



M I S S I S S I P P I

BCIA

BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

- March 6— BCIA Annual Meeting— Raymond
- March 7—Hinds/BCIA Sale, Raymond
- March 11—Local and Grassfed Beef Workshop, Starkville
- March 14-16— Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State University
- March 23— Mississippi Beef Agribition Sale
- April 26-27-ADS Alumni Weekend-Starkville
- May 17—Beef 101 Workshop, Starkville
- June 18-21—Beef Improvement Federation Meetings, Brookings, SD

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Spring 2019 Hinds/BCIA Bull Sale

Catalogs are mailed and posted online for what promises to be another great Spring Hinds Community College/BCIA Bull and Heifer sale. The Hinds bull division of the sale will feature Angus consignments from Monogram Farms, Fulper Angus Farm, and Highland Angus. Blossom Hill Farms has another great SimAngus bull on test this year. Fitch Brothers Charolais again brings several good Charolais bulls. This year Beefmaster consignments come from Moran Beefmasters and Windy Hills Beefmasters. The top indexing bull from Monogram Farms boasted an impressive 3.35 test WDA and 4.95 lbs/d of Test ADG. The second high indexing bull comes from Blossom Hill Farm. This SimAngus bull boasted a 3.46 test WDA and 4.59 lbs/d test ADG.

The BCIA bull consignments come from repeat consignors. G & R Farms Angus consignments feature several balanced trait and calving ease prospects. The Angus bulls from Thames Angus Farm boast Balanced, Terminal,

and Carcass Merit designations. The consignments from Vista Farms check all of the designation boxes with an offering of Balanced Trait, Calving Ease, Terminal and Carcass Merit sires. Arrow B Farm rounds out the Angus consignments with Balanced Trait and Terminal designations. Last, but not least of our BCIA bull consignors is R & K Cattle with 2 good SimAngus bulls with Balanced, Terminal and Carcass Merit designations.

Cattle will be available for viewing after check in on the afternoon of March 6, and we hope you'll also join us for dinner and the BCIA Annual Meeting at 6:00 PM in the Sales Arena at Hinds Community College in Raymond.

If you have not received a catalog, please contact us at brandi.karisch@msstate.edu or call 662-325-3516 with your mailing address, and we'll drop one in the mail!

Please don't hesitate to contact any of the consignors with questions about their *Brandi Karisch* lots!

BCIA Annual Meeting-March 6

Join us on Wednesday March 6 at 6 PM for the Mississippi BCIA Annual Meeting. This year's meeting will be held once again at the Hinds Community College

Sale Facility in Raymond. Please RSVP to brandi.karisch@msstate.edu or by calling 662-325-3516 to help give a head count for the meal.

Value Is Driven By Information

by Troy Smith, field editor

LOVELAND, Colo., June 22, 2018 — The beef industry has shown that it can make dramatic improvements in traits that we can measure. It has used information and technology to make improvements and add value to its product.

Value has been added at an accelerated rate over the last 10 years. According to Wade Small, identifying ways for the industry to collect data on traits that will add the greatest value over the next 10 years will be more challenging.

Small is president of the livestock division of Washington-based Agri Beef Inc. and responsible for the firm's cattle-feeding segment. He spoke during the 2018 Beef Improvement Federation Research Symposium and Convention hosted June 20-23 in Loveland, Colo. Small described Agri Beef's integrated operations, which include cow-calf production, cattle feeding and beef processing. The company also markets beef under multiple branded labels.

Small said Agri Beef has utilized information and technology to drive its production system and improve the quality of beef produced. The progress made is reflected in increased volume of sales of upper-Choice and Prime product. This is not unique to Agri Beef, but mirrors an industry trend toward creating more

value through a focus on quality.

According to Small, daily gain and marbling have been significant drivers of value captured by cattle feeders. These drivers are associated with traits for which data is relatively easy to collect and analyze. He warned the audience that continuing to meet consumer demand and improve profitability will require innovative ways to capture and analyze traits that are more difficult to measure.

“Consumers are recognizing value differently,” said Small. “Increasingly, they are assigning more or less value to how our product is produced. There is growing concern over animal welfare and health, and increased scrutiny of antibiotic use.”

