

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



Upcoming events:

- June 13—Cattlemen’s Exchange (Winona group) - Pasture Weed Control, EE Ranches cafeteria, Winona, MS, 7:00 p.m.
- June 17—Mississippi Angus Association annual field day, Leveck Animal Research Center Beef Unit, MSU campus, Mississippi State, MS
- June 26-28—Mississippi Junior Cattlemen’s Association Making Tracks Leadership Camp, Mississippi State University
- August 4—Brown Loam Branch Experiment Station field day, Raymond, MS
- August 7—Cattlemen’s Exchange (Simpson/ Copiah County) - Commodity Feeds for Beef Cattle, Copiah County Extension office, Crystal Springs, MS, 6:30 p.m.
- **September 1—Nomination deadline for the 2006 Mississippi BCIA Fall Bull Sale**
- November 9—Mississippi BCIA Annual Fall Bull Sale, Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility, Raymond, MS, 12:00 noon

Inside this issue:

Hurricane Assistance Program Sign-Ups Underway	2
Mississippi Farm Bureau Signs on as BVS Network Partner	3
MBCIA Membership Application	4
BCIA Management Calendar	4

Mississippi BCIA Now Accepting Bull Nominations for Fall Sale

It is once again time to start thinking about the annual Mississippi BCIA fall bull sale. The 2006 sale is slated for Thursday, November 9 at the Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility in Raymond, MS. One new rule change is in effect for the 2006 sale:

At least one of the following 1) ultrasound EPDs, 2) carcass EPDs, and/ or 3) ultrasound body composition scan results accepted by the respective breed association will be required for bulls to meet BCIA Fall Bull Sale eligibility.

The nomination deadline is September 1,

2006, and a \$25 nomination fee is required at that time for each bull nominated. Be sure to carefully read all sale rules and regulations, and contact Jane Parish in Extension Animal and Dairy Sciences at (662) 325-7466 or jparish@ads.msstate.edu with any questions.

Complete BCIA bull sale information and forms are available online at msucare.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/bcia_bullsale.html on the MBCIA website. Interested producers can also contact a local Extension office or area livestock/forages agent for more information about the 2006 BCIA Fall Bull Sale.

Mississippi Premises Registrations Must Step Up to Reach Goal

The first step in implementing the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is identifying and registering premises that house animals. Premises would include locations where livestock and poultry are managed, marketed, or exhibited. To track animals for disease investigation purposes, animal health officials must know where they are born and where they are moved. Therefore, identifying locations that manage or hold animals—referred to as premises—is the starting point of the NAIS.

Eventually, the NAIS will allow animal health officials to identify all animals and premises that have had contact with a foreign or domestic animal disease of concern within 48 hours after discovery. As an information system that provides for rapid tracking of infected and exposed animals during an outbreak situation, the NAIS will help limit the scope of such outbreaks and ensure that they are contained and eradicated quickly.

Each State is responsible for registering premises and assigning them nationally unique Premises Identification Numbers. In Mississippi, the State Veterinarian, Dr. Jim Watson, is the contact for premises registration. Online premises registration is available in Mississippi by visiting the Board of Animal Health website: www.mbah.state.ms.us

The national goals for premises registration are 25% by January 2007, 70% by January 2008, and 100% by January 2009. As of late spring 2006, approximately 10% of premises in the U.S. and only 1% of premises in Mississippi were registered. Mississippi can set an example as a progressive livestock industry by stepping up premises registrations in the coming months.

For assistance in registering your premises, contact your local Extension office or the Board of Animal Health by phone at (601) 359-1170 or e-mail at jimw@mdac.state.ms.us.

Estimated Premises in Mississippi
41,272

Mississippi Premises Registered
543
as of 03/29/06



Hurricane assistance program details are available from USDA

Hurricane Assistance Program Sign-Ups Underway

WASHINGTON, May 1, 2006 - Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced that sign-up begins May 17, 2006, for four crop and livestock assistance programs providing aid to producers affected by the destructive 2005 hurricanes. These programs are funded by \$250 million in Section 32 funds authorized immediately following these destructive storms.

