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Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality

2008 Mississippi Feeder Calf Board Sale Update

For about 10 months, beef cattle producers and commodity support groups have been working to provide a new marketing option for Mississippi feeder cattle. After many meetings and input from concerned parties, the group has decided to develop a "Board Sale".

Simply stated, a Board Sale is a method of marketing cattle while they are not on site. The lots are represented by video or picture that is shown while that lot sales. The video or picture, along with a full description, of each lot is usually available to potential buyers prior to sale day.

The primary advantage of this type of sale is that it will accommodate a large number of feeder calves that might not all be ready to ship on a certain day by giving the flexibility to arrange for future delivery (August—October). Past attempts to develop special feeder calf sales have often been hindered by failing to supply enough cattle at one sale to provide a competitive advantage beyond the base market.

Another advantage planned for this sale is offering all cattle in load-lots made up of multiple consignments. With the continued increase in freight cost, ensuring that buyers will not leave the sale with a short-load or be forced to piece lots together should attract more buyers and leave room for added bids.

Reducing shrink prior to taking the pay-weight has been an under-estimated issue that can drastically affect revenue. At the most recent Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo, Jon Kilgore (Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation) and Twig Marston (Kansas State University) demonstrated that calves can shrink up to 10% of their weight overnight and as much as 6% over a six-hour period prior to selling. With this concept in mind, a 2% pencil shrink was agreed to for this sale and should prove to capture several dollars per head that would be lost in some other marketing scenarios.

Other advantages include reduced handling and comingling prior to shipping and the ability to establish a reputation that could bring the same buyer year after year; willing to pay more for calves from producers who's cattle have performed well in the past.

The primary marketing agent will be Southeast Mississippi Livestock AAL in Hattiesburg. The board has agreed to handle the sale for a 2% commission. Insurance will be required for all consignments. A $5.00/cwt price slide will adjust loads that exceed the agreed pay weight. This will protect buyers as well as the reputation of future sales. Since cattle from across the state will be represented in this sale, consigners have the option to chose another marketing agent provided they agree to the terms.

Health management and preconditioning are always among the largest concerns with these types of sales. This sale does not require a single preconditioning and vaccination protocol. However, calves that have been managed similarly will be grouped in the same load. For example, consigners who have vaccinated with the same products and preconditioned their calve for a similar amount of time will be grouped together and represented as such in the sale. Furthermore, several facilities across the state have been identified to provide custom weaning services for producers who do not have adequate facilities or resources.

This year's sale will be held on August 4th. Consignment forms and more detailed information will be distributed soon. Please contact an Area Livestock Agent or State Beef Cattle Specialists with questions or comments.

Upcoming events:

- May 3—Mississippi Gelbvieh Association Annual Field Day, Oakland, MS
- June 7—Mississippi Hereford Association Annual Field Day, Mississippi State, MS
- June 7—Mississippi Angus Association Annual Field Day, Raymond, MS
- June 13-14—MSU-ES Pasture and Forage Short Course, Mississippi State, MS
- June 30-July 3—Beef Improvement Federation Annual Convention, Hyatt Hotel, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- **August 4—Mississippi Feeder Calf Board Sale, TBA**
- September 1—Mississippi BCIA Fall Bull Sale nomination deadline
- October—MSU Extension Service Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State, MS, TBA

Inside this issue:

Beef Beyond Borders—2008 BIF Annual Meeting Agenda

Calgary hosts the 2008 Beef Improvement Federation annual convention

2008 Beef Improvement Federation Annual Research Symposium and Annual Meeting
June 30 to July 3, 2008
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Hyatt Regency Hotel
www.beefimprovement.org

This annual event is the preeminent beef industry event that shares and discusses the most current genetic improvement research and innovation that contributes to ongoing advancements in beef production. This event will attract more than 500 seed stock and commercial producers, feedlot operators, leading beef industry service providers, enthusiastic young producers from across North America—and academics and industry experts who will gather to share and learn from the latest research and innovation that contribute to ongoing advancements in beef production.

