Make Plans to Attend the Annual 4-State Beef Conference

Area cattlemen should mark the evening of Tuesday, January 29, 2013 on their calendars and make plans to attend the annual 4-State Beef Conference. This year the Missouri session will be held at the Hammer Memorial United Methodist Church in King City. The program will run from 5:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Cost to attend is $20 and includes a beef supper and proceedings. In order to make accurate meal preparations, registration is requested to the Gentry County Extension office at 660-726-5610 by January 25. Topics and speakers include:

“Genetic Improvement of Beef Cattle Feed Efficiency”—Speaker from the US Consortium for the Genetic Improvement of Feed Efficiency in Beef Cattle

“Engaging Consumers in a Beef Conversation”—Daren Williams, Executive Director of Communications, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association

“Beef Industry Update and Outlook”—Todd Kalous, Market Analyst, CattleFax

For more information, contact your livestock specialist or local MU Extension office.

This Year is Letter “A”

We hope most of you have a system of recording calves at birth that indicates birth year, birth order and then matches the calf to its dam. For 2013, the international letter designation for birth year is “A”. This system is easy to use in conjunction with numbers. For example, A001 and A002 might be used to indicate the first and second calf born in the year 2013. Each year has a different letter designation and the letters I, O, Q and V are not used.

How Do I Participate in the Show-Me-Select Heifer Program?

For spring-born heifers you need to enroll in the program by February 1, 2013. You must also become a member of Show-Me-Select, Inc. by paying a $5 membership fee. This can be accomplished by contacting the regional coordinator for northwest Missouri, Jim Humphrey, at 816-324-3147. Purchased heifers must be owned for sixty days prior to breeding. There are specific vaccination requirements for weaning, pre-breeding, and pregnancy check time. Pre-breeding exams should be conducted six weeks prior to breeding. The initial pregnancy check should be performed within ninety days of the start of the breeding season. Service sires must meet EPD requirements for birth weight or calving ease. This year there was not a sale for the northwest/north central Missouri region. However, heifers that participate in the program in our area may be eligible to be marketed in other sales throughout the state (provided that sale is agreeable) if a sale is not held in this area in 2013.
This Might Be the Time to Consider the Show-Me-Select Heifer Program

The demand for high quality, reproductively-sound replacement heifers seems to be increasing. Rainfall in our area is going to be a big factor in demand, but we all agree that given low cow numbers prices for replacements may get really high in the near future. Many producers are choosing to purchase their replacement heifers instead of raise them. Heifers enrolled in Show-Me-Select participate in a year-round management program. Regional extension livestock specialists and local veterinarians work together on pre-breeding exams, vaccinations, parasite control, confirming pregnancy, and ensuring producers are utilizing bulls that meet specific criteria. Heifers in the program can be bred utilizing natural service sires or artificial insemination.

Most of the heifers enrolled in the Show-Me-Select program are non-registered and most never leave the home farm. They are kept as replacements by the producer or marketed directly off the farm. However, several go through Show-Me-Select replacement heifer sales located throughout the state. This year’s sale averages were $2097 at Palmyra, $2200 at Fruitland, $1953 at Kingsville and $1974 at Joplin.

What weed is this?

We receive this question many times throughout the year in every extension office in the region. If you are “tech savvy” you may want to check out a new app that is available from MU Extension. James Meng, a programmer for MU Extension has developed an app that has more than 400 plant species that could be encountered as weeds in crop fields, pastures, lawns, gardens or aquatic areas in Missouri and surrounding states. ID Weeds is compatible with iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad running iOS 5.1 or later and devices running Android 2.2 or later. To download:

iPhone and other iOS devices: [itunes.apple.com/app/id559906313](https://itunes.apple.com/app/id559906313)
Android: search for “ID Weeds” at [play.google.com/store](https://play.google.com/store)

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