



MISSISSIPPI

BCIA

BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Upcoming events:

- October 17-19—Cattle Artificial Insemination School, Mississippi State, MS
- November 13—MBCIA Educational Meeting and Supper, Raymond, MS
- November 14—MBCIA Fall Bull and Heifer Sale, Raymond, MS
- January 20—MBCIA Spring Bull and Heifer Sale Nomination Deadline
- March 5—MBCIA Annual Membership and Educational Meeting and Supper, Raymond, MS
- March 6—Hinds Bull Test and MBCIA Spring Bull and Heifer Sale, Raymond, MS
- March 11—Beef Mythbusters Workshop, MSU, Hattiesburg, Magnolia, Oxford, Raymond, MS

MBCIA Fall Bull and Heifer Sale—November 14

Catalogs to be available in early October

Sale Offering

26 Angus bulls

3 Charolais bulls

50+ commercial
bred heifers

Fall 2013 Consignors

Danny Martin
Kiani Angus
MG Farms
Monogram Farm
MAFES South Farm Beef Unit
MAFES White Sand Unit
Phil Slay Farm
Sloan Farm
Thames Angus Farms

New Beef Genetics Webinars Available

Breeders interested in self-study webinars on beef cattle genetic improvement can access several free online resources.

National Program for Genetic Improvement of Feed Efficiency in Beef Cattle
DNA Technology continues to advance as well as the use of that technology in cattle breeding and genetic selection. The June 2013 conference held at the USDA Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) in Clay Center, NE highlighted these advancements. Webinar topics are listed below.

DNA Technology: Where we've been, where we are, and where we're headed:

- Current State of Integrating Genomics into National Cattle Evaluation
- What Do We Hope to Learn from Sequence Information?

- New Genotyping Platforms
- Genomics of Bovine Respiratory Disease: An Update
- Life-cycle Analysis of Beef Production
- Improving Beef System Efficiency: A genetics perspective
- Genomic Predictors of Feed Efficiency

<http://www.beefefficiency.org/annualmtgune13.html>

A webinar from the University of Nebraska designed for cattle producers interested in learning more about expected progeny differences (EPDs) is also online.

Utilizing EPDs in sire selection to make genetic progress and meet producers goals:
<https://connect.unl.edu/p53yxcbkv9m/>

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Selection Simplified—MBCIA Bull Designations



Bulls marketed through MBCIA sales have all met sale eligibility requirements for weight and other important traits

Recognition of Bulls Qualifying for Designations

Starting with the 2013 Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA) Fall Bull and Heifer Sale, bulls meeting certain expected progeny difference (EPD) requirements will be marketed with one or more of the following designations:

- Balanced Trait Bull
- Terminal Bull
- Calving Ease Bull
- Carcass Merit Bull

Each bull designation (Balanced Trait, Terminal, Calving Ease, Carcass Merit) has different EPD requirements. These requirements are breed specific. A bull's EPDs, as assigned by his respective breed association, must be current as of the sale nomination deadline to qualify for these designations for that particular MBCIA sale.

Bulls meeting the EPD requirements for a particular designation will be recognized in the sale catalog, on their pen signs, and from the auction block. Bulls could potentially meet the requirements for more than one designation and would be duly noted as such. This designation system is designed to both recognize the bulls meeting these designation requirements and to assist potential bull buyers in selecting bulls that best fit their needs.

These designations do not affect eligibility of bulls to sell through Mississippi BCIA sales. The current bull sale qualification guidelines are still in effect. Bull buyers can be assured that all bulls marketed through Mississippi BCIA sales have met the sale eligibility guidelines, regardless of whether or not they also receive one or more of these special designations. Bulls marketed at Mississippi BCIA sales will all have the required genetic information, growth performance, and breeding soundness specifications and have been approved for inclusion in these sales by a screening committee at each sale site.

“...The designation system is designed to assist bull buyers in selecting bulls that best fit their needs.”

Traits included in Bull Designation EPD Requirements

Calving Ease

All designations require that the bull meet a minimum Calving Ease Direct (CED) or maximum Birth Weight (BW) EPD. If a bull has a CED EPD, then that is the EPD that must be used to determine calving ease acceptability. A bull's CED EPD must be equal to or be greater than the minimum value for a particular designation to meet its calving ease requirements. Birth Weight EPD is not considered when a CED EPD is published for a bull. If a bull does not have a CED EPD, then BW EPD may be used. The bull's BW EPD must then be equal to or less than the maximum value for a particular designation as part of its qualifications.

Growth

All designations have minimum requirements for growth. As part of the qualifications for Balanced Trait, Terminal, and Calving Ease designations, a bull's Weaning Weight (WW) or Yearling Weight (YW) EPD must be equal to or greater than the respective values listed. As part of the qualifications for the Carcass Merit designation, a bull's YW EPD must be equal to or greater than the value listed.

Milk

There are requirements for milking ability for the Balanced Trait and Calving Ease designations. A bull must have a Milk EPD that is equal to or in between the two values listed as part of the qualifications for these two designations.

Yield Grade (Ribeye Area)

As part of the qualifications for the Carcass Merit designation, a bull's Ribeye Area (REA) EPD must be equal to or greater than the value listed.

