



MISSISSIPPI

BCIA

BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

- April 21– Beef Cattle Boot Camp, Starkville
- April 29– MSU Beef Unit Field Day, Starkville
- May 6—Coastal Plain Experiment Station Forage Field Day, Newton, MS
- May 20—MS/LA Beef & Forage day , Tylertown
- May 31-June 3—BIF Annual Convention, Athens, GA
- August 3-4—Stockmanship & Stewardship Conf., Starkville, MS
- August 7—Homeplace Feeder Calf Board Sale, Hattiesburg, MS

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Plan to Attend the Beef Unit Field Day

Beef producers from across the state will hear reports of Mississippi State University’s research efforts related to a variety of beef cattle management and health considerations at the April 29th field day.

The free program will begin at 9 a.m. at the MSU Beef Unit, located south of the main campus in the Henry H. Leveck Animal Research Center.

MSU Extension Service specialists and Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station researchers will provide updates on research related to reproduction, eye pigmentation, and stocker cattle health and management. Beef unit herdsmen will provide updates on the university’s purebred and crossbred programs. Participants may tour the beef, horse and dairy units after lunch.

Events for Animal and Dairy Science alumni have also been planned to coincide

with the field day. The festivities will begin on Friday April 28th with a crawfish boil at the Beef Unit. Alumni of the Block and Bridle Club and the livestock judging teams will meet immediately following the tours for their annual meetings (approximately 2:30 p.m.). An alumni tent will be set up in center field during the 7 p.m. MSU baseball game against Auburn.

In addition, the Mississippi Beef Council will be celebrating “Beef Day at the Ball Park” with a tent in right field serving samples of beef to attendees. Producers are encouraged to make reservations for lunch by calling 662-325-3516 or emailing m.quinn@msstate.edu.

We hope you join us for a fun filled day!

Cobie Rutherford



Beef and forage field day set for May 20 in Tylertown

Cattle producers in Louisiana and Mississippi can learn about animal handling and health issues during the Mississippi/Louisiana Beef and Forage Field Day, May 20. The event begins with registration at 8:45 a.m. at the Livestock Producers Sale Barn on Highway 98 East in Tylertown, Mississippi.

Experts with the Mississippi State University Extension Service and the LSU AgCenter will join industry professionals to discuss topics that pertinent to the .

Featured speakers include Dr. Josh Maples, MSU Ag Economist, Dr. Chance

Armstrong of the LSU AgCenter and Cobie Rutherford, MSU Animal & Dairy Sciences.

Participants can also view the top-performing bulls from the South Mississippi Gain on Forage Bull Test. These bulls are for sale and can be purchased before, during or after the field day. A sponsored lunch will be provided, but preregistration is required.

To preregister or for more information, contact Walthall County Extension agent Richard Hay at 601-876-4021 or c.r.hay@msstate.edu.

BIF Announces June Program

Beef Improvement Federation Annual Meeting and Research Symposium

May 31 to June 3, 2017

Athens Classic Center, Athens, GA

Wednesday, May 31

8:00 a.m. – noon BIF Board Meeting
Noon – 7:00 p.m. Registration opens
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Young Producers Symposium
5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Reception
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. NAAB Symposium

Thursday, June 1

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Opening comments, Georgia welcome
8:15 a.m. – Noon **General Session I: The Current Value
and Future Promise of Genomics for
Beef Improvement**

8:15 a.m. The Promise of Genomics for Beef Improvement:
Keith Bertrand and Daniela Lourenco, The University of Georgia
9:00 a.m. What the Beef Industry can learn about Genomics
Use from Other Industries: *Tom Lawlor, Holstein Assn. USA*
9:45 a.m. Question and Answer Session
10:00 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m. Where we are Going with Genomics and Genetic
Improvement: *Matt Spangler, University of Nebraska and
Alison Van Eenenaam, University of California – Davis*
11:30 a.m. What you heard: *Bob Weaber, Kansas State
University*
12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Awards Luncheon
Presentation of BIF Commercial Producer, Continuing Service
and Ambassador Awards, Frank Baker and Larry Cundiff
Scholarships
2:00 – 5:30 p.m. **Breakout Sessions**
Advancements in Genomics and Genetic Prediction
Chair: Mark Thallman, U.S. Meat Animal Research Center
Advancements in Producer Applications
Chair: Darrh Bullock, University of Kentucky
Advancements in Efficiency and Adaptability
Chair: Mark Enns, Colorado State University
6:30 pm Evening Social/Dinner

