



# NEWS



10820 Hwy. 21, P.O. Box 497 • Hillsboro, MO 63050 • (636) 797-5391 • Fax: (636) 797-5059

## 52<sup>nd</sup> Southeast Missouri All-Breed Performance Tested

## Bull Sale March 28<sup>th</sup>

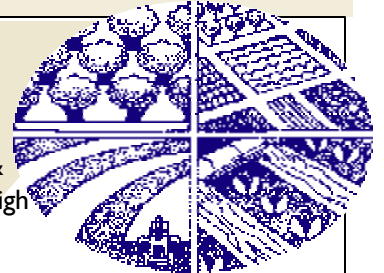


I drive a 1983 Chevy pickup with over 300,000 miles on it and to tell the truth, it looks more like it has a million miles on it! I keep telling myself that it's just as good as a new one. The truth is that I'm only fooling myself! In today's cattle industry, if you are using bulls without performance records and EPD information, you're kind of like me with my old pickup. Matter of fact, the more information you can get, the better bull buying decision you can make. Therefore, the Southeast Missouri All-Breed Performance Tested Bull Sale is a great place to improve your herd. There really is no other place where you can get that much information that you need in a user friendly way. If you have questions, there are Extension Livestock Specialists available to help you with your decisions. The spring sale will be held at the Fruitland

*(continued on page 2)*

## Soils & Crops Invitation Enclosed !!

Consider these features at the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Soils & Crops Conference, at 6:30 pm at the Hillsboro High School, 123 Leon Hall Drive, Hillsboro



- ✓ **Fertilizing Pastures** – How to get the most for your fertilizer dollar!
- ✓ **Promoting Quail Habitat** – Learn about a new Missouri Department of Conservation Program to increase quail populations on your farm!
- ✓ **Appearance by the Missouri State Honey Queen, Hannah Nelson**
- ✓ **Bread Making Recipes** – Come sample new recipes that make bread baking easy
- ✓ **Filter Strips** – There are many benefits for installing filter strips on your farm. Find out about them as well as cost share programs to help fund them
- ✓ **Gardening Tips** – Tim Horton, Extension Horticulture Specialist talks about gardening
- ✓ **Beef Marketing Programs** – Learn about options for cooperating with others to add value to your beef calves.
- ✓ **El Nino** – what is it and how does it affect Jefferson County weather.
- ✓ **Annual Meeting of the Jefferson County Soil Water Conservation District**
- ✓ **Jefferson County Farm Family** – See a slide presentation of the farming operation of Paul and Eileen Fricke.
- ✓ **Good Food and lots of it!!!** A scheduling conflict will prevent the Cattlemen's Association from cooking steaks, but prepare yourself to feast on a variety like you have never seen before at our Soils and Crops Conference!

**Remember, you must register to attend.** Don't miss the Jefferson County Social Event of the Year, the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Soils and Crops Conference!

## Vegetable Planting Calendar is the Source for Gardening Information

Every year you hear the same story about someone who gets a little carried away with vegetable gardening. A bumper crop turns into a nightmare! The kids take green bean sandwiches to school. The car parks in the driveway, because the garage is filled with canned green beans. Even your best invitation to your neighbors to attend

your barbecue is turned down, because they know that before the evening is over, you'll have everyone sitting around snapping green beans!

Perhaps a little planning is in order when it comes to gardening. Just as important as seed, a sharp hoe, or that new Troy-Bilt rotor tiller, is the guidesheet

*(continued on page 3)*

## DEAR FRIEND,

This is your personal invitation for you and your family to attend the 79th Annual Jefferson County Soils and Crops Conference and Annual Meeting of the Soil & Water Conservation District. This year's Conference will be held on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Hillsboro High School, 123 Leon Hall Drive, Hillsboro. Registration is at 5:00 p.m. with the program beginning at 6:30 p.m. Highlights of the 2002 Conference include:

**NEW MINI-SESSIONS** - Topics for this year's Conference are bread making recipes, quail habitat, El Nino, Beekeeping and Honey Products, Fertilizing Pastures, Filter Strips, Gardening Tips, and Beef Marketing Programs

**GREAT DISPLAYS** - As always, many area businesses will showcase their products and services.

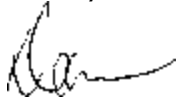
**JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM FAMILY** - Paul and Eileen Fricke will be recognized as the County's 2003 farm family. They will share slides of their farming operation near Festus.

**GOOD FOOD AND PLENTY OF IT!!!!**

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** by returning the attached form or by calling 797-5391 by **MARCH 25<sup>th</sup>**. Please fill in the number attending to assist us with the meal count. This year we are asking for a donation of \$5.00 per head to help offset the cost of the conference. Children under 12 will get in free.

For good food, interesting displays, useful information, and FUN, make plans to attend the Jefferson County Social Event of the Year, the 79th Annual Jefferson County Soils and Crops Conference.

