



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Headline: Country Music Legend Featured at Grazing Conference

WARSAW, Mo. –

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, bass player for the legendary country music band, Alabama. He was scheduled to speak at last year's conference, but had to cancel at the last minute for personal reasons. We invited him back this year, and he has accepted the invitation. 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, January 30, 2014 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: Grazing Basics, Fence and Water Systems by Mark Kennedy, NRCS Missouri State Grazinglands Specialist; Neonatal Care by Dr. Pamela Fry, MU College of Veterinary Medicine; Establishing Native Grasses by Dr. Pat Keyser, Coordinator for the Center of Native Grasslands Management at the University of Tennessee; and Grazing Cover Crops by Rich Hoormann, MU Extension Agronomy Specialist.

The second break-out sessions begin at 10:10. Topics and speakers include: Estate Planning by Dr. Vern Pierce, MU Extension Associate Professor in Agriculture and Applied Economics; Grass Fed Beef by Chris Boeckmann, Boeckmann Family Farms; Brush Control with Small Ruminants by Dr. Charlotte Clifford-Rathert, State Small Ruminant Extension Specialist at Lincoln University; and Cost-Share Opportunities by Melinda Barch, NRCS District Conservationist and Drew Parmley, FSA County Executive Director.

The third set of morning break-out sessions begin at 11:20. Topics and speakers include: Grazing Basics Question and Answer by Mark Kennedy; Managing Native Grasses by Dr. Pat Keyser; Ag / Livestock Apps by Kent Shannon, MU Extension Natural Resource Engineering Specialist; and a repeat of Grazing Cover Crops by Rich Hoormann.

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 "Selection and Management of Beef Replacement Females in Forage-Based Systems". Producers include Dr. Bruce Shanks of Belle, MO, Dennis McDonald of Galt, MO, and Greg Marlay of Edwards, MO.

Registration includes a noon buffet, refreshments and conference proceedings. Advanced registration is \$50 per individual or \$85 per couple and is due by January 24, 2014. 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.