The four programs - Livestock Indemnity Program, Feed Indemnity Program, Hurricane Indemnity Program and Tree Indemnity Program - are funded through Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935. Johanns authorized the use of \$250 million from Section 32 funds in October 2005 for crop disaster, livestock, tree and aquaculture assistance.

To be eligible for this assistance, a producer's loss must have occurred in one of 261 counties that received a primary presidential or secretarial disaster designation due to 2005 Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Ophelia, Rita or Wilma. Assistance is unavailable with respect to losses in contiguous counties. A list of the eligible counties in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas is available at: www.usda.gov/HurricaneInfo.xml.

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) will provide payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock due to the hurricanes. To determine payments, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will multiply the number of eligible livestock by the payment rate of: (1) for livestock owners, 75 percent of the livestock's average fair market value; or (2) for contract growers, 75 percent of the average sustained income loss. More information on LIP is available in the online LIP fact sheet at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Feed Indemnity Program

The Feed Indemnity Program (FIP) will provide payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who suffered feed losses or increased feed costs due to the hurricanes. To calculate program payments, FSA

will multiply the national payment rate established for each livestock category by the number of eligible livestock. More information on FIP is available in the online FIP fact sheet at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Additional Disaster Assistance

On Dec. 30, 2005, President Bush signed the 2006 Defense Appropriations Act, which provides \$900 million to address natural disaster damages from 2005 hurricanes. Of these funds, approximately \$200 million is designated for the Emergency Conservation Program, \$400 million for the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program, and \$300 million for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (which is available to communities and landowners in Tennessee, in addition to those in the six previously mentioned states).

USDA has already made \$63 million in Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) funds available to assist agricultural producers struck by hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico region during the calendar year 2005. Eligible agricultural producers may receive up to 100 percent cost-share to remove debris and restore fences and conservation structures.

Additional funds for oyster, nursery and poultry producers and forest landowners will be made available when new rules authorizing assistance are published in the Federal Register. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is developing these rules and plans to publish proposed rules for public comment in the near future.

Emergency Loan Assistance

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) currently has \$156 million in low-interest emergency (EM) loan funds available to help farmers and ranchers rebuild their operations. In certain cases, FSA can provide producers with both EM and operating loans to assist them with spring operations. Eligible producers who expect to receive future hurricane disaster payments from USDA may receive loans now and assign the disaster funds to EM loan payments. Emergency loan funds

"...sign-up begins May 17, 2006 for four crop and livestock assistance programs..."

Hurricane Assistance (Cont.)

may be used to: restore or replace essential property; pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; pay essential family living expenses; reorganize the farming operation and refinance certain debts.

To apply for an EM loan, producers are encouraged to contact their local USDA Service

Center. An FSA fact sheet explaining the loan application process step-by-step and is available at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

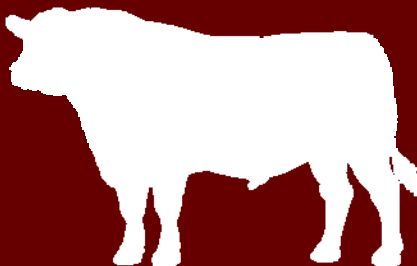
Additional information about USDA hurricane assistance is available at USDA Service Centers nationwide and online at www.usda.gov/HurricaneInfo.xml.

"...hurricane assistance information is available at USDA service centers and online..."

Mississippi BCIA 2006 Fall Bull Sale

Nomination Deadline:
Friday, September 1, 2006

Sale Date:
Thursday, November 9, 2006



Mississippi Farm Bureau Signs on as BVS Network Partner

Mississippi Farm Bureau recently signed on as a network partner for Beef Verification Solution (BVS), a comprehensive and confidential information system for livestock data collection, management and communication.

