

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



Upcoming events:

- **March 4—Hinds CC Bull Test Sale and Mississippi BCIA Spring Bull Sale**, Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility, Raymond, MS
- **March 18-20—MSU Artificial Insemination School**, Mississippi State, MS
- **April 6—Cattlemen's Exchange Feeder Calf Board Sale**, Winona, MS
- **April 16—Beef Cattle Boot Camp**, Prairie Research Unit, Prairie, MS, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **April 17—Beef Cattle Boot Camp**, Brown Loam Station, Raymond, MS, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **August 2—Mississippi Homeplace Producers Feeder Calf Board Sale**, Hattiesburg, MS

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Mississippi BCIA—Hinds Bull Test Sale: March 4

The Hinds Community College Bull Test Sale and MBCIA Spring Bull Sale will feature 62 performance-backed bulls for sale starting at noon on Thursday, March 4, 2010 at the Hinds CC sale facility in Raymond.

Breeds in the 2010 sales include:

- ◆ Angus
- ◆ Beefmaster
- ◆ Brangus
- ◆ Charolais
- ◆ Gelbvieh
- ◆ SimAngus
- ◆ Simmental

Consignors include:

- ◆ 4J Beefmaster
- ◆ AOK Gelbvieh
- ◆ Double W Ranch
- ◆ Harvey Farms, LLC
- ◆ Ingram Livestock Farm
- ◆ Jones Angus
- ◆ Kiani Angus
- ◆ Loveless Homeplace Angus
- ◆ MAFES
- ◆ Monogram Farms
- ◆ Phil Slay Farms
- ◆ Southern Shine Pastures
- ◆ Thames Angus Farms
- ◆ Woods Angus
- ◆ Yankee Cutoff Angus Ranch

Southern Region Research Highlights

The American Society of Animal Science held its annual Southern Section meeting in Orlando, Florida on February 6–9, 2010. Several topics were discussed in symposia and general sessions where scientists from across the South presented new research data and reported on new and/or improved Extension programming.

One of the most talked about sessions addressed forage finished beef in a day-long symposium of well respected scientists in the fields of forages, nutrition, meat science and genetics. The first interesting point that was brought out is that research on using forages to finish beef cattle has been cyclical, closely tracking the cost of fuel and corn. Many people in the audience pointed out that much of the research findings that were presented could also be found in literature from the 1960's. However, the hurdles of infrastructure, constant supply, and variable forage availability were raised. No solutions were presented.

Several multi-state collaborative groups also gather at these meetings to discuss the fu-

ture of the research and Extension programming they do together to improve livestock production in the southern United States. One of these working groups is titled "Enhancing Reproductive Efficiency in Cattle." The scientists involved, including three from Mississippi State University, work to provide field-tested management practices that can improve reproduction in cattle.

Dr. Les Anderson from the University of Kentucky reported on a project that is testing the economic benefit of genetic and management improvements for commercial cattle mated to artificial insemination (AI) or similar (yet less accurate) genetics through natural service. The calf crop was valued as feeders, fats, and on a value-based grid to also test the best marketing avenue. This is a multi-year study but results from the first year show similar economic results for both AI and natural service. It is important to remember that the cattle in this project have a defined calving season and are managed for rapid genetic improvement.

Another group of multi-state collaborators

“...Several abstracts addressed nutritional management of cows and growing cattle through forages and commodity feeds.”

Southern Region Research Highlights (Cont.)

focus on improving forage production and usage in the Southeast. That group has been a strong force in advancing forage production and animal-forage interaction for several years. This year's meeting focused on continuing their financial support as they pursue long-term goals.

Another report was given on the economic performance of Southeastern versus Midwestern calves by the Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity in Iowa (also cited on the last page of this newsletter). Similar to the results reported two years ago, Southeastern cattle were more valuable after feeding when priced on a carcass value basis. Most of this increased value appears to be due to improved health and greater tendency to grade Prime or qualify for the Certified Angus Beef premium. Other differences were that Southeastern cattle were older and

valued lower at delivery based on the local market from which they originated.

A report from the University of Georgia evaluated dried distillers grains, corn gluten feed, or corn and soybean meal for supplementing stockers. It showed that supplementing with distillers grains decreased feed conversion but did not affect cost of gain. Ultrasound data indicated that calves supplemented with distillers grains had less intramuscular fat.

These are only a few examples of the more than 120 research reports that were presented. Several addressed nutritional management of cows and growing cattle through forages and commodity feeds. Health and reproductive management was also addressed. For more information or a copy of the abstracts, see the contact information on page 4.

Mississippi BCIA Elects Board of Directors for 2010

At the Mississippi BCIA annual membership meeting in Jackson on February 6, 2009, a new Board of Directors was nominated and approved. The Board is comprised of slots representing a variety of groups and individuals involved in MBCIA. These slots are allocated based on the by-laws adopted at the 2003 annual membership meeting.

