



# M I S S I S S I P P I

# BCIA

BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

- January 12—Central MS Bred Heifer Sale, Raymond
- January 21—Deadline for consignments to Spring BCIA Bull Sale
- March 6—BCIA Annual Meeting—Raymond
- March 7—Hinds/BCIA Sale, Raymond
- March 11-12—Local and Grassfed Beef Workshop, Starkville
- March 14-16—Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State University
- May TBD—Beef 101 Workshop, Starkville
- June 18-21—Beef Improvement Federation Meetings, Brookings, SD

#### Inside this issue:

Who Owns Your Data, and	2-3
Fall Bull and Heifer Sale	3
Management Calendar	4
MBCIA Membership	4

## Wrapping Up 2018 and Looking into 2019

**M**erry Christmas from your Beef Extension team! This year seemed to fly by faster than I ever remember! December is always a busy month as we try to tie up all of our loose ends and prepare for the holiday break.

For me this year is especially busy as we're expecting our second son on December 19! This means I'll be out of touch getting adjusted to a new little one for most of January, but Mari Quinn and my graduate student team will be diligently working towards meeting your needs.

Two large national agriculture conference are being held right next door in New Orleans in January 2019. First up in the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Conference. I'll be there competing with my husband in the National Excellence in Agriculture Award

competition. Then later in January/early February cattle producers will gather in the Big Easy for the 2019 National Cattlemen's Beef Association Convention. If you have a chance to attend either of these events you won't regret it.

This spring, mark your calendars for 2 sales that will be held in Raymond. First, the 6th Annual Central MS Replacement Heifer Sale will be on January 12, 2019. The Hind Community College Bull Test/Mississippi BCIA Spring Sale will take place on March 7, 2019.

Lastly we'll hold 2 workshops on campus featuring our brand new meat science and muscle biology laboratory. In March there will be a workshop for Local and Grassfed Beef Producers, and in May we'll host a Beef 101.

*Brenda Karich*

## Spring BCIA Bull Sale

Breeders interested in nominating bulls to the Spring BCIA Bull Sale should **submit nomination forms by January 21, 2019.**

Nomination forms are included at the end of this newsletter and updated rules and regulations for the sale can be found at [extension.msstate.edu/beef](http://extension.msstate.edu/beef).

As a reminder, bulls must meet minimum weaning weight standards, have yearling weights submitted to their respective breed association, and must have ultrasound data or carcass EPDs to be eligible to be catalogued.

## Who Owns Your Data, and Where Is It?

by Julie Mais, editor; Lindsay King, assistant editor; Megan Silveria, editorial intern

LOVELAND, Colo., June 22, 2018 — As the amount of genetic data steadily grows, ranchers seem to have a lot of questions regarding how data is stored and owned. At a panel discussion at the Beef Improvement Federation Symposium and Convention in Loveland, Colo., five cattlemen gathered to discuss “Who Owns Your Data and Where Is It?”

Not unlike many cattlemen, Wade Shafer, American Simmental Association (ASA) executive vice president, admits he was once one who didn’t pay attention to the data ownership and intellectual property rights topic.

Until a few years ago, he relied on land-grant university Extension programs, breed associations and the USDA to provide cutting-edge technology in an open-source and free-flowing fashion.

“A few years ago, I became keenly aware of intellectual property rights and patents,” Shafer said. “Today, this is a germane topic and important in our industry.”

Shafer addressed the group representing not only ASA, but also International Genetic Solutions (IGS), a collaboration between breed associations committed to enhancing commercial profitability.

Shafer said the most high-profile collaboration of IGS is the genetic evaluation powered by the new genetic evaluation software, BOLT (Biometric Open Language Tools, owned by Theta Solutions, LLC).

Speaking to the question, “Who owns your data and where is it?” Shafer said IGS partners handle genotype ownership differently. All Canadian partners “share data,” meaning the breeder owns their animal genotypes and shares the data with their respective associations. The American partners both share data and a few breed associations own data sent in by breeders.

“As for IGS, all data submitted becomes a permanent record in the IGS genetic evaluation,” Shafer said.

