



# M I S S I S S I P P I

# BCIA

BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

## Upcoming events:

- March 28- White Sands Field Day, Poplarville
- April 7- Cattlemens Exchange Feeder Calf Board Sale, Winona
- April 10- Beef Cattle Boot Camp, Prairie
- April 17-Beef Cattle Boot Camp, Poplarville
- May 2- South Farm Field Day
- May 16- Mississippi/Louisiana Beef and Forage Field Day
- June 9-12 Beef improvement Federation Meetings, Biloxi
- August 3- Homeplace Feeder Calf Board Sale, Hattiesburg
- August 6-7- Deep South Stocker Conference, Montgomery, AL

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## Mississippi BCIA—Hinds Bull Test 2015 Spring Sale Results

The Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association wrapped up its 8th Annual Spring Bull Sale on March 6, 2015. The MBCIA Spring Bull Sale was held in conjunction with the Hinds Community College Bull Test Sale in Raymond, MS. The MBCIA Sale featured 9 performance-backed bulls from breeders across the state, while the Hinds Bull Test Sale featured 41 bulls. Thank you to all of the consignors and buyers for supporting these Spring 2014 cattle sales. Although the sale was delayed one day due to weather conditions, a great turnout was on hand on sale day.

The top-selling lot was GCC Mr. Gunman 301, a Charolais bull that sold for \$6,000. GCC Mr. Gunman 301 was consigned by Good Cattle Company of Macon, Mississippi. Other breeders marketing bulls in the Hinds Test sale included Blackberry Farms, Blossom Hill Farm, Collins Farms, Diamond S Farm, Double C Farm, Elwood Cattle Company, Fitch Brothers Charolais, Fulper Angus Farm, Glenmary Plantation, Graydon Farms, Monogram Farms, Red Barn Farm, and Shoemaker Farms. In the MBCIA sale consignors included FWH Farms, Gaines Farms, Good Cattle Company, Ingram Livestock, Thames Angus Farms, and Yankee Cutoff Angus Ranch.

All breeds—50bulls  
Gross receipts—\$172,600  
Average price—\$3,452  
High-selling lot—\$6,000

Angus—33 bulls  
Gross receipts—\$119,750  
Average price—\$3,629  
High-selling lot—\$5,900

Charolais—8 bulls  
Gross receipts—\$21,850  
Average price—\$2,731  
High-selling lot—\$6,000

SimAngus—6 bulls  
Gross receipts—\$21,200  
Average price—\$3,533  
High-selling lot—\$4,800

Chiangus—1 bull  
Gross receipts—\$3,000

Hereford—1 bull  
Gross receipts—\$3,250

LimFlex—1 bull  
Gross receipts—\$3,550

Appreciation is extended to the many buyers who helped make these sales a success. Thanks also goes out to our friends at Hinds Community College for help both in hosting and conducting the sale. The Hinds Community College Agriculture Club served the brisket meal prior to the sale.

Mississippi BCIA looks forward to another successful sale in Raymond, Mississippi in November 2015. Breeders interested in nominating bulls or bred heifers to the Fall BCIA Sale should complete and submit nomination forms to the MBCIA office by September 15, 2015. Sale rules, nomination forms, and other information on Mississippi BCIA are available on the BCIA website at: [msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia](http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia) or by contacting 662-325-3516.

The Hinds Community College Bull Test is a 112-day feed-based gain performance test held annually at the Bull Test Station in Raymond, Mississippi. The Bull Test sale is held each year on the first Thursday in March in conjunction with the Mississippi BCIA spring bull sale. Contact Kenny Baner at 601-857-3351 for information on the 2014-2015 Hinds Community College Bull Test.

*“...analysis allows the inclusion of crossbred data and data from the Canadian associations of many*

## Several major breeds combine for joint genetic evaluation

By Dr. Darrh Bullock, University of Kentucky Extension

For many years the computation of Expected Progeny Differences has been done independently by each breed association. This provided a very useful tool to assist beef producers in comparing and selecting bulls within a breed, but it did not provide a means to compare bulls of different breeds. Adjustment factors were developed to assist producers in comparing breeds, but this process adds another layer of inaccuracy and has never seen widespread adoption among commercial cattlemen. The best way to compare bulls of different breeds is to combine all of their data, including crossbred data from known breed percentages, into one genetic evaluation and this is exactly what several breeds have done.

Starting with the spring 2015 genetic evaluation the American Simmental Association is running a joint analysis that also includes Red Angus, Limousin, Gelbvieh, Maine Anjou, Shorthorn and Chianina/ChiAngus. In addition to the purebred data, this analysis allows the

inclusion of crossbred data and data from the Canadian associations of many of these breeds. There are some distinct benefits to this type of analysis: as mentioned crossbred data can be used; EPDs can be generated for crossbred or composite bulls such as SimAngus, Limflex and Balancers; the EPDs on the bulls from all of these breeds can be directly compared to each other (with the exception of calving ease in Red Angus and some carcass trait EPDs).

As a heads-up for next year, the Simmental Association is in the process of overhauling and updating their genetic evaluation system to incorporate all of the latest technologies. This will likely result in re-tweaking the values for these breeds next year, but hopefully this will then stabilize. It is also anticipated that some other breeds may be joining this group or forming other joint analysis in the future. Even though change can be complicated and we have to do a little homework to re-familiarize ourselves with the new values the good news is that with each genetic evaluation change EPDs are getting a little better and in the end we have a better selection tool to assist us in buying our bulls.