Small cited traits associated with disease resistance as the kind for which data is difficult to capture due to the lack of a standardized data collection platform and management practices. He called for more collaboration in finding ways to collect, analyze and utilize the data necessary to develop tools for genetic selection that will increase value that can be shared throughout the industry.

“We’ve got to stay ahead of the game,” warned Small, “and continue to identify what it is that truly adds value.”



Upcoming Beef Workshops at MSU Meat Lab

This spring features two workshops focused on helping producers with end product, and utilizing the brand new Meat Science and Muscle Biology Laboratory.

The first workshop on March 11 will be focused on helping producers who are interested in producing and selling a local or grass fed beef product. The workshop will focus on health and management considerations, nutrition, and marketing. The afternoon of the workshop will feature hands on demonstrations of filling out a cut card, and offering suggestions to customers as well as a demonstration of carcass fabrication. The workshop will be held from 9 AM to 4 PM, and lunch will be provided. Registration is \$35 and limited to 30 participants.

The second workshop will be a Beef 101 held on May 17. This popular workshop was first held several years ago and focuses on the steps to process a beef carcass from the live animal to retail cuts. Participants will have hands on opportunities to learn about carcass anatomy, grading, and processing a beef carcass into retail cuts. Registration for this workshop is \$50 and is limited to the first 30 participants.

Both workshops are open to any cattle producer or anyone interested about learning more in these areas.

Registration for both workshops is online. Please visit: <https://register.extension.msstate.edu/cattle-workshops>

USDA Cattle Supply Reports: Round 1

Excerpt from February 25 Cattle Market Notes Weekly by Dr. Josh Maples

USDA is catching up on lost time by releasing reports originally scheduled during the shutdown. Last week, the January Cattle on Feed report was released. This week, the annual USDA Cattle report will be released on February 28th. Then, the February Cattle on Feed report will be released on March 8th followed by the March Cattle on Feed report on March 22. Altogether, USDA will release three (normally) monthly Cattle on Feed reports and one annual Cattle report in a 30-day span. These reports are pieces of the supply side of the equation when trying to forecast prices.

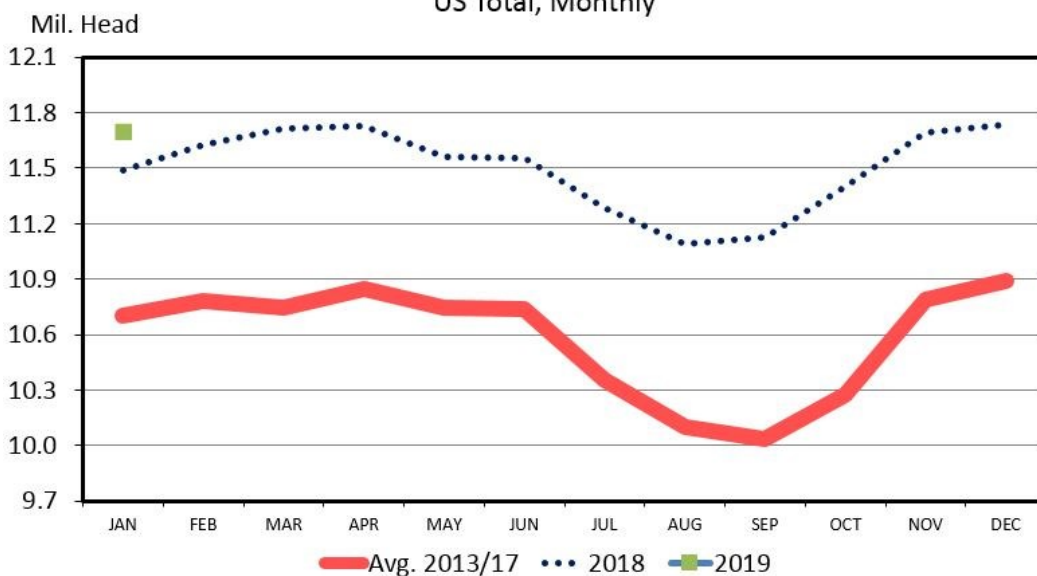
The January Cattle on Feed report released last week estimated the feedlot activity during December 2018. Placements were the surprise of the report as they came in 1.8% lower than a year ago when the general expectation was for a 2% increase. It seems that weather and muddy feedlot conditions kept placements lower than would have been seasonally expected. Weather is definitely impacting at least some of the cattle flow this year. One impact at this point on markets at this point is that weather is impacting the flow of cattle into feedlots. This is seen in the lower placement numbers than seasonally expected during the last months of 2018. That can at least in part be attributed to poor feedlot conditions. December was the fourth consecutive month with placements lower than the year prior. This will affect the supply of market-ready cattle in the Spring months and also probably suggests larger placements of cattle this Spring. It seems the futures market is paying attention to this as the April and even June Live Cattle

