

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



Upcoming events:

- June 1-4—Beef Improvement Federation annual meeting, Bozeman, MT
- August 1—MS Homeplace Producers feeder calf board sale, Hattiesburg, MS
- August 19—Deep South Stocker Conference, Shorter, AL
- August 27—Southern Producers replacement heifer sale, Hattiesburg, MS
- September 1—Fall BCIA bull and heifer sale nomination deadline
- September—Beef Cattle Genetics Learn at Lunch sessions
- October 21—MS Fed Beef Conference, MSU
- October 27-29—MSU Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State, MS
- November 10—Fall BCIA bull and heifer sale, Raymond, MS

Answer the Mississippi Beef Producer Survey—Win Prizes

A comprehensive survey of beef cattle production in Mississippi is still underway. The last detailed survey of Mississippi beef cattle producers was conducted in 1999. Many things have changed since then.

The Mississippi State University Extension Service is asking for your help. All beef cattle producers in the state are asked to participate to help get a good overview of current practices and needs within Mississippi.

The survey is anonymous and takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. It consists of mainly of multiple-choice questions about production and marketing practices on your individual operation. Three versions of the survey are available:

- Cow-calf only
- Stocker only
- Cow-calf and stocker

To fill out a survey go online to the website link below. Then click on the appropriate link to the survey. For a printed copy of the survey, contact Dr. John Michael Riley at

riley@agecon.msstate.edu or 662-325-7986.

As an incentive to complete a survey, participants can enter an optional drawing for the following prizes upon completion of the survey:

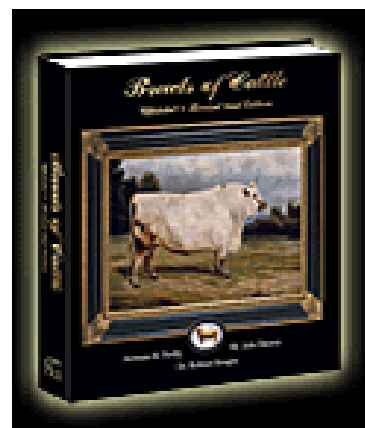
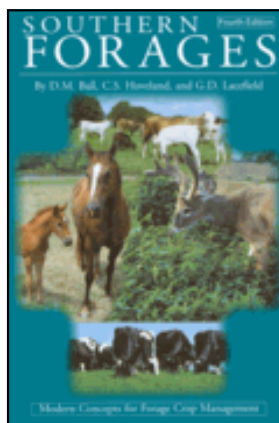
- 1 Farm Works® Stock herd management software package (\$350 value)
- 3 Breeds of Cattle books featuring 45 breeds with pictures and art (\$110 value each)
- 10 Southern Forages books (\$35 value each)

All prizes are sponsored by the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association.

This survey is a cooperative effort of the Mississippi State University Agricultural Economics and Animal and Dairy Sciences Departments. Survey results will be summarized and shared with the public once the survey analysis is complete.

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msucares.com/livestock/beef



Producers in many Mississippi counties may currently qualify for disaster assistance

Disaster Assistance Resources Available

Veterinary-related Assistance

- The Mississippi Board of Animal Health hotline number is 1-888-722-3106.
- The American Veterinary Medical Foundation has a program to assist veterinarians, states, and other groups affected by disasters through a grant program. More information can be found on their website at: www.avmf.org/whatwedo/disaster-related-grants/
- Mississippi established an assistance program for veterinary-related issues during Hurricane Katrina. It has been used since 2005 to assist both veterinarians and the public affected by local and regional disasters, such as tornadoes and fires. Donations may be made to the MS Animal Disaster Relief Fund to help animals and their people affected by these disasters. Information on making a donation or applying for assistance can be found on the following websites:
 - ✓ College of Veterinary Medicine www.cvm.msstate.edu
 - ✓ Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association www.msvet.org

Farm Service Agency

Key programs administered by USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) that help agricultural producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths include:

- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** -provides funding for farmers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by a natural disaster
- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** -provides assistance to livestock producers for livestock deaths from a natural disaster event
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** -provides emergency relief to producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish, and covers losses not adequately covered by any other disaster program
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)** -provides assistance to orchardists and nursery tree growers for losses due to a natural disaster

- **Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)** -provides assistance to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster

- **Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** -provides assistance to eligible producers affected by a natural disaster, covering noninsurable crop losses and prevented planting

- **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program** -provides assistance for crop production and/or quality losses due to a natural disaster

- Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov; Click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets. You may also visit your local Farm Service Agency Office for more information regarding these programs.

- Producers in any of the 33 counties that are west of or intersected by Interstate 55, who have livestock affected and need to be moved due to the flooding, may be given approval for emergency use of CRP land in the 33 counties through June 11, 2011. Livestock producers must make written requests to the County FSA Office where the CRP land is located. The request should include the approximate number and kind of livestock. Livestock producers must provide the FSA County Office with the required documentation of the flooding. Both the livestock producer and the CRP participant must sign the request for emergency use of CRP.

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation

- The Mississippi Farm Bureau Foundation and Relief Fund, Inc. is accepting applications for disaster assistance requests for Farm Bureau members who are victims of the April tornadoes and spring river flooding. The application for financial assistance is available for download at www.msfb.org

“...If unable to access program information via the Internet, go by or call the local office of the organization providing assistance.”

