



M I S S I S S I P P I

BCIA

BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Upcoming events:

- August 3– Homeplace Feeder Calf Board Sale, Hattiesburg
- August 6-7 – Deep South Stocker Conference, Montgomery, AL
- September 23– Cattlemen’s College Prairie
- September 24– Cattlemen’s College Poplarville
- October 29-31- MSU-ES Cattle Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State
- November 11- MBCIA Educational Meeting and Supper, Raymond
- November 12- MBCIA Fall Bull and Heifer Sale, Raymond

Beef Improvement Federation Conference Recap

The 47th Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Convention and Research Symposium was held in Biloxi, Mississippi at the Beau Rivage on June 9-12. This year’s event was hosted by the Mississippi State University Extension Beef team, led by Dr. Brandi Karisch. This international event was extremely successful thanks to the combined efforts of Extension and the Animal and Dairy Science Department! Industry partners, such as the Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association, played a crucial role in the execution of the convention. The convention was kicked off on Tuesday with the first BIF Young Producer’s Symposium. The inaugural event was filled to capacity with millennial age producers, graduate students, and industry leaders. Later that evening, attendees experienced the best of the “Hospitality State” with a reception that featured prime rib and a sampling of the Gulf’s famous Cajun-influenced cuisine. Following the welcome reception, the National Association of Animal Breeders hosted their Annual Research symposium.

During the first general session on Wednesday morning, the stage was set for the current state of the nation’s cowherd, and what opportunities are available. Sustainability was the hot topic as the nation’s top researchers discussed this controversial topic, and an overview of how the beef industry has and continues to improve sustainability. These discussions led perfectly to the second set of talks about profitability. The take home message to producers was finding the balance. Technical breakout sessions began on Wednesday afternoon and were followed by a Dinner and Night at the Museum hosted at the Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum.

Thursday’s general session focused on female selection and improving cow efficiency and adaptability – critical to the improvement of the industry’s sustainability. During lunch, Dr.

Jane Parish assumed the reins of the Executive Director position from South Dakota State University’s Dr. Joe Cassidy. An afternoon of more breakout sessions concluded the day’s agenda.

Approximately 60 attendees participated in Friday’s tour. The first of the four stops of the day was the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). The Grand Bay NERR is comprised of approximately 18,000 acres and contains pine savannas, salt marshes, salt pannes, bays and bayous as well as terrestrial habitats that are unique to the coastal zone. Midwestern producers, particularly, enjoyed this stop as they had never experienced an ecosystem quite like this. After a detour on some backroads, the buses arrived at Seward Farms, a diversified operation specializing in cattle, horses, peanuts, cotton, and hay. In addition, to a large number of stocker cattle, the farm also has a big focus on agritourism. Lunch greeted attendees at Tanner Farms, a registered and commercial Angus operation which originated in Jones County in 1977 and expanded to Noxubee County in 2000. There are approximately 600 registered cows and 800 commercial cows with both a spring and fall calving season. The final stop of the day was Rocking B Cattle, a registered Polled Brahman cattle ranch that is operated by Shep and Tracey Batson along with their three daughters, Reagan, Hadley, and Arrah Beth. The ranch is located in Wiggins, Mississippi. The Batson Family has been involved in the cattle business since the 1850’s. For over 4 generations, the family has been breeding quality cattle on the same ranch.

All BIF Conference attendees had access to some of the industry’s most innovative research, but the networks formed between producers, researchers, and extension proves to be the greatest asset of all.

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Beef Improvement Federation—Producer Tours



The producer tours at the 2015 BIF Conference were a huge success. Pictured counter-clockwise from text: 1) Attendees view an estuary at the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve . 2) The Seward family welcomed guests and explained their diversified operation. Most attendees had never seen peanut production. 3) Shep Baston introduces his family to participants, Each family member plays a unique and important role in this operation. Bottom: tour participants pose for a group picture at Tanner Farms with the Tanner family.



Thanks to all of our hosts!

