



M I S S I S S I P P I
BCIA
BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

- September 30
BCIA Annual Meeting and
Field Day-Raymond
- October 7-11
State Fair-Jackson
- October 21-23
MSU AI School, Starkville
- October 21
North MS Beef Expo-
Ripley
- October 22
North MS Beef Expo-
Batesville
- November 4
Fall Bull and Heifer Sale-
Raymond

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Upcoming in 2021

Connecting in 2021 has remained a challenge for many of us, and we are finally starting to see some meetings begin to fill the calendar! There are 2 upcoming BCIA events this fall

BCIA Field Day and Annual Meeting

New this year to increase BCIA's educational footprint we are offering a first ever BCIA Field Day held in conjunction with the annual meeting that was postponed from the spring. The complete details on this event are found on page two of the newsletter. You will find a great lineup of speakers covering some cutting edge topics related to genetic improvement.

While we were disappointed to not be able to gather for our spring annual BCIA meeting due to the postponement of the MCA convention, we are excited to be able to hold our annual meeting in conjunction with the BCIA Field Day.

Fall Bull and Heifer Sale

Plan for the fall bull and heifer sale held at Hinds Community College in Raymond, MS are underway, and you will find printed copies of the nomination form enclosed with this newsletter.

As a reminder this sale must meet a minimum total of 50 animals including bulls, bred heifers, and open registered heifers. Bulls must meet minimum growth (weaning weight) and scrotal circumference requirements and must have birth weight and yearling weights reported to the breed association. Bulls must also have either carcass EPDs or have ultrasound carcass data reported to the breed association.

NOMINATION DEADLINE is September 30.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions on concerns. Email is best at brandi.karisch@msstate.edu or 662-325-7465

M I S S I S S I P P I
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FIELD DAY AND ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 30 | 3 PM TO 7 PM

**HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BULL SALE FACILITY
1310 SEVEN SPRINGS ROAD, RAYMOND, MS**

Field Day Schedule

2:30 PM- Registration

3:00 PM- Ultrasound Guidelines Update-Dr. Rhonda Vann- MSU

3:30 PM-Feet and Leg Scoring-Will Harsh-American Angus Assoc.

4:00 PM-Bull Selection and Development-Dr. Brandi Karisch-MSU

4:30 PM Break

4:45 PM - Utilizing DNA - Clint McWaters-Neogen

5:15 PM - Identifying and Proving Feeder Calf Value - Without
destroying your cow herd!-Chip Kemp-IGS

5:45 PM BCIA Annual Meeting

6:15 PM-Dinner

**Please RSVP by Sept. 24 to brandi.karisch@msstate.edu or
by calling 662-325-3516 with the number attending the
event. The event is free and open to non-BCIA members.**



EPD Accuracy: What It Is, What It's Not

by Troy Smith, field editor

Higher accuracy values foster confidence a sire's calves, on average, will perform as predicted; however, they provide no measure of consistency within a set of calves.

When choosing a breeding bull from among candidates with recorded expected progeny difference (EPD) values, should you select on the basis of the EPDs or make a selection based on the accuracy of the EPDs? University of Nebraska Beef Cattle Geneticist Matt Spangler posed that question to an audience gathered for the 2021 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Research Symposium & Convention hosted June 22-25 in Des Moines, Iowa.

“All too often, people select for accuracy first and EPD second,” said Spangler, calling that approach to genetic selection flawed.

Spangler explained that the accuracy assigned to an EPD is a numerical expression of how much information went into its calculation. Increased accuracy, therefore, gives us more confidence in the cumulative genetic merit of an individual as a parent.

While that is advantageous, Spangler advised breeders to recognize what accuracy does not do.

“Something important to know, but often misinterpreted, is that high-accuracy bulls will have offspring that are as variable as low-accuracy bulls,” stated Spangler. “Accuracy does not tell us anything about the consistency of the offspring.”

Discussing factors that increase EPD accuracy, Spangler said increased progeny data is foremost.

More progeny providing more data is key. Genomic data also adds accuracy, especially for young animals with few or no progeny, but it does not negate the need for progeny performance records.