Feeder Calf Board Sale Seeking Consignments

The 4th annual Mississippi Homeplace Producers Feeder Calf Board Sale is now taking calf nominations for the August 1, 2011 sale. The sale is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at the Southeast Mississippi Livestock Auction in Hattiesburg, MS. Interested producers and livestock markets should contact one of the following sale coordinators:

Mike Keene
(601) 545-6083, (601) 606-7382

Jon Kilgore
(601) 278-3809

Lance Newman
(662) 234-4451, (662) 832-4586

Mike Howell
(662) 566-2201, (662) 871-8468

msucares.com/livestock/beef/feeder calf.html

"...The board sales feature truckload lots of feeder calves from across the state."

2011 Mississippi County Cattle Inventory Rankings

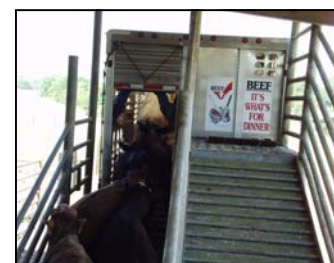
Top Half of Mississippi counties for number of cattle and calves as of January 1, 2011

County	Head of Cattle
1. Chickasaw	49,500
2. Covington	35,500
3. Hinds	25,500
4. Pearl River	25,000
5. Walthall	22,500
6. Jones	22,000
7. Tate	21,500
8. Lincoln	21,000
9. Scott	20,500
9. Simpson	20,500
11. Clay	20,000
12. Pike	18,800
13. Leake	18,500
14. Marshall	17,900
14. Rankin	17,900
16. Newton	17,600
17. Marion	17,200
18. Monroe	16,900
18. Smith	16,900
20. Carroll	16,700
21. Neshoba	16,600
22. Noxubee	16,400
23. Panola	15,200
24. Madison	14,400
25. Amite	13,200
26. Oktibbeha	13,100
27. Lee	12,900
28. Pontotoc	12,500
29. Copiah	12,400
29. Lamar	12,400
31. George	12,200
31. Jasper	12,200

33. Wayne	12,100
34. Calhoun	12,000
35. Lawrence	10,800
36. Yazoo	10,500
37. Attala	10,100
38. Kemper	9,900
39. Jefferson Davis	9,600
39. Union	9,600
41. Kemper	9,500

- Twenty-four additional counties had 5,000 or more head of cattle and calves at the start of 2011.
- Beef cattle are raised in all 82 Mississippi counties.
- Pounds of cattle and calves marketed in Mississippi in 2010 was the highest since 2005 at 241,750,000 pounds.
- Pounds of cattle and calves produced in Mississippi in 2010 was 190,905,000 pounds and continued the annual decline trend
- Despite lower total production in 2010 compared to 2009, the value of production in 2010 exceeded that of the year before
- Cash receipts from cattle and calves in the state in 2010 were highest since 2006 at \$187,767,000
- 2010 gross income from Mississippi cattle and calves was the highest since 2006 at \$192,529,000

Source: www.nass.usda.gov/ms



Cattle marketings were up in Mississippi in 2010.

*Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement
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Send questions or comments to
Jane Parish, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist,
Mississippi State University Extension Service

Jane 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*

DNA Technologies and BIF Recommendations

Research into the molecular basis of inheritance is progressing at a rapid pace. Technologies that permit identification of molecular genetic differences in deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) sequence among animals are also evolving very rapidly. Several DNA-based tools are being marketed in the beef industry; some as selection tools. These tools are known by a variety of names (e.g., genomic tests, DNA markers, molecular tests or markers).

DNA is found in every nucleated cell in the body. It can be extracted from semen, muscle, fat, white blood cells found in blood and milk, skin, and epithelial cells collected from saliva. Minute amounts of tissue, such as a single drop of blood or several mucosal cells, are all that are required for routine DNA analysis. Common collection methods include a drop of blood blotted on a paper that is dried, covered, and stored at room temperature, ear tag systems that deposit a tissue sample in an enclosed container with bar code identification, and hair follicles. Techniques have been developed that allow for rapid release of DNA from cells and immediate analysis of the samples.

DNA-based selection tools present opportunities and challenges to the U.S. beef industry. Accurate DNA-based selection tools will give beef cattle breeders opportunity to identify animals with superior breeding value (BV) as soon as a tissue sample can be collected and analyzed, potentially

leading to significant savings in time and money associated with performance testing and genetic evaluation. However, as currently marketed, the BV information provided by DNA-based tools is not uniformly reported and the proportion of variation in true BV accounted for by the tools is unknown. Further, the BV information provided by competing DNA-based tools overlaps and is not independent of information provided by current national cattle evaluation (NCE) systems.

BIF believes that information from DNA tests only has value in selection when incorporated with all other available forms of performance information for economically important traits in NCE, and when communicated in the form of an EPD with corresponding BIF accuracy. For some economically important traits information other than DNA tests may not be available. Selection tools based on these tests should still be expressed as EPD within the normal parameters of NCE.

BIF recommends that breeders who use DNA-tests should, whenever possible, choose DNA-tests that have been validated in populations that are representative of the beef cattle industry by scientists independent of the organization that developed or will market the test.

Source: Guidelines for Uniform Beef Improvement Programs. 9th edition, 2010. Beef Improvement Federation.