

# Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



## Upcoming events:

- September—Beef Cattle Genetics Learn at Lunch sessions
- **September 15—Fall BCIA sale nomination deadline**
- October 21—MS Fed Beef Conference, MSU
- October 27—MAFES White Sand Unit beef and forage field day, Poplarville, MS
- October 27-29—MSU Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State, MS
- November 10—Fall BCIA bull and heifer sale, Raymond, MS
- December 1—Herd Health Management Short Course, MSU, Biloxi, Oxford, Raymond
- January 20—Mississippi BCIA Spring Bull Sale nomination deadline
- March 1—Hinds CC Bull Test Sale and Mississippi BCIA Spring Bull Sale, Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility, Raymond, MS

## Inside this issue:

Farm to Feedlot: 2005 to 2011 Summary	2
MBCIA Membership Application	4
Fed Beef Conference	4

## Homeplace Producers Feeder Calf Board Sale Results

The 4th annual Homeplace Producers board sale was held on August 1, 2011 at the Southeast Mississippi Livestock Auction in Hattiesburg and broadcast live over the Internet. Over 3,500 head of cattle were represented in 43 loads varying in weight, type, and management. The sale generated over **\$2.8 million** in total receipts. The cattle will be loaded at several different Mississippi locations through late October.

Both shrink (weight loss) and commission were set at 2%. Each group of consigners had the choice to use their local marketing agent so long as they agreed to represent the cattle under the same terms.

### Sale Summary

*The fourth annual Mississippi Home-Place Producers Feeder Cattle Board Sale was held at Southeast Livestock Exchange in Hattiesburg, MS on Monday, August 1, 2011. The sale was held in cooperation with producers and agencies including the MS State University Extension Service, MS Farm Bureau Federation, MS Beef Cattle Improvement Association, and MS Cattle-men's Association. Cattle were all pre-conditioned and will be weaned at least 45 days prior to shipping. Cattle were sold with primarily a 2 percent shrink. On the mixed lots, heifers sold 6 cents back of the steers.*

**Feeder Steers:** Bulk Medium and Large 1 and 2: 5 pot-loads 650 lbs 131.00-138.75; 2 pot-loads 700 lbs 135.00-137.00; 4 pot-loads 725 lbs 129.00-135.00; 2 pot-loads 850 lbs 123.00-127.50.

**Feeder Heifers:** Bulk Medium and Large 1 and 2: 2 pot-loads 625 lbs 127.00-129.75; 1 pot-load 640 lbs 130.50; 2 pot-loads 650 lbs 126.00-131.00; 1 pot-load 675 lbs 125.00; 1 pot-load 700 lbs 127.50; 1 pot-load 800 lbs 120.00.

**Mixed Feeder Steers and Heifers (steer prices listed):** Bulk Medium and Large 1 and 2: 1 pot-load 550 lbs/530 lbs 135.50;

1 pot-load 575 lbs/575 lbs 140.00; 1 pot-load 625 lbs/625 lbs 132.00; 1 pot-load 640 lbs/600 lbs 134.00; 2 pot-loads 650 lbs/600 lbs 125.00-128.00; 4 pot-loads 650 lbs/625 lbs 130.00-137.50; 1 pot-load 675 lbs/625 lbs 126.75; 2 pot-loads 675 lbs/650 lbs 129.50-129.75; 1 pot-load 675 lbs/675 lbs 134.00; 4 pot-loads 700 lbs/650 lbs 126.00-131.00; 1 pot-load 700 lbs/750 lbs 127.50; 1 pot-load 725 lbs/675 lbs 127.50; 1 pot-load 800 lbs/700 lbs 127.50; 1 pot-load 850 lbs/800 lbs 125.00.

Here are those data (cattle scheduled for current delivery only and not including split loads) in comparison to the weekly prices at 13 other MS markets for the week of August 1-5, 2011:

	Weight (lbs)	Range (\$ / CWT)	
		Homeplace Sale	MS Average
<b>Steers</b>	600-700	137.00-138.75	120-132
	700-800	129.00-137.00	none reported
<b>Heifers</b>	600-700	125.00-131.00	111-121

All cattle are Medium and Large 1-2, current delivery.