"Farm Bureau members will be able to use the data collected in BVS to help them make better herd and animal management decisions and increase profitability," said Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation President David Waide.

"The BVS program will also fit well with a national animal identification program when that becomes a reality in the next few years," he added.

BVS is a member-driven program developed by Ag Solutions in conjunction with AgInfo-Link, a member of the John Deere Food Origins Alliance. The BVS program utilizes radio frequency identification (RFID) technology and is designed to coordinate with and complement other data systems and networks along with communicating compliance data

to USDA's National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

A key attribute of BVS is its flexible data collection system ranging from hand-written Cattle-Cards to BeefLink2 computer software. Communication is vital and a key component of the BVS is a private data-sharing network where information collected by each BeefLink2 user is emailed and stored. Limited data needed by NAIS is then forwarded. In addition, BVS is capable of tracking and communicating the verifiable audit trail required by many source, age or process verified programs.

For more information contact:
Jon Kilgore
Mississippi Farm Bureau Regional Manager/
Beef Commodity Coordinator
6311 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211
jkilgore@msfb.com
Cell: 601.278.3809

Reprinted with permission from Mississippi Farm Country magazine



Animal ID technologies give producers many options for managing individual animal information

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement
Association—Productivity and Quality

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement
Association
Box 9815
Mississippi State, MS 39762

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



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

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: _____ Email: _____

(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—June 2006

GENERAL

Fill out a premises identification form for your farm or ranch from the Mississippi Board of Animal Health if you have not already done so. Control summer weeds and brush. Allow cool-season annual legumes to reseed. Manage pastures to rotationally graze young growth and harvest excess for hay. Overgrown pastures may need to be clipped. Target the production of high quality hay by harvesting bermudagrass hay at 4-5 week intervals, weather permitting, to keep standing hay crops from becoming too mature and fibrous. Fertilize hay fields between cuttings or on a regular interval to replace soil nutrients removed by hay production and improve hay yield and quality. Record hay yields, forage test each cutting, and develop a hay storage program that will minimize storage losses and allow matching of forage test results with individual lots of hay for use in hay feeding and supplementation decisions. Have proper free-choice minerals and fresh water available for cattle at all times, checking them often. Make sure adequate shade is available for cattle in the summer months. Continue with fly control program, and watch for cancer eye, pinkeye, and foot rot. Maintain a complete herd health program in consultation with a veterinarian including internal and external parasite control and vaccinations. Keep good production and financial records.

SPRING CALVING—January, February, March

Spot check cows and heifers to see if most are bred. 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. Remove bulls 283 days prior to the end of the desired calving season (before June 20 to end the calving season in March). Keep bulls in a small pasture traps with effective fences. Feed bulls to start the next breeding season in good condition. Complete management practices for late calves, and castrate and dehorn any calves missed at birth.

FALL CALVING—October, November, December

Make sure fences where weaned calves will be placed are in good shape, and repair fences where needed. Wean calves based on market and pasture conditions using weaning strategies that minimize calf stress. Record weaning weights and cow body condition scores as measures of animal and herd performance and nutritional status. Calculate and evaluate weaning percentage (calves weaned/cows exposed to breeding) and cow efficiency (calf weight/cow weight). After weaning, cull cows based on pregnancy status, soundness, and performance records. Develop plans for marketing cull cows based on market conditions and cow body condition. Select replacement heifers based on performance. Plan a heifer development program based on nutritional resources and gain needed to reach target breeding weights. Explore various calf marketing options to determine what best fits your operation. Prepare for special feeder calf sales. To precondition calves, vaccinate for respiratory diseases and wean for at least 45 days before shipment. Train calves to eat from a bunk and drink from a water trough during the preconditioning period. Maintain bulls in small pasture traps with adequate nutrition to be in good body condition at the start of the next breeding season.