The 2009 Mississippi BCIA Board of Directors consists of the following individuals:

Commercial Producers

Mike Keene (Term expires 2011)
 Holton King (Term expires 2011)
 Kevin Wallace (Term expires 2012)
 Gary Tanner (Term expires 2013)

Purebred Producers

Jimmy Ray Parish (Term expires 2011)
 Phil Slay (Term expires 2011)
 Doug Preuss (Term expires 2012)
 Mike Howell (Term expires 2013)

Mississippi Cattlemen's Assoc. Exec. VP
 Sammy Blossom

Mississippi Cattlemen's Assoc. President
 Lee Herron

MSU Animal and Dairy Sciences Department
 Trent Smith

Extension Animal Scientist
 Rhonda Vann

Area Extension Agent
 Lance Newman

Hinds Bull Test Station
 Billie Banas

South Mississippi Forage Bull Test
 Richard Hay

Past Presidents of Mississippi BCIA

Locations of BCIA sponsored sales
 Kenny Banas

Officers (Terms expire 2012)
 President
 Johnny Thompson

Vice-President
 Buddy Jones

Secretary
 Jane Parish

Treasurer
 Robert Field

Mississippi BCIA appreciates the service and dedication of the 2009 Board of Directors.

“...The Mississippi BCIA appreciates the leadership and service of the outgoing 2009 Board members.”

USDA Announces New Animal Disease Traceability Framework

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, 2010

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced today that USDA will develop a new, flexible framework for animal disease traceability in the United States, and undertake several other actions to further strengthen its disease prevention and response capabilities.

"After concluding our listening tour on the National Animal Identification System in 15 cities across the country, receiving thousands of comments from the public and input from States, Tribal Nations, industry groups, and representatives for small and organic farmers, it is apparent that a new strategy for animal disease traceability is needed," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "I've decided to revise the prior policy and offer a new approach to animal disease traceability with changes that respond directly to the feedback we heard."

The framework, announced today at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Mid-Year meeting, provides the basic tenets of an improved animal disease traceability capability in the United States. USDA's efforts will:

- Only apply to animals moved in interstate commerce;
- Be administered by the States and Tribal Nations to provide more flexibility;
- Encourage the use of lower-cost technology; and
- Be implemented transparently through federal regulations and the full rulemaking process.

"One of my main goals for this new approach is to build a collaborative process for shaping and implementing our framework for animal disease traceability," said Vilsack. "We are committed to working in partnership with States, Tribal Nations and industry in the coming months to address many of the details of this framework, and giving ample opportunity for farmers and ranchers and the public to provide us with continued input through this process."

One of USDA's first steps will be to convene a forum with animal health leaders for the States and Tribal Nations to initiate a dialogue about the possible ways of achieving the flexible, coordinated approach to animal disease traceability we envision. Additionally, USDA will be revamping the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health to address specific issues, such as confidentiality and liability.

Although USDA has a robust system in place to protect U.S. agriculture, with today's announcement, the Department will also be taking several additional actions to further strengthen protections against the entry and spread of disease. These steps will include accelerating actions to lessen the risk from diseases—such as tuberculosis—posed by imported animals, initiating and updating analyses on how animal diseases travel into the country, improving response capabilities, and focusing on greater collaboration and analyses with States and industry on potential disease risk overall.

More information on USDA's new direction on animal traceability and the steps to improve disease prevention and control is available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability>.

For more information on State Animal Disease Programs:

The Mississippi Board of Animal Health maintains information on its website about disease programs in the state: <http://www.mbah.state.ms.us>. Information on specific diseases of concern in cattle, the Mississippi Veterinary Cattle Health Assurance Program, and the Mississippi Cattle Health Improvement Program, entry regulations, animal ID, and emergency programs is available on this website or by contacting the Mississippi Board of Animal Health.

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Telephone: 601-359-1170
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Address: PO Box 3889, Jackson, MS, 39207

"... it is apparent that a new strategy for animal disease traceability is needed," — Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack.



The new animal disease traceability framework focuses on animals moved across state lines.

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



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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 or \$100 life-time dues payable to Mississippi BCIA should be mailed to:

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association
Jane Parish, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762

How do Mississippi cattle stack up?

Mississippi Cattle Versus Outside Cattle

Mississippi cattle sometimes get a bad rap, but it is often not deserved. Not everything that a prospective buyer or seller says is based in fact. For example, persons promoting out-of-state bulls over Mississippi bulls tend to ignore the facts that 1) many Mississippi breeders use artificial insemination and embryo transfer programs; 2) EPDs allow direct comparisons of bulls across the nation and many Mississippi bulls have breed leading genetics; 3) Mississippi-raised bulls are better adapted to the local environment, require less freight expense, and come with local customer service compared with bulls from other regions.

Mississippi feeder and stocker calves also stack up well when compared with cattle from other regions. New data out of Iowa feedlots show lower calf sickness rates, treatment costs, and death rates for Southeastern origin cattle versus Midwestern origin cattle. The Southeastern cattle included Mississippi cattle and were likely to grade Prime or be accepted into the Certified Angus Beef program than the Midwestern cattle. The Southeastern cattle were ultimately more profitable to feed by an average of \$13.55 per head.

What to do when Faced with Discounts

While Mississippi cattle as a whole often perform well, it is up to each individual producer to affect the value of his or her

cattle. Cattle producers with documented genetics, health, and management programs can command higher prices for their cattle. Focus on:

- Genetic improvement
- Good management
- Documentation

Buyer relationships and trust may have to develop over time. Seek out market outlets that pay for management. Show buyers year after year that the operation's cattle are worth the extra money. Finally, fulfill all commitments, and accurately represent cattle for sale.

Improving the reputation of Mississippi cattle takes everyone working towards this goal. The benefits of adding value to Mississippi cattle help both individual operations and the entire state cattle industry. Keep in mind that each bad buyer experience is remembered and hurts the whole state industry.

