

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



Upcoming events:

- June 1-4—Beef Improvement Federation annual meeting, Bozeman, MT
- August 1—MS Homeplace Producers feeder calf board sale, Hattiesburg, MS
- August 19—Deep South Stocker Conference, Shorter, AL
- August 27—Southern Producers replacement heifer sale, Hattiesburg, MS
- September 1—Fall BCIA bull and heifer sale nomination deadline
- September—Beef Cattle Genetics Learn at Lunch sessions
- October 21—MS Fed Beef Conference, MSU
- October 27-29—MSU Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State, MS
- November 10—Fall BCIA bull and heifer sale, Raymond, MS

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Cattlemen's Exchange Feeder Calf Board Sale Results

The third annual "Cattlemen's Exchange Producer Sale" was held on April 5, 2011 in Winona, MS. Beef cattle producers from across the state marketed farm-fresh and assembled stocker cattle in 30 truck-load lots. Record high prices were recorded at the 2011 sale.

In this type of auction the cattle are not present at the sale facility. Short video clips of the cattle are posted on the Internet at msucare.com/livestock/beef/feeder_calf.html, along with detailed descriptions of cattle type, weight, and management for perspective buyers to view prior to the sale. The same videos are presented during the auction. Arrangements for delivery from the farm of origin to the buyer's location are made after the sale.

This type of marketing option is extremely efficient for all the parties involved. In this specific sale, more than 2,000 head of cattle were sold in less than an hour. The receipts from the sales approached \$1.9 million and averaged well above market value for the week of the sale. More importantly, the price premiums for recent MS board sales have been even larger when compared to the MS average market when the cattle were loaded out. The results indicate that the six board sales conducted to date in the state have, for the majority of the cattle sold, outperformed the price the cattle would have fetched if marketed individually at the specified delivery date.

Board sale was held on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 in Winona, MS. 30 pot-loads of cattle sold, all prices quoted \$ per cwt. All sales sold with a 2 percent shrink (except 1 pot-load with no shrink) and a \$4-5 per cwt slide. Mixed loads quote steer weight first, followed by the heifer weight. Steer price quoted on the mixed loads, heifers \$6 per cwt back.

Feeder Steers:

Bulk Medium and Large 1 and 2:
 4 pot-loads 875 lbs 125.25;
 2 pot-loads 825 lbs 128.30;
 3 pot-loads 800 lbs 129.75;
 2 pot-loads 725 lbs 133.50.

Feeder Heifers:

Bulk Medium and Large 1 and 2:
 2 pot-loads 800 lbs 120.25;
 2 pot-loads 725 lbs 126.00-126.75;
 1 pot-load 725 lbs 126.00;
 4 pot-loads 700 lbs 124.30-129.10;
 1 pot-load 650 lbs 128.50.

Mixed Feeder Steers and Heifers:

Bulk Medium and Large 1 and 2:
 1 pot-load 800 lbs/800 lbs 126.00;
 1 pot-load 760 lbs/750 lbs 129.50;
 1 pot-load 675 lbs/675 lbs 132.00;
 1 pot-load 650 lbs/650 lbs 134.00;
 1 pot-load 650 lbs/625 lbs 136.00;
 1 pot-load 625 lbs/600 lbs 137.50;
 1 pot-load 600 lbs/525 lbs 138.50;
 1 pot-load 570 lbs/550 lbs 145.25;
 1 pot-load 425 lbs/400 lbs 157.75.

These sales have been successful in bringing together cattle producers and livestock marketers to improve the profitability of both sectors of the beef production chain. In addition, the MBCIA, MSU Extension Service, MS Farm Bureau Federation, and MS Cattlemen's Association have collaborated on these sales. Since 2008, more than 13,700 head of cattle have been marketed in these board sales. Together, the receipts from these sales exceeded \$8 million.

The "Mississippi Homeplace Producers' Sale" will be held on August 1, 2011, and consignments are due by June 30, 2011. Those interested in taking advantage of this marketing opportunity should contact a representative from one of the organizations listed above.



