Volume 6, Issue 3

March 2009

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality

Upcoming events:

- March 5—Hinds CC Bull Test Sale and Mississippi BCIA Spring Bull Sale, Hinds Community College Bull Sale Facility, Raymond, MS
- March 12-14—MSU Extension Service Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State, MS
- April 7—Cattlemen's Exchange Producer Sale (feeder calf board sale), E E Ranches, Winona, MS
- April 30-May 3—Beef Improvement Federation Annual Convention, Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento, CA
- August 3-MS Homeplace Producers Feeder Calf Board Sale, Hattiesburg, MS
- August 4—Cattlemen's Exchange Producer Sale (feeder calf board sale), E E Ranches, Winona, MS
- September 1—Mississippi BCIA Fall Bull Sale nomination deadline

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Hinds Bull Test—MBCIA Spring Bull Sale Features Quality Bulls

Dear Cattle Producers:

The Hinds Community College Bull Test and Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association bull marketing partnership was a great success in its first year and is now an annual event. We hope that purebred cattle breeders and commercial cattle producers alike benefit from these two proven programs joining together. All bulls in our spring sale are screened for structure, disposition, and performance and are guaranteed as breeders. These bulls have passed breeding soundness examinations, met minimum growth and scrotal circumference requirements, and represent quality beef cattle genetics.

The sale will be broadcast live from the Raymond sale site over the Extension distance education system to interactive bidding sites in the Panola County Extension office in Batesville, MS and the North MS Research and Extension Center in Verona, MS. Producers at the remote sites will have the opportunity to view video of the bulls immediately prior to the sale, view and hear the sale live, and bid on bulls from Batesville and Verona.

The bulls will be available for viewing at the Hinds Community College Sales Facility in Raymond, MS starting on the afternoon of March 4. Hinds Bull Test personnel, BCIA members, breeders, and Extension personnel will be glad to assist you in selecting herd sires that will work for your operation.

We look forward to seeing you at the sale on March 5.

Sincerely,

Kenny Banes
Hinds Bull Test Manager

Jane A. Parish
Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

Spring 2009 Bull Sale Consignors

4J Beefmaster
Bayou Frais Red Brangus
Cain Cattle Co.
Double L Farm
Harvey Farms, LLC
Ingram Cattle Co., Inc.
Ingram Livestock Farm
JWR Land & Cattle
Kiani Angus
Loveless Homeplace Angus
McGee Cattle Co.
Monogram Farms
Southern Shine Pastures
Webb Farms
Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station

Feeder Calf Board Sale Update

"These sales are designed, by livestock marketers, purebred and commercial producers ..."

Feeder calf board sales have become available across Mississippi. The "Cattlemen's Exchange Producer Sales" will be held at EE Ranches in Winona on April 7th and August 4th. The deadline for consignment to the April sale has passed but there is still time to commit calves for the August offering.

The "Homeplace Producers Board Sale" will be held on August 3rd at the Southeast Mississippi Livestock sales facility in Hattiesburg. Last year's sale was a success by any standards and the participating producers were pleased with the results.

Each of these sales will be conducted under similar guidelines. The calves will be marketed in truck-load lots of at least 48,000 pounds. The lots will be uniform with respect to size, breed type, preconditioning and health protocol. It is important to note that this is a board sale and, as such, the calves will not be on site during the sale. The lots will be arranged prior to sale day and loaded from the producers farm (or nearby facility) on the prearranged delivery date.

For the April sale, delivery dates will range from mid-April to late July. For the August sales, delivery dates will range from mid-August to late October. The commission for each sale is 2%. The price for cattle weighing more than the projected delivery weight at load-out will be adjusted by a $5/cwt slide. Pay-weight will be determined as load-out weight minus a 2% pencil shrink.

These sales are designed, by livestock marketers, purebred and commercial producers, to help other producers take advantage of large-scale marketing opportunities. For more information or consignment forms please contact your local Extension office or call 662-325-7465.

Mississippi BCIA Elects Board of Directors for 2009

At the Mississippi BCIA annual membership meeting in Jackson on February 6, 2009, a new Board of Directors was nominated and approved. The Board is comprised of slots representing a variety of groups and individuals involved in MBCIA. These slots are allocated based on the by-laws adopted at the 2003 annual membership meeting.

The 2009 Mississippi BCIA Board of Directors consists of the following individuals:

Commercial Producers
David Hayward (Term expires 2010)
Mike Keene (Term expires 2011)
Holton King (Term expires 2011)
Kevin Wallace (Term expires 2012)

Purebred Producers
David Dillon (Term expires 2010)
Jimmy Ray Parish (Term expires 2011)
Phil Slay (Term expires 2011)
Buddy Jones (Term expires 2012)

Mississippi Cattlemen's Assoc. Exec. VP
Sammy Blossom

Mississippi Cattlemen's Assoc. President
Ronnie Herrington

MSU Animal and Dairy Sciences Department
Rhonda Vann

Extension Animal Scientist
Justin Rhinehart

Area Extension Agent
Mike Howell

Hinds Bull Test Station
Billie Banes

South Mississippi Forage Bull Test
Mark Mowdy

Past Presidents of Mississippi BCIA

Locations of BCIA sponsored sales
Kenny Banes

Officers (Terms expire 2010)
President
Brian Garner

Vice-President
Johnny Thompson

Secretary
Jane Parish

Treasurer
Robert Field

Mississippi BCIA appreciates the service and dedication of the 2008 Board of Directors.

"...Mississippi BCIA appreciates the leadership and service of the outgoing 2008 Board members."