## Hands-on Knowledge—Beef Cattle Boot Camps

The Beef Cattle Boot Camps offered through the Mississippi State University Extension Service and Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Stations (MAFES) are an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with cattle management skills.

The 2015 Boot Camp topics include:

- ✓ Vaccination
- ✓ Feeder calf grading
- ✓ Handling facilities design
- ✓ Hay sampling
- ✓ Selection indices
- ✓ Developing a budget
- ✓ Predator control
- ✓ Measuring forage mass
- ✓ Drill calibration

The 2015 Boot Camps are scheduled for Friday, April 10, 2015 at the MAFES Prairie Research Unit in Prairie and Friday, April 17, 2015 at the MAFES White Sands Research Station in Poplarville, MS. The program will be the same at each location.

Registration fees are \$35 per person in advance and \$45 per person at the door. A lunch meal will be provided to Boot Camp participants. For more information on the Beef Cattle Boot Camps, contact Brandi Karisch, in the MSU Animal and Dairy Sciences Department at [brandi.karisch@msstate.edu](mailto:brandi.karisch@msstate.edu) or 662-325-7465.

Boot Camp brochures are available online at [msucare.com/livestock/beef/beef\\_calendar.html](http://msucare.com/livestock/beef/beef_calendar.html)



The Boot Camps take place on MAFES research stations and provide for hands-on experience in practical cattle operation management

*“The Beef Cattle Boot Camp topics change each year, so past attendees can learn new information at each Boot Camp...”*

# BEEF CATTLE BOOT CAMP

## 2015 Seedstock 100 list features 2 Mississippi breeders

Beef Magazine recently released its inaugural Seedstock 100 listing of the top seedstock producers in the country ranked by bull sale volume.

It's based on the number of bulls marketed annually, not the number of cattle, the number of cattle registered annually, or the number of cows listed in inventories with a breed association or other genetic organization.

For that matter, given the preponderance of partnerships, cooperator herds and the like, the list makes no distinction of ownership. Instead, it aims to offer some perspective on genetic influence by virtue of building, managing and marketing at least 200 bulls annually at the behest of a single seedstock entity.

The reasons BEEF believes the challenge of compiling such a list is worth the hazard are multifold. Among them:

- To establish a benchmark for the level of seedstock concentration,
- Establish another benchmark other than annual registrations or purebred cow inventory to gauge breed genetic

influence,

- Recognize seedstock producers who make all or a substantial portion of their cattle income from the seedstock business.

Town Creek Farm of West Point made the list at number 40. Town Creek Farm is dedicated to producing registered Brangus and Ultrablack cattle, hay and wildlife management. Carcass quality, fertility, forage efficiency, and longevity are top traits that Town Creek Farm implements into its breeding program. Town Creek works continuously to improve marketability of the herd's progeny. Bulls with longevity, breeding performance and docile disposition are developed in 40 to 50 acre traps on a forage-based ration.

Tanner Farms of Shuqualak ranked number 47 on this prestigious list. After 34 years in the making, Tanner Farms is up and running strong. Today, Tanner Farms has over 1,000 head of cattle in its combined herd and is looking forward to a bright future in the Angus industry. Herd sires, females and their EPDs and pedigrees can be viewed online.

*"...Seedstock 100 listing of the top seedstock producers in the country"*

## Cattle Market Notes: Week Ending Mar. 13, 2015

By Dr. John Michael Riley

### Cash Cattle:

Fed cattle traded relatively steady this week, while dressed cattle were much higher. Both continued to see limited cash activity. The five-area fed steer price (which encompasses cash and formula priced cattle) ended the week at \$157.87, live, and \$250.00, dressed; respectively, up \$2.91 and up \$9.09. Kansas cattle sold at \$161. Other regions did not report enough trade. Steers in Mississippi auction markets were higher, while heifers were mostly lower. Lightweight steers (300-400 pounds) were up about \$15-\$20, Heavy steers (500-700) were up about \$8-\$12. Oklahoma City cattle were higher but no trend was called due to the limited trade from last week.

### Futures:

Feeder futures were ended the week mildly

higher. Live cattle futures were a touch lower. Both took a hit on Friday as limited cash trading has the market uncertain of where prices will move. Feeder prices were marching higher until Thursday and Friday as supplies — fresh off a sluggish week of trading due to winter weather last week — had buyers itching to start filling pastures. Corn futures were mostly even this week. USDA released their monthly supply and demand report on Tuesday (Mar 10). Very little was changed in the report compared to last month

### Beef:

Wholesale boxed beef prices were lower. Choice boxes averaged \$246.59, down \$2.32. Select boxes ended the week with an average of \$245.12, down \$0.67.

Note: all cattle and beef prices are quoted in dollars per hundredweight and corn prices are quoted in dollars



Tracking trends in cattle markets allows producers to better determine the best time to market calves.

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Assn.  
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Mississippi State, MS 39762

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Send questions or comments to Brandi Karisch, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Mississippi State University Extension Service

*Brandi Karisch*



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Visit MBCIA online at <http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/>

MISSISSIPPI **Membership Application**  
**BCIA**  
BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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:

**DID YOU KNOW?**

In 2012, sales of cattle and calves in the United States totaled \$76.4 billion, a 25 percent increase since 2007.

[http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online\\_Resources/Highlights/Cattle/](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Highlights/Cattle/)

**\$704 MILLION**

The value of agritourism and on-farm recreational services such as hunting, fishing, hay rides, and farm and winery tours in 2012.



Up 24% since 2007.



Save the date!

**BEEF**  
**20 IMPROVEMENT FEDERATION 15**  
JUNE 9-12 • BILOXI, MS  
*Annual Convention*

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE