

# Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



## Upcoming events:

- December 12—Cattlemen's Exchange meeting (Winona group) Purebred Breeders Panel, E E Ranches cafeteria, Winona, MS, 6:30 p.m.
- January 10—Master Cattle Producer, Beef Quality Assurance session, distance education, 6:30 p.m.
- January 17—Master Cattle Producer, Reproductive Management session, distance education, 6:30 p.m.
- January 24—Master Cattle Producer, Management and Marketing session, distance education, 6:30 p.m.
- January 31—Master Cattle Producer, The Product: Yield & Quality Grades, distance education, 6:30 p.m.
- February 10—Mississippi BCIA annual membership meeting, Hilton Hotel, Jackson, MS, 1:00 p.m.
- Hinds Community College Bull Test Sale, Raymond, MS
- April 18-21, 2006—Beef Improvement Federation annual meeting, Pearl River Resort, Choctaw, MS

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## Mississippi BCIA 2005 Fall Bull Sale Results

The Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association recently wrapped up another very successful Fall Bull Sale. The Mississippi BCIA Fall Bull Sale was held at the Hinds Community College sales facility in Raymond on November 10, 2005. It featured 36 performance-backed bulls from breeders across the state.

The top-selling 2-year old lot was Ingrams Rito 025 N9, an Angus bull. Ingrams Rito 025 N9 was consigned by Ingram Cattle Company of Water Valley, Mississippi and sold for \$4,400 to Harold McCool of Gordo, Alabama. The high-selling yearling bull was J A R Trav 004 E22 of C14 from Jones Angus Ranch in D Lo, Mississippi. This yearling Angus bull sold to Vick Pannell of Alexander, Arkansas for \$2,600. Other breeders selling bulls in the BCIA sale included Bethesda Farm, Edwards Charolais, Evans Angus Farm, Hull Farms, J and J Farms, Jones Angus Ranch, Kiani Angus, Lakeview Angus, Lou-Jen Farms, Monogram Farms, Phil Slay, S&J Farm, Sedgewood Plantation, Southern Shine Pastures, Thames Angus Farm, V C Angus Farm, Windy Ridge Angus Farm, Woodpile Ranch, and Woods Angus. Sale receipts on thirty-six bulls totaled \$73,525 for a sale average price of \$2,042.

All breeds—36 bulls  
Gross receipts—\$72,525  
Average price—\$2,042  
High-selling lot—\$4,400

Angus—26 bulls  
Gross receipts—\$57,450  
Average price—\$2,210  
High-selling lot—\$4,400

Charolais—4 bulls  
Gross receipts—\$7,800  
Average price—\$1,950  
High-selling lot—\$2,050

Gelbvieh—3 bulls  
Gross receipts—\$5,250  
Average price—\$1,750  
High-selling lot—\$1,850



Producers viewing bulls and visiting with breeders before the BCIA sale

Santa Gertrudis—2 bulls  
Gross receipts—\$2,050  
Average price—\$1,025  
High-selling lot—\$1,150

Simmental—1 bull  
Gross receipts—\$975  
Average price—\$975  
High-selling lot—\$975

The objective of the Mississippi BCIA Bull Sale program is to encourage production and identification of genetically superior bulls by purebred breeders and to encourage the purchase and use of these bulls by commercial producers. The BCIA Fall Bull Sale is held annually on the second Thursday in November. Bulls offered through this sale have passed a breeding soundness exam, met minimum growth and scrotal circumference requirements, are backed with performance information, and are ready to go to work.

Thank you to all of the consignors and buyers for supporting the Fall 2005 Mississippi BCIA Bull Sale. Buyers included: Joe Magee, Vick Pannell, Moore Farm, Billy E. Nunnery, Jerry Wallace, R. W. Penn, John C. Love, Jr., Jerry Standrod, Don Davis, Harold Starnes, Jerry Cleveland, Harold McCool, Brad Ward, Bobby Tillman, Reggie Prine, Oscar D. Moore, White Oak Creek Farms, Matthew Lewis, J. D. Sharp, Rowland Dyess, Danny Martin, Steve Gaines, Lee M. Herren, Sandra Tracy, Matt Edgar, and John A. Harris. The help from our friends at Hinds Community College in hosting and conducting the sale is also greatly appreciated. Mississippi BCIA looks forward to another successful bull sale in November 2006.