Shafer said he appreciates the collaboration that built IGS, and said he hopes members of the beef industry can continue to work together.

“I would like to see the industry maintain open and free-flowing type of platform,” Shafer said. “I understand the importance of intellectual property rights and the need to innovate and continue to make progress, but I hope to find reasonable balance between the two.”

Matt Cleveland, director of global beef product development at Genus ABS, is another cattleman wanting to provide genetic data capable of assisting ranchers in increasing profitability.

“We’re in the business of increasing beef,” Cleveland said. “Our goal is to produce a high-quality beef that can nourish people.”

Cleveland believes collecting genetic data of economically relevant traits will drive genetic improvement. ABS is currently collecting data in more than 70 countries and has created a full life-cycle data collection process for both beef and dairy cattle.

By using a “tailored and targeted approach” to collecting genetic data, Cleveland said the cattle industry is moving forward in the way it applies genomics to breeding decisions.

“We have moved into the era of genetic evaluation,” said Larry Benyshek of Benyshek and Hough Consulting Services. “We’ve moved from a way of life to a business. We have become consumer-driven. Consumers reign supreme.”

Benyshek said with this focus on consumers, ranchers need to be consistently improving the way they collect genetic data. While he said it takes time for knowledge to get filtered down to the point where it can be put to use in the beef industry, Benyshek’s Genetic and Economic Management (GEM) program is helping to speed this process.

GEM is a web-based data management program with a couple hundred thousand users. Benyshek said his program contains both public and private sectors, but it is helping genetic data flow freely through different aspects of the beef industry. GEM is providing ranchers with a way to gather and archive genetic data and then turn it into productive information.

Continued next page....



John Genho, owner and geneticist of Livestock Genetic Services LLC, evaluates genomic information for commercial ranches as well as 10 different breed associations. He compared data ownership to Google Maps. Everyone is sending data in and benefits from it, but nobody can see individual data and its ownership.

“I started working King Ranch 15 years ago to develop a genetic evaluation program for traits they did not have EPDs (expected progeny differences) for,” Genho said. “They have a whole suite of traits they are selecting for and now have a symbiotic partnership with Santa Gertrudis Breeders International.”

King Ranch did what was best for their business and are still sharing data. They don’t share all of their data, but the information that is important to the association.

In exchange, the association gives data to the ranch. Nobody wants to share something if they don’t get value from that relationship,” Genho finished.

Dan Moser, president of Angus Genetics Inc., said when thinking about this subject, the word “stewardship” comes to mind.

“Our grandparents show us the photos on the wall of the river where they moved cattle,” he said. “Then we hop in the truck

and see that same river, preserved. That is how we think about databases.”

Moser started working with the American Angus Association and its database in 1999, signing an extensive agreement pertaining to the ownership and transfer of the data. Now on the other side of the agreement, Moser stands by the standards set by the Association long ago that stand today.

“Angus members have made a significant investment in data recording. Now our job is to provide as much return on investment as we can back to them,” Moser said. “The other part of our job is to preserve that data, as well. We are thinking about today as well as tomorrow.”

Samples used for data collection are sealed tight in a vault at Association headquarters. Keeping these samples proves more valuable each day.

“By keeping the samples, we are able to conduct further testing at a later time,” Moser added. “We can go back and test an animal for say a genetic disorder instead of sampling all of its progeny. It has worked well for us in the past.”

This article is reprinted with permission from [www.BIFconference.com](http://www.BIFconference.com), Angus Media's online coverage site of the 2018 Beef Improvement Federation Research Symposium

## Fall 2018 BCIA Bull and Heifer Sale Report

The Mississippi BCIA wrapped up its Fall Bull & Heifer Sale on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at Hinds Community College. The MBCIA Fall Sale featured 30 performance-backed bulls and 31 heifers from breeders across the state. Thank you to all of the consignors and buyers for supporting the Fall 2018 Mississippi BCIA Bull & Heifer Sale.

The top-selling lot was Lot 30, VF Rampage 7836, Lot 30

was consigned by Vista Farms Cattle Company LLC. of Fayette, AL. He was purchased by Russell Searcy of Brandon, Mississippi. Other breeders marketing bulls in the MBCIA sale included Thames Angus Farm, Phil

Slay Farms., and G&R Farms Sale receipts on 22 bulls totaled \$47,300 for a sale average price of \$2,368.