Monday June 30
8:00 am - 5:00 pm - Registration packages available for pick up. Conference-priced accommodations available at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Tuesday July 1
9:00 am - 2:30 pm - Breed Tours. Escorted day tours to area breeders/producers; full details available at Register Now.
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Beef Improvement Federation Board Meetings
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm - 'Canada Day' Evening Welcome Reception & Program
Keeping the Genetic Doors "Open" between Canada and US - Dr. John Pollak, Director, National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium, Cornell University
Emerging Technologies in Genetic Improvement-Convergence of Quantitative and Molecular Tools - Dr. Mike Tess, Montana State University
CBBC Purebred Risk Assessment Project - Herb McLane, Executive Vice President, CBBC, and Duncan Porteous, PBRA Project Manager

Wednesday July 2
10:00 am – 2:30 pm - Spouse/Companion/Family tour to Heritage Park. An escorted visit to Calgary's Heritage Park - Canada's largest living historic village.
Morning Conference Sessions: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Trends in Value-Added Marketing Challenges & Similarities Branded Product Focus on Animal Welfare - Dr. Gary Smith, Colorado State University
Traceability in the Supply Chain - Julie Stitt, Canadian Cattle Identification Agency
Integrated Producer Perspective - David Nichols, Nichols Farms
Producer Perspective - Mr. Bern Kotelko, Highland Feeders
Informational Channels: Access to, and Benefits from, Enhanced Data Protocols - Brad Wildeman, Poundmaker Feedlot
Emerging Technologies/Producer Initiatives - Delivery to Consumers - Dr. Bob Church, University of Calgary
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Lunch - Commercial Producer Awards
2:00 pm - 4:30 pm - Breakout sessions
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Evening Dinner Event - buses begin departing Conference hotel at 5:30 pm.

Thursday July 3
Morning Conference Sessions: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Collaboration between Canada & US - Financial, Data Flow, Analysis - Kent Anderson, North American Limousin Foundation
Collection and Application of Genetic Information from a Canadian Perspective - Dr. Bob Kemp, RAK Genetic Consulting Inc.
New Trait Development - Dr. Mark Enns, Colorado State University
Traditional & Marker Assisted Evaluation - Dr. Denny Crews, Research Scientist, Lethbridge Research Station
Summary & Next Directions, Here is How It Works - Dr. John Pollak, National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium Cornell University
BIF Elections
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Lunch - Seedstock Producers Awards
2:00 pm - 5:15 pm - Breakout sessions

Friday July 4
The Calgary Stampede begins

For general Conference inquiries contact the Canadian Beef Breeds Council at 403.730.0350 or *info@canadianbeefbreeds.com.*

"…The BIF convention will attract seedstock and commercial producers from across North America."

Marketing Programs Integrate Animal ID

WASHINGTON, April 2, 2008-USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today released a draft Business Plan to further the implementation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). AMS encourages participants in voluntary marketing programs such as the USDA Process Verified, the Quality Systems Assessment and the Non-Hormone Treated Cattle Programs to meet the inherent animal identification requirements by using NAIS.

"The AMS Business Plan will allow for integration of the National Animal Identification System with AMS audit-based marketing programs," said Bruce Knight, under secretary for marketing and regulatory programs. "NAIS is a voluntary partnership among producers and government. This immediately provides the producer a twofold reward for a single investment. It ensures trace back of their animals for herd health reasons and provides benefits for marketing value-added animals domestically and internationally."

Currently, all AMS partners that have approved marketing programs are actively encouraging the use of premise registration and NAIS compliant Animal Identification Numbers for these marketing program participants. Using NAIS, producers would at the same time meet the requirements for animal identification and traceability for these AMS marketing programs. Further, use of NAIS along with enrollment in these voluntary AMS marketing programs ensures that cattle are eligible for the AMS Export Verification Program for Japan with an opportunity for significant premiums for cattle producers.

NAIS would single out product derived from these cattle so that it can be labeled properly when presented for sale at U.S. grocery stores, for American consumers. This helps meet the objectives of the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) program by identifying the origin of cattle upon arrival at harvest facilities. Contingent upon the publication of a Final Rule implementing COOL for meat and poultry products, AMS and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will coordinate efforts to develop a COOL "safe harbor" for NAIS participants: packers that rely upon NAIS to determine the origin of their livestock and poultry will subsequently be recognized by the Department as demonstrating compliance with the COOL program's record keeping requirements.

Additional information about NAIS is available at www.usda.gov/nais and AMS voluntary marketing programs at http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/arc/audit.htm

Source: www.usda.gov

"…It provides benefits for marketing value-added animals domestically and internationally."

Scrotal Circumference Not Correlated With Intramuscular Fat EPD

After many years of selecting bulls based on scrotal circumference (SC), many purebred producers have begun to wonder what effect that might have on intramuscular fat (IMF) EPDs. The concern is that bulls with a large SC would, as a result of more testosterone, have less IMF than his steer offspring. Moreover, if this relationship was true, bulls with a smaller SC might have an advantage in IMF at yearling ultrasound data collection. The difference would not be apparent in their steer offspring.