Good heifer development helps ensure optimum reproductive efficiency.

Miss Premium Replacement Heifer Program

The Miss Premium Replacement Heifer Program offered through the Mississippi State University Extension Service has been updated and endorsed by the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association. The program now offers an on-farm development option and marketing opportunities for heifers qualifying in the program.

The goals of the Miss Premium Heifer Program are:

1. To increase the implementation of heifer development practices that will result in optimum reproductive efficiency as mature cows.
2. To enhance marketing opportunities for and add value to Mississippi-raised heifers.



3. To develop reliable sources of quality beef replacement heifers throughout Mississippi.

Upcoming Miss Premium Heifer certified sales include:

10th Annual Southeast Producers Replacement Heifer Sale, Saturday, August 27, 2011, Hattiesburg, MS

Mississippi BCIA Fall Bull and Heifer Sale, Thursday, November 10, 2011, Raymond, MS

For more information on the Miss Premium Heifer Program, contact Jane Parish, in the MSU Animal and Dairy Sciences Department at jparish@ads.msstate.edu or 662-325-7466. Program guidelines and heifer enrollment forms are available online at msucares.com/livestock/beef/heifer

Spring and Fall Grazing Schools Planned

Four grazing schools are scheduled for different locations around the state in 2011. The first two are scheduled for Spring 2011. The Fall grazing schools are planned for Batesville and Poplarville, MS.

Training will take place in both classroom and field settings. Multiple classroom lectures addressing plant and grazing management will be combined with demonstrations of fencing, hay management, forage quality, weed ID, and valuable management practices for livestock producers.

Cost of the one-day program is \$20 per person and includes lunch, breaks, a grazing school resource CD, and handouts. Participants are responsible for lodging. Registration is required by May 23rd at 5:00 p.m. Participants are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Southwest Region

May 26, 2011, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Lincoln County Multipurpose Center
Brookhaven, Mississippi

Northeast Region

June 2, 2011, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Prairie Research Unit
Prairie, Mississippi

Registration is \$20.00 per person and includes lunch. Advanced Registration is required by May 23, 2011. Contact Rocky Lemus (662) 325-7718 or Tammy Scott (662) 325-2701 for more information or go to mississippiforages.com.

The grazing schools are sponsored by:

- Mississippi State University Extension Service
- Natural Resources and Conservation Service
- Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Mississippi Cattlemen's Association
- Grazing Land Coalition Initiative
- Mississippi Forage and Grazing Land Council

"...Contact Dr. Rocky Lemus at 662-325-7718 or rlemus@pss.msstate.edu for more information about the grazing schools."

Fill out a Mississippi Beef Cattle Survey

A comprehensive survey of beef cattle production in Mississippi is underway. The Mississippi State University Extension Service is asking for your help. All beef cattle producers in the state are asked to participate to help get a good overview of current practices and needs within Mississippi.

To fill out a survey go online to the following website:

msucares.com/livestock/beef

Then click on the link to the survey. For a printed copy of the survey, contact Dr. John Michael Riley at riley@agecon.msstate.edu or 662-325-7986.

As an incentive to complete a survey, participants can enter a drawing for the following prizes upon completion of the survey:

- 1 Farm Works® Stock herd management software package
- 3 Breeds of Cattle books featuring 45 breeds with pictures and art
- 10 Southern Forages books

All prizes are sponsored by the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association.

"...All beef cattle producers in the state are asked to participate in the survey to help get a good overview of current practices and needs within Mississippi."

