

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



Upcoming events:

- July 6-9—Beef Improvement Federation Annual Meeting, Billings, MT
- July 11—Cattlemen's Exchange (Simpson/Copiah County): Fly control and EPDs, Simpson County Extension office, 7:00 p.m.
- July 18—Cattlemen's Exchange (Winona group): Cow herd and feed efficiency, EE Ranches, Winona, MS, 7:00 p.m.
- July 25—Cattlemen's Exchange (Lafayette/Panola/Tate County): Initial meeting, Lafayette County Extension office, Oxford, MS, 6:30 p.m.
- August 8—MS-LA Stocker Cattle/ Heifer Development Short Course, Lincoln County Multipurpose Building, Brookhaven, MS, 9:00 a.m.
- August 15—BCIA Annual Fall Bull Sale Nomination Deadline
- November 1, 8, 15—Beef Cattle Genetics Short Course, Distance education sites across MS, 6:00—9:00 p.m.
- November 10—BCIA Annual Fall Bull Sale, Raymond, MS, 12:00 p.m.

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"Genetics for the Next Generation" Featured at BIF Convention

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) will take a look at advancements in genetic evaluation during its 37th annual meeting and research symposium. The event will be July 6-9, 2005, at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana in Billings. Activities begin Wednesday evening with an opening reception at 5 o'clock, followed by the National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB) biennial reproduction symposium, which will focus on getting cows pregnant. The BIF meeting itself will focus on profitability, utilizing indexes, committee meetings, multi-breed evaluations and genomics.

If you are unable to attend the meetings in Montana, you can still follow the convention live. Angus Productions Inc. (API) is providing

online coverage of this event, which is themed "Genetics for the Next Generation." During the conference, API will update the convention website with proceedings; PowerPoints and overviews of the presentations; 2005 BIF honoree announcements; coverage of commercial and seedstock tours; and discussions that take place during the event. New for this year's conference, API will provide a live video feed of the general sessions, so log on to the site to watch and listen to the speakers as the event unfolds.

The web address for the conference is <http://www.bifconference.com/>. Additional event highlights, audio files, and pertinent follow-up articles will be posted on the site after the conference.

BCIA Fall Bull Sale Nomination Deadline in August

Now is the time to nominate bulls for the Mississippi BCIA 2005 Fall Bull Sale scheduled for Thursday, November 10 at the Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility in Raymond, MS. The nomination deadline is August 15, 2005, and a \$25 nomination fee is required at that time for each bull nominated. Be sure to carefully read all sale rules and regulations. Complete

BCIA bull sale information and forms are available online at http://msucare.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/bcia_bullsale.html on the MBCIA website.

As a reminder, several rule changes are in effect for the 2005 sale:

1) The acceptable age range has been expanded to include bulls from 13 months of age up to 39 months of age. This would include bulls born between August 1, 2002 and October 31, 2004.

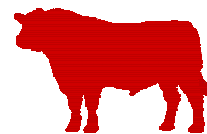
2) A minimum adjusted 365-day yearling weight has been implemented. This weight as reported by the respective breed association shall be 850 pounds.

Mississippi BCIA 2005 Fall Bull Sale Nomination Deadline:

Monday, August 15, 2005

Sale Date:

Thursday, November 10, 2005



Starting with the 2006 sale, at least one of the following 1) ultrasound EPDs, 2) carcass EPDs, and/or 3) ultrasound body composition scan results will be required for bulls to meet BCIA Fall Bull Sale eligibility. **Therefore, proper yearling ultrasound measurements should be taken on bulls currently being developed for the November 2006 sale.**

Contact Jane Parish in Extension Animal and Dairy Sciences at jparish@ads.msstate.edu or (662) 325-7466 with any questions.



Cattle grazing annual ryegrass at Ingram Cattle Company

Ingram Cattle Company to Represent MBCIA for BIF Seedstock Award

Ingram Cattle Company will represent the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association as the 2005 nominee for the Beef Improvement Federation Outstanding Seedstock Producer Award. The award recipient will be announced at the BIF convention in Billings, Montana this month.