The Master Cattle Producer training will be offered over the Extension distance education system

## Master Cattle Producer Training to Begin in January

Beef cattle producers in Mississippi and Alabama can take the comprehensive Master Cattle Producers Training Program via interactive videoconferencing in 2006. The new high-tech version of the program will be offered in a number of locations around Mississippi including the:

- 1) MSU campus Bost building,
  - 2) North MS Research and Extension Center (Verona),
  - 3) Central MS Research and Extension Center (Raymond),
  - 4) Clarke County Extension office (Quitman),
  - 5) Forrest County Extension office (Hattiesburg),
  - 6) Lafayette County Extension office (Oxford), and
  - 7) Pike County Extension office (McComb).
- Alabama sites will include Auburn University, Belle Mina, Headland, Marion Junction, Crossville, and Winfield.

Classes will begin Tuesday, January 10, 2006 and will be held weekly through Tuesday, January 31, 2006 and then again weekly from Tuesday, February 21, 2006 through March 14, 2006. The interactive course is open to any producer interested in learning more about improving production on their beef cattle operations. Sessions will run from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Interactive video allows presenters to reach many geographic locations at once. However, questions can be asked at any time during the presentations, and all other participants will hear the question and the response. Extension agents and specialists will be present at each location throughout Mississippi and Alabama to answer additional questions.

Dr. Lisa Kriese-Anderson, an animal scientist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, says the program is designed to make cattle farmers aware that they are “food producers” and that current issues pertaining to food safety, beef quality assurance, and consumer perception of beef products can be improved if research-based production recommendations are practiced. “Our primary goals are to train local cattle producers to profitably produce safe, wholesome, high quality beef products meeting

global and domestic demands, to make producers aware of current and emerging issues pertaining to food safety, beef quality assurance, and consumer perception and to provide producers with training on recommended production practices.”

Beef producers enrolled in this program will complete about 20 hours of training which includes the following:

- January 10—Beef Quality Assurance
- January 17—Reproductive Management
- January 24—Management and Marketing
- January 31—The Product: Yield and Quality Grades
- February 21—Forage Systems
- February 28—Beef Cattle Nutrition
- March 7—Selection for Optimum Genetics
- March 14—Herd Health and Handling Practices, MCP Graduation

Producers must complete at least six of the eight sessions to graduate as a Master Cattle Producer. The Beef Quality Assurance session is a required session and counts towards Mississippi BQA certification and recertification. Contact Carla Huston at the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine at (662) 325-1183 for additional information about the Mississippi Beef Quality Assurance Program. Producers interested in attending only the BQA session should notify their Extension area livestock agent or Dr. Huston prior to January 10.

Contact your county Extension office for a complete Master Cattle Producer program and registration information or call Jane Parish or Blair McKinley at (662) 325-3691 with any questions. Producers should pre-register through your area Extension livestock agent or your county Extension office. Registration is \$75.00, and this fee covers the course, written materials, a farm sign, Master Cattle Producer cap, and certificate earned upon completion of the course.

The Master Cattle Producer training program was developed by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and is sponsored by the Mississippi State University Extension Service in cooperation with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

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*“Primary goals of the Master Cattle Producer program are to... train local cattle producers to profitably produce safe, wholesome, high quality beef products...”*

## Central Ultrasound Scanning Sites Available in Mississippi

The Mississippi BCIA Board of Directors recommended at their November 2005 board meeting to facilitate ultrasound scanning of registered Mississippi bulls. Mississippi BCIA is setting up central ultrasound scanning sites where producers can bring bulls for scanning on designated dates. This is designed to assist producers in meeting the requirements for the 2006 BCIA Fall Bull Sale. The sale requirements as set by the BCIA Board state that bulls must have at least **one of the following** to qualify for the 2006 sale:

- 1) Ultrasound body composition scan results accepted by the respective breed association
- 2) Ultrasound EPDs
- 3) Carcass EPDs

Meeting any one of the three qualifications listed above will make bulls eligible for the

sale so long as all other sale requirements are met.

Scanning is being offered by appointment only and is only for registered bulls from Mississippi beef operations. Scanning fees are \$15 per head and cover scanning costs and image processing. To participate in one of the central ultrasound scanning sites through Mississippi BCIA, contact Rhonda Vann at (601) 857-5952. Scanning locations, dates, and other details are available by contacting Dr. Vann.

Breeders interested in finding a technician and scanning cattle on their own farms can locate a UGC certified ultrasound technician by contacting Mississippi BCIA for a UGC certified technician list or by downloading the list from the BCIA website at <http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia>.

### Ultrasound Guidelines Council website

Find out more about beef cattle ultrasound scanning at <http://www.aptcbeef.org>

## Breed Association Ultrasound Scanning Requirements

Ultrasound scanning rules vary somewhat from breed to breed. Below are some of the current ultrasound requirements by several breed associations. For information on a breed not listed below, please contact MBCIA.

