November 2012



Upcoming events:

- November 8–MBCIA Bull and Heifer Sale, Raymond, MS
- November 13—White Sand Unit Field Day, Poplarville, MS
- November 15—Improving Calf Value Short Course, Starkville, MS
- November 29-30—Forage Conference and Field Day, Raymond, MS
- January 15–MBCIA Spring Bull Sale nomination deadline
- February 8–Mississippi BCIA Annual Membership Meeting, Jackson, MS
- March 7—Hinds Bull Test and MBCIA Spring Bull Sale, Raymond, MS
- March 12–Beef Heifer
 Development Short Course

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Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality

Genetic Improvement Opportunity MBCIA Fall Bull and Heifer Sale—November 8 at Noon, Raymond

Educational Programs Abound in November

White Sand Unit Field Day

Researchers at Mississippi State University's White Sands Research Unit will showcase current beef cattle projects and offer hands-on demonstrations during a November 13 field day. The event will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 2 p.m.

Topics and demonstrations will address commodity management and pricing for beef cattle operations, current forage variety projects and results, calving issues, shrink in feeders and stockers and how to calculate a "slide" on sold cattle, hay evaluation and a bidding exercise with a portable NIRS machine.

The event is free, and lunch will be provided. Registration will be held on-site. The White Sands Research Unit is located approximately 10 miles west of Poplarville on Highway 26. The White Sands Research Unit is a part of the Coastal Research and Extension Service and the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station.

For more information about the field day, contact Daniel Rivera at (601)795-4525 or drivera@ext.msstate.edu.

Brown Loam Field Day and Conference

Forage experts from seven states will present current research and best management practices during a combined field day and conference November 29 and 30. The event will kick off at 1 p.m. November 29 with the Brown Loam Field Day at the Brown Loam Branch Experiment Station in Raymond. The field day will dismiss at 4 p.m.

The 2012 Mississippi Forage and Grassland Conference will begin at 7:30 a.m. on Nov. 30 at the McKenzie Arena in the T.H. Kendal Agriculture Complex in Raymond. The conference will dismiss at 3 p.m.

The field day will highlight current research projects at the Brown Loam Experiment Station, including winter grazing management practices, herbicide trials and animal behavior research.

Conference topics will be presented by nationally-known forage experts. Topics include mineral supplementation of grazing cattle, native grasses as dual purpose forages, integrating summer annuals in grazing systems, clover system for the South, controlling fire ants in pastures, alternatives to managing tall fescue toxicity and the 300-day grazing system.

Pre-registration is required for both events and must be completed before November 26. To register online or to view the conference agenda, information about speakers and directions to both locations, visit *msucares.com/crops/forages/ msu_grazing_conference2012*.

More information and registration forms also can be obtained from local county Extension offices or from Rocky Lemus at (662) 325-7718 or rlemus@ext.msstate.edu or Kathy Johnson at (662) 325-2311.

<u>Source</u>: Mississippi State University Office of Agricultural Communications



Beef Cattle Producer Survey Results—Information Technology

Last month's MBCIA newsletter presented recent Mississippi and Southeast U.S. beef cattle producer survey management practice use results. This month technology to receive information is highlighted. Personal computers and smartphone/ mobile devices top the list of technologies used by beef cattle producers in 2010. The Mississippi data is compared against the data compiled for other states in the region. The other Southeastern U.S. states represented in the responses included Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Mississippi

What technology do you use to receive information on your cattle operation? (Rank up to three)



Other Southeastern U.S. states

What technology do you use to receive information on your cattle operation? (Rank up to three)



Dr. Daniel Rivera, Extension/Research Animal Scientist at the MAFES White Sand Unit, recently started a beef cattle blog. The blog focuses on beef cattle nutrition and research information generated at the research station near Poplarville, MS. The blog offers a way for producers to post comments in response to postings. Check out this new blog online at:

southmsbeefcattle.wordpress.com

Sugar Cane Feed

Hello Everyone,

I have joined the world of the on-line bloggers, although to many, my blogs won't be that interesting, unless you like cattle and what they eat!

One of the first things I wanted to do was share this information with everyone. It seems that a company has recently began to market a feed composed of sugar cane bagasse and some distillers grains. The bagasse is the fibrous residue that is remaining following the syrup manufacutre. We first became aware of this a little over a week ago, and have been keeping our eye on it. Right now this product is available for sale @ \$120/ton fob New Orleans. We have analyzed a sample of this product and the analysis is listed below. We (myself and Rhonda Vann at Brown Loam) are currently making plans to do a small type of study with this product to get a better handle on what we might exptect this feed to do.

Here are a couple of things you and your producers should be aware of:

Right now they only handle semi-loads, the option for supersacks may not be there, and they are in the process of "developing" the feed more, so the

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Improving Calf Value Short Course before MAFES Sale

A free short course will be offered at the Mississippi Horse Park in Starkville, MS on Thursday, November 15 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The theme of the short course is "Improving Calf Value". It will feature the following topics:

- Effects on feeder calf value: Insights from Mississippi feeder calf board sales
- Management strategies to improve calf value
 - \Rightarrow Genetics
 - \Rightarrow Health
 - \Rightarrow Nutrition

Following the short course, a noon meal will be available and the MAFES Annual Cattle and Horse Sale will begin at 1:00 p.m.



The Improving Calf Value Short Course is just one of the many educational opportunities available to beef cattle producers via the Mississippi State University Extension Service. For a complete list of upcoming programs, visit **msucares.com/livestock/beef/beef_calendar.html**

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

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Visit MBCIA online at 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

Animal and Dairy Sciences 2012 Annual Report and Newsletter Available

The most recent annual report from the Animal and Dairy Sciences Department at Mississippi State University is now available online at:

www.ads.msstate.edu/docs/ annual_report/annualreport2012.pdf

Hard copies are also available upon request by contacting Mari Quinn at (662) 325-3516 or mquinn@ads.msstate.edu. The report contains recent summaries of teaching, research, and extension effort by the department. The annual report was started in 2009 and is published in October on a yearly basis. The current report includes a summary of research project that analyzed factors affecting Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association bull sale prices over time.

Similarly, the department publishes an annual newsletter in September each year. The 2012 newsletter also highlights departmental teaching, student association, alumni, research, and extension news. The newsletter can be accessed at:

www.ads.msstate.edu/docs/newsletters/ newsletter2012.pdf