The top selling Angus female was consigned by Vista Farms Cattle Company LLC and sold for \$2,175 to Tyler Copeland of Paragould, AR. The top selling commercial heifer was consigned by M&M Farms and sold for \$1,725 to Mickey Roth of Clinton, MS.

	All Bulls	Charolais	Angus	Open Angus Heifers	Bred Angus Heifers	Commercial Bred Heifers
<b>Number sold</b>	30	2	28	13	9	8
<b>Gross receipts</b>	\$89,700	\$5,050	\$84,650	\$18,200	\$15,570	\$13,370
<b>Average price</b>	\$2,990	\$2,525	\$3,023	\$1,400	\$1,760	\$1,671
<b>High selling lot price</b>	\$4,600	\$3,000	\$4,600	\$2,000	\$2,175	\$1,725

# December 2018 – Management Calendar

## GENERAL

With the grass residue being of very limited quality and winter forage stands behind schedule, many producers will be required to supplement Protein and Energy. Winter annual pastures should be maintained least four inches of stubble height. Limit grazing for a few hours per day is a good way to efficiently utilize winter forages and can provide acceptable protein supplementation to residual summer forages. Overgrazing can reduce winter forage availability over the grazing season and should be avoided. There is still time to test the quality of stored forages, if not already done, and order winter supplements. Watch body condition, and group the herd into winter-feeding groups such as mature cows with average condition, thin mature cows, and first-calf heifers. Match forage and feeding programs to the nutritional needs of each group.

## SPRING CALVING—January, February, March

Continue developing replacement heifers to reach 2/3 of mature weight by breeding time in early spring. Separate bred heifers from the cows, and provide adequate supplemental nutrition as fall forage quality declines. Monitor body condition closely for the entire herd, and supplement thin cows and heifers as needed. Nutritional requirements increase about 10 to 15% in the last 30 to 45 days prior to calving. Maintain a good nutritional program targeting a body condition score of 5 (moderate condition) at calving for cows and 6 (high moderate) condition at calving for

heifers. Do not underfeed in an attempt to reduce calf birth weight. Gather calving supplies such as calving record books, ear tags, obstetric equipment, disinfectants, and colostrum. Check bred heifers frequently. They should begin calving in December if bred ahead of the mature cow herd. Check expected calving dates on cows, and observe closely as calving approaches.

## FALL CALVING—October, November, December

Take yearling measurements and calculate adjusted weights and ratios if not already completed. Continue observing heavy bred females frequently. After calving, move pairs to clean pasture and watch calves for scours. Consult with a veterinarian for advise on scours prevention and treatment. Tag, castrate, dehorn, and implant calves as appropriate, and maintain good calving records. Calculate fall calving percentage when the fall calving season is completed. Cow nutrient needs increase dramatically after calving. Make sure lactating cows are in good condition for breeding. Start breeding heifers about a month before the mature cow herd. They should weigh at least 65% of their expected mature weight. Heifers will also need to be in good condition at breeding for a high percentage to settle. It may be time to start feeding the best quality hay now and supplement according to forage test results. Implement the breeding program by turning out bulls that complement herd females and marketing objectives and have passed a breeding soundness examination.

## Contact Information:

MISSISSIPPI BCIA Box 9815 | Mississippi State, MS 39762  
MISSISSIPPI BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Website: [extension.msstate.edu/beef](http://extension.msstate.edu/beef)


Phone: 662-325-7465

Fax: 662-325-8873

Dr. Brandi Karisch, Beef Cattle Extension Specialist

Email: [brandi.karisch@msstate.edu](mailto:brandi.karisch@msstate.edu)

## Find us on Social Media:

 @MSUBeefCattle

 [youtube.com/MSUBeefCattle](http://youtube.com/MSUBeefCattle)

 [facebook.com/MSStateExtBeef](http://facebook.com/MSStateExtBeef)

 @MSUExtBeef

## 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  
 Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762*



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
 EXTENSION**

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.