Volume 2, Issue 11

November 2005

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality

Volunteers Needed for BCIA Service Project on November 12

Mississippi BCIA members are invited to participate in an upcoming service project to assist fellow beef cattle producers affected by the recent hurricanes. Several BCIA and MCA members joined Mississippi State University students and personnel back in October to assist beef producers in South Mississippi with fencing repairs and other farm recovery and rebuilding projects. The recovery and rebuilding needs are still great, so a second farm relief trip to South Mississippi is planned. Student volunteers from the MSU Collegiate Cattlemen's Association and Block and Bridle Club made up the majority of the participants in the October work day and are asking additional agricultural groups to assist with a November work day.

The number of farms assisted on the upcoming work day on Saturday, November 12 will be based on the number of volunteers assembled. Therefore, the more volunteers that participate, the more assistance that can be provided to producers in need. The work groups will travel to several counties in South Mississippi on the evening of Friday, November 11. Overnight accommodations near the work sites will be available on November 11 for volunteers signing up by November 10 to help. Work groups will work all day on Saturday, November 12 before returning that evening. Anyone willing to donate their time and labor to help in this second relief trip should contact Jane Parish at (662) 325-7466 by November 10 for details.

BCIA Bull Sale in Raymond on November 10

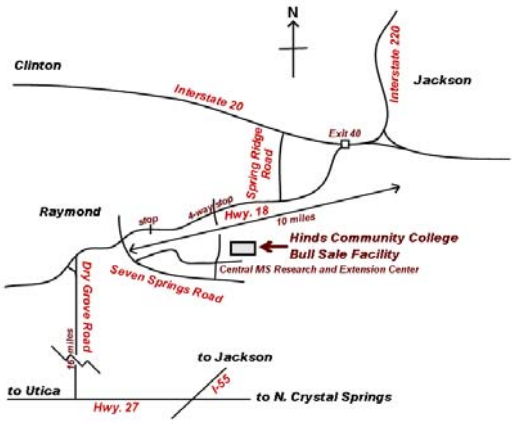
Thursday, November 10, 2005
12:00 Noon
Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility
Raymond, Mississippi

Angus · Hereford
Charolais · Gelbvieh · Simmental
Santa Gertrudis

Bulls will be available for viewing starting on the afternoon of November 9. For more information or to request a catalog, contact Jane Parish at (662) 325-7466 or go to *http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/bcia_bullsale.html*. The catalog is online.

BCIA 2005 Fall Bull Sale Consignors

- ►Bethesda Farm
- ►Edwards Charolais
- ►Evans Angus Farm
- ►Harvey Farms
- ►Hull Farms
- ►Ingram Cattle Co., Inc.
- ►J and J Farms
- ►Jones Angus Ranch
- ►Kiani Angus
- ►Lakeview Angus
- ►Lou-Jen Farms
- ►MAFES
- ►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
- ►Woods Angus



BCIA
Productivity and Quality

Upcoming events:

- November 1—Beef Cattle Genetics Short Course: Beef Cattle Genetics Basics, Distance education sites across MS, 6:00—9:00 p.m.
- November 3—Cattlemen's Exchange meeting (Verona group) Alternative Marketing, Verona Research and Extension Center, Verona, MS, 7:00 p.m.
- November 7—Cattlemen's Exchange meeting (Winona group) Marketing Panel, E E Ranches cafeteria, Winona, MS, 7:00 p.m.
- November 8—Beef Cattle Genetics Short Course: Adaptability and Crossbreeding, Distance education sites across MS, 6:00—9:00 p.m.
- **November 10—BCIA Annual Fall Bull Sale, Raymond, MS, 12:00 p.m.**
- November 15—Beef Cattle Genetics Short Course: Beyond Expected Progeny Differences, Distance education sites across MS, 6:00—9:00 p.m.
- April 18-21, 2006—Beef Improvement Federation annual meeting, Pearl River Resort, Choctaw, MS

Inside this issue:

Mississippi plays host to the BIF annual meeting in April 2006

BIF 2006 Planning Continues

2006 BIF Convention
21st Century Genetics
Rising to the Challenge Southern Style
April 18-21, 2006
Pearl River Resort, Choctaw, Mississippi

The Magnolia State welcomes the Beef Improvement Federation to Mississippi, where the BIF annual meeting will be hosted for the first time in its thirty-nine year history. The Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association, Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, and Mississippi State University Extension Service are serving as co-hosts for the 2006 BIF annual meeting in Choctaw, Mississippi on April 18-21, 2006.

