

# Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



### Upcoming events:

- February 8-9—Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association Convention, Jackson, MS
- March 6—MBCIA Annual Membership Meeting, Raymond, MS
- March 7—Hinds Bull Test and MBCIA Spring Bull Sale, Raymond, MS
- March 12—Beef Heifer Development Short Course
- March 14-16—MSU-ES Cattle Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State, MS
- March 25-26—Fed Beef Challenge Cattle Delivery, Mississippi State, MS
- April 2—Cattlemen’s Exchange Feeder Calf Board Sale, Winona, MS
- April 12, 19—Beef Cattle Boot Camps, MSU, Raymond

### Inside this issue:

2012 Census of Agriculture	2
Heifer Development Workshop	3
BQA Cow-Calf Assessment	4
MBCIA Membership Application	4

## Mississippi BCIA Annual Membership Meeting Set for March

Mississippi BCIA will hold its annual membership meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility in Raymond, MS. The annual meeting is open to new and current MBCIA members. A sponsored supper will be provided along with an educational program.

The program will feature Dr. Dave Smith, Mikell and Mary Cheek Davis Endowed Chair

with the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, speaking on “Trichomoniasis: What Cattle Producers Should Know”.

Meeting attendees will also have the opportunity that evening to view the bulls scheduled to sell at the Hinds Community College Bull Test and MBCIA Spring Bull Sales. Please RSVP to Mari Quinn at (662) 325-3516 for meal planning purposes if you plan to attend the meeting.

## MBCIA Annual Membership Meeting

**Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 6:00 p.m.  
Hinds CC Bull Sale Facility, Raymond, MS**

## Hinds Bull Test & MBCIA Bull Sales—March 7

Producers looking for bulls for the upcoming spring breeding season should make plans to attend the Hinds Community College Bull Test Sale and MBCIA Spring Bull Sale. The 2 sales will be held back to back at the Hinds Bull Sale Facility in Raymond, MS starting at noon on Thursday, March 7, 2013.

Sale catalogs are currently being finalized and will become available in mid-February. The sales feature bulls backed with extensive performance information and screened for soundness. These bulls were developed in Mississippi and are adapted to local production conditions. They represent some of the top pedigrees and EPDs in their breeds.

## Mississippi’s Home for Performance-Backed Bulls



**Hinds CC Bull Test Sale**  
Kenny Banes (601) 857-3351

**MBCIA Spring Bull Sale**  
Jane Parish (662) 325-7466

[msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia](http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia)

**Mississippi BCIA Annual Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 6, 2012, 6:00 P.M.  
*Includes supper and educational program*

**Bull Sales**  
Thursday, March 7, 2012, 12:00 Noon  
Hinds Community College Sale Arena  
Raymond, Mississippi



## Census of Agriculture—Responses Due February 4

# 2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

**YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.**

If you have not yet filled out your 2012 Census of Agriculture, you can easily meet the deadline by responding online or by mail. The number of “connected” farmers in the United States increased from 50 percent in 2002 to 57 percent in 2007, according to USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). And many are wondering if this trend will continue to rise, and if so by how much, when results of the 2012 Census of Agriculture are revealed.

Farmers and ranchers across the nation should be on the lookout for their Census of Agriculture forms, which should have arrived in mailboxes in January. Completed forms are due February 4, 2013.

And because more farmers and ranchers reported having Internet access during the last Census, NASS is again offering producers an option of getting connected to the Census and completing it online by visiting a secure website at

**[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)**

The Census, conducted only once every five years by NASS, is more than a count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. It is a look at land use and ownership, production practices, expenditures and other things that affect the way farmers do business in the 21st Century.

After receiving stakeholder input, NASS made several changes to the Census form to ensure the information gathered reflects the most current information needs of the agriculture industry. One such change was modifying the question on Internet access to gather information on the type of service

used to access the Internet, including mobile connections via Smart phones and tablets.

Census data is used by all those who serve farmers and rural communities from federal, state and local governments to agribusinesses and trade associations. Companies and cooperatives can use the information to determine the locations of facilities that will serve agricultural producers. Often legislators use the information when shaping farm policies and programs.

“This type of census information is used by companies, cooperatives, planners and lawmakers who serve farmers and rural communities – including federal, state and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations and many others,” said Renee Picanso, NASS Census and Survey Division director. “Farmers and ranchers can also use Census data to help make informed decisions about the future of their own operations.”

Taking part in the Census is increasingly important to farmers and farm communities because it provides insight into every county in every state across the nation. It is also invaluable to help farmers tell the story and value of American agriculture today to their urban and non-farming neighbors.

