

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



Upcoming events:

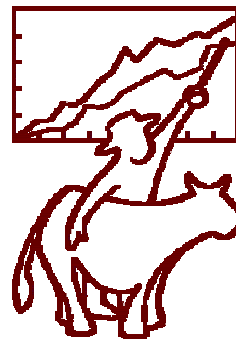
- May 1—Farm to Feedlot Contest entry deadline
- May 21—Beef Cattle Short Course presented by the American Breeds Coalition, Raymond, MS
- May 25-28—Beef Improvement Federation annual meeting, Sioux Falls, SD

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Weekly Cattle Market Updates Available

Weekly cattle market updates are now available on the Mississippi State University Extension Service (MSUcares) website. Dr. John Anderson, MSU Extension Agricultural Economist, publishes a weekly market summary for Mississippi cattle producers called Cattle Market Notes. Cattle Market Notes can be found at the following web address: msucares.com/livestock/beef/cattle_market.html or by going to msucares.com and clicking on “Livestock” then “Beef Production” then “Cattle Market Notes”. For questions about Cattle Market Notes or to receive an electronic copy via e-mail, contact Dr. Anderson at Anderson@agecon.msstate.edu or 662-325-2750.



Beef Improvement Federation Convention Schedule

Tuesday, May 25

5 p.m. South Dakota Welcome Reception
 7 p.m. Application of Developing Technologies in Animal Agriculture. Moderator: Dr. Don Boggs, South Dakota State University

- Reproductive Technologies – Dr. David Faber, Trans Ova Genetics
- Transgenics – Dr. Jim Robl, Hematech LLC
- DNA Fingerprinting and Marker Assisted Selection – Dr. Mark Thallman, USDA MARC

Wednesday, May 26

8 a.m. Welcome
 8:15 a.m. New Technologies – Increased Cost or Increased Profit. Moderator – Dr. Jerry Lipsey, American Simmental Association

- Multi-Trait Selection in a Single Gene Society – Dr. Dave Notter, Virginia Tech
- Panel Discussion - Dr. Dave Notter, Virginia Tech, Dr. Dick Quaas, Cornell University, Craig Huffhines, American Hereford Association, Dr. Robert Williams, American International Charolais Association.

9:45 a.m. Break
 10:15 a.m.

- The Pricetag of Innovation – Dr. Barry Dunn, Texas A&M - Kingsville

Noon BIF Recognition Luncheon
 2 p.m. Roundtable Discussions

- Genetic Prediction – Dr. Larry Cundiff,

USDA MARC

- Producer Application – Chair, Dr. Sally Dolezal, American Angus Association
- Live Animal, Carcass, and Endpoint – Chair, Dr. Robert Williams, American International Charolais Association

7 p.m. Evening Out – Washington Pavillion

Thursday, May 27

8 a.m. Meeting Demands. Moderator – Darryl Strohbehn, Iowa State University

- Expectations of End Users
- Cost of Meeting Consumer Demands - Dr. John Lawrence, Iowa State University

10 a.m. Break
 10:30 a.m. NCBA Tenderness Project – Dr. Dan Moser, Kansas State University
 11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting and Director Elections
 Noon BIF Awards Luncheon
 2 p.m. Roundtable Discussions

- Cowherd Efficiency – Chair, Dr. Mark Enns, Colorado State University
- Emerging Technologies – Chair, Craig Huffhines, American Hereford Association
- Selection Decisions – Chair, Dr. Darrh Bullock, University of Kentucky

Night on the Town, Dinner on Your Own

Friday, May 28

7:00 a.m. South Dakota Beef Industry Tours

Last Chance to Enter Farm to Feedlot Contest

Over the last ten years, cattle producers have had the opportunity to evaluate feedlot performance and carcass characteristics of their cattle through the Mississippi Farm to Feedlot program. Results from this educational program have helped producers make profitable changes in their breeding, health, and management programs.

Now it's your turn to learn how Mississippi cattle perform beyond the farm gate. Challenge your cattle judgment skills and test your knowledge of cattle feeding by predicting how ten steers in the 2003-2004 Mississippi Farm to Feedlot program will perform in the feedlot and on the rail. Winners will be announced in July, and prizes will be awarded.

Contest guidelines

1. Contest steers are part of the 2003-2004 Farm to Feedlot consignment and are of varying types and breeds.
2. Initial weight is the pay weight in Mississippi the day of shipment.
3. Beginning steer value is defined as the value of cattle in Mississippi the week of shipment.
4. Cattle will be fed, handled and marketed similarly to any other pen of steers at a commercial feedlot.
5. Feedlot average daily gain and health status data will be collected.
6. Cattle will be marketed when the feedlot manager has determined an appropriate harvest end point has been reached (March - May 2004).
7. Carcass data collected on each steer will include USDA Quality Grade, rib eye area, fat thickness, and USDA Yield Grade.
8. For contest purposes, cattle will be priced on a grid basis. The grid will favor cattle that grade USDA Choice or higher and produce a USDA Yield Grade of 3 or less. The grid discounts severely for USDA Yield Grade 4 and higher, USDA Standard Quality Grade, dark cutters and hard bones.
9. For contest purposes, net return will be determined by subtracting expenses (initial feeder calf cost, feed costs, animal health costs, etc.) from the income generated by selling the carcass to a packer on a quality grid basis.
10. Contest divisions include youth (18 years of age and younger), college, and adult. The winner in each division will be the contestant with the highest calculated net return over three steers. Tie Breakers will be used in the event of ties.

