

BY-LAWS OF THE
MISSISSIPPI BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
(MISS. BCIA, INC.)

Article 1. Name

- A. The name of this association shall be the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association, Inc. (Miss. BCIA, Inc.)

Article 2. Purposes

- A. To promote the use of performance records as a tool for within herd improvement of production efficiency and quality of Mississippi beef herds.
- B. To emphasize economically important traits in beef cattle that can be improved through selection and culling programs based on records of performance.
- C. To emphasize the importance of good management practices in breeding, feeding health, and marketing programs.
- D. To charge and receive membership dues and other fees only as determined necessary by the Board of Directors to carry out the above purposes without profit.
- E. To cooperate with other like-minded organizations, associations, etc. whose policies are consistent with the above purposes and policies of the Mississippi BCIA.

Article 3. Membership and Dues

- A. Membership in this association shall be any breeder or producer who is interested in the purposes of Article 2 and persons who, by virtue of their position with the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service, Mississippi State University, commodity groups, or governmental agencies, are working with the Miss. BCIA programs at the state or area level. These members also include the Executive Vice-President and the President of the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association.
- B. Dues as determined by the Board of Directors, will be due yearly prior to the acceptance of cattle consigned to sales.

Article 4. Meetings

- A. One regular annual meeting of this association shall be held each year at a location and an exact date to be designated by the Board of Directors.
- B. The Board of Directors may have one or more special meetings each year upon the call of the President and the Secretary. Twenty-five (25) percent of the members may file a petition at any time demanding a special meeting and stating the specific business to be brought before the Association. The President and the Secretary shall thereupon call such meetings. The Executive Committee may meet as its members deem appropriate to manage the affairs of the Association.

Article 5. Elections and Votes

- A. Each member shall have one vote and only one vote on each question presented to the association for action. Firms, partnerships, corporations or associations shall be entitled to only one vote. No proxy votes shall be allowed.
- B. Elections will be by majority vote at the time of the election.
- C. A majority of the members present shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business at any meeting.

Article 6. Directors

- A. The affairs of the BCIA shall be guided by the Board of Directors made up as indicated:
 - At least two (2) commercial producers
 - At least four (4) purebred producers
 - Executive Vice-President of the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association
 - President of the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association
 - Representative of the Animal and Dairy Science Department, Mississippi State University
 - One (1) Extension Animal Scientist
 - One (1) Area Extension Agent
 - Representative from Hinds Bull Test Station
 - Representative from South Mississippi Gain on Forage Bull Testing Program
 - Past Presidents of the Mississippi BCIA
 - Representative from the locations of BCIA sponsored sales.
- B. The Board of Directors shall have general supervision and control of the Association and its affairs, and shall, within the limits of these by-laws, approve all rules and regulations for the management of the Association and the guidance of its members, officers, agents, and employees. Further, the Board of Directors shall be responsible for installing an adequate accounting system to meet the requirements of the Association, for setting assessment fees in keeping with the purposes of the Association, and for seeing that accurate records are kept on all transactions.
- C. Commercial and purebred producers will serve three (3) staggered year terms. The nominating committee will initially nominate the commercial and purebred producers for a one (1), two (2), or three (3) year term and present those nominees along with their other nominations at the annual meeting.
- D. When a vacancy on the Board of Directors, occurs, other than the usual expiration of term, the president/chairman/director of the organization represented by the retiring Board member shall appoint a qualified member to fill the unexpired term, subject to approval of the Association membership at the next regular meeting.

Article 7. Officers

- A. The officers of this association shall be a president, one vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer.
- B. The officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the association members at the time of the annual meeting.
- C. Officers will serve a two (2) year term.

Article 8. Duties of Officers

- A. President: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Association, Board of Directors and executive committee. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President.
- B. Secretary and Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to maintain an office in which a complete file of business of the association is kept. The Secretary shall handle all correspondence coming to the office and keep the membership of the association informed as the occasion arises to matters of importance. The Secretary shall mail to each member at the last known address, a notice of every meeting at least ten (10) days prior to the time of such meeting. The Secretary shall be responsible for providing financial reports to the Board of Directors and membership and shall serve as a comptroller of Mississippi BCIA finances. The Treasurer shall have responsibility for custody of the Mississippi BCIA financial accounts and shall share all financial statements with the Secretary.

Article 9. Administration

- A. Business of the association shall be managed by the executive committee, which shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The executive committee may be convened, upon request of the Secretary, with any and all such requests being made through the Association President, who shall act as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Article 10. Parliamentary Authority

- A. The rules contained in ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER shall govern this association in cases not covered by these by-laws.

Article 11. Amendments

- A. These by-laws may be amended by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at any annual meeting provided the proposed amendments have been mailed to every member at the association at the last address furnished by him at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting, at which the amendments are to be considered.

Article 12. Program of Work

- A. This association shall sponsor programs and other activities, which it considers proper in forwarding the interest of beef cattle breeders and producers who are doing performance testing in Mississippi.