To get connected and complete the Census online, farmers will need the survey code found on the mailing label of the Census form that was mailed to each farmer. The code is a series of 17 numbers and letters that appears on the first line of the label, immediately above the bars. Farmers may also complete and return their Census form in the mail.

**Federal law requires all agricultural producers to participate in the Census and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential.** For more information, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov). The Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, your responsibility.

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*“...Companies and cooperatives can use the information to determine the locations of facilities that will serve agricultural producers.”*

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## Heifer Development Short Course Ahead in March

The Mississippi State University Extension Service will offer a Beef Heifer Development Workshop on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Replacement heifers are the foundation for a productive and profitable cow herd. They are a key to genetic improvement and an investment in the future of the herd. This workshop is designed to assist beef cattle producers in making good decisions about the replacement heifers in their herds and features classroom presentations, interactive discussions, and practical participant exercises.

Topics to be addressed include:

### Fetal programming: Influences on lifetime productivity

- How nutrition provided to the dam can influence future growth and reproductive success of heifers

### Estrous synchronization

- Current synchronization strategies and tools for heifers

### Nutritional management of replacement heifers

- Nutritional strategies to meet production goals

### Dollars and cents

- Budgets, purchasing vs. raising heifers

### Genetics and selection tools

- Breeding and selecting for valuable genetics

### Healthy management

- Practices for healthy heifers and herds

### Reproductive tract scoring

- Practical exercise in reproductive tract scoring

### Pelvic measurements

- Demonstration of technique and application

### Body condition scoring

- Interactive scenario assessing nutritional status

### Selection challenge: Applying the tools

- Participants use workshop concepts to select heifers in a keep-cull class

The short course brochure is online at: [msucare.com/livestock/beef/heifer2013.pdf](http://msucare.com/livestock/beef/heifer2013.pdf)

This brochure lists the complete schedule of topics with times. A short registration form is also included in the brochure.

The workshop registration fee is \$35 per person in advance and \$50 per person at the door and covers course materials, refreshments, and lunch.

The short course will be hosted on the Mississippi State University campus in Starkville. The presentations will originate from Bost Theater on the MSU main campus. Distance locations hosting the short course will include the Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center in Raymond, the Forrest County Extension Office in Hattiesburg, and the Lafayette County Extension Office in Oxford.

Additional distance broadcast sites may be added if at least 10 participants preregister for a particular site. County and area Extension personnel can work with interested participants and short course coordinators.

Producers interested in attending or with questions about the workshop should contact either:

*Brandi Karisch*  
Phone: (662) 325-7465  
E-mail: [bbourg@ads.msstate.edu](mailto:bbourg@ads.msstate.edu)

or

*Jane Parish*  
Phone: (662) 325-7466  
E-mail: [jparish@ads.msstate.edu](mailto:jparish@ads.msstate.edu)

*"...Replacement heifers are the foundation for a productive and profitable cow herd."*



The Beef Heifer Development Workshop will present recommended practices and then challenge attendees to apply those concepts

*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

*Joe 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

## The BQA Cow-Calf Assessment

Do you wonder how well you are doing incorporating Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) consistent management practices into your cow-calf operation? The BQA Cow-Calf Assessment can help evaluate this. The BQA Cow-Calf Assessment is an on-site educational tool that allows for assessing and benchmarking key indicators of animal care and well-being as well as operational conditions. The Cow-Calf Assessment focuses on three main areas – Animals, Records and Best Management Practices (BMP), and Facilities and Equipment.

The Cow-Calf Assessment may be utilized as a self-assessment or conducted by a third-party assessor. The real key, regardless of who conducts the assessment, is that the assessment be repeated on a periodic basis so that comparisons may be made, trends observed, and management actions be taken to maximize animal care and well-being and operational efficiency.

The Cow-Calf Assessment consists of multiple assessment points grouped into three “tiers”, tiers are most easily defined by management level and effort. This assessment is about continuous improvement. However, it can help identify items and create benchmark points that may need to be improved including animal handling, facility/equipment maintenance, and recordkeeping/BMPs among other items. Repeating the assessment on a regular basis can help an operation identify trends and take appropriate management action as necessary. The three-tiered system allows the cow-calf producer to master the points in tier one, and move on to the next management level by adding tier two then tier three components to their assessment schedule.



### ASSESSOR'S GUIDE TO A BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE COW-CALF ASSESSMENT



A SAFE, WHOLESOME AND  
HEALTHY BEEF SUPPLY

Available online for free at [www.bqa.org/assessments.aspx](http://www.bqa.org/assessments.aspx)