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION SERVICE
Beef Cattle Producer Survey: Cow-Calf & Stocker

4. Information About Your Cattle Operation

57%

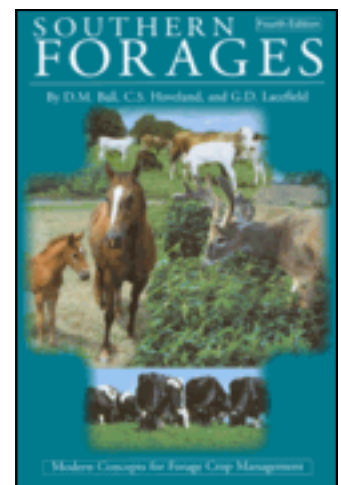
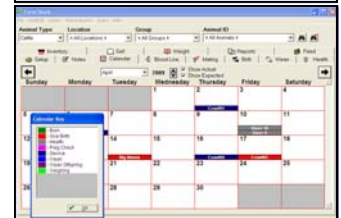
For the following questions please consider the most likely occurrence during the previous 3 years of production.

1. What information sources do you use to make decisions on your cattle operation? (Rank up to three, 1=first, 2=second, 3=third)

	1	2	3
Books/magazines/newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cattlemen's Association	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Extension personnel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feed retailer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other producers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Short courses/seminars	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Veterinarian	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. What technology do you use to receive information for your cattle operation? (Rank up to three, 1=first, 2=second, 3=third)

	1	2	3
Personal computer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Smartphone/mobile device	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Podcasts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Twitter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Beef Cattle Calendar of Events

Interested in finding out what beef cattle Extension programs are scheduled in the coming months? Needing to find a brochure or flyer about an upcoming short course? Go to the website below for all of this information.

msucares.com/livestock/beef/beef_calendar.html

The beef cattle calendar of Extension events is updated frequently, so check it often to find out the latest information on programs offered around the state.

COORDINATED ACCESS TO THE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION SYSTEM

msucares.com

Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station • Mississippi State University Extension Service

The Mississippi BCIA is providing several nice beef cattle education/management-related prizes for survey participants.

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Assn.
Box 9815
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Phone: 662-325-7466
Fax: 662-325-8873
Email: jparish@ads.msstate.edu



Send questions or comments to
Jane Parish, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist,
Mississippi State University Extension Service

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*

Replacement Female Selection

“Many of the concepts involved in the selection of sires are equally appropriate to selection of replacement females. In general, female selection is less intense than selection of males and accuracy is usually greater for proved bulls. Therefore, most genetic progress results from sire selection. From an economic perspective, Selected replacement females should calve first at two years of age, reproduce annually thereafter, and remain in the herd for an extended period of time.

Because postpartum interval for first calf heifers is longer than for mature cows, it is important that heifers calve early in their first calving season. Thus, virgin heifers must have reached puberty and be exhibiting regular estrous cycles before the start of their first breeding season. Age at puberty is primarily a function of age and weight. It is generally recommended that replacements be selected from among the older available heifers and developed to reach 55 to 60% of their anticipated mature body weight by the start of their first breeding season. Pelvic area measurements may be warranted in herds with a history of dystocia problems or when high birth weight/low calving ease sires are used.

Failure to become pregnant is the leading cause for females to leave the breeding herd. Sustained reproduction is compromised when genetic potential for production of the female is mismatched with the nutritional environment in

which she is expected to function. Thus, the desirable EPD profile for a replacement female is dependent upon the resource base of the farm or ranch. Optimum EPDs for growth and milk production under harsh conditions are lower than in better environments. Also, the ability to deposit fat under good nutritive conditions may be valuable for females that must endure seasonal periods of energy deficit.

Beyond the ability to reproduce annually, replacement females should remain functionally sound to advanced ages. Proper foot, leg, and udder structure is important. A cow's udder should be well attached, level across the bottom, and have small to moderate sized teats that are not excessively long. In general, soundness of the udder deteriorates with age. At present, there is no EPD for udder quality. In selection of sires producing replacement daughters, perhaps some emphasis should be given to sons of cows that remained sound to advanced ages.”

Excerpt from Chapter 6—Utilization in Guidelines for Uniform Beef Improvement Programs. 9th edition. 2010. Beef Improvement Federation.

www.beefimprovement.org/library.html