Pictures of ten calves currently enrolled in the Farm to Feedlot program appear to the right. Initial weight and beginning steer value are provided for each steer.

Which three steers will produce the highest net return?



Steer #1 763 lbs. \$85/cwt



Steer #2 776 lbs. \$85/cwt



Steer #3 757 lbs. \$85/cwt



Steer #4 766 lbs. \$85/cwt



Steer #5 546 lbs. \$101/cwt



Steer #6 696 lbs. \$91/cwt



Steer #7 748 lbs. \$88/cwt



Steer #8 772 lbs. \$85/cwt



Steer #9 686 lbs. \$91/cwt



Steer #10 586 lbs. \$97/cwt

Farm to Feedlot Contest Entry Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

Years of age as of January 1, 2004: _____ College student (circle one): Yes No

List the Steer #'s of the three steers that you predict will have the highest net return:

Tie Breakers (fill in the blank)

1. The pen of 10 contest steers will produce carcasses that are _____ % USDA Choice.
2. The difference between the highest and lowest net returns among the 10 contest steers will be \$_____.
3. The difference in hot carcass weight between the lightest and heaviest steers among the 10 contest steers will be _____ lbs.

Mail completed contest forms to *Farm to Feedlot Contest, c/o Blair McKinley, Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762* or fax to (662) 325-8873.

The Farm to Feedlot Contest is also online at <http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/ftf/contest.html> and online contest forms can be printed and mailed to the above address or saved and e-mailed to bmckinley@ads.msstate.edu.

Contest entries must be received by May 1, 2004. Limit one entry per person.

For more information on the Farm to Feedlot program or contest contact your local Extension office or Blair McKinley at 662-325-3691. Good luck!



Farm to Feedlot provides producers with performance information beyond weaning

Accuracy—Important in Both Weather and Cattle Performance Predictions

Expected progeny differences are available for a growing number of economically relevant traits and can be used to make genetic improvement in both commercial and seed-stock herds. They are based on the performance records of individuals, relatives, and progeny. Producers who have used EPDs know that they can change over time as additional performance information is collected. So how reliable are EPDs?

If you watch the local weather forecasts, you will notice that the closer it gets to the day that is being forecast, the more reliable the forecast becomes. The 5-day forecast is not as much of a sure thing as the forecast for tomorrow. The same goes for EPDs. The more information that goes into calculating EPDs, the more reliable they become.

Expected progeny differences come with accuracy values that give an indication of EPD reliability. Accuracies range from 0 to 1, with values closer to 1 being more desirable. As more usable performance information becomes available for an animal and its relatives and progeny, the more accurate or reliable its EPDs become. A young, unproven bull with no calves will have lower accuracy EPDs than a proven sire with hundreds of calf records. Expected change tables are published by breed associations as part of national cattle evaluations to show how much variation can be expected for EPDs at specific accuracy levels.

Currently, EPDs are the best predictors of cattle genetic potential. Accuracy values help in using these performance forecasts.

“As more usable performance information becomes available...the more accurate or reliable EPDs become.”

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Send questions or comments about this
newsletter to Jane Parish, Extension Beef
Specialist, Mississippi State University
Extension Service

Joe Parish

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—April 2004

GENERAL

Continue to watch for grass tetany. Keep a close eye on pasture conditions, and continue supplemental feeding as needed until grass is plentiful. Use outside stores of hay first, and plan storage for new hay. Plant and fertilize pastures according to soil tests to ensure adequate forage supply for late spring and summer. Begin planning the feed supply for next winter. If renovation of existing toxic tall fescue fields to new “friendly” tall fescue is planned for next autumn, chemically eradicate the old toxic tall fescue prior to seedhead development. Provide proper free-choice minerals and fresh water at all times. Start watching for flies. Order fly control products and begin control program before fly population build-up. Consider the type of fly control chemicals used last year and rotate from organophosphate to pyrethroid or vice-versa.

SPRING CALVING

January, February, March

Place bulls with herd in early April for mid-January calves. Start breeding heifers about a month before the cow herd. For pasture breeding make sure that appropriate bull power is used: one yearling bull to 15 cows, one 2-year-old bull to 20 cows, one mature bull to 25-30 cows. If adequate bull power is available, rotate bulls every 15 days to allow rest. Monitor condition of bulls during the breeding season, and hand feed if necessary. Be ready to remove bulls from heifers after a 45-60 day breeding season. Ob-

serve breeding herds at least twice daily, early morning and late evening, to observe heat activity. Confining cattle to a limited grazing area makes this easier. Modify or establish facilities for artificial insemination if needed keeping ease of cattle handling in mind. Implement a proper heat synchronization protocol if desired. Artificially inseminate cattle about 12 hours after observation of standing heat (about 8 hours after standing heat for purebred Brahman cattle). Maintain good breeding records including heat detection records, artificial insemination dates, dates bulls turned in and out, identification of herd females and breeding groups, dates bred, returns to heat, and expected calving dates. Make sure the mature cow herd is in moderate to good condition to rebreed, and supplement if cows are thin or spring pastures are coming on slowly.

FALL CALVING

October, November, December

Maintain bulls in small pasture traps and provide a nutritional program designed for starting the next breeding season in good condition. Implement a calf preweaning vaccination program as recommended by a veterinarian and make plans for boosters and preconditioning. Consult with a veterinarian for calthood vaccination recommendations for heifers. Pregnancy check herd females about 60 days after the end of the breeding season. Establish permanent identification (tattoos or brands) for bred heifers that will remain in the herd.