

For Immediate Release

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Country Music Legend Featured at Grazing Conference

By Gene Schmitz, MU Extension Livestock Specialist

Winter is a good time to get updates on grazing management and learn how different management techniques might be incorporated into existing livestock operations. The Mid-Missouri Grazing Conference is one such place to get new ideas and updates on issues surrounding grazing livestock operations.

This year, our featured keynote speaker is Teddy Gentry. Mr. Gentry is the bass player for the legendary country music band, Alabama. His topic will be "My Experiences in the Beef Cattle Industry: Grazing Systems, Breeding Systems, and Composite Breed Development". Bent Tree Farms, located near Fort Payne, AL is home to the South Poll composite breed of cattle developed from Red Angus, Hereford, Senepol and Barzona genetics. These cattle are bred for the high heat and humidity of the Southeastern United States. Fertility, longevity, and carcass quality are characteristics that are being emphasized in these cattle. Mr. Gentry will share his insights into breeding cattle to fit the environmental conditions of the Southeastern U.S. along with how grazing management has benefitted his beef cattle operation.

This year's grazing conference will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. The day begins at 8:00 a.m. with registration and time to visit with vendors. The first break-out sessions begins at 9:00. Topics and speakers include: Pasture Renovation by Dr. Rob Kallenbach, MU Extension State Forage Specialist; Genetics for Feed Efficiency by Ken Abele, manager of Green Springs Bull Test; Native Grasses 101 by Dr. Pat Keyser, Coordinator for the Center of Native Grasslands Management at the University of Tennessee; and Restocking Economics by Wesley Tucker, MU Extension Ag Business Specialist.

The second break-out sessions begin at 10:10. Topics and speakers include: Management Intensive Grazing 101 by Mark Kennedy, NRCS State Grassland Conservationist; Pasture Weed and Brush Control by Dr. Kevin Bradley, MU Extension State Weed Specialist; Alternative Forages by Gene Schmitz, MU Extension Livestock Specialist; and Cover Crops by Doug Peterson, NRCS State Soil Health Conservationist.

The third set of morning break-out sessions begin at 11:20. Talks from the first break-out session will be repeated during this time.

Lunch will be served beginning at 12:30 p.m. and the afternoon sessions begin at 1:00 p. m. Mr. Gentry will be our featured speaker for the afternoon. The second afternoon session is a central Missouri producer panel who will discuss "How We Managed Our Grazing Systems During the 2012 Drought and What We'll Change for 2013". Producers Harry Cope, Matt Boatright and Doug Peterson will share their grazing experiences during the 2012 drought and discuss lessons learned for use in future years.

Registration includes a noon buffet, refreshments and conference proceedings. Advanced registration is \$50 per individual or \$85 per couple and is due by February 22, 2013. Registration will also be taken at the door and is \$85 per individual or \$120 per couple. Special pricing is available for high school or college students.

Registration should be sent to: Cole County SWCD, 1911 Boggs Creek Road, Jefferson City, MO 65101 and checks should be payable to: Cole County SWCD. More information can be obtained by contacting Ed Gillmore or Peggy Lemons at (573) 893-5188 extension 3 or the MMGC website at <http://extension.missouri.edu/grazingconf/home.aspx>.

This program is sponsored by MU Extension, Lincoln University, USDA-NRCS, SWCD Districts in central Missouri and the Missouri Department of Conservation. University of Missouri Extension is an equal opportunity / ADA institution.