Quality Grade (Marbling)

As part of the qualifications for the Carcass Merit designation, a bull's Marbling (MARB) or Intramuscular Fat (IMF) EPD must be equal to or greater than the value listed for its respective breed.

Bull Designations (Cont.)

More about the Designations

Balanced Trait Bull

Bulls that meet the requirements of the Balanced Trait designation should provide moderation for calving ease/birth weight, growth, and milking ability. The purpose of this bull type would be to produce acceptable feeder calves and also keep the mature size and milk level of replacement females in moderation.

Terminal Bull

The Terminal Bull designation is appropriate for bulls used to sire calf crops in which replacement females will not be retained. The purpose of this bull is to produce calves with exceptional growth performance. Because replacement heifers are not retained for breeding purposes out of this type of sire, milk is not important. Instead, growth should be emphasized, while still avoiding upper extremes that might produce carcasses that are heavier than accepted standards.

The values listed for calving ease in this category only eliminate the very worst calving difficulty bulls. Producers should consider how many first-calf heifers are to be bred when determining an appropriate level of calving ease. If any heifers are to be bred, then it is recommended to use the calving ease guidelines for the Balanced Trait Bull designation. Producers wanting to further reduce the risk of dystocia (difficult calving) may prefer to select a bull that meets the more stringent calving ease requirements outlined for the Calving Ease designation.

Calving Ease Bull

The Calving Ease designation is intended to reduce the risk of dystocia, especially when bulls will be used to breed heifers. Extremely light birth weights in calves, however, may be undesirable. To maintain an acceptable level of growth performance in calves, avoid bulls with extremely low weaning and/or yearling weight EPDs.

Carcass Merit Bull

Producers who plan to retain ownership of their calves and/or be paid for carcass merit should place additional emphasis on carcass traits. Traits of economic importance include post-weaning growth, marbling (% intramuscular fat) and lean-to-fat ratio (Yield Grade, % retail product, or rib eye area/fat thickness). The pricing scheme that the calves will be sold under will determine the level of emphasis to be placed on each trait. Also, consider that selection for increased carcass weight may also result in carcass weight extremes that are discounted and increased mature cow size of replacement females.

As previously mentioned for the Terminal Bull designation, the values listed for Calving Ease/Birth Weight for the Carcass Merit designation only eliminate the very worst calving difficulty bulls. Producers breeding bulls to heifers may be wise to choose a bull that meets the calving ease requirements for either the Balanced Trait or Calving Ease designations depending upon their selection goals.

Additional Information Online

The EPD tables listing the current qualifying values for the various designation categories are available on the Mississippi BCIA website. An example bull's EPDs are provided along with a walk-through of whether or not he qualifies for the various designations. This information is online at msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia

It is important to note that the designation system is designed to assist in selection based on EPD information. The designations should still be kept in context. The Calving Ease Bull designation, for example, is not a guarantee of calving ease. Other practices, such as making sure that heifers are adequately developed before breeding, are part of a good plan to reduce the risk of calving difficulty. Bull sale consignors can help prospective buyers in bull selection. Buyers are advised to use good management practices to get the best use out of their new herd sires.

"...Bull buyers are advised to learn about EPDs and mating systems to make informed selection choices."



After purchase of a new herd sire at the MBCIA sale, good breeding and herd management practices should be used for best results.

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Assn.
 Box 9815
 Mississippi State, MS 39762
 Phone: 662-325-7466
 Fax: 662-325-8873
 Email: jparish@ads.msstate.edu

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

Joe Parish



Mississippi State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or group affiliation, age, disability, or veteran status.

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

MISSISSIPPI

BCIA Membership Application

BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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

Missed the Nutrition Learn at Lunch? View It Online Anytime

The Beef Cattle Nutrition Learn at Lunch sessions presented throughout September 2013 are now available online for anytime viewing at:

msucares.com/livestock/beef/beefsc.html

Log on to this website to access videos of the presentations.

Sessions archived online include:

- Nutritive value of forages
- Matching supplementation to forage
- Diets for weaning/receiving cattle
- Byproduct feeds
- Evaluation of supplements
- Minerals for the stocker operation
- Minerals and the cow herd

The sessions feature experts speakers from land-grant universities across the U.S.

Attendee List (16):
 Vanessa Carriker-Olsen, Brandi Karisch
 Hosts (3):
 Bekah Sparks
 Brandi Karisch
 Vanessa Carriker-Olsen
 Participants (16):
 Andrew Granger
 Ashly Delatte
 Billy Ray
 Bobby Engman
 Eli Cooper
 FR Gubler

Chat (Everyone):
 Brandi Karisch: Thanks for joining us. Please let me know if anyone has any video difficulty.
 RICHARD DAVIDSON 2: pushed Louisiana but can't enter
 Ashly Delatte: We hear you loud & clear.
 Ashly Delatte: Sit no mic or cam here
 Ashly Delatte: Sounds good!
 Billy Ray: So far so good brands,
 Brandi Karisch: Thanks Billy

highest nutrient needs
 calves
 stocker cattle
 lactating cows
 replacement heifers
 dry cows
 lowest nutrient needs

mississippifgc.org

Check out the Mississippi Forage & Grassland Council website for information about this newly revitalized organization in the state.