This concern was recently alleviated by a group of researchers at Kansas State University. They conducted a study to investigate the relationship between ultrasound IMF, carcass marbling score and SC. Specifically, they aimed to determine if there is a negative correlation between a sire's SC and its offspring's IMF and if a correction (based on SC) should be developed for EPD ultrasound determination.

By using performance records and EPDs of 290 Angus sires, 85,000 of their calves and 150,000 of the calves' contemporaries, the group found that:

- A small negative association exist between SC and ultrasound %IMF but not the EPD
- Adjusting ultrasound %IMF could correct for large differences in SC but;
- Adjusting IMF for SC would not likely change the ranking of sires for marbling potential.

"…Adjusting IMF for SC would not likely change the ranking of sires for marbling potential."

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality

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jrhinehart@ads.msstate.edu

Send questions or comments to Jane Parish or Justin Rhinehart, Extension Beef Specialists, Mississippi State University Extension Service

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 — May 2008

Frame Size Considerations

Frame's Effect on Cow Maintenance

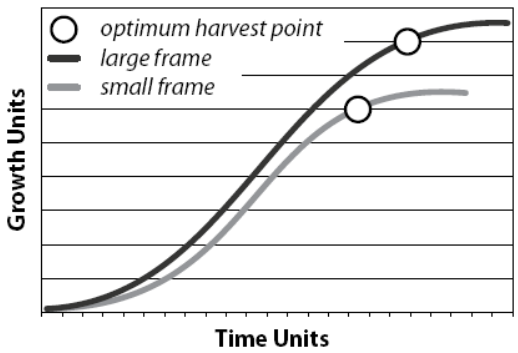
For most commercial cattlemen, cow maintenance costs are the major production cost for the cowherd. Larger-framed cattle weigh more at maturity and therefore have higher maintenance needs. These cattle will need to have additional growth genetics to generate increased income to offset the increased cow feed cost. This cost/return balance is important to determine management systems. For example, if larger feeder calves are desired and replacement heifers are retained, it may result in larger mature cows that will increase feed costs, or if feed resources are not increased, the herd's reproductive performance will suffer.

Frame's Effect on Feedlot Performance and Carcass Weight

The growth and development relationship between large- and small-framed cattle can be observed in Figure 1. The growth patterns of the different types of cattle are similar, and the circle illustrates the optimum finish point for the cattle. Feeding cattle beyond this weight will cause increased cost of production through compromised feed efficiency. Beyond this point the cattle are accumulating more body fat and less muscle. Because it requires more feed (energy) to put on a pound of fat than a pound of muscle, the cattle become less efficient. As a general rule, larger-framed cattle tend to grow at a faster rate when striving to reach their optimum heavier finish weight. Therefore, large framed cattle require greater amounts of feed and have greater expenses due to longer growing periods in the feedyard; however, heavier finish weights will likely generate more income. As long as discounts from excessive carcass weights or inferior quality grades and yield grades are avoided, producing more pounds of salable product will be advantageous to gross income.

The real problem occurs when cattle of varying frames are fed together to a constant endpoint. The average of the group will meet industry needs, but there may be a large percentage of over and under-finished cattle in the group. Grouping cattle according to type going into the feedyard or sorting the cattle out as they finish are essential in producing a uniform, acceptable product.

Figure 1. Comparison of growth curves of small- and large-framed cattle.



Differences in Calf Performance When Sired by a Large-Framed Bull or a Moderate-Framed Bull with the *Same EPD* for Growth

If two bulls have the same genetics for growth but differ in frame, we would expect the larger-framed bull's calves to be taller at weaning and yearling, the finished calves to be heavier and take longer to feed to optimum finish, and the females to be larger as mature cows. However, because the bulls have the same EPD for growth, we would expect the calves to weigh the same at weaning and as yearlings. If large- and moderate-framed calves weigh the same, then the larger-framed calves most likely have less muscling and/or less body capacity. To put this into perspective, visualize two men who weigh 200 pounds each, and each has the same percent body fat. One man is 6 feet 6 inches, and the other is 6 feet tall. The shorter man is likely to have a thicker build with more muscling.

Source: National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium. 2006. Beef Sire Selection Manual. D. Bullock, University of Kentucky.