

# Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



## Upcoming events:

- February 1—Cattlemen's Exchange: Understanding feed and mineral tags, Verona, MS, North MS Research and Extension Center, 7:00 p.m.
- February 2-5—Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show, San Antonio, TX
- February 8—Cattlemen's Exchange: Herd health, Winona, MS, EE Ranches, 7:00 p.m.
- February 11—Mississippi BCIA annual membership meeting, Jackson, MS, Hilton Hotel, 1:00 p.m.
- February 11-12—Mississippi Cattlemen's Association annual convention, Jackson, MS, Hilton Hotel
- February 21—Cattlemen's Exchange: (Oktibbeha/Webster/Choctaw) Alliances, Choctaw County Extension office, 7:00 p.m.
- February 24—Cattlemen's Exchange: (Neshoba/Kemper/Noxubee County) Initial meeting—Understanding feed and mineral tags, Neshoba County Extension office, 6:00 p.m.
- March 3—Hinds Community College Bull Test Sale, Raymond, MS
- March 10-12—MCA Young Cattlemen's Conference, Jackson, MS
- March 14—Cattlemen's Exchange: (Covington/Jeff Davis/Simpson/Copiah County) Forages—Tall fescue vs. annual ryegrass, Simpson County Extension office, 6:00 p.m.
- March 17-18—South MS Grazing School, MAFES White Sand Unit, Poplarville, MS

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## Cattle Reproduction and Nutrition Short Course CDs Available

If you missed part or all of either the recent Mississippi Cattle Reproduction Short Course or the Cattle Nutrition Short Course held in August 2004, now you can see what you missed. Both short courses were taped and will be available in mid-February 2005 on CD-ROM. Also included on the CDs are copies of the course PowerPoint presentations and handouts. Anyone interested in a copy of the cattle short course CD can request one for \$5 per copy by calling 662-325-3516 or by filling out the request form below.



Recent cattle production short courses have been offered through distance education statewide.

### Mississippi Cattle Reproduction and Nutrition Short Courses — CD Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of CDs requested (\$5 per copy, includes both short courses ) \_\_\_\_\_

Total payment enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form and payment payable to MSU-ES to Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762

## Cattlemen's Exchange to Offer Mississippi Producer Tour

Mississippi BCIA, Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, and the Mississippi State University Extension Service are working together to offer a tour of beef cattle operations in Mississippi. The tour is scheduled for Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23, 2005. The tour schedule is as follows:

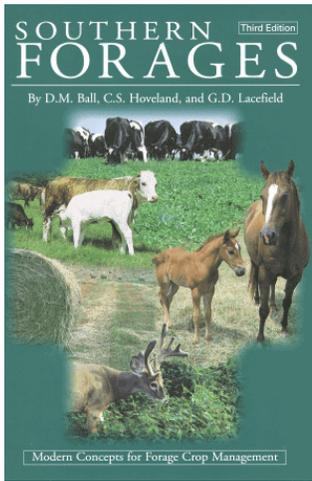
**Friday, April 22**  
 10:00 a.m. Dudley Williams Farm, Clarke Co.  
 Noon—Lunch, Quitman  
 2:30 p.m. Tim Wise Farm, Perry Co.  
 4:00 p.m. Flying B Farms, Petal  
 Overnight in Pascagoula

**Saturday, April 23**  
 8:30 a.m. Mallette Farms, Jackson Co.  
 Noon—Lunch, Hattiesburg

2:30 p.m. Holton King Farm, Monticello  
 3:30 p.m. GLB Farms, Monticello

A deposit of \$25 is required by March 21 to reserve a spot on the tour. Tour spots are available on a first-come first-served basis to the first 50 paid registrants. Tour participants will need to pay \$75 in addition to the initial deposit by April 11. This \$100 total payment covers the cost of tour transportation and lodging for one night. Meal expenses will be separate and the responsibility of each tour participant.

For more information on the Cattlemen's Exchange tour contact your Extension Area Livestock/Forages Agent or Extension Animal and Dairy Sciences at 662-325-3516.