For more information on BIF 2006 contact:
Jane Parish or Blair McKinley
Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences
Mississippi State University
Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762
(662) 325-7466 or (662) 325-3691
jparish@ads.msstate.edu
bmckinley@ads.msstate.edu
msucares.com/livestock/beef/bif2006.html

BIF 2006 Schedule of Events

Tuesday, April 18, 2006

10:00 am	Golf Tournament Dancing Rabbit Golf Club, Choctaw, MS
6:00 pm	Mississippi Opening Reception
7:30 pm	Symposium sponsored by the Ultrasound Guidelines Council "Basics of Ultrasounding Beef Cattle for Genetic Improvement"

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

6:30 am	Breakfast Bar
7:00 am	Spouses/ Family Tour Departs for Meridian
8:00 am	Welcome Comments
8:15 am	General Session
12:00 pm	BIF Recognition Luncheon
2:00 pm	Committee Meetings *Genetic Prediction* *Live Animal, Carcass, and Endpoint* *Producer Applications*
5:30 pm	Spouse/ Family Tour Arrives Back at Pearl River Resort
6:30 pm	Southern Style Supper and Entertainment (Neshoba County Coliseum)

Thursday, April 20, 2006

7:00 am	Breakfast Bar
8:00 am	General Session
11:30 am	Annual Meeting and Director Elections
12:00 pm	BIF Awards Luncheon
2:00 pm	Committee Meetings *Cowherd Efficiency* *Emerging Technology* *Selection Decisions*
	Supper (on your own)

Friday, April 21, 2006

7:00 am	Tour Buses Depart
8:00 am	Tour Stop #1
11:00 am	Tour Stop #2/ Lunch
4:00 pm	Tour Stop #3
6:00 pm	Supper (Mississippi Ag Museum, Jackson, MS)
8:00 pm	Depart for Pearl River Resort
9:00 pm	Arrive at Pearl River Resort

Mississippi Master Cattle Producer Program on the Way

"Master Cattle Producer classes will start in January (2006) and run through March…"

Auburn University has generously agreed to work with the Mississippi State University Extension Service to offer a Master Cattle Producer Program to both Mississippi and Alabama producers in the spring of 2006. Master Cattle Producer classes will start in January and run through March at several designated distance education sites throughout Mississippi and Alabama. The course consists of eight sessions: reproduction, marketing, meats and the end product, Beef Quality Assurance, forages, nutrition, genetics, and herd health and handling. Look for program registration information in the December Mississippi BCIA newsletter and the January issue of *Cattle Business in Mississippi*.

Beef Cattle Research Update

Determining the optimum beef ribeye size for retail consumers

Fifteen USDA Choice ribeye rolls were selected from a commercial packing plant to represent two ribeye size categories: 12.4 to 14.0 in^2 (AVG) and 16.3 to 18.4 in^2 (LARGE) and cut into 1.0-inch-thick steaks. A portion of the LARGE steaks was subsequently cut in half (HALF). Consumers were willing to pay a premium of $0.68 per lb. for LARGE ribeye steaks over AVG ribeye steaks. Consumers discounted HALF ribeye steaks by $0.46 per lb. compared with AVG ribeye steaks. In conclusion, no optimum ribeye size existed for beef retail consumers; however, a trend existed toward greater demand for larger ribeye sizes over smaller ribeye sizes.
Sweeter et al. 2005. J. Anim. Sci. 83:2598-2604.

Relationships among carcass and meat palatability traits for fourteen cattle breeds and heritabilities and expected progeny differences for Warner-Bratzler shear force in three beef cattle breeds

Carcass and Warner-Bratzler shear force (WBSF) data from strip loin steaks were obtained from 7,179 calves of Angus, Brahman, Brangus, Charolais, Gelbvieh, Hereford, Limousin, Maine-Anjou, Red Angus, Salers, Shorthorn, Simbrah, Simmental, and South Devon sires. Trained sensory panel (TSP) evaluations were obtained on 2,320 steaks sampled from contemporary groups of calves from one to five sires of each breed. Expected progeny differences for marbling and WBSF were developed for 103 Simmental sires from 1,295 progeny, 23 Shorthorn sires from 310 progeny, and 69 Hereford sires from 1,457 progeny. Marbling was lowly correlated with WBSF (–0.21) and with TSP overall tenderness (0.18). The range of average WBSF among sires across breeds was 13.8 lbs., and the range among breed means was 8.7 lbs. Heritability estimates for fat thickness, marbling score, WBSF, and TSP tenderness, juiciness, and flavor were 0.19, 0.68, 0.40, 0.37, 0.46, and 0.07, respectively. Ranges in EPD for WBSF and marbling were –0.41 to +0.26 kg and +0.48 to –0.22, respectively, for Simmentals; –0.41 to +0.36 kg and 0.00 to –0.32, respectively, for Shorthorns; and –0.48 to +0.22 kg and +0.40 to –0.24, respectively, for Herefords. More than 20% of steaks were unacceptable in tenderness. Results of this study demonstrated that 1) selection for marbling would result in little improvement in meat tenderness; 2) heritability of marbling, tenderness, and juiciness are high; and 3) sufficient variation exists in WBSF EPD among widely used Simmental, Shorthorn, and Hereford sires to allow for genetic improvement in ribeye tenderness.
Dikeman et al. 2005. J. Anim. Sci. 83:2461-2467.

