National Junior show for Braford's, Salers and Simmental Associations. The Salers Jr. National will be held in Corinth on June 25-July 1. Simmentals will roll into Hattiesburg for the week of July 9th. The City of Gulfport will host the Braford's on July 13-16. Full schedules of all three junior nationals can be found on their respective breed websites.

Perhaps our biggest event of the summer will be the Stockmanship and Stewardship (S & S) Regional Event. The S & S event will be one of the premier educational opportunities for beef producers this year. With the help of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, we have put together an outstanding slate of speakers and demonstrations. For more information, please visit our website, [www.deepsouthstocker.org](http://www.deepsouthstocker.org). We hope that you plan to attend.

Summer will wrap up with some of the states best genetics selling in the Homeplace Feeder Calf Board Sale, and the Southern Producers Replacement Heifer Sale. Look to our YouTube, [youtube.com/MSUBeefCattle](http://youtube.com/MSUBeefCattle), to see consignment videos for each sale.

As always, it is never too early to begin thinking about what you would like to consign to the Fall Bull and Heifer Sale.

## Cattle Market Notes

If you haven't checked out the weekly Cattle Market Notes by our 'new' livestock economist, Dr. Josh Maples, you are really missing out! At the end of each week, he provides a recap of the week's cattle markets, futures, and beef prices. From his most recent update on May 5th, Maples advised, "This latest rally in the futures markets should have us thinking about risk management. This is a time to give serious consideration to price protection strategies for fall calves. Futures contracts, options, or sales for future delivery should all be explored as tools to take advantage of the current price levels." All 'Notes' are archived on the MSU Department of Agricultural Economics Blog, [blog.msucare.com/agecon](http://blog.msucare.com/agecon). To be added to the weekly email blast, email Josh Maples at [josh.maples@msstate.edu](mailto:josh.maples@msstate.edu) or call 662-325-1774.



[blogs.msucare.com/agecon](http://blogs.msucare.com/agecon)

## Warm-season Forage Tour

Henry H. Leveck Research Farm  
(South Farm)  
Mississippi State University

June 16, 2016  
9:00 am—11:30 am  
Registration start at 8:30 am

### Topics will include:

- Grazing management of summer annuals
- Impact of harvest time and fertility in hay quality
- Warm-season grass/legume interaction and benefits

This is a free event, but registration is required for meal purposes by Friday June 12. For registration contact Ms. Kathy Johnson.

Ms. Kathy Johnson  
PSS, Event Coordinator  
[Kathy.Johnson@msstate.edu](mailto:Kathy.Johnson@msstate.edu)

**Call - (662) 325-2701**

  
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FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION





## Megehee Cattle Company Nominated for 2017 BIF Commercial Producer Award

The Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association, Mississippi State University Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences, and the Mississippi State University Extension Service, nominated Megehee Cattle Company for the 2017 BIF Commercial Producer of the Year award. Megehee Cattle Company is a commercial cow/calf and stocker operation located in East Central Mississippi, only fourteen miles from the Alabama border. Owned by Jacob and Martha Megehee, Megehee Cattle Company began in 1970 at the conclusion of Jacob's service in the United States Army. With \$10,000, 6 brood cows, two children, and a degree from Mississippi State University in Dairy Production, the Megehees purchased their farm in 1967, but leased out until 1970. While Jacob finished his Masters degree in Ag Economics, he and Martha ran stocker calves. Upon graduation, the Megehees used their stockers and 6 cows as collateral and purchased 99 bred, black baldy heifers for \$195 each. From there, the operation peaked at 800 head. Megehee Cattle Company is currently made up of 329 owned acres and 126 lease acres for hay and pasture. The herd consists of 140 mature cows, 80 bred heifers, and 62 open replacement heifers with a heavy Brangus influence. Approximately half of the herd calves in the spring and half in the fall. The Megehees' market bred heifers in the state's most exclusive, highly regarded bred heifer sale. They also market bred heifers in the invitation-only Town Creek Farm Annual Production Sale. Steers have been marketed in the Mississippi Homeplace Feeder Calf Board sale since the sale's inception in 2008.



Save the Date **STOCKMANSHIP**  
& STEWARDSHIP  
August 3-4, 2017 | Starkville, MS

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EXTENSION**

Boehringer Ingelheim **BEEF** USA **Q** Beef Quality Assurance **BEEF** **UGA** extension **extension** ALABAMA A&M & AUBURN UNIVERSITIES

# May 2017 – Management Calendar

## 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, calthood (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.


## Contact Information:

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 extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/livestock/beef  
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 EXTENSION**

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

## 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 lifetime dues payable to Mississippi BCIA should be mailed to:*

*Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association  
 Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762*