

# Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



## Upcoming events:

- November 1—Cattlemen's Exchange: Initial meeting, Covington/Jeff Davis/Simpson County, Collins, MS, Covington County Extension office, 6:00 p.m.
- November 4—Cattlemen's Exchange: Initial meeting, Clarke/Lauderdale County, Meridian, MS, Stockyards, 6:30 p.m.
- November 9—Cattlemen's Exchange: MSU farm example sire selection practical exercise, Winona, MS, EE Ranches cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.
- November 11—Fall BCIA Bull Sale, Hinds Community College Sales Facility, Raymond, MS, 12:00 p.m.
- November 11—BCIA Board of Directors meeting immediately following BCIA Fall Bull Sale, Raymond, MS
- November 15—Cattlemen's Exchange: Forages, Jones/Perry County, Calhoun, MS, Community Center, 6:30 p.m.
- November 16—Cattlemen's Exchange: Initial meeting, Oktibbeha/Webster/Choctaw County, Eupora, MS, Webster County Extension office, 7:00 p.m.
- November 18—Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station annual production sale, AgriCenter, Mississippi State University
- November 29—Cattlemen's Exchange: Carcass data interpretation, Verona, MS, North MS Research and Extension Center, 6:30 p.m.

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## Mississippi to Host Beef Improvement Federation in 2006

Mississippi was recently selected as the 2006 host site for the Beef Improvement Federation annual convention. Mississippi BCIA will partner with the Mississippi State University Extension Service and the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association to co-host the event, which will receive nationwide beef industry attention.

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) represents 40 state and national beef organizations such as breed associations and state beef cattle improvement associations. Mississippi's own S.R. Evans, Jr., is currently serving as past-president of BIF. Over 68 years ago, BIF was formed as a means to standardize programs and methodology and to create greater awareness, acceptance and usage of beef cattle performance con-



cepts. The *Uniform Guidelines for Beef Improvement Programs* published by BIF are just one example of the leadership they provide in beef improvement efforts.

The BIF annual convention brings together tremendous educational programs on cutting edge technologies in the beef industry along with producer applications and tours. The 2005 BIF annual convention will be held July 6-9, 2005 in Billings, Montana. For more information on the 2005 convention contact Dr. Janice Rumph at [janice@montana.edu](mailto:janice@montana.edu) or visit the BIF website at [www.beefimprovement.org](http://www.beefimprovement.org). As dates and convention specifics are finalized for the 2006 BIF convention in Mississippi, they will be shared the MBCIA membership and county Extension Service offices.

## Bull Test Underway at Hinds Community College

The Hinds Community College Bull Test kicked off in October with 32 bulls representing six farms. The test will feature 15 Angus, 6 Beefmaster, 2 Brangus, and 9 Charolais bulls. Kenny Banes, test station manager, reports that while the quantity of bulls is not as high as he would like to see, the quality of the bulls on the test is promising.

The on-test weigh date was October 26. The bulls are categorized into two distinct age groups. The older group of 21 bulls averaged 393 days of age at the start of the 112-day feed-based test. The 11 junior bulls had an average age of 290 days at test



initiation. The bulls will be developed on a corn/soybean hull pellet/soybean meal/cottonseed hull based diet for the duration of the test.

### On-Test Averages (lbs.)

	<u>Weight</u>	<u>WDA</u>
<u>Sr. Bulls</u>		
Angus (12)	980	2.53
Beefmaster (5)	1019	2.37
Brangus (2)	693	1.90
Charolais (2)	1132	3.13
All Breeds (21)	977	2.49
<u>Jr. Bulls</u>		
Angus (3)	803	2.65
Beefmaster (1)	903	2.64
Charolais (7)	743	2.69
All Breeds (11)	774	2.67

For more information on the Hinds Community College Bull Test, contact Kenny Banes at (601) 857-3351.



Blast damage is already hurting ryegrass pastures in Mississippi

## Blast in Ryegrass—2004

**Dr. David Lang, Associate Professor,  
Plant and Soil Sciences, MSU**

Several growers are experiencing damage to their ryegrass fields this fall due a plant disease called Blast. It is also known as gray leaf spot, and its causal organism is a plant pathogen called *Pyricularia grisea*. Dr. Alan Henn, Extension Plant Pathologist reports that, "The weather has been perfect for it - warm and humid, with morning dews lasting to around noon."

According to Dr. Henn, "The disease affects both annual and perennial ryegrass and has a wide host range. Other common hosts include St. Augustine grass (a common turfgrass in the state), corn, crabgrass, pangola grass, pearl millet, oats, wheat and rice. Obviously some are better hosts than others." Ryegrass is the most severely affected, and although small grains such as oat or wheat can be host plants, damage from Blast is normally minimal. Most ryegrass varieties are very susceptible to Blast, and all will be damaged in years when conditions are favorable.

Environment is very important to the disease, particularly in years with a high incidence of rainfall from tropical storms. Dr.

