

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



Upcoming events:

- September 15—Mississippi BCIA Fall Bull Sale nomination deadline extended due to Gustav
- October 7—Bulls arrive at Hinds CC Bull Test, Raymond, MS
- October 23-25—MSU Extension Service Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State, MS
- November 11—White Sand Research Unit Field Day, Poplarville, MS, 9:00 A.M.
- November 13—Mississippi BCIA Fall Bull Sale, Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility, Raymond, MS
- January 20—Mississippi BCIA Spring Bull Sale nomination deadline
- March 5—Hinds CC Bull Test Sale and Mississippi BCIA Spring Bull Sale, Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility, Raymond, MS

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Mississippi Homeplace Producers Board Sale Results

Thanks in large part to support from the MBCIA, cattle producers from across the state have accomplished a major advancement in marketing their feeder calves; the first Homeplace Producers board sale. It was held on August 4th at the Southeast Mississippi Livestock Auction in Hattiesburg. The cattle were represented in 26 loads varying in weight, type and management. The sale lasted only one hour and generated **\$1.4 million** in total receipts. The cattle will be loaded at several different locations from Prairie to Hattiesburg through late October.

Weaned and preconditioned steers, including those in split loads, sold for an average of \$109.05/cwt at an average weight of 695 pounds. Weaned and preconditioned heifers, including those in split loads, sold for an average of \$103.87/cwt at an average weight of 640 pounds. Two un-weaned loads also sold, 575 pound steers at \$107.00/cwt and 540 pound heifers at \$99.50/cwt. Full loads of steers averaged \$109.50/cwt at an average weight of 700 pounds while full loads of heifers averaged \$107.00/cwt weighing an average of 653 pounds.

For the week of the sale, prices on feeder steers at Mississippi auctions were \$1 to \$3 higher than the week previous. Mississippi feeder steer prices for that weight range (600-700 pounds) were \$96-\$106/cwt while feeder heifer prices for the same weight range were \$88-\$96/cwt. So, calves in this sale averaged \$3/cwt on steers and \$7/cwt on heifers above the top market prices for all other feeders sold in the state that week.

Beyond the increase in price per pound by marketing through this sale, revenue was also increased in other ways. Shrink (weight loss) for most loads was set at 2% and two loads were sold with no shrink because they were to be shipped 50 miles prior to taking the pay weight. By controlling shrink prior to pay weight determination, fewer dollars will

be lost compared to some other marketing strategies. Additionally, commission for the sale was set at 2%. In some cases, this is a significant cost savings and results in yet another increase in revenue.

Calves were consigned from several communities including Bay Springs, Belden, Carriere, Conehatta, Covington, Ellisville, Forest, Hattiesburg, Louin, Macon, MaGee, Mantachie, Morton, Moselle, Ovett, Philadelphia, Prairie, Raleigh, Rose Hill, Seminary, Soso, Starkville, Stringer, Taylorsville, West and Wiggins. Each group of consigners had the choice to use their local marketing agent assuming they would agree to represent the cattle under the same terms.

The producers involved consider this sale to be a great success in capturing full value for the management they put into these calves. As they plan for next year, there is plenty of room for improvement. Increasing the volume of cattle offered is one of their main objectives that will hopefully attract more buyers. The Homeplace Producers Sale is not exclusive and is open to any producers who agree to the terms and conditions and can be fitted with a load in their area.

Consider meeting with one of this year's consigners in your area to discuss their opinions and how to participate. Several producer and educational groups have helped the Homeplace Producers with their sale and are willing to discuss the results or opportunities for participation next year. Please feel free to contact representatives of the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association, Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, or the Mississippi State University Extension Service. Individual load information, terms and conditions, more detailed results and a video of the actual sale can be found on the Internet at <http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/feederalf.html>.



The Mississippi Beef Quality Assurance Program is a commitment to beef quality

Beef Quality Assurance Training can now be Completed Online

The Mississippi Beef Quality Assurance (MS-BQA) Program recently launched an online certification and recertification option for program participants. The online training modules are now available at <http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/bqa>

The web-based training modules include:

- 1) MS-BQA Introduction
- 2) Targeted Breeding
- 3) Responsible Culling
- 4) Proper Management
- 5) MS-BQA Program Conclusions

Each training module consists of an educational video accompanied by a slide presentation. The website includes links to the following MS-BQA file downloads:

- 1) MS-BQA program reference manual
- 2) MS-BQA certification questions
- 3) MS-BQA personal contract

To complete the online training, simply review the online training modules. Then download the program reference manual, certification questions, and personal contract. Using the reference manual and information presented in the online training modules, complete the certification questions. Complete the personal contract as well. Finally, mail or fax the completed certification question answer sheet along with the signed personal contract to the MS-BQA coordinator. The certification test and contract can also be completed directly on the website. The process is the same for recertification.