In comparison to other video feeder calf sales marketing Southeastern U.S. cattle during the same week, load prices from the Homeplace sale fell within the range of prices for loads of the same calf sex and delivery time. Additionally, the low end of the price ranges for the Homeplace sale compared very favorably to those of the other video sales and were higher than these sales in several categories. The Homeplace sale results also outperformed Internet auctions of cattle from Mississippi during the same time frame.

For more information on this sale visit: [msucare.com/livestock/beef/](http://msucare.com/livestock/beef/)

## Farm to Feedlot: 2005 to 2011 Summary



The Mississippi Farm to Feedlot Program provides statewide benchmarks for comparing calf feedlot performance, carcass merit, and finishing economics

### Introduction

The Mississippi Farm to Feedlot Program was established in 1993 to evaluate feedlot and carcass performance for calves produced in Mississippi and to provide educational information to Mississippi beef cattle producers regarding retained ownership as a marketing alternative. It often serves as an introduction to cattle finishing and harvest production and marketing systems for these producers. The program is coordinated by the Mississippi State University Extension Service. Recommendations focus on improvements to breeding, genetics, nutrition, and herd health management practices.

### Procedures

Records of steers ( $n = 1,987$ ) and heifers ( $n = 764$ ) consigned to the Mississippi Farm to Feedlot Program from 2005 to 2011 and shipped to Iowa feedlots were used in this analysis. The cattle represented 29 unique farms of origin, 26 feedlot delivery dates, and 30 feeding pens. Cattle from Mississippi operations were shipped to feedlots in Southwest Iowa participating in the Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity (TCSCF) beginning in 2005, with the most recent harvest for this dataset occurring in May 2011. Seven different TCSCF feedlots were utilized during this time period. Calf shipments to these feedlots occurred during 8 different months, with the majority (61.6%) of calves shipped during the month of June. Late summer, autumn, early winter, and early spring were other key periods of calf shipment activity. Feedlot performance, carcass characteristic, and financial data were collected on individual calves in the program.

### Results

Feedlot average daily gain for individual calves ranged from 0.5 to 6.2 lb per day with an overall average of 3.6 lb per day. Steers averaged 3.7 lb of gain per day, and heifers averaged 3.3 lb of gain per day. The Approximately two-thirds of steers gained between 3.0 and 4.5 lb per day, and more than 7 out of every 10 heifers gained between 2.5 and 4.0 lb per day.

Hot carcass weight discounts were applied to 79 carcasses outside of the accepted 550- to 950-lb range. Less than 0.2% of

carcasses were lighter than 550 lb, and only 2.7% of carcasses were heavier than 950 lb. Greater than 2/3 of steer carcasses fell within a hot carcass weight range of 751 to 950 lb. Nearly 8 out of 10 heifer carcasses weighed between 651 and 850 lb.

The mean ribeye areas for steers and heifers were 13.1 and 12.5 in<sup>2</sup>, respectively. Just over one-half of both steer and heifer carcasses had ribeye areas between 12 and 14 in<sup>2</sup>. Only 0.4% of all carcasses had ribeye areas smaller than 10 in<sup>2</sup>, and only 2.1% had ribeye areas larger than 16 in<sup>2</sup>.

In excess of 63% of steer carcasses were yield grade 1 or 2, and over 54% of heifer carcasses were yield grade 1 or 2. Only 2.4 and 3.8% of steer and heifer carcasses, respectively, were yield grade 4 or 5. The average calculated yield grades were 2.9 for steer and heifer carcasses each.

More than 49% of steer carcasses and nearly 57% of heifer carcasses graded USDA Choice or better. However, only 6% of all carcasses graded in the upper two-thirds of the Choice grade, and less than 1% of all carcasses graded Prime.

