



M I S S I S S I P P I
BCIA
BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

BCIA Annual Meeting and
Field Day-Raymond

- September 29

State Fair-Jackson

- October 7-16

MSU AI School, Starkville

- October 27-29

Fall Bull and Heifer Sale-
Raymond

- November 3

North MS Beef Expo

Batesville-November 3

Ripley November 4

Mississippi Cattlemen's
Convention-Jackson

- December 2-4

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Upcoming in 2022

I'm not sure where 2022 has gone and how it is already mid-August! Summer started off hot and dry, but there are cooler days in our future, and we have been fortunate to receive some moisture.

There are 2 upcoming BCIA events this fall that I hope you can participate in.

BCIA Field Day and Annual Meeting

Due to the success of last year's event another BCIA Field Day has been scheduled for September 29th. It will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting again this year. The complete details on this event are found on page two of the newsletter. You will find a great lineup of speakers covering some cutting edge topics related to genetic improvement.

Fall Bull and Heifer Sale

Plan for the fall bull and heifer sale held at Hinds Community College in Raymond, MS are underway, and you will

find printed copies of the nomination form enclosed with this newsletter. The sale is scheduled for Thursday November 3.

As a reminder this sale must meet a minimum total of 50 animals including bulls, bred heifers, and open registered heifers. If the sale does not meet this requirement it will be cancelled by October 3. Bulls must meet minimum growth (weaning weight) and scrotal circumference requirements and must have birth weight and yearling weights reported to the breed association. Bulls must also have either carcass EPDs or have ultrasound carcass data reported to the breed association.

NOMINATION DEADLINE is September 23.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions on concerns. Email is best at brandi.karisch@msstate.edu or 662-325-7465

Brandi Karisch

M I S S I S S I P P I
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ADDING VALUE WORKSHOP AND ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 29 | 2 PM TO 6 PM

**HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BULL SALE FACILITY
1310 SEVEN SPRINGS ROAD, RAYMOND, MS**

Schedule

1:30 PM- Registration

2:00 PM- EPD Overview:-Dr. Trent Smith

2:45 PM-DNA for Heifer Selection-Dr. Nancy Jackson

3:15 PM-DNA Sampling-Ms. Kylie Sullins

3:30 PM Break

3:45 PM - The Value of Information-Dr. Brandi Karisch

4:15 PM - Beef Cycle Economics-Dr. Josh Maples

5:30 PM BCIA Annual Meeting and Dinner

Please RSVP by Sept. 23 to brandi.karisch@msstate.edu or by calling 662-325-3516 with the number attending the event. The event is free and open to non-BCIA members.



New Extension Associate Hired

In May of 2022, Kylie Sullins joined the Beef Cattle extension team as an Extension Associate. In addition to her beef cattle extension responsibilities she also works with Dr. Dena Jousan with 4-H Livestock Programs and also serves as program assistant for the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

Kylie is a Michigan native, and graduate of Purdue University with a degree in Animal Science and a concentration in Animal Agriculture Business.

She brings with her a wealth of real world experience. From her time in college spent operating the scale house at the local grain mill to her first job out of college at Great Lakes Sire Service. There she worked collecting bulls and white tailed deer. Her

next step in her career path took her to Indiana as a feed sales representative and feed mill manager. There she worked with local producers creating custom rations and offering feeding advice for local 4-H groups.

Fortunately for us, her husband was stationed at Columbus Air Force Base and brought Kylie to us in Mississippi. She has certainly hit the ground running attending meetings and 4-H events.

This fall look for her speaking at cattlemen's meetings and other events as well as assisting with 4-H Livestock events. Be sure to give her a warm welcome!

Genomics Frequently Asked Questions

The following are sourced from ebeef.ucdavis.edu and answered by Dr. Allison Van Eenenaam and Dr. Jarde Decker

What is genomics?

-Genomics is a term that's used to describe looking at all of the DNA information in an organism. It's really an exciting time to be involved in genomics because now we have the sequence, or all 3 billion base pairs, that make up a cow, for example. We can use that information about the DNA to make better selection decisions about the genetic merit of an animal.

When are genomics tools useful?

- The real value of genomics and the opportunity is that we'll be able to get genetic predictions on what's called hard to measure traits. These are traits like feed efficiency, fertility, disease resistance. For example, bovine respiratory disease is a very economically important trait in the beef cattle industry and we really don't have any good way to predict which animals are going to be less susceptible for that disease. Of course, in order for that to happen you have to have large training populations where you've got phenotypes on the trait, in this case feed efficiency or disease resistance, and genotypes on animals in order for you to be able to work out which SNPs are asso-

ciated with the traits of interest. For example, which ones are associated with decreased susceptibility to the disease such that then you can submit DNA on an animal that you don't know anything about and get a genomic prediction for those particular traits.

What does the term genomically enhanced EPD mean?

-In traditional EPDs, we combined pedigree information and performance information to get an estimate of an animal's genetic merit. In a genomically enhanced EPD, in addition to the pedigree and performance data, we now add DNA testing information.

Why should beef producers use genomically enhanced EPDs?

-One of the main issues with traditional EPDs is that they have a low accuracy or reliability for young animals that we don't have much data to estimate that animal's genetic merit. By adding in the genomic prediction, we're able to increase the accuracy of that EPD. So, it allows us to have more information and more reliable estimates for young animals.

August 2022— Management Calendar

GENERAL

Start planning winter grazing and supplementation 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 cool, cloudy weather. If cattle are grazed on these pastures, they should be observed carefully for signs of nitrate poisoning. Continue harvesting hay at 4-5 week intervals when possible for optimum forage maturity and quality. Fertilize hay fields between cuttings or on a regular interval to replace soil nutrients removed by hay production and improve hay yield and quality. 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.

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. 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. Keep 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 females and use effective culling criteria 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.

Contact Information:

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MISSISSIPPI BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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 @MSUExtBeef

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(Check one) Seedstock: Commercial:

Cattle breed(s): _____

Completed applications and \$10 annual dues payable to Mississippi BCIA should be mailed to:

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



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