contracts are trading at a pretty significant premium to the August contract.

The January COF report is mostly positive for prices, but likely doesn't really move the needle much because of the delay. We are just now getting information on what happened in December. The true value in this report is that it sets a baseline for expectations for the February report to be released next week.

The USDA Cattle report coming this week is perhaps the most important to producers in the Southeast. It is the most comprehensive cattle supply report released throughout the year. This is the report that estimates total cattle inventory and breaks down inventory by state and class as of January 1, 2019. It will also provide a Cattle on Feed number for all feedlots, not just the 1,000 head or above like we get in the monthly reports. The large majority of analysts are calling for a close-to-flat cow herd growth during 2018. Any deviation from that would be a pretty big surprise. I'm looking forward to that report for many reasons including the estimates for herd changes within states.

CATTLE ON FEED
US Total, Monthly



Data Source: USDA-NASS, LMIC

February 2019— Management Calendar

GENERAL

Continue winter-feeding to ensure good rebreeding and calf performance. Evaluate remainder of winter feed supply. Watch body condition, and utilize winter-feeding groups according to cattle nutritional demands and feed and forage supplies. the flush of spring growth based on soil test results. Keep proper free-choice minerals available for cattle at all times, continuing feeding of high magnesium mineral supplements for cows on lush winter pastures to prevent grass tetany. Keep a close eye on water sources, particularly watering tanks that may freeze over. Maintain a complete herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian including internal and external parasite control and vaccinations.

SPRING CALVING—January, February, March

Continue supplementation of pregnant females so that they will be in good condition at calving. Have calving supplies on hand including calving record books, ear tags, obstetric equipment, disinfectants, calf scales, and colostrum. Check expected calving dates, and observe bred cattle closely as calving approaches, paying extra attention to heifers. If calves do not nurse, administer colostrum with a bottle or stomach tube within the first six hours of life. Provide shelter for newborn calves during severe weather. Separate lactating cows, first-calf heifers, and dry cows into groups to feed more efficiently. After calving, move pairs to clean pasture, and watch calves for

scours. Consult with a veterinarian for advise on scours prevention and treatment. Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as appropriate. Always maintain good calving records including calf birth weights. Consult with a veterinarian to schedule pre-breeding vaccinations or order vaccines. Take yearling measurements on bulls and replacement heifers, reporting performance data on seedstock cattle to breed associations. Make final heifer selection decisions based on genetics, dam performance information, temperament, soundness, breeding goals, and progress to target breeding weights (minimum 2/3 of mature weight by breeding time). Schedule breeding soundness evaluations, and make certain bulls are in good condition and are provided with exercise as the breeding season approaches.

FALL CALVING—October, November, December

Continue using the best hay (based on forage test results) and feeds for lactating cows now. Monitor breeding activities in herds exposed for fall calving. If a high percentage of cows return to heat after 40 days of breeding, have bulls rechecked for breeding soundness, consult with a veterinarian on possible reproductive disease problems, and re-evaluate the nutritional program. Check on bull condition during the breeding season, and provide supplemental feed as needed. Prepare to remove bulls after a controlled breeding season. Keep bulls in a small pasture traps with effective fences. Castrate and dehorn late calves or those missed in early working.


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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
 Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762*



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