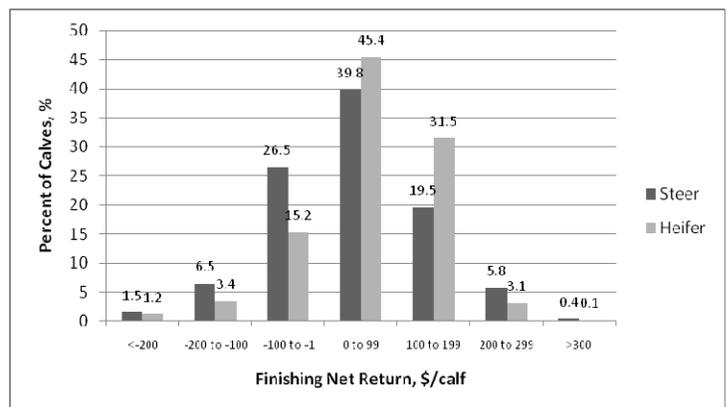
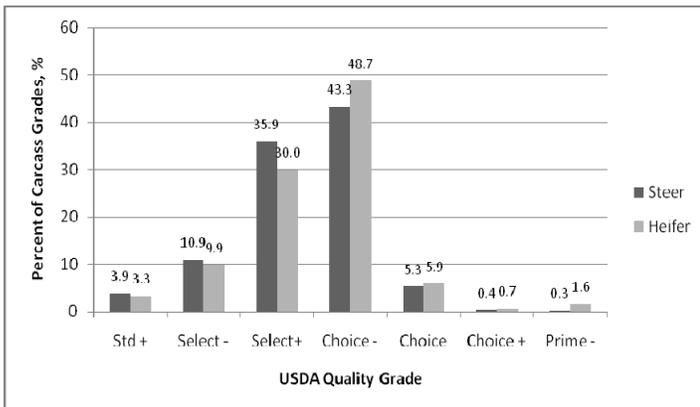
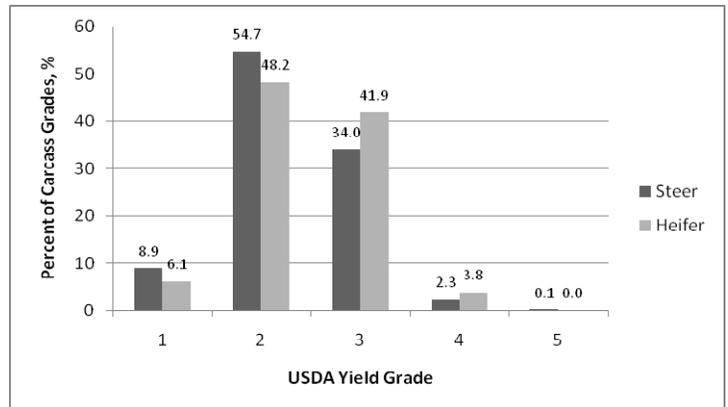
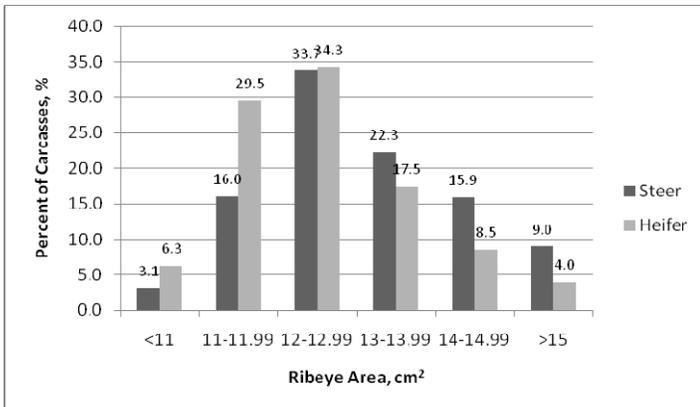
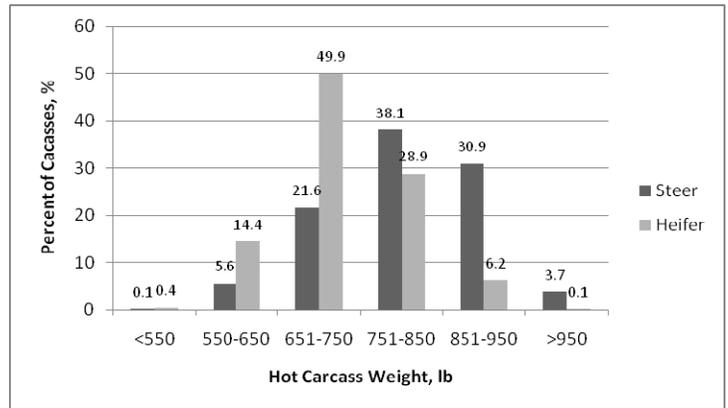
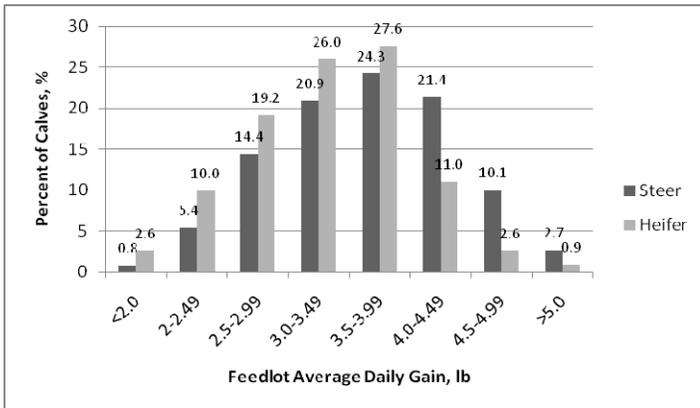
Morbidity rate was 12.6% for steers and 10.2% for heifers. In addition, 24.6% of calves and their carcasses were identified as having at least 1 of the following defects: poor disposition (14.1%), horns (5.4%), lung lesions (2.3%), carcass trim loss (1.9%), rattail (1.6%), bad eye (0.5%), over 30 months of age at harvest (0.5%), dark cutting beef (0.2%), excess sheath (0.1%), and light muscling (0.1%). The average trim loss was 25.4 lb.

