

# Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



### Upcoming events:

- September—Cattle Nutrition Webinar Series
- **September 15—BCIA Fall Bull and Heifer Sale Nomination Deadline**
- 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
- March 5—MBCIA Educational Meeting and Supper, Raymond, MS
- March 6—Hinds Bull Test and MBCIA Spring Bull and Heifer Sale, Raymond, MS

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## Homeplace Producers Feeder Calf Board Sale Results

The 6th annual Homeplace Producers Board Sale was held on August 5, 2013 at the Southeast Mississippi Livestock Auction in Hattiesburg, MS. Beef cattle producers from across the state marketed farm-fresh and assembled stocker cattle in 18 truck-load lots. The sale was broadcast live over the Internet by the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

This sale was a collaborative effort among producers, livestock marketers, Extension, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association, and the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association. With this type of auction format, cattle are not present at the sale facility. Video clips and descriptions of each load are posted prior to the sale, and broadcast during the sale for prospective buyers. This type of auction offers both the buyer and the seller flexibility in arranging future delivery dates.

Over 1,300 head of cattle were represented in 18 loads varying in weight, type, and management. The sale generated approximately **\$1.3 million** in total receipts. The cattle will be loaded at several different Mississippi locations through late October.

### Sale Summary

The sixth annual Mississippi Home-Place Producers Feeder Cattle Board Sale was held at Southeast Mississippi Livestock Exchange in Hattiesburg, MS on Monday, August 5, 2013. 18 pot-loads of cattle sold. Cattle were sold with a 2 percent shrink, unless otherwise noted, and a \$0.05 slide. On the mixed lots, heifers sold 8 cents back of the steers.

**Feeder Steers:** Bulk Medium & Large 1 & 2:  
2 pot-loads 700-799 lbs 145.00-146.00;  
5 pot-loads 800-899 lbs 143.00-147.50.

**Feeder Heifers:** Bulk Medium & Large 1 & 2:  
1 pot-load 500-599 lbs 155.00.

**Mixed Feeder Steers and Heifers (steer prices listed):** Bulk Medium & Large 1 & 2:  
7 pot-loads 600-699 lbs 148.50-156.50;  
3 pot-loads 700-799 lbs 146.50-148.50

Here are those data (cattle scheduled for current delivery only and not including split loads) in comparison to the weekly prices at 13 other MS markets for the week of August 5-9, 2013:

	Weight (lbs)	Range (\$ / CWT)	
		Homeplace Sale	Mississippi Average
<b>Steers</b>	700-799	145.00-146.00	115.00-145.00
	800-899	143.00-147.50	119.00-128.00*
<b>Heifers</b>	500-599	155.00	130.00-155.00

All cattle are Medium and Large 1-2, current delivery.  
\*Prices reported from Southeast Mississippi Livestock.

These sales have been successful in bringing together cattle producers and livestock marketers to improve the profitability of both sectors of the beef production chain. Since 2008, more than **19,400 head** of cattle in 290 loads have been marketed in these board sales. Together, the receipts from these sales exceeded **\$14 million**.

For more information on this sale visit:  
[msucare.com/livestock/beef/feeder\\_calf.html](http://msucare.com/livestock/beef/feeder_calf.html)

Future feeder calf board sale dates are:

**Cattlemen's Exchange Sale**  
Tuesday, April 1, 2014, Winona, MS

**Homeplace Producers Sale**  
Monday, August 4, 2014, Hattiesburg, MS



The Mississippi State University Extension Service provides useful, free apps for public use

## MSU Extension Service Launches Directory App

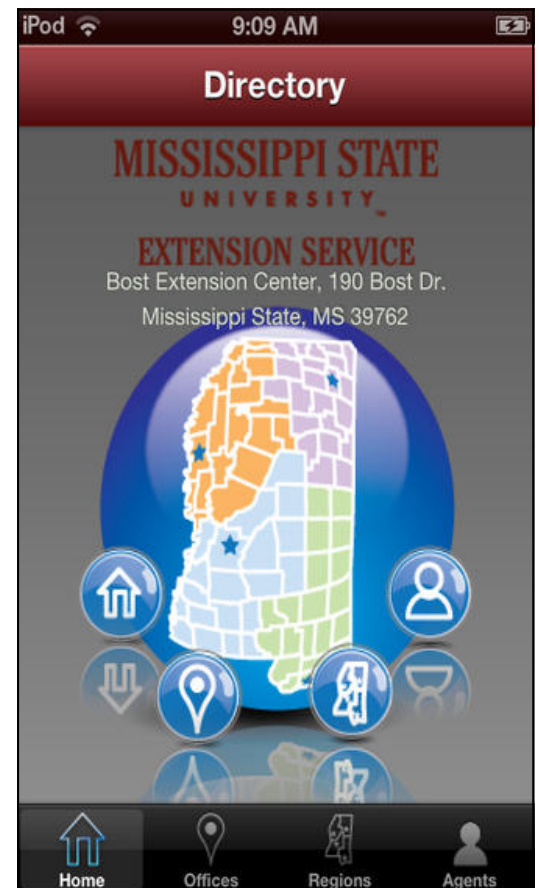
The new Mississippi State University Extension Service (MSUES) Directory App puts county Extension office information directly at the fingertips of Extension personnel, area agents, and general Extension Service clientele.