### Acceptable Scanning Age Ranges

#### Angus

Yearling Bulls	320-440 days
Developing Heifers	320-460 days
Feedlot Steers/Heifers	320-460 days

#### Charolais

All Cattle	320-430 days
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#### Gelbvieh

All Cattle	320-410 days
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#### Hereford

All Cattle	301-530 days
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#### Limousin

All Cattle	330-450 days
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#### Red Angus

Yearling Bulls	320-440 days
Developing Heifers	320-460 days
Feedlot Steers/Heifers	320-460 days

#### Simmental

All Cattle	330-440 days
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#### BIF Guidelines

All Cattle	335-395 days
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In addition, most breed associations require that yearling ultrasound images be captured and submitted by a Ultrasound Guidelines Council certified technician and that they must also be working with a centralized ultrasound processing lab or interpretation technician that is also certified as a lab (interpretation) technician through the UGC.

It is the breeder's responsibility to provide completed barnsheets to the technician. Cattle not processed within the typical 7-day window are often due to incomplete paperwork. Every animal scanned must be on the barnsheets, or have a tattoo, birth date and scan weight provided to the technician at time of scanning. It is suggested that all animals be scanned in a squeeze chute to ensure image quality and ease of scanning. Cattle must be clipped and cleaned in the region of scanning with no more than 1/2 inch of hair in the scanning area.



Ultrasound scanning should be performed within breed association accepted age windows

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement  
Association—Productivity and Quality

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Send questions or comments about this  
newsletter to Jane Parish, Extension Beef  
Specialist, Mississippi State University  
Extension Service

Mississippi State  
University does not

discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion,  
national origin, sex, sexual orientation or group  
affiliation, age, disability, or veteran status.



Visit MBCIA online at  
[http://msucares.com/  
livestock/beef/mbcia/](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  
c/o Jane Parish, Extension Beef Specialist  
Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762

## BCIA Management Calendar—December 2005

### GENERAL

Limit grazing for a few hours per day is a good way to efficiently utilize winter forages and can provide acceptable supplementation to residual summer forages. Overgrazing can reduce winter forage availability over the grazing season and should be avoided. There is still time to test the quality of stored forages and order winter supplements at fall prices. Watch body condition, and group the herd into winter-feeding groups such as mature cows with average condition, thin mature cows, and first-calf heifers. Match forage and feeding programs to the nutritional needs of each group. Stockers, heifers, and fall pairs may be good groups to utilize annual ryegrass and other lush winter grazing. Be ready to handle severe weather conditions. Cattle energy requirements increase as the temperature drops. Keep proper free-choice minerals and clean water available for cattle at all times. Provide high magnesium mineral supplementation to cows on lush winter grazing, and watch for signs of grass tetany. Maintain a complete herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian. Continue to watch for lice, and implement a control program as needed. Continue good production and financial record keeping. Plan a labor schedule for the holidays. Secure a premises ID for your farm from the MS Board of Animal Health.

### SPRING CALVING—January, February, March

Continue developing replacement heifers to reach 2/3 of mature weight by breeding time in early spring. Separate bred heifers from the cows, and provide adequate supplemental nutrition. Monitor body condition closely for the entire herd, and supplement thin cows and heifers as needed. Nutritional requirements increase about 10 to

15% in the last 30 to 45 days prior to calving. Maintain a good nutritional program targeting a body condition score of 5 (moderate condition) at calving for cows and 6 (high moderate) condition at calving for heifers. Do not underfeed in an attempt to reduce calf birth weight. Gather calving supplies such as calving record books, ear tags, obstetric equipment, disinfectants, and colostrum. Check bred heifers frequently. They should begin calving in December if bred ahead of the mature cow herd. Consult with a veterinarian to schedule pre-breeding vaccinations. Gather information about bulls at central test stations and in purebred herds to locate potential herd sires. Check sale dates and review bull performance information.

### FALL CALVING—October, November, December

Take yearling measurements and calculate adjusted weights and ratios if not already completed. Continue observing heavy bred females frequently. After calving, move pairs to clean pasture and watch calves for scours. Consult with a veterinarian for advice on scours prevention and treatment. Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as appropriate, and maintain good calving records. Cow nutrient needs increase dramatically after calving. Make sure lactating cows are in good condition for breeding. Start breeding heifers about a month before the mature cow herd. They should weigh at least 65% of their expected mature weight. Heifers will also need to be in good condition at breeding for a high percentage to settle. It may be time to start feeding the best quality hay now and supplement according to forage test results. Implement the breeding program by turning out bulls that complement herd females and marketing objectives and have passed a breeding soundness examination.