Pearls of Production: Women in Agriculture Conference

The second annual Pearls of Production: Women in Agriculture Conference is set for November 7 and 8 at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Columbia, MO. This two-day program is designed to provide a leadership and hands-on opportunity for women in livestock production in Missouri and reach women who are playing larger roles and making key decisions in livestock production on the farm.

The first day will include discussions about several hot topics in animal agriculture, including: GMO’s, meat labeling, farm safety and assuming leadership in a man’s world. The evening will end with dinner and a message from the keynote speaker, Tyne Morgan, host of “US Farm Report”. On the second day, participants will choose a morning and afternoon session from discipline interests in swine, beef, small ruminants, forages and business management. During both sessions, women will have hands-on experiences related to the field of interest.

Visit [http://muconf.missouri.edu/womenandagriculture/](http://muconf.missouri.edu/womenandagriculture/) to register and find more information.

Make Plans to attend the annual Beef Producers Seminar

Area beef producers are encouraged to attend the 2014 Beef Producers Seminar on Thursday, November 13, at the St. Peter Catholic Church Parish Hall in Stanberry, MO. Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. and the actual program will start at 6:00 p.m. Cost to attend the event is $20 per person and does include a beef dinner.

Dr. Jason Nickell with Bayer Animal Health and a native of Stanberry will be discussing “Replacement Heifers - Modeling for Success”. Following dinner, Dr. Don Bliss, veterinary parasitologist and consultant for the pharmaceutical industry, will discuss “The Most Practical De-worming Strategies for Your Operation”. Area agricultural businesses and organizations will have booths set up at the meeting for attendees to visit before, during and after the program. The Beef Producers Seminar is a cooperative effort of University of Missouri Extension and the Missouri Cattlemen’s Association, and is sponsored by University of Missouri Extension and the American Angus Association.

For more information or to pre-register (which is requested for an accurate meal count), please contact the Andrew County MU Extension Center at 816-324-3147 or Jim Humphrey at humphreyjr@missouri.edu. Pre-registration is requested by November 10. If you need any special accommodations due to a disability, or if you need materials in an alternative format, please contact us before November 7.

Don’t Forget to Body Condition Score Cows this Fall

Now is a great time to take a hard look at your cows and body condition score them. Most producers have or will be weaning calves shortly. After weaning, spring-calving cows have an opportunity to improve body condition due to lowered maintenance requirements. A good strategy is to sort cows into groups based on body condition scores. Thin cows can be supplemented or moved to better fall pastures in order to get their condition to a desired level prior to calving. Cows and heifers that calve in good condition have healthier calves, fewer calving problems and higher breed back percentages.
What is pasture currently renting for?

Pasture rental rates tend to vary by county. There is also a great deal of differences in pasture types...fencing, water, improvements, etc. One thing is for sure, pasture rental rates have increased quite a bit over the past few years due to an increase in the amount of pasture being converted into row-crop production. This has caused less pasture in the area being available to rent. Our agriculture business specialists can help you find out what pasture rental rates are on average for your specific county.