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livestock specialists.....



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#### DATES TO

#### REMEMBER:

- August 8-18—Missouri State Fair, Sedalia
- August 21—North Missouri Grazing Group Day Trip, Linneus
- August 22—Brome Management School at the MU Graves-Chapple Research Center, Corning
- August 27—MU Graves-Chapple Research Center Field Day, Corning
- August 28—MU Hundley-Whaley Research Center Field Day, Albany
- September 17—MU Thompson Farm Field Day, Spickard
- September 25-26—Grazing School, Weston

## Grazing School Offered at Green Dirt Farm, Weston, Missouri

The Natural Resources Conservation Service and University of Missouri Extension will present a seminar on managing livestock grazing and forages on September 25-26 near Weston. The session will feature a unique opportunity to visit Green Dirt Farm, an operation managing forages for sheep. Green Dirt Farm processes milk from sheep into cheese and yogurt and finishes lambs for direct marketing. The owners of the farm live and farm based on these principles:

- No use of synthetic chemicals, hormones or unnecessary antibiotics.
- They don't use pesticides or herbicides on their pastures.
- They practice management-intensive grazing by moving their animals to new pastures every 24 hours.
- They actively promote the return of indigenous, soil-building plant species to their pastures.
- They have and use numerous renewable energy sources on the farm, including passive solar, active solar, wind electricity generation and solar hot water.
- They avoid synthetic petrochemical fertilizers on the farm by having the animals naturally fertilize pastures through rotational grazing, and by spreading composted wastes and whey on the pastures.
- They limit the use of fossil fuels on the farm by having the animals harvest their own feed through grazing, rather than harvesting the feed with a tractor.
- They carefully monitor and manage their flock to select for healthy animals that have important traits for good health, disease and parasite resistance and high-quality milk.
- They benefit from state-of-the-art efficiency in terms of insulation, water- and electricity-saving appliances, and a state-of-the-art waste water treatment septic system that was installed when building the farm. These systems help to conserve resources and protect the water shed in which the farm is located.
- The owners believe that their customers have the right to know everything about what goes into their food and how it was produced. Please visit their web site (<http://www.greendirtfarm.com/>).

This session will be held Wednesday and Thursday running from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days. The sessions offer the chance to exchange information on topics such as: the art and science of grazing management, evaluation of farm resources, economics of grazing management, livestock nutrition, grazing system layout and design, pasture growth, forages, soil fertility, fence and water systems, winter feeding of stockpiled forages, and no winter feeding. The "tuition" will be \$100 to \$130 per person with an additional fee for late registration. The tuition covers the costs of the seminars including mileage reimbursement for instructors, meals, refreshments, on-farm tour of equipment, fence and water system demonstration, materials and the following references: Missouri Grazing Manual, Forages and Weeds of Pastures, and a grazing stick. You also receive these free publications: Electric Fencing for Serious Graziers, and Watering Systems for Serious Graziers. Registration at each event is limited to 30 people. Contact your local NRCS office or Curtis Walker with the Natural Resources Conservation Service at 816-232-6555 extension 139 or at [curt.walker@mo.usda.gov](mailto:curt.walker@mo.usda.gov).



**KSU Focus on Feedlots Report**

Kansas State University Extension recently released their June 2013 closeout information in their latest Focus on Feedlots report which includes data from ten different Kansas feedlots. The 29,436 steers averaged 1364 pounds, 153 days on feed, 3.70 average daily gain, 5.76 feed/gain dry basis, 1.75% death loss and \$119.95 average cost of gain. The 26,504 heifers averaged 1238 pounds, 147 days on feed, 3.34 average daily gain, 6.02 feed/gain dry basis, 2.16% death loss, and \$126.87 average cost of gain.

**Gentry County Cattlemen’s Trip**

On August 1, thirty-nine north-west Missouri cattlemen and women made a day-trip to Iowa and had the opportunity to see several different agriculturally related operations. The group is pictured to the right at Hawkeye Breeders near Adel, IA. Here we toured their custom semen collection facility and are pictured in front of one of their bull barns. In addition to Hawkeye, participants visited the John-Deere Des Moines Works plant in Ankeny and the Iowa State University veterinary college in Ames. We were fortunate to have State Representative Casey Guernsey join us for the day. As a side note, Casey is a Gentry County Cattlemen’s and Missouri Cattlemen’s Association member and a strong supporter of agriculture and rural Missouri. He shared with us an update on what has been going on at the capitol and some upcoming challenges that they are facing related to agricultural issues. Not all of the participants were from Gentry County and not all were cattlemen’s association members. However, after attending they saw the benefit in becoming a member of a local and state group. If you have an active county cattlemen’s association in your county, we would encourage membership. If not, start one. There is strength in numbers!



**??Question of the Week??**

***My pastures are really weedy this year. Any suggestions on what I can do?***

It really is no surprise that we are seeing quite a bit of weed encroachment in pastures in our area. As we all know, last year’s drought was hard on everything. Many pastures in the area were overgrazed which resulted in weakened and thinned stands allowing weeds an even greater than normal opportunity to grow. There are things you can do which include chemical and mechanical control and even grazing management. Contact your extension agronomist for a more detailed control plan.

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