The app allows users to search for county Extension offices and agents by county name, regions, and agent names. It provides information such as addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and fax numbers. With the click of a button, users can call an office or agent, send email to an office or agent as well as map directions from their current location to a county office.

If you are looking for Extension programs in your area, the MSUES Directory App is for you. You can simply find your county and locate the specialist for that program. Then, you will have all the information you need to make the appropriate contact. Download MSUES Directory and make contacting any county Extension office or agent as easy as clicking a button.

To download the app, go to the app store and search for "MSUES," "Mississippi State Extension Service" or simply "Extension Service," or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/mawdgwb>.



For more information on this app, contact Randy Loper at 662-325-3226.

Source: Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Feed expenditures for farm production in MS, AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, and SC are estimated to have been:**

- \$ 7.22 billion for 2008
- \$ 7.14 billion for 2009
- \$ 8.65 billion for 2010
- \$10.63 billion for 2011
- \$ 9.73 billion for 2012



*"...Feed costs represent the greatest single variable input cost on most Mississippi cattle operations."*

## The Systems Approach to Cattle Production

The systems approach to cattle production recognizes that interactions among numerous factors influence profitability of beef cattle enterprises. Genetics, management, and environment all affect input, output, and profit. The systems concept incorporates an awareness that there is more to consider in a beef cattle enterprise than simply the level of production. What is most important is the overall efficiency of the enterprise – in other words, net return. While the level of production is an important factor affecting profitability, costs of production are equally important.

The “systems” part of the concept implies that a beef operation is influenced by many components, all of which play a part in determining net return. These elements might be categorized in the following way: the physical environment; cattle biological type; mating systems; management practices; input costs; product prices; and market requirements. Typically, a beef production system is highly complex, both because of the large numbers of factors affecting the system and because of the high degree of interaction among them. For example, the management practice of creep feeding might be profitable for one type of cattle in one environment, given current feed costs and feeder cattle prices. Change the cattle, the environment, or the economics, however, and creep feeding may no longer be profitable.

The systems concept of beef production presents challenges to both commercial and seedstock producers. For the commercial cattleman, the challenge is to combine cattle and management alternatives in a way which maximizes net return. For the

seedstock producer, the challenge is to breed the kind of cattle which best fit the commercial production and marketing system. This implies breeding cattle for specific environments or purposes. One breeder may be producing cattle for the Corn Belt, another for the Arizona desert. One may specialize in bulls for first-calf heifers, another in terminal sires, and another in general-purpose cattle. All, however, can be breeders of “systems cattle.”

Because the seedstock breeder should be producing breeding animals with the commercial user in mind, the challenge for the seedstock producer is to determine what type of cattle fits the commercial customer’s production system and still produce a product that is acceptable and marketable to the consumer. The challenge for commercial producers is to find seedstock whose offspring will fit their production and marketing system.

The first step towards integrating the systems concept into a seedstock or commercial beef production system is to understand how components of the system might interact.

Interactions exist within any biological system. Noteworthy for beef cattle production systems are the interactions between animal genotypes and the production environment in which they are raised. Even more important are interactions in the production system that affect investment return and profit.

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

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*“...Cattle genotypes interact with the production environments in which the animals are raised.”*

**MSUBeefCattle**

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Send questions or comments to  
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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

## New Bull Designations to Help in Sire Selection at MBCIA Sales

Starting with the 2013 Mississippi 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:

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

Bulls meeting the expected progeny difference 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.

It is important to note that these designations do not affect eligibility of bulls to sell through MBCIA sales. The current bull sale qualification guidelines are still in effect. Bull buyers can be assured that all bulls marketed through MBCIA 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 MBCIA 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.

More information on these new bull designations will follow in the time leading up to the 2013 Mississippi BCIA Fall Bull and Heifer Sale. An educational seminar will be presented on the evening prior to this sale to explain and answer questions about this new bull selection assistance system.

## In the News...Beta Agonists

Beta agonists have been featured in the news recently. To learn more about beta agonists and their role in beef production, check out the American Society of Animal Science article, "What are beta agonists?"

<http://takingstock.asas.org/?p=9145>