

# BIF Celebrates Ruby Anniversary



Celebrating 40 years of innovation, the Beef Improvement Federation meeting returns to its origins in Colorado June 6-9.



The 2007 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) annual meeting and research symposium is set for June 6-9 in Fort Collins, Colo. The meeting will be hosted by Colorado State University (CSU), the Colorado Livestock Association, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and BIF.

The inception of BIF in January 1967 was a day that would change the future of the cattle industry and lay the foundation for the creation of a business founded on the exchange and utilization of information. January traditionally was reserved for the National Western Stock Show (NWSS); but on this day, discussion was focused on the transformation of cattle selection from its historical focus on visual appraisal to a unified system of performance testing.

"This historic discussion started a revolutionary performance movement," says

Willie Altenburg, chairman of the Colorado BIF convention. "This group, still in its infancy, enabled producers to practically apply scientific efforts as a way of improving beef cattle globally, creating a more profitable product."

"Forty years ago a group of visionary cattle producers and scientists changed the industry by formalizing a plan to bring objective measurement to the selection of cattle," says Tom Field, CSU animal sciences professor and one of the 2007 convention organizers. "Looking back at the last 40 years worth of production and innovation, the tie can be made between the improvements made and the visionary plan set into motion on that day. Now, 40 years later and back in the Centennial State, we have an opportunity to chart a new course. This opportunity comes once in a lifetime, and there isn't a cattle producer in the country that should miss it."

With deep appreciation for the efforts of so many to promote and advance the cause of beef improvement as well as a conviction that the very best for the cattle industry lies in the future, Colorado's beef cattle producers and scientists extend an invitation to return to the state's majestic mountains and plains for the 40th anniversary of the birth of BIF.

CNN's *Money Magazine* has named the convention's hosting site, Fort Collins, the 2006 Great American Town. The spouse/family tour will explore the mountain town of Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park.

A tentative schedule accompanies this article. For additional program details and registration information, visit [www.beefimprovement.org](http://www.beefimprovement.org). Angus Productions Inc. (API) will provide real-time coverage of the event at [www.bifconference.com](http://www.bifconference.com).



**Editor's Note:** This release provided by BIF.

## Tentative schedule for the 2007 Beef Improvement Federation Annual Meeting and Research Symposium, Fort Collins, Colo.

The program for the general sessions listed below provides opportunity for producers to guide the future of genetic evaluation and genetic improvement of the U.S. beef herd. During these sessions audience input will be gathered.

### Wednesday, June 6

- 5 p.m. **Welcome Reception**
- 7-8:30 p.m. **National Association of Animal Breeders Symposium**
  - ▶ 40 Years of Beef Artificial Insemination (AI), Robert Walton, former ABS President
  - ▶ Making Money with Commercial AI, Tim Sutkin

### Thursday, June 7

- 8-8:15 a.m. **Introductions and welcome to Colorado**
- 8:15-8:45 a.m. **A Look Back at BIF History**
  - ▶ A.L. (Ike) Eller Jr., Extension animal scientist, emeritus, Virginia Tech
- 8:45-8:55 a.m. **Introduction to Audience Input**
- Performance Programs at a Crossroads**
  - ▶ Tom Field, Colorado State University
- 8:55-9:30 a.m. **Genetic Improvement and Who Benefits, at What Cost and Who Pays?**
  - ▶ Kent Andersen, executive vice president, North American Limousin Foundation
- 9:30-10:10 a.m. **Are Beef Genetics Research, Education and Extension Relevant?**
  - ▶ Ronnie Green, USDA-ARS
  - ▶ Producer to be determined
- 10:10-10:40 a.m. **Break**
- 10:40-10:50 a.m. **What is Your Approach to Genetic Improvement?**
  - ▶ Audience participation moderated by Tom Field
- 10:50-11:35 a.m. **Roundtable Discussion: Does the Seedstock Industry Focus on the Needs of the Commercial Cow-Calf Producer?**
  - ▶ Moderator: Ron Bolze, director of commercial marketing, Red Angus Association of America
  - ▶ Mark Gardiner, Gardiner Angus Ranch, Ashland, Kan.
  - ▶ Steve Radakovich, Radakovich Cattle Co., Earlham, Iowa
  - ▶ Mike Kasten, Kasten Ranch, Millersville, Mo.
  - ▶ Chip Ramsey, Rex Ranch, Ashby, Neb.

- 11:35-11:50 a.m. **Defining the Ideal Beef Animal. How Will We Get There?**
  - ▶ Tom Field
- 11:50 a.m.-2 p.m. **Lunch**
  - ▶ Presentations of Frank Baker, Continuing Service and Commercial Producer awards
- 2-5 p.m. **Committee Meetings**
  - ▶ Live Animal, Carcass and End Product
  - ▶ Selection Decisions
  - ▶ Genetic Prediction

### Friday, June 8 — Challenges to Conventional Wisdom

- 8-8:10 a.m. **Outline of first day's audience input**
  - ▶ Tom Field
- 8:10-8:25 a.m. **Can We Build the Ideal Beef Animal?**
  - ▶ Darrh Bullock, University of Kentucky
- 8:25-9:15 a.m. **Users of Technology — Quality Grade: Why Haven't We Seen an Improvement in Quality Grade?**
  - ▶ Dan Moser, Kansas State University, a genetic improvement perspective
  - ▶ Pete Anderson, vice president of sales and technical services, VetLife, an environmental perspective
- 9:15-9:45 a.m. **Are There Sacrifices in the Chase for Carcass Merit?**
  - ▶ Bob Weaber, University of Missouri—Columbia
- 9:45-10:15 a.m. **Break**
- 10:15-11 a.m. **Users of Technology — Are There Benefits to Using These DNA Markers?**
  - ▶ User of the technology to be determined
  - ▶ Jerry Taylor, University of Missouri, academic perspective
- 11 a.m. to noon **Pioneer and Seedstock Awards, President's address**
- Noon to 12:30 **BIF Board Elections**
- 12:30-2 p.m. **Lunch**
- 2-5 p.m. **Committee Meetings**
  - ▶ Cow Herd Efficiency and Adaptability
  - ▶ Producer Applications
  - ▶ Emerging Technology