Extension county directors or veterinarians are professionals who should be able to answer or find answers to any questions you have about the reference manual and MS-BQA.

The MS-BQA Program identifies areas in beef production where defects in quality occur. The MS-BQA Program is a cooperative effort between beef producers, veterinarians, nutritionists, and professionals from the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association,

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, MSU Extension Service, and MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, who believe that cattle managed under BQA guidelines will be less likely to contain a violative residue, injection-site tissue damage, or foreign metal such as a broken needle.

The program asks everyone involved with beef production to follow the FDA/USDA/EPA guidelines for product use and to use common sense, reasonable management skills, and accepted scientific knowledge to avoid product defects at the consumer level. After all, consumers purchase what they trust, and their confidence is the basis of our industry's and our children's future.

Beef Quality Assurance producer certification can be

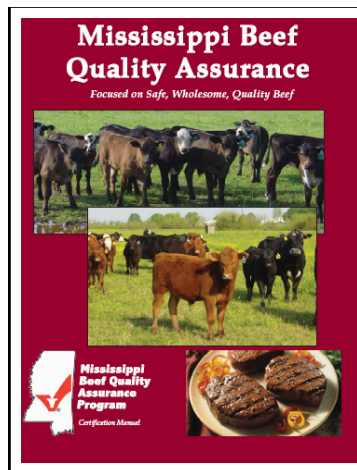
accomplished by through reviewing the online training modules or attending a MS-BQA training and by completing test questions and the personal contract. Upon certification, you will be mailed a certificate that shows you have completed the MS-BQA materials and understand the MS-BQA guidelines.

Certification in the MS-BQA Program is recommended for all participants in the Mississippi Producers Homeplace Feeder Calf Board Sale.

For more information about the MS-BQA program, contact Dr. Carla Huston at the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine or an Extension Beef Cattle Specialist in the Mississippi State University Animal and Dairy Sciences Department.

MS-BQA Coordinator

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"...Certification in the MS-BQA Program is recommended for all participants in the MS Homeplace Producers Feeder Calf Board Sale."

County Cattle Estimates Released for 2008

The top ten cattle producing counties in Mississippi as of January 1, 2008 and the estimated number of all cattle and calves in those counties according to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service were:

- 1) Hinds—33,300 head
- 2) Walthall—29,800 head
- 3) Jones—25,000 head
- 4) Covington—24,500 head
- 5) Tate—24,300 head
- 6) Lincoln—24,000 head
- 7) Newton—23,000 head
- 8) Chickasaw—22,000 head
- 9) Noxubee—21,700 head
- 10) Neshoba—21,000 head

The statewide total number of all cattle and calves was reported as 990,000 head and included 519,000 head of beef cows. The individual counties reporting the most growth in cattle numbers from 2007 to 2008 were Lincoln and Monroe Counties.

The statistical reporting districts experiencing the highest annual growth of cattle numbers from 2007 to 2008 were District 30 (Alcorn, Itawamba, Lee, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tippah, Tishomingo, and Union Counties), District 50 (Attala, Carroll, Choctaw, Holmes, Leake, Madison, Montgomery, Rankin, Scott, and Webster Counties), and District 60 (Chickasaw, Clay, Kemper, Lowndes, Monroe, Neshoba, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, and Winston Counties).

“...Lincoln and Monroe Counties reported the most growth in cattle numbers.”