Spangler said the value of accuracy to seedstock breeders is more similar than for commercial cow-calf producers. For the latter, the value of accuracy is personalized and dependent on two principal factors. First, it depends on their respective needs — their herd's current performance and their individual breeding objective. As an example, Spangler explained that selecting sires for calving ease is important to a herd with a history of dystocia, but less important when choosing a bull to mate with cows with no history of calving difficulty.

Secondly, the value of accuracy depends on a commercial producer's risk tolerance. The risk-averse producer who insists on using only bulls with high-accuracy EPDs is likely to sacrifice some genetic progress and profit potential.

To access the archived presentation slides and webinar session, click [here](#). For more information about this year's symposium, including additional award winners and coverage of meeting, visit the Awards and Newsroom pages of BIFconference.com. For more information about BIF, visit BeefImprovement.org.

Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle ONLINE

Considered the premier national event in beef cattle reproductive management, the meeting has a long history of providing the latest information on the application of reproductive technologies and includes a range of topics under an annual set of themes related to cow herd reproduction.

This year's conference will take place online and is totally free. Please note, you need to register for each

day of the program. September 15 will cover The Power of AI and TAI. September 16 will cover Advanced Reproductive Management, and September 17 will cover Veterinarian Reproductive Services. All 3 sessions are open to everyone.

You may register online for the conference here: <https://beefrepro.org/arsbc/>

September 2021— Management Calendar

GENERAL

Determine winter supplementation needs based on forage situation. Plan winter grazing and feeding programs evaluating cool-season pasture options and by-product commodity alternatives. Watch commodity prices, and purchase supplemental feed for winter as appropriate. Take inventory of hay, and forage test each hay cutting if not already tested. Store hay to minimize storage losses and allow matching of forage test results with individual lots of hay for use in hay feeding and supplementation decisions. Graze or clip pastures closely where winter annuals will be overseeded before planting. Watch for army-worms, and plant and fertilize cool-season forages. Apply lime as needed. Keep proper free-choice minerals, adequate shade, and clean water available for cattle at all times, and check mineral and water supplies often. Remove fly tags as they become ineffective. Maintain a complete herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian including internal and external parasite control and vaccinations. Continue good production and financial record keeping.

SPRING CALVING—January, February, March
Pregnancy check herd females 60 to 90 days after the end of the breeding season and identify and cull less productive or problem cattle. Wean calves based on market and pasture conditions using weaning strategies

that minimize calf stress. Implement a nutritional program to get thin cows in proper body condition before next calving. Weigh calves and calculate adjusted weaning weights and ratios. Assess weaning percentage (calves weaned/cows exposed to breeding) and cow efficiency (calf weight/cow weight). Identify and cull bulls that have sired calf groups that are well below the herd average for growth performance and carcass traits. Seedstock producers should send weaning records to breed associations for processing. Implement calf preconditioning, marketing, or retained ownership plans as appropriate considering seasonal price risks and breakevens on calves.

FALL CALVING—October, November, December
Prepare for fall calving separating the cow herd into calving and nutritional management groups. Cows need to be in moderately good condition prior to calving. Assemble calving supplies including calf identification tags and obstetric equipment. Move fall-calving heifers and cows close to handling facilities and observe cattle frequently. After calving, plan to move cow-calf pairs to clean pasture. Consult with a veterinarian for scheduling pre-breeding vaccination needs. Weigh yearling cattle and calculate adjusted weights and ratios. Prepare for herd sire selection and procurement


Contact Information:

MISSISSIPPI Box 9815 | Mississippi State, MS
BCIA 39762
BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Website: extension.msstate.edu/beef
Phone: 662-325-7465
Fax: 662-325-8873

Dr. Brandi Karisch, Beef Cattle Extension Specialist
Email: brandi.karisch@msstate.edu

Find us on Social Media:

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 @MSUExtBeef

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(Check one) Seedstock: Commercial:

Cattle breed(s): _____

Completed applications and \$10 annual dues payable to Mississippi BCIA should be mailed to:

*Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association
Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762*



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