Sincerely,



Dean Wilson  
Agriculture Specialist

## 52<sup>nd</sup> Southeast Missouri All-Breed Performance Tested



## Bull Sale March 28<sup>th</sup>

(continued from front page)

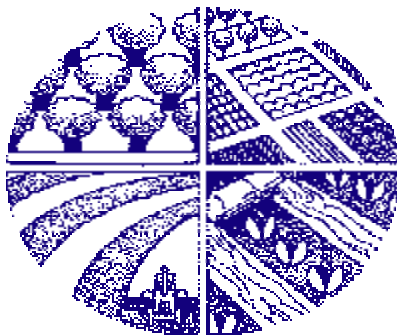
Livestock Auction on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The bulls offered for sale are as follows:

	205 day weight	365 day weight
43 Angus	670	1246
8 Charolais	681	1183
2 Polled Hereford	646	1080
5 Simmental	681	1182

I have a FEW catalogs with the information or you can access it at:



Remember that a bull provides half the genetics for your herd.



## 79th Annual Soils & Crops Registration Form

We appreciate your interest and support for the 79th Annual Jefferson County Soils & Crops Conference. Please select one of the following registration choices and return to the Extension office by March 25th.

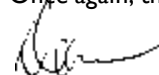
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Return the registration form and pay \$5.00 per person.

\_\_\_\_\_ Call the Extension Center at (636) 797-5391 to reserve your place and pay \$5.00 per person at the door.

Remember, registration begins at 5:00 P.M. with the meal served promptly at 6:30 P.M. Once again, thank you for your support.



Dean Wilson  
Agriculture Specialist

# Don't Forget Cross Breeding

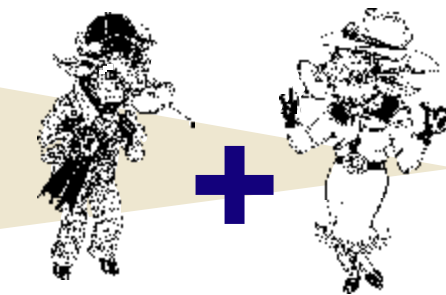
Eldon Cole,  
Extension Livestock Specialist

Cross Breeding is a very basic and valuable practice in farm animal production. The extra kick received from crossing two unrelated breeds gives the hybrid vigor or heterosis that improves cattle, swine, poultry or sheep performance for several economically important traits. For beef cattle it can mean a 20 percent increase in lifetime productivity of a crossbred cow.

Until the '60's crossbreeding in beef cattle was not popular. Then it became the thing to do. In the last 10 years it appears to have slowed in popularity as producers are using one breed more in their crossing system.

Jim Gosey, beef specialist in Nebraska put together an interesting talk for the 4-State Beef Conference recently and I'd like to share some of his thoughts with you.

"Many cattle are black. Many black cattle are Angus. Many Angus cattle have excellent marbling. Thus, the perception is that all black cattle have excellent marbling and excellent carcasses. Although the



logic is faulty, this perception has become reality, particularly when cattle are sold live as weaned calves or feeder cattle. Color has become the most common descriptor used to market cattle sold live," Jim wrote in the proceedings.

After he looked at the various crossing systems and the breed makeup, he stated that we've had about 20 breeds contribute to the U.S. beef cattle gene pool since crossbreeding took hold. However, only eight of the breeds are currently major contributors to the breed composition of the commercial beef industry. The breeds he included were: Angus, Brahman, Charolais, Gelbvieh, Hereford, Limousin, Red Angus and Simmental. These breeds, he said, have larger populations and viable genetic databases which are necessary prerequisites to effect genetic improvement.

Jim wrapped up his comments with this statement. "Most commercial cows of the future will have at least 50 percent of



maximum F1 hybrid vigor as a result of crossing only two or three mostly British breeds. This cow will likely be at least 1/2 Angus or Red Angus with no more than 1/4 Continental breeding if in a program that produces yearlings for grazing but may have up to 1/2 Continental if her progeny are placed directly on feed post-weaning. Feeder cattle will be the product of at least two generations of known genetics (including carcass merit) and sired by bulls with linkage to comprehensive databases. The stone-age practice of allowing the price of cattle to be influenced by coat color will continue only until such generic cattle are replaced by genetically sourced cattle that will be priced on factors that relate to their true profit potential.

## Vegetable Planting Calendar . . .

(continued from front page)

"Vegetable Planting Calendar". The calendar not only tells you when various garden crops should be planted, but gives you the approximate amount needed for one person, the amount of seed, the spacings between plants and rows, the depth to plant, and days from planting to eating. And those of us that are health conscience, the guide even lists the vitamin A and C content.

Ever wonder what variety of eggplant grows well in this area? (I know that I lose a lot of sleep considering



that question!) The guide tells us that Black Bell is a good variety and that it has a deep purple, attractive fruit! (Now I'll sleep easier!) The Vegetable Planting Guide lists popular varieties of all the vegetables commonly grown in the garden as well as characteristics of those varieties. The varieties represented in the guide represent the "cream of the crop", based on yield, quality, and disease resistance.

So, while you are making preparations to garden, order that important gardening tool, the planting guide. Call the Extension Center at 636-797-5391 and ask for guide **G6201**, "Vegetable Planting Calendar".

## Choir Practice

Choir members few began to show