February Beef Innovator prize

## February Beef Innovator

For February, the Beef Innovator program features a production idea from Sedgewood Plantation in Canton, MS. Sedgewood Plantation uses portable backrubs to provide fly control as cattle move through grazing cells. Dr. Bill Howard constructs the frames from sucker rod and oil well pipe in the farm shop. Frames are fitted with two ten-foot rubs to give better coverage as animals move through. The February Beef Innovator prize is a copy of Southern Forages.



If you have a beef or forage “innovation” that you would like to share with fellow producers to improve their operations, please send it to Beef Innovators, Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762. Ideas can also be submitted by e-mail to [jparish@ads.msstate.edu](mailto:jparish@ads.msstate.edu) or [bmckinley@ads.msstate.edu](mailto:bmckinley@ads.msstate.edu). Each submission should include a brief description of the innovation along with

a photograph of the idea. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

Next month’s prize will be an assortment of sorting flags and poles from Kerndt Livestock Products, 1015 19th Ave. NE, Rochester, MN 55906. Beef Innovators is a joint effort between the Mississippi BCIA, Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association and the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

## Southern Producer Replacement Heifer Sale Update

Plans are being made for the Southern Producer Replacement Heifer Sale for 2005. In the 2004 sale, bred heifers averaged \$1,009 with the top pen bringing \$1,450. Minimum standards must be met for heifers to qualify for the sale and are listed below:

**Age:** Heifers must be born between August 2002 and April 1, 2004.

**Health:** Heifers must originate from a certified brucellosis-free herd or must be tested within 30 days of the sale. Health papers from a veterinarian must accompany the females to the sale. Calfhood vaccination is recommended. Heifers must be dehorned, wormed, treated for external parasites and vaccinated for the following: 7-way Clostridia, IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV, Vibriosis and Leptospirosis. Heifers should not have been implanted.

**Fertility:** Bred heifers must be palpated or ultrasound scanned and confirmed pregnant by a licensed veterinarian. Pelvic measurements must be taken, and the mini-

mum acceptable measurement is 180 cm<sup>2</sup>.

Heifers must be of known breed composition and known parentage or NOTED. Heifers will be produced by consignor or sold as ASSEMBLED groups.

Heifers must be bred back to performance-tested bulls. Breed of bulls used, exposure dates or A. I. service must be noted.

**Weights:** Minimum weights for bred heifers by sale day will be 800 lbs. for British breeds or combinations and 900 lbs. For Continental-Brahman breeds or their combinations.

An impartial committee will be used to look over the heifers before the sale and will have final authority on whether cattle meet sale standards, along with acceptable disposition.

If you are interested in participating in the sale, contact Area Livestock/Forage Agent, Mike Keene, at 601-545-6083.

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*“... Minimum standards must be met for heifers to qualify for the sale...”*

## Young Cattlemen's Conference Applications Sought

Applications are currently being accepted for this year's Young Cattlemen's Conference to be held March 10-12, 2005 in Jackson, MS. Cattle producers ages 25 to 45 are eligible and encouraged to attend. Participants will arrive Thursday evening, and the conference will wrap-up before noon on Saturday.

The program will cover topics ranging from the legislative process to production practices. The Mississippi Cattlemen's Foundation will cover all expenses for the conference. Participants will only be responsible for the cost of their transportation to and from the conference. Last year Kevin Wallace from Lawrence County was selected

from his peers at the Mississippi Young Cattlemen's Conference to attend the national Young Cattlemen's Conference that toured the country.

The conference is limited to a maximum of twenty participants, so it is important to sign-up early. If you are interested in attending the Young Cattlemen's Conference, fill out the application available online at <http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/msycc2005.doc> or call the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association office at 601-354-8951. Please pass this information along to interested producers or call the Cattlemen's office to recommend someone for a spot at the conference.

*"... Cattle producers ages 25 to 45 are eligible and encouraged to attend (the Young Cattlemen's Conference)."*

### MS Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention

**When: February 11 -12 , 2005  
Starts with BCIA session**  
**Where: Hilton Hotel,  
County Line Rd.  
Jackson, MS**



### 2005 Mississippi BCIA Annual Membership Meeting

**When: February 11, 2005  
1:00 p.m.**  
**Where: Hilton Hotel,  
County Line Rd.  
Jackson, MS**



## Hinds Bull Test Results Online

If you are interested in checking the progress of the bulls currently on test at Hinds Community College, go to <http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/hindstest.html>. The most recent bull test results are posted along with results from the 2003-2004 test. This webpage also includes a link to the official Hinds Community College Bull Test website.