Individual birth dates were provided for 860 head or 30.3% of the cattle. Breed of sire and individual sire identification were provided on 251 head (9.1%) and 1,009 head (36.7%), respectively. Age verification premiums ranged from \$25.00/head to \$35.00/head with an average premium of \$32.58/head and 1,120 carcasses or 40.7% of carcasses receiving this premium. The amount of time and effort to maintain and provide the records and paperwork necessary to achieve age verification premiums is more than offset by the potential monetary gains. There is room for improvement in the per-

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*“...The amount of time and effort to maintain and provide the records and paperwork necessary to achieve age verification premiums is more than offset by the potential monetary gains.”*

## Farm to Feedlot (Cont.)



centage of Mississippi cattle capturing age verification premiums. This could be readily achieved in the near future.

Yield grade premiums ranged from \$2.00/cwt to \$6.50/cwt with an average premium of \$2.54/cwt and 1,619 carcasses or 58.9% of carcasses receiving this premium. Certified Angus Beef® premiums ranged from \$2.72/cwt to \$7.18/cwt with an average premium of \$4.09/cwt and 131 carcasses or 4.8% of carcasses receiving this premium. Prime quality grade premiums ranged from \$13.48/cwt to \$44.35/cwt with an average premium of \$18.03/cwt and 17 carcasses or 0.6% of carcasses receiving this premium.

Mean net return from finishing were positive, \$33.91 and \$59.22, respectively, for both steers and heifers fed through the Mississippi Farm to Feedlot Program during the period studied. Overall mean net return was \$40.98 per calf resulting in over \$116,800 of total value beyond the farm gate being added to Mississippi calves participating in the program during this time. Net return was positive for 65.5% of steers and 80.2% of heifers.

Mississippi Farm to Feedlot Program data provide statewide benchmarks to which individual producers can compare their calves' feedlot performance, carcass merit, and finishing economics.

*Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement  
Association—Productivity and Quality*

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Send questions or comments to  
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*Jane Parish*

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Visit MBCIA online at  
[http://msucares.com/  
livestock/beef/mbcia/](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

## Mississippi Fed Beef Challenge and Conference

Mississippi producers will enter fed cattle and compete in the 1st Mississippi Fed Beef Challenge in October 2011. These beef carcasses will be viewed and results of the challenge will be announced at the Mississippi Fed Beef Conference. Award banners for grand and reserve champions in three categories will be presented.



The conference in conjunction with the Fed Beef Challenge will be held at the Mississippi State University Meats Laboratory in Ballew Hall on the main campus on Friday, October 21, 2011 starting at 1:00 p.m. The educational portion of the conference will run through 5:00 p.m. and will be followed by a steak supper at the MAFES Conference Center on Highway 182 E.

Topics to be addressed during the conference include:

- Fed cattle nutrition
- Individual carcass evaluation of Mississippi Fed Beef Challenge cattle
- Beef carcass fabrication
- Beef palatability and sensory traits
- Marketing fed beef

Conference registration fees are complimentary for Fed Beef Challenge participants (1 per entry), or \$40 per person in advance and \$50 per person at the door.

Conference brochures including registration forms are online at [msucares.com/livestock/beef/beef\\_calendar.html](http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/beef_calendar.html)

