

BIF Meeting Is April 18-21

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The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) 2006 Annual Meeting is earlier than its typical summer schedule. The Magnolia State will host this year's event April 18-21 at the Pearl River Resort, Choctaw, Miss., to take advantage of cooler spring weather.

This year's meeting will be hosted by the Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association, the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association and the Mississippi State University (MSU) Extension Service.

The event will kick off with a BIF golf tournament scheduled for 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 18, at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club, Choctaw.

The Mississippi opening reception at the resort will begin at 6 p.m., which will be followed at 7:30 with a symposium sponsored by the Ultrasound Guidelines Council (UGC), titled "Basics of

Ultrasounding Beef Cattle for Genetic Improvement."

On Wednesday, spouses and families can opt to participate in the spouses/family tour to Meridian, Miss. After a short welcome, the conference begins with a general session, titled "Where do I as a Cow-Calf Producer Fit in Retail and Consumer Targets?" Tommy Brown, Clanton, Ala., will serve as moderator. Presentations will focus on identifying the 21st century beef consumer and how each industry segment can satisfy that consumer. Participants will also hear results of the 2005 National Beef Quality Audit (NBQA) and what challenges it reveals.

Wednesday's recognition luncheon will feature nominees for Seedstock Producer of the Year and Commercial Producer of the Year. After the luncheon, the Genetic Prediction Committee; Live Animal, Carcass and End

Point Committee; and Producer Applications Committee will each meet.

Attendees will be treated to a Southern-style supper and entertainment Wednesday evening at the Neshoba County Coliseum.

Thursday, April 20, MSU's Richard Watson will moderate the morning session: "Where Do I Fit with My Production Environment?" Presenters will define feed efficiency and its genetic components, then describe what tools are currently being developed to assist with genetic evaluation. Presenters will also focus on matching beef genetics to the environment and heterosis.

The annual meeting and elections for the board of directors will immediately precede the awards luncheon Thursday. During the luncheon, BIF will recognize its Seedstock Producer of the Year, Commercial Producer of the Year, Continuing Service Award winners, Pioneer Award winners and an Ambassador Award winner. Winners of the Frank Baker Memorial Scholarship Award will also be announced.

Thursday afternoon will feature meetings of the Cow Herd Efficiency Committee, the Emerging Technology Committee and the Selection Decisions Committee.

Friday's producer tour will begin with a visit to the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station at MSU. Lunch will be served at EE Ranches Inc., Winona, after which the tour will visit the Gaddis Farms, Bolton, and the Mississippi Ag Museum, Jackson. Dinner will be served at the museum.

A detailed schedule, travel and accommodations information, and a downloadable information form are available on the MSU Extension Service Web site at <http://msucare.com/livestock/beef/bif2006.html>. Information about BIF is available at www.beefimprovement.org. Angus Productions Inc. (API) will again provide online coverage of the event at www.bifconference.com.

For more information on BIF 2006, contact Jane Parish or Blair McKinley at the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences, MSU, Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762; (662) 325-7466 or (662) 325-3691; or jparish@ads.msstate.edu or bmckinley@ads.msstate.edu.

BIF 2006 Schedule of Events

Tuesday, April 18

- 10 a.m. Golf tournament
- 6 p.m. Mississippi Opening Reception
- 7:30 p.m. Basics of Ultrasounding Beef Cattle for Genetic Improvement

Wednesday, April 19

General session: *Where do I as a Cow-Calf Producer Fit in Retail and Consumer Targets?*

- 6:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 7 a.m. Spouses/family tour departs
- 8 a.m. Welcome comments
- 8:15 a.m. Identifying the 21st Century Beef Consumer — Kevin Murphy, Vance Publishing Corp.
- 9 a.m. How is the Retail Segment Going to Satisfy the 21st Century Beef Consumer? — Speaker to be announced
- 9:45 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. How do I Satisfy the 21st Century Beef Consumer?
 - A Cattle Feeder's Perspective — Tom Brink, Five Rivers Ranch Cattle Feeding
 - A Cattle Marketer's Perspective — Jackie Moore, Joplin Stockyards
- 11:15 a.m. 2005 National Beef Quality Audit Results: What are the Challenges for the Future of Beef Production? — Gary Smith, Colorado State University
- Noon Recognition luncheon
- 2 p.m. Committee meetings:
 - Genetic Prediction
 - Live Animal, Carcass and End Point
 - Producer Applications
- 5:30 p.m. Spouse/family tour arrives back at Pearl River Resort

- 6:30 p.m. Southern-style supper and entertainment

Thursday, April 20

General session: *Where do I Fit with My Production Environment?*

- 7 a.m. Breakfast
- 8 a.m. Defining Feed Efficiency — Gordon Carstens, Texas A&M University
- 8:30 a.m. Genetics of Feed Efficiency in Beef Cattle — Denny Crews, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- 9 a.m. Development of Feed Efficiency Genetic Evaluation and Decision Support — Dorian Garrick, Colorado State University
- 9:30 a.m. Break
- 10 a.m. Matching Beef Genetics with Production Environment — Tom Jenkins, USDA MARC
- 10:45 a.m. Heterosis: Ignored or Forgotten? — Speaker TBA
- 11:30 a.m. Annual meeting and director elections
- Noon Awards luncheon
- 2 p.m. Committee meetings
 - Cow Herd Efficiency
 - Emerging Technology
 - Selection Decisions
- Evening Supper on your own

Friday, April 21

- 7 a.m. Producer tour — Buses depart
- 8 a.m. Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, MSU
- 11 a.m. EE Ranches Inc., Winona, Miss. (lunch)
- 4 p.m. The Gaddis Farms, Bolton, Miss.
- 6 p.m. Mississippi Ag Museum, Jackson, Miss. (supper)