MSU Fall 2008 Artificial Insemination School Ahead

Mississippi State Beef Cattle Extension and the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences will be hosting its annual Fall artificial insemination class Oct. 23rd through 25th. The class will be held in Starkville on the Leveck Animal Research Center Beef Unit and the Bearden Dairy Research Center with classroom instruction conducted at the Wise Center. The registration fee is \$150 per person but is limited to the first 30 registrations. As in the past, husband and wife teams may enroll for a single registration fee. Take a look at the following agenda and, if you are interested in taking the class, please send a check, payable to **Northeast Livestock**, to:

Mike Howell
N.E. Area Livestock Agent
PO Box 1690
Verona, MS 38879

Thursday, October 23, 2008

- 6:00 – 6:15 p.m. Introductions/ Opening Comments (WISE 4036)
- 6:15 – 6:45 p.m. Economics of Artificial Insemination
- 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. Reproductive Anatomy and the Estrous Cycle
- 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Estrus Synchronization

- 8:30 – 8:45 p.m. Break
- 8:45 – 9:00 p.m. Artificial Insemination Equipment
- 9:00 – 9:45 p.m. Work with Reproductive Tracts

Friday, October 24, 2008

- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Heat Detection and Heat Detection Aids (WISE 4043)
- 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Nutritional Programs for A.I. Success – Part I
- 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Reproductive Herd Health and Biosecurity
- 10:00 a.m. – Noon Corral Work (semen handling and A.I. technique practice) (Dairy Unit)
- Noon – 1:00 p.m. Lunch (provided) (Beef Unit)
- 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Beef Sire Selection Exercise (Beef Unit)
- 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Corral Work (A.I. technique practice) (Dairy Unit)

Saturday, October 25, 2008

- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Nutritional Programs for A.I. Success – Part II (Beef Unit)
- 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Corral Work (A.I. technique practice) (Dairy Unit)



Practical AI equipment training and semen handling techniques are part of the MSU AI School program

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement
Association—Productivity and Quality

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Send questions or comments to Jane Parish or
Justin Rhinehart, Extension Beef Specialists,
Mississippi State University
Extension Service



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

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

BCIA Genetic Profit Tips – September 2008

Yearling Data Collection

At a year of age, there are many records that can be collected on bulls, steers, and heifers. It is important to collect data when the average of the group is near 365 days. Check with your breed association for the acceptable range of ages to take yearling measurements. In general, BIF recommends that all animals within the group be between 320 and 410 days when yearling data are taken. If animals fall outside of the range determined by the association, the group should be split into two successive yearling dates so that all animals are within the range on the day of measurement. Contemporary grouping should include the weaning criteria, plus yearling/feeding management code, date weighed, and sex.

Yearling weight. Yearling weight (YW) should be collected on all animals and adjusted for age and age of dam. Adjusted yearling weights are used to calculate yearling weight EPD. Depending on the association, yearling weight may also be used as indicator traits to help calculate other EPD, such as mature weight. Many animals that have birth and weaning records go into the feedlot and will not contribute a yearling weight record. This could lead to selection bias for yearling weight EPD. However, most associations use a multiple trait animal model that includes birth, weaning, and yearling weights. This uses genetic correlations between the trait to account for selection and avoid bias.

Hip height. Frame score is a measurement that describes skeletal size. Larger-framed cattle tend to be later maturing, and smaller-framed cattle tend to be earlier maturing. Tables are available to convert the hip height measured in

inches into a frame score. Hip height can be measured at any time from 5 to 21 months, but many producers choose to do it at yearling time because of convenience. Hip height or frame score can be used by associations to calculate EPD for mature weight or height.

Scrotal circumference. Scrotal circumference (SC) is an indicator of a bull's fertility, and it has a relationship with his daughters' age at puberty. Larger scrotal circumference is associated with younger age at puberty for the bull and his daughters. The contemporary group and age of measurement requirements are the same as those for yearling weight. Most associations are using scrotal circumferences to calculate EPD for scrotal circumference and may use it as an indicator trait for heifer pregnancy EPD.

Pelvic area. Pelvic area (PA) can be measured on bulls and heifers at yearling time. While most breed associations are not calculating EPD for pelvic area at this time, it can be a useful culling tool within a herd. Heifers with small pelvic areas are more likely to experience calving difficulty. It may be beneficial to measure yearling bulls as well, because bull pelvic area is moderately correlated with heifer pelvic area.

Ultrasound data. Most breed associations are now using ultrasound data collected on bulls and heifers to calculate EPD for body composition. Measurements taken at scanning include scan weight, ribeye area, 12-13th rib fat thickness, rump fat thickness, and percent intramuscular fat. EPD for scan weight, ribeye area, fat thickness, and percent intramuscular fat are produced from those measurements.

Source: National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium. 2006. Beef Sire Selection Manual.