Ingram Cattle Company began operation in 1949 and is located in north Mississippi near Water Valley. This family-owned and operated enterprise is an integrated farming and cattle operation. Row crops include cotton, soybeans, corn and small acreages of wheat and oats. The warm-season forage base is complemented with annual ryegrass and tall fescue production in the cool-season. Registered cattle have been an integral part of the operation since its inception. Ingram Cattle Company was one of the leading Polled Hereford breeders in the Southeast for many years. Small herds of registered Angus and Gelbvieh cattle were added in the mid 1980's.

The Gelbvieh herd was dispersed in the mid 1990's, and the Polled Hereford herd was sold in 2002. This allowed Ingram Cattle Company to concentrate on the development and expansion of the registered Angus herd. From its beginning in 1985 with the purchase of 25 cows, the Angus herd has grown to 300 females today. All cows and heifers are bred artificially one time and then turned out with a clean-up bull. The September and October calving season allows for the marketing of 16-18 month old bulls in the spring when the demand for bulls is the greatest. Bulls are primarily marketed private treaty and in the Mississippi BCIA Annual Fall Bull Sale. Ingram Cattle Company also helps support the Mississippi Angus Association sale and breed promotion and improvement efforts.

It is the goal of Ingram Cattle Company to continue to supply their customers with cattle that improve performance and carcass traits in their commercial herds. They firmly believe that a strong, satisfied customer base is the best form of advertising. The development of a customer base with seventy-five percent repeat buyers tells them that their product is delivering results in com-

mercial herds. As herd capacity is reached, marketing groups of high quality females will improve Ingram Cattle Company's opportunities to contribute to the purebred industry. The long-term goal at Ingram Cattle Company is to breed cattle that will be a positive contribution to the Angus breed for many years to come.

The Ingrams cite three important uses of technology that have helped them reach operational goals. Live animal ultrasound scanning technology has allowed them to collect performance information that can be provided to prospective buyers and used in selection decisions. Estrus synchronization has been another very useful tool in managing the breeding program and increasing artificial insemination success rates. Finally, the use of computerized record-keeping systems to maintain breed association records, performance data, and financial information has been a tremendous asset in keeping organized, timely, and accurate details of farm operations documented. Computer reports can be easily accessed and provided to potential customers upon request or used to review different aspects of the cattle operation.

Record keeping is an essential part of the Ingram operation. All records, starting with breeding dates, are entered into the computer. Each animal is followed with records from that point on in an organized system. All calves are individually identified at birth. Birth records, herd health program records, feed rations information, carcass data, and performance results from preweaning through marketing are maintained. This information is used in selection and culling of the animal as well as the dam. Bull and artificial insemination sire selection also utilizes this information. General and specific areas for improvement in the breeding program are identified using these records, and appropriate matings are then implemented to accomplish continuous herd improvement

Congratulations and good luck to Ingram Cattle Company in the 2005 Beef Improvement Federation Outstanding Seedstock Producer Award competition. Mississippi BCIA is well represented.

"Record keeping is an essential part of the Ingram operation... reports can be easily accessed and provided to potential customers upon request..."

Cattle Learning Center Provides Educational Opportunities

The recently launched Cattle Learning Center was developed by a partnership with National Cattlemen's Foundation and Pfizer Animal Health. Its mission is to help producers make informed business decisions and improve management practices while increasing overall consumer confidence in America's beef supply.

The Cattle Learning Center will include in-depth, self-paced learning tools for producers covering topics such as animal health, nutrition, risk management, biosecurity, estate planning and more. It is designed for producers to learn at their own pace, select their topic of interest, and choose from a variety of learning options (DVD, Web site, Satellite-TV, printed materials, meetings).

The first curriculum focuses on beef cattle reproduction, a timely topic that can offer practical solutions to make a positive impact on beef operations today. The beef cattle reproduction modules include Economics of Reproduction, How Do Cows Get Pregnant, Factors Causing Reproductive Loss, Prevention Programs to Improve Reproduction, and Technologies to Improve Reproductive Performance. The reproduction curriculum features Virginia Tech University's Dr. Bill Beal.

For additional details about the full scope of the Cattle Learning Center's mission, as well as more information about the first course, complete the online form at <http://www.cattlelearningcenter.org/> or call 1-866-BEEFUSA (1-866-233-3872).