Kenny Baner reports that the bulls on the current test are performing well and that, in fact, the third period this year was the highest overall gain on any particular period

since the Hinds Bull Test Station began testing bulls. Bulls were electronically identified at the last weigh-in.

The bulls on the 2004-2005 test are scheduled to be weighed off of the 112-day feed-based test on February 15, 2005. A sale of qualified test bulls will be held on March 3, 2005. Sale details will be available after the completion of the test.

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



View of the Hinds Bull Test Station cattle feeding facilities

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Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association  
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Email: jparish@ads.msstate.edu

Send questions or comments about this newsletter to Jane Parish, Extension Beef Specialist, MSU Extension Service



*Jane Parish*

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Visit MBCIA online at  
<http://msucare.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—February 2005

### GENERAL

Continue winter-feeding to ensure good rebreeding and calf performance. Evaluate remainder of winter feed supply. Watch body condition, and utilize winter-feeding groups according to cattle nutritional demands and feed and forage supplies. Graze winter annual pastures maintaining at least four inches of stubble height to avoid overgrazing. Limit grazing for a few hours per day is an effective method for grazing winter pastures. Pull soil samples on summer pasture and hayfields to plan spring fertilization and liming program. This is a good time to apply preemergence weed control to dormant bermudagrass. Plan to fertilize annual ryegrass and tall fescue before the flush of spring growth based on soil test results. Keep proper free-choice minerals available for cattle at all times, continuing feeding of high magnesium mineral supplements for cows on lush winter pastures to prevent grass tetany. Keep a close eye on water sources, particularly watering tanks that may freeze over. Maintain a complete herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian including internal and external parasite control and vaccinations. Continue to look for lice infestation, and treat as needed. Order pharmaceuticals, implants, dewormers, and insect control products for spring and summer. Make plans to service hay equipment well before hay season. Cull cow markets are typically favorable in the next few months compared to the rest of the year. Market cull cows in good body condition. Continue good production and financial record keeping. Gather records for tax purposes.

### SPRING CALVING—January, February, March

Continue supplementation of pregnant females so that they will be in good condition at calving. Have calving supplies on hand including calving record books, ear tags, obstetric equipment, disinfectants, calf scales, and colostrum. Check expected calving dates, and observe bred cattle closely as calving approaches, paying extra attention to heifers. If calves do not nurse, administer colostrum with a

bottle or stomach tube within the first six hours of life. Provide shelter for newborn calves during severe weather. Separate lactating cows, first-calf heifers, and dry cows into groups to feed more efficiently. After calving, move pairs to clean pasture, and watch calves for scours. Consult with a veterinarian for advice on scours prevention and treatment. Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as appropriate. It may be easiest to castrate and dehorn calves at tagging. Always maintain good calving records including calf birth weights. Consult with a veterinarian to schedule pre-breeding vaccinations or order vaccines. Take yearling measurements on bulls and replacement heifers, reporting performance data on seedstock cattle to breed associations. Make final heifer selection decisions based on genetics, dam performance information, temperament, soundness, breeding goals, and progress to target breeding weights (minimum 2/3 of mature weight by breeding time). Determine bull power needs, and make final bull selection and procurement decisions and acquire quality herd sires with performance information from reputable sources. Schedule breeding soundness evaluations, and make certain bulls are in good condition and are provided with exercise as the breeding season approaches. Trim feet and provide additional feed if needed. For artificial insemination programs, have ample semen and other needed supplies on hand and facilities in shape for breeding.

### FALL CALVING—October, November, December

Continue using the best hay (based on forage test results) and feeds for lactating cows now. Monitor breeding activities in herds exposed for fall calving. If a high percentage of cows return to heat after 40 days of breeding, have bulls rechecked for breeding soundness, consult with a veterinarian on possible reproductive disease problems, and re-evaluate the nutritional program. Check on bull condition during the breeding season, and provide supplemental feed as needed. Prepare to remove bulls after a controlled breeding season. Keep bulls in a small pasture traps with effective fences. Castrate and dehorn late calves or those missed in early working.