

# California Beef Rush 2009

An international Beef Improvement Conference is set for  
Sacramento, Calif., April 30-May 3, 2009.

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) will hold its annual research symposium and meetings in Sacramento, Calif., April 30-May 3, 2009. Topics for discussion at the "California Beef Rush 2009" will include beef cattle reproduction and beef cattle cost efficiency.

BIF works with cattle breeders to improve the science and technology applied by the beef industry with the purpose of improving production. More than 450 cattle breeders, commercial producers, university researchers and supporting businesses and organizations are expected to attend the four-day conference.

On Friday, May 1, the program will look at the value of genome selection in beef cattle reproduction with a panel of industry experts including Mike Goddard, chief scientist of the Beef CRC,

University of Melbourne, Australia; Dorian Garrick of Iowa State University (ISU); and Ben Brophy of Cargill Meat Solutions.

On Saturday, May 2, the program will focus on enhanced standards involving beef cattle cost efficiency.

Tom Field, representing the

National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) will moderate a panel of experts including Dave Daley, California State University, Chico; John Lawrence, ISU; Mike Smith of Harris Ranch Beef Co., California; and Chip Ramsey of Rex Ranch, Nebraska.

A preconference tour Thursday, April 30, will visit Five Star Land & Livestock, owned and operated by Mark and Abby Nelson; and Duane Martin and Son, one of the top 10 cow-calf operators in the United States. Participants will see a cutting horse demonstration at Rancho Murietta's equine facility and visit a winery.

The post-conference tour Sunday, May 3, will visit Drake's Bay Family Farm, which raises grass-fed beef and oysters, and Bodega Bay Marine Laboratory. Space for these tours is limited. Attendees are encouraged to register early to be included.

The conference will take place at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento, Calif. For registration and hotel information visit [www.calcattlemen.org/bif2009.html](http://www.calcattlemen.org/bif2009.html). The special BIF hotel rate at the Sheraton Hotel is \$139.00 per night, available only through April 3, 2009. Hotel reservations at this special group rate can be made online at [www.calcattlemen.org/bif2009/sheratongrandhotel.html](http://www.calcattlemen.org/bif2009/sheratongrandhotel.html).

Angus Productions Inc. (API) will provide online coverage of the event at [www.bifconference.com](http://www.bifconference.com). Visit the site now for a schedule, information about the tours and links to hotel and registration information. Visit the site after the meeting for summaries, PowerPoints, photo galleries, award winners and more.

For additional information or conference details you may also contact the organizing committee co-chairs Alison Van Eenennaam at 530-752-7942 or [alvane@ucdavis.edu](mailto:alvane@ucdavis.edu), or Terry Jochim at 916-709-2159 or [dustytrl@cattlemen.net](mailto:dustytrl@cattlemen.net).



**Editor's note:** This release was provided by the California Beef Cattle Improvement Association, 10492 East Lime Kiln Rd., Grass Valley, CA 95949-8103; 530-274-9543.

## 2009 BIF Symposium Tentative Schedule of Events

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Registration, Sheraton Grand Hotel

### THURSDAY, APRIL 30

6 a.m.-6 p.m. Registration, Sheraton Grand Hotel

7 a.m.-4 p.m. "Foothill bovines, equines and fine wines" tour (East Tour)

1 p.m.-4 p.m. BIF board meeting

5 p.m.-7 p.m. Welcome reception, sponsored by Pfizer Animal Genetics

7 p.m.-9 p.m. National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB) Symposium

Speakers:

▶ Bill Beal, Virginia Tech

▶ Herb Holzapfel, cattle producer, California

### FRIDAY, MAY 1

6 a.m.-6 p.m. Registration, Sheraton Grand Hotel

6 a.m.-8 a.m. Continental breakfast

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Historic Sacramento excursion tour (Spouse Tour)

8 a.m.-noon General Session: Is there Gold in those Genomes?

Speakers/Panelists:

▶ Mike Goddard, University of Melbourne and Victorian DPI

▶ Jerry Taylor, University of Missouri

▶ Dorian Garrick, Iowa State University

▶ Ben Brophy, Value-Added Alliances, Cargill Meat Solutions

▶ Kent Anderson, U.S. Beef Breeds Council

Noon-2 p.m. Buffet luncheon and awards presentation

2 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Technical keynote sessions, Sacramento Convention Center

6:30 p.m.-

10 p.m.

Winetasting and dinner at the California State Railroad Museum, sponsored by Igenity® and catered by the 2006 National Beef Backer Award winner Buckhorn Steak and Roadhouse, with award-winning California wines donated by the California State Fair

### SATURDAY, MAY 2

6 a.m.-noon Registration open, Sheraton Grand Hotel

6 a.m.-8 a.m. Continental breakfast

8 a.m.-noon General Session: Panning for Efficiency, moderated by Tom Field, NCBA

Beef Production in the New Era of Higher Prices and Costs: Do the Old Rules Apply? Speakers/Panelists:

▶ John Lawrence, Iowa State University

▶ Gordon Carstens, Texas A&M University

▶ Dave Daley, California State University

▶ Mike Smith, Harris Ranch Beef Co.

▶ Chip Ramsey, Rex Ranch, Nebraska

Noon-2 p.m. Buffet luncheon and awards presentation

2 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Technical keynote sessions, Sacramento Convention Center

### SUNDAY, MAY 3

7 a.m.-5 p.m. "Ocean, wines, views and bovines" tour (West Tour)