"The Cattle Learning Center's mission is to help producers make informed business decisions and improve management practices."

National Animal Identification System Update

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports that as of June 20, 2005, 47 states and 5 tribes had premises registration systems in place, and 82,437 premises were registered as of that date. The Mississippi premises identification system has been in place since March 2005. Voluntary premises identification is part of the initial implementation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Premises registration is accomplished by just taking a few minutes to fill out the premises registration form and then sending the form to the state veterinarian's office at the Mississippi Board of Animal Health. An online version of the Mississippi form is available at <http://www.mbah.state.ms.us/> on the Mississippi Board of Animal Health website. Forms can also be obtained by calling the Board of Animal Health at 601-359-1170.

The National Animal Identification System currently being implemented by USDA on a voluntary basis is intended to identify animals and poultry and record their movements over the course of their life spans. USDA's ultimate goal is to create an effective, uniform national animal tracking system that will help maintain the health of U.S. herds and flocks. When fully operational, it will allow animal tracing to be completed within 48 hours of a disease detection.

The currently proposed timeline for NAIS implementation is:

- July 2005: All States capable of premises registration.
- July 2005: Animal Identification Number system operational.
- April 2007: Premises registration and animal identification "alerts".
- January 2008: Premises registration and animal identification required.
- January 2009: Reporting of defined animal movements required; entire program mandatory.

USDA has extended the comment period on the animal identification strategic plan through July 6, 2005. Send an original and three copies of postal or commercial delivery comments to Docket No. 05-015-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. If you wish to submit a comment using the Internet, an easy link to the NAIS docket and comment form is available on the NAIS home page at <http://www.usda.gov/nais>.

For more information on premises registration or the National Animal Identification System, contact your local Extension office or area livestock/forages agent.



Lance Newman demonstrates animal identification to beef producers at the MSU field day


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

Jane Parish 
Mississippi State
University does not discriminate on
the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex,
sexual orientation or group affiliation, age, disability,

**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 Number: _____

(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—July 2005

GENERAL

Stay on top of summer weed and brush control. Rotationally graze summer pastures, clipping overgrown pastures or harvesting excess for hay. Watch dallisgrass pastures for ergot contamination, and clip seedheads if necessary. Avoid grazing heavily nitrogen fertilized sudangrass, sorghum-sudan hybrid, or pearl millet pastures during drought or cool, cloudy weather. If cattle are grazed on these pastures, they should be observed carefully for signs of nitrate poisoning. Continue harvesting bermudagrass hay at 4-5 week intervals for optimum forage maturity and quality. Fertilize hay fields between cuttings or on a regular interval to replace soil nutrients removed by hay production and improve hay yield and quality. Continue recording hay yields and forage testing each cutting. 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. Keep proper free-choice minerals, adequate shade, and fresh water available for cattle at all times. At 90°F a mature cow needs about 20 gallons of water per day. Continue fly control program keeping a close eye on fly numbers. Remove fly tags as they become ineffective, and implement additional fly control methods. Check cattle for cancer eye, pinkeye, and foot rot. 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

Remove bulls from breeding pastures if not done already. Keep bulls in a small pasture traps on an adequate nutritional program, and market bulls that will not be used in future breeding seasons. Maintain lactating cows on the best pastures. Consider creep feeding calves depending on marketing plans and pasture conditions. Plan to pregnancy check herd females about 60 days after the end of the breeding season. Establish permanent identification (tattoos or brands) for bred heifers that will remain in the herd, and make plans to market open heifers.

FALL CALVING—October, November, December

Wean calves based on market and pasture conditions using weaning strategies that minimize calf stress. Monitor herd performance and nutritional status by recording weights and cow body condition scores at weaning. Assess weaning percentage (calves weaned/cows exposed to breeding) and cow efficiency (calf weight/cow weight). After weaning, cull cows based on pregnancy status, soundness (eyes, udders, feet, legs, teeth), and performance records. Market cull cows based on market conditions and cow body condition. Select replacement heifers based on performance. Put a heifer development program in action to reach target breeding weights by the start of the next breeding season. Implement calf preconditioning, marketing, or retained ownership plans as appropriate.