Friday, June 2

7:00 a.m. – Noon Registration
7:00 – 7:45 a.m. Breakfast
7:30 – 7:45 Welcome and News of the Day
7:45 a.m. – Noon **General Session II: Profitability
Using the Tools We Have**
7:45 a.m. Strategic Use of Heterosis:
Todd Thrift, University of Florida
8:30 a.m. The Power of Index Based Selection: *Darrh Bullock,
University of Kentucky; Donnell Brown, R. A. Brown Ranch; and
Larry Keenan, Red Angus Association of America*
9:15 a.m. Question and Answer Session
9:30 a.m. Break
10:00 a.m. Investing in the Future, Heifer Development for
Longevity: *Justin Rhinehart, University of Tennessee*
10:30 a.m. Factors affecting Feedlot Performance: Darrell
Busby, Tri County Steer Carcass Futurity Cooperative
11:00 a.m. Question and Answer Session
11:15 a.m. BIF caucuses and elections
12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Awards Luncheon
What you heard, charge

Presentation of BIF Pioneer and Seedstock Producer Awards,
Roy Wallace Scholarships, Introduction of newly elected BIF
Board of Directors, Invitation to BIF 2018

2:00 – 5:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions

Advancements in Emerging Technology
Chair: Megan Rolf, Kansas State University
Advancements in End Product Improvement
*Chair: Tommy Perkins, International Brangus Breeders
Association*
Advancements in Selection Decisions
Chair: Bob Weaber, Kansas State University
5:30 p.m. BIF board meeting and board photo

Saturday, June 3

7:00 a.m. Tour
of Georgia beef
industry



**We still have room on the van to BIF in Athens,
Georgia! Contact Cobie to reserve your spot!**

USDA Releases 2017 Cattle Inventories

January 1 Mississippi All Cattle Inventory Down 5 Percent from Last Year

All Milk Cows Down 10 Percent from Last Year and Record Low

Cattle: All cattle and calves in Mississippi as of January 1, 2017, totaled 890,000 head, a decrease of 5 percent from January 1, 2016. The calf crop for the full year of 2016 was 380,000 head, down 5 percent from last year. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 485,000, decreased 5 percent from January 1, 2016; beef cows, at 476,000 head, decreased 5 percent; and milk cows, at 9,000 head, were down 10 percent from last year and an all time record low. All heifers weighing 500 pounds and over were down 16 percent at 130,000 head. Steers were up 2 percent at 42,000 head; bulls were down 3 percent at 38,000 head, and calves weighing less than 500 pounds were unchanged at 195,000 head.



Save the Date **STOCKMANSHIP**
STEWARDSHIP
August 3-4, 2017 | Starkville, MS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Boehringer Ingelheim **BEEF** USA **Q** Beef Quality Assurance **BEEF** **UGA** extension ALABAMA A&M & AUBURN UNIVERSITIES

April 2017 – Management Calendar

GENERAL

Watch for grass tetany, particularly on lactating cows grazing lush pastures. Feed a high magnesium mineral supplement to cows on ryegrass/tall fescue pastures. Provide proper free-choice minerals and fresh water at all times. Maintain at least 4” average stubble height on winter annual pastures to avoid overgrazing. Fertilize cool-season grasses according to soil tests if not done by February. Locate hybrid bermudagrass sprigs for planting next month. Spray to control little barley, buttercup, and other winter annual weeds. Plan summer fly control before fly population buildup. Consider vaccination for anaplasmosis and/or pinkeye. Vaccinate all calves more than three months old for blackleg (7-way). Consider marketing cull cows.

SPRING CALVING - January, February, March

Dip navels, identify, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as appropriate at birth. Acquire quality herd sires with performance information from reputable sources. Make sure that calving ease sires are selected for breeding to

heifers. Conduct breeding soundness exams and make sure bulls are in good condition in advance of spring breeding. Vaccinate all open cows and heifers for vibriosis, leptospirosis, and IBR at least 30 days before breeding. Consult with a veterinarian for BVD recommendations for the local area. Cows need to be in moderate to good condition to rebreed early. Place cattle with the highest nutritional needs (lactating first-calf heifers and cows) on the highest quality grazing and hay. Supplement the cow herd as needed according to forage test results. Start breeding heifers about a month before the cow herd.

FALL CALVING - October, November, December

Remove bulls 283 days prior to the end of the desired calving season (mid-March to end the calving season around late December). Keep bulls in a small pasture traps with effective fences. Feed bulls to start the next breeding season in good condition. Observe the cow herd for returns to standing heat. Castrate and dehorn late calves or those missed in early working.




Contact Information:

MISSISSIPPI BCIA Box 9815 | Mississippi State, MS 39762
 extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/livestock/beef
 Fax: 662-325-8873

Dr. Brandi Karisch, Beef Cattle Extension Specialist
 Email: brandi.karisch@msstate.edu
 Phone: 662-325-7465

Cobie Rutherford, Beef Cattle Extension Associate
 Email: cobie.rutherford@msstate.edu
 Phone: 662-325-4344

Find us on Social Media:

-  [www.twitter.com @MSUBeefCattle](http://www.twitter.com/@MSUBeefCattle)
-  www.youtube.com/user/MSUBeefCattle
-  www.facebook.com/MSStateExtBeef

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 lifetime dues payable to Mississippi BCIA should be mailed to:

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



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 EXTENSION**

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