Deep South Stocker Conference



The seventh annual **Deep South Stocker Conference** is headed to Alabama. This year's conference will be held August 6-7, 2015 in Montgomery, AL. This conference is a joint effort between the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Mississippi State University Extension Service, and the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension.

This year's conference will begin with a dinner hosted by the Alabama Cattlemen's Association at their historic building in downtown Montgomery on Thursday, August 6, and educational seminars Friday, August 7. The Stocker Conference registration will cost \$75/person and will cover all seminars, events, meals, and handouts for the two-day event. Additionally, a trade show will be held in conjunction with the conference to allow stocker operators the opportunity to network with industry professionals and to become aware of products and services that can improve their profitably and product quality.

For more information or to register, visit www.deepsouthstocker.com. Travel will be coordinated through Dr. Brandi Karisch. Please contact brandi.karisch@msstate.edu or 662-325-7465 if you are interested in attending.

2015 Deep South Stocker Conference Agenda

Thursday, August 6, 2015

6:30 pm – Welcome to Alabama: Dinner and Entertainment

Location: Alabama Cattlemen's Association Building, 201 S. Bainbridge Street, Montgomery, AL

Friday, August 7, 2015

8:30 am – 4:30 pm – 2015 Deep South Stocker Conference

Location: Auburn University at Montgomery – Taylor Center, 7440 East Dr. #107, Montgomery, AL

Time	Topic	Speaker
7:45 – 8:30 am	Registration	
8:30 am	Welcome/Introductions	Dr. Kim Mullenix, ACES Dr. Gary Lemme, ACES Dr. Billy Powell, ACA
8:45 am	CattleFax: Feeder Cattle Market Outlook: Implications for Stocker Production in the Southeast	Mr. Duane Lenz, CattleFax Market Analyst
9:30 am	FDA Regulations, Antibiotic Use, and the Future	Dr. Carla Huston, Mississippi State University
10:15 -10: 45 am	Break – Exhibits	
10:50 am	Breakout Sessions	Session 1, 2, or 3
12:00 pm	Lunch – Visit Exhibits	
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Breakout Sessions	Session 1, 2, or 3
2:15 pm – 2:45 pm	Break – Exhibits	
2:45 pm – 3:30 pm	Breakout Sessions	Session 1, 2, or 3
3:30 – 4:15 pm	Producer Panel: Practical Strategies to Improve Performance and Profitability	Mr. Max Bozeman, Bozeman Cattle Company Mr. Leo Hollinger, Hollinger Cattle Company Mr. Brad Etheridge, Etheridge Cattle Company
4:20 – 4:30 pm	Closing Comments	Dr. Kim Mullenix



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION SERVICE



Breakout Session Topics

Session 1 – Grazing Management and Supplementation: Current Research Q&A

Moderator: Mr. Leo Hollinger

Panel:

Drs. Kim Mullenix, Jennifer Johnson, Russ Muntifering, and Auburn Beef-Forage Program Graduate Students

Session 2 – Herd Health Management: Immunity and Processing Calves

Moderator: Dr. Soren Rodning

Panel:

- Dr. Paul Walz, Auburn University
- Dr. Carla Huston, MSU

Session 3 – Ag Lenders Panel: Loans and Risk Management

Moderator: Mrs. Brenda Glover

Panel:

- Ms. Lisa Cochran, President, The Citizens Banks, Greensboro, AL
- Mr. Ben Elliott, Vice President/Branch Manager, Alabama Ag Credit, Montgomery, AL
- Mr. Andy Leslie, Vice President/Branch Manager, First South Farm Credit, Montgomery, AL

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality

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Mississippi State University Extension Service

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Visit MBCIA online at <http://msucare.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/>

MISSISSIPPI
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BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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:

DID YOU KNOW?

From 2007-2013 the state of Mississippi lost approximately 19% of the pastureland that had been used for beef production. *John Paterson, NCBA*

June 2015 – Management Calendar

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 (eyes, udders, feet, legs, teeth), 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 (IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, and others upon veterinary advise), 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.



To keep up with the latest happenings with the Mississippi State University Beef Extension team, be sure to like our new page on Facebook!