Southern Region Research Highlights

The American Society of Animal Science held its annual Southern Section meeting in Atlanta, Georgia on January 31—February 3, 2009.

Extension Specialists from Mississippi State University presented data on Extension programming currently being evaluated in the state. The Internet-based Mississippi hay directory has been successful in providing needed information to producers while increasing the use of resources located on the MSU-ES beef cattle website. Feeder cattle marketing through a board sale was also found to be successful in increasing the value of calves above that reported for calves at Mississippi markets at that time.

In the Pasture and Forages section there were a number of abstracts presenting research that has been conducted utilizing broiler litter. Researchers from Auburn University are exploring the productivity and nutritive value different forages with various sources of fertilizer. Kentucky-31 tall fescue in the Black Belt region responded more favorably to the use of a commercial fertilizer (ammonium nitrate) than broiler litter when used at a nitrogen equivalency rate of around 60 lbs per acre in either split or single application in the spring. Forage yield was not found to be different in trials conducted with Tall fescue/ladino clover mixtures when either a combination of broiler litter and ammonium nitrate were used or a diammonium phosphate and ammonium nitrate combination. Similarly, dallisgrass responded equally well to fertilization with ammonium nitrate or broiler litter.

Research conducted by Clemson University on replacement heifer management strategies was also presented. Angus x Simmental heifers gazed pastures of mixed winter anuuals (cereal rye, annual ryegrass, crimson clover, and hybrid turnip), or endophyte-infected tall fescue pastures with or without a soybean oil supplement. There were no differences found between these management strategies in terms of standing heats, mounts per standing heats, or conception rates.

Warm-season legumes for creep-grazing were evaluated by researchers from the University of Florida. Brangus cow-calf pairs continuously stocked on bahiagrass pastures. These calves were either given 1) no access to creep feed, 2) allowed access to creep in cowpea paddocks or 3) perennial peanut paddocks, or 4) creep fed on a concentrate of pelleted corn and cotton seed meal. Creep grazing on perennial peanut did not improve average daily gain but calves creep grazing on cowpea or creep-fed on concentrate had 0.4 and 0.5 lb increase, respectively.

Source: Holly Terry Boland
Assistant Research/Extension Professor
Prairie Research Unit

"…New data compares forages yields when using broiler litter as fertilizer versus commercial fertilizers."

Acadiana Cattle Producers' Spring Field Day: March 21, 2009

Iberia Research Station, Jeanerette, Louisiana

The Louisiana Cattlemen's Association, LSU AgCenter, and the Louisiana Forage and Grassland Council will be hosting a Spring Field Day on Saturday, March 21, 2009 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Program topics will include:

- Stocker beef production; "Nuts and Bolts" of stocker production
- Clover demonstration: demonstration of clover varieties
- Hay meadow management: hay season is "right-around-the-corner"
- Soil fertility in pastures and hay meadows– too important to ignore
- Forage-fed beef and stocker research: taking advantage of our abundant forage resources
- Tropically adapted breeds research: making sure our cattle "fit" climatic and market environments

Lunch will be provided. For more information contact Dr. Guillermo Scaglia, LSU AgCenter, (337)276-5527, gscaglia@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Field days are a good opportunity to learn more about forage and beef production

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Send questions or comments to Jane Parish or Justin Rhinehart, Extension Beef Specialists, Mississippi State University Extension Service

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 lifetime 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

MBCIA Genetic Profit Tips — March 2009

Two-Breed Terminal Sire

A two-breed terminal cross system uses straightbred cows of one breed and a sire(s) of another breed. No replacement females are kept, and therefore all must be purchased. Since all calves are marketed, it is a terminal sire system. Charolais or Limousin sires used on Angus cows would be a common example. Implementations of two-breed terminal sire systems are not desirable or recommended as they do not employ any benefits of maternal heterosis as the cows are all straightbred. Remember most of the benefits of heterosis arise from the enhancement of reproduction and longevity traits of crossbred cows.

Terminal Cross with Purchased F_1 Females

The terminal cross system utilizes crossbred cows and bulls of a third breed. This system is an excellent choice as it produces maximum heterosis in both the calf and cow. As such, calves obtain the additional growth benefits of hybrid vigor, while heterosis in the cows improves their maternal ability. The terminal sire system is one of the simplest systems to implement and achieves the highest use of heterosis and breed complementarity. All calves marketed will have the same breed composition. A 24% increase in pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed is expected from this system when compared to the average of the parent breeds.

Requirements. The terminal cross system works well for herds of any size if high-quality replacement females are readily available from other sources. Only one breeding pasture is required. No special identification of cows or groups is required.

Considerations. Since replacement females are purchased, care should be given in their selection to ensure that they are fit to the production environment. Their adaptation to the production environment will be determined by their biological type, especially their mature size and lactation potential. Success of the system is dependent on being able to purchase a bull of a third breed that excels in growth and carcass traits. Virgin heifers should be mated to an easy calving sire to minimize dystocia problems. Disease issues are always a concern when introducing new animals to your herd. Be sure that replacement heifers are from a reputable, disease-free source and that appropriate bio-security measures are employed. Johne's, brucellosis, tuberculosis, and bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) are diseases you should be aware of when purchasing animals.

Another consideration and potential advantage of the terminal cross system is that replacement females do not need to be purchased each year depending on the age stratification of the original cows. In some cases, replacements may be added every two to five years, providing an opportunity to purchase heifers during periods of lower prices or more abundant supplies. Heifers could also be developed by a professional heifer development center or purchased bred to easy calving bulls.

Source: National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium. 2006. Beef Sire Selection Manual.