Henn states that, "Blast will not develop under low or high temperatures. Optimal temperature for the pathogen is 77° F. The number of leaf lesions increase exponentially with increasing periods of free moisture, up to 24 hrs." The most severe cases of Blast occur in ryegrass planted in August and early September in years when tropical storms pass through the state in September. Early plantings of ryegrass provide the opportunity for early grazing, but these plantings are at risk to develop Blast. A mixture of oat or wheat with ryegrass provides some measure of safety should conditions develop that favor Blast.

Pastures with ryegrass suffering Blast damage should be grazed to remove top growth. This allows air to circulate and helps to dry out moist conditions. "Grazing will help lower inoculum load, reduce leaf wetness, and curtail the disease epidemic," Dr. Henn suggests. Ryegrass plants that survive Blast may suffer reduced growth throughout the winter and into early spring. If your ryegrass is damaged by Blast, wheat can be planted in November to provide emergency winter grazing. Wheat can be over-seeded by broadcasting it and allowing the animals to trample the seed into the soil or by drilling it.

*"... ryegrass (pastures) suffering blast should be grazed to remove top growth ... and curtail the disease epidemic."*

## Cattle Reproduction Short Course Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Select preferred distance education site (circle one):**

Bost Extension Center, MSU	Central MS R&E Center, Raymond
North MS R&E Center, Verona	Forrest Co. Extension Office, Hattiesburg
Tate Co. Extension Office, Senatobia	Pike Co. Extension Office, Magnolia
Newton Co. Extension Office, Decatur	

*\*The short course is scheduled to be offered at all of the above listed sites.*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Registration fee enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$5 per person)

Please make checks payable to *Cattle Reproduction Short Course* and send along with this registration form to: **Cattle Reproduction Short Course, Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762.**

## Cattle Reproduction Short Course Set for January

The Mississippi State University Extension Service will conduct a Cattle Reproduction Short Course for beef and dairy producers in January. This day and a half long program will be broadcast over interactive video from Mississippi State University to distance education sites throughout Mississippi. These sites will include MSU, Verona, Senatobia, Decatur, Raymond, Hattiesburg, and Magnolia.

The short course agenda will cover topics designed to provide reproductive management information and tools that can help both beef and dairy cattle producers. Features speakers at the short course include Dr. Bill Beal from Virginia Tech and Dr. Les Anderson from the University of Kentucky.

### CATTLE REPRODUCTION SHORT COURSE AGENDA

#### Tuesday, January 11, 2005

8:00 a.m.  
*Registration*

8:30 a.m.  
*Reproductive Diseases*  
Terry Engelken, Mississippi State University  
College of Veterinary Medicine

9:30 a.m.  
*Calving Management*  
Terry Engelken, Mississippi State University  
College of Veterinary Medicine

10:30 a.m.  
*Break*

10:45 a.m.  
*Estrous Cycle*  
Bill Beal, Professor, Reproductive Physiology,  
Virginia Tech

11:45 a.m.  
*Lunch (on your own)*

1:15 p.m.  
*Heat Detection and Artificial Insemination*  
Rhonda Vann / Scott Willard, Department of  
Animal and Dairy Sciences, Mississippi State  
University

2:15 p.m.  
*Estrus Synchronization*  
Bill Beal, Professor, Reproductive Physiology,  
Virginia Tech

3:15 p.m.  
*Break*

3:30 p.m.  
*Heifer Development – Dairy*  
Angelica Chapa/ Doug Hostetler, MSU Extension  
Dairy Specialist/ Mississippi State University  
College of Veterinary Medicine

4:30 p.m.  
*Heifer Development – Beef*  
Mike Howell/ Roy Higdon, MSU Extension  
Area Livestock/ Forages Agents

5:30 p.m.  
*Adjourn*

#### Wednesday, January 12, 2005

8:30 a.m.  
*Bull Fertility and Management*  
Les Anderson, Extension Beef Specialist, University  
of Kentucky

9:30 a.m.  
*Fall Versus Spring Calving*  
Blair McKinley/ Jane Parish, MSU Extension  
Beef Specialists

10:30 a.m.  
*Break*

10:45 a.m.  
*Developing a Controlled Breeding Season*  
Blair McKinley/ Jane Parish, MSU Extension  
Beef Specialists

11:45 a.m.  
*Questions and Wrap-Up*

12:00 p.m.  
*Adjourn*

Advance registration for the short course is required. Registration is \$5 per person and covers the program and educational materials. The registration deadline is January 4, 2005. Call your local Extension office or Animal and Dairy Sciences Extension at 662-325-3516 for additional information.

*“... the cattle  
reproduction short course  
will provide reproductive  
management information  
and tools for both beef  
and dairy producers.”*



The cattle reproduction short course will be broadcast to sites across the state.

*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

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 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—November 2004

### GENERAL

Watch pasture conditions as residual summer growth and crop residues are grazed off, 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 including internal and external parasite control and vaccinations. 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.

### 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 if not already done. 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, and trim feet if necessary. Consider the Fall 2004 BCIA Bull Sale as a source of bulls with performance information. The sale is scheduled for noon on November 11, 2004 at the Hinds Community College Sales Facility in Raymond. The Mississippi State University bull sale is another good source of herd sires. The MSU sale will take place November 18, 2004 at the Agricenter on the MSU campus.