

# BIF to Meet June 9-12 in Biloxi

Conference to focus on rebuilding the cow herd through genetic selection.

The 2015 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Meeting and Research Symposium will be June 9-12 at the Beau Rivage Hotel and Conference Center in Biloxi, Miss. The theme for this year's program is "Rebuilding a Cow Herd."

Co-hosted by the Mississippi State University Extension Service and the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association (MBCIA), registration for the event will start at noon June 9. Activities kick off with a 1 p.m. Young Producers Symposium. A welcome reception begins at 5 p.m. followed by the National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB) Symposium at 7 p.m.

The meeting will allow the research community and industry to meet and discuss issues surrounding the genetic improvement of beef cattle and for attendees to learn about technologies and management practices that can aid in the profitability of their operations.

On June 10, the meeting will start at 8 a.m. with a welcome and general session. Presentations and technical breakout sessions will follow through June 11. Attendees are

invited to participate in a spouses tour on June 10 and a producer tour on June 12.

Some of the topics to be covered include setting the stage for cow herd rebuilding, what sustainability means and why it matters, what sustainability data say about the beef industry, how current market incentives affect genetic selection, future profitability potential, balancing novel and proven applications for female selection, cow lifetime productivity, and an adaptability panel discussion.

A link to online registration for the conference is now available at <http://beefimprovement.org/library/registration-info>. Early registration is offered at a discounted rate and ends April 15. Early registration cost to attend the full conference is \$250. Day-only, student and media discount rates also are available. A room block is available at the

conference hotel; go online to <http://beefimprovement.org/library/>

*general-information* for room block instructions. The meeting is approved for 14

continuing education units (CEUs) for American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) members in attendance.

The BIF was formed more than 45 years ago to standardize beef cattle performance programs and evaluation methodology and to create greater awareness, acceptance and usage of

these concepts for the genetic improvement of beef cattle. It represents more than 40 state and national beef cattle associations. For more information about this year's event, contact Brandi Karisch, assistant Extension/research professor with Mississippi State University, at 662-325-7465 or [bkarisch@ads.msstate.edu](mailto:bkarisch@ads.msstate.edu).