Effects of pre-weaning management on performance beef steers during a 30-day feedlot receiving period.

Florida researchers evaluated the effects of four pre-weaning management strategies on performance of weaned calves subjected to a 24-hour transport. Sixty-four crossbred steers (Brahman x British) were randomly allocated to one of four pre-weaning management strategies: 1) Negative control; weaned directly onto the truck, 2) Creep-fed; provided free-choice access to creep feed for 45 days prior to weaning, 3) Pre-weaned; weaned 45 days prior to shipping, and 4) Early-weaned; weaned at 80 days of age. On day 0, calves were loaded onto a commercial truck, hauled for 24 hours, and delivered to the feedyard. Average body weight gain did not differ among Pre-weaned and Creep-fed calves, but both tended to be greater than Control (1.90, 2.38, 3.17, and 2.65 lbs. per day, for Control, Creep-fed, Early-weaned, and Pre-weaned calves, respectively). Diet dry matter intake was greater for Early-weaned versus Control calves. Feed efficiency was greater for Early-weaned compared to Control calves, but did not differ among Creep-fed and Pre-weaned versus Control (average lbs. of feed per lb. of gain = 9.55, 8.44, 6.25, and 7.90 for Control, Creep-fed, Early-weaned, and Pre-weaned calves, respectively). These findings indicate that the adoption of pre-weaning management strategies may optimize calf performance following transport and entry into a feedyard. Results from blood analysis of various hormone levels also show that early calf weaning may be an effective practice for managing stress resulting from transportation and weaning.
Cooke et al. 2005. J. Anim. Sci. 83: 172-73. Suppl. 1. (Abstr.)

Mississippi Beef Cattle Research Stations

Find out more about beef cattle research stations in Mississippi at *http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mafesbeef.html*

Research indicates that selection progress can be made for tenderness

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality

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

Phone: 662-325-7466
Fax: 662-325-8873
Email: jparish@ads.msstate.edu

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

Jane Parish

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 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—November 2005

GENERAL

Help your neighbors with hurricane recovery efforts. Watch pasture conditions, and start offering hay before forage availability becoming limiting. Protein supplementation may be needed on residual summer grazing such as stockpiled bermudagrass. It is not too late to test the quality of stored forages and order winter supplements. Continue monitoring supplemental feed 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. Keep proper free-choice minerals and clean water available for cattle at all times. Maintain a complete herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian. Remove any remaining insecticidal ear tags as they can release low levels of insecticide and promote the development of resistant flies. As the weather cools down, watch for lice and treat cattle as needed. Deworm and implant stockers as appropriate. Continue good production and financial record keeping. This is also a good time to service equipment. Secure a premises identification number for your farm or ranch from the Mississippi Board of Animal Health if you have not already done so.

SPRING CALVING—January, February, March

Check weaned calves regularly for health problems, and make sure the nutritional program is providing adequate gains. If culling is not complete, it should be finished this month. Establish permanent identification (tattoos or brands) for bred heifers that will remain in the herd. Replacement heifers will likely need to continue to grow at a rate of 1 to 1.5 lbs. per day to meet target breeding weights in early spring. Separate bred heifers from the cows, and provide adequate supplemental nutrition as fall forage quality declines. Monitor body condition closely for the entire herd, and supplement thin cows and heifers as needed. Feed lower quality hay to dry, pregnant cows, saving the best hay for calving season. Start ordering calving supplies now so that they will be on hand in time for calving. Check bred heifers frequently. They should begin calving in December if bred ahead of the mature cow herd.

FALL CALVING—October, November, December

Start feeding a high magnesium mineral supplement about 30 days before lactating cattle are turned out onto lush winter annual or tall fescue pastures. Maintain an adequate inventory of calving supplies, including calf identification tags and obstetric equipment. Keep fall-calving heifers and cows close to handling facilities, observing cattle frequently. After calving, plan to move cow-calf pairs to clean pasture. Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as appropriate, and keep good calving records. Cow nutrient needs increase dramatically after calving. Make sure lactating cows are in good condition for breeding. Begin breeding heifers three to four weeks before the mature cow herd. Replacement heifers should be nearing 65% of their expected mature weight. Consult with a veterinarian to schedule pre-breeding vaccinations. Weigh yearling cattle and calculate adjusted weights and ratios. Plan for herd sire needs by evaluating bulls and arranging breeding soundness exams. Make sure bulls are in good condition. Trim feet if necessary. Consider the Fall 2005 BCIA Bull Sale as a source of bulls with performance information. The sale will be at noon on November 10, 2005 at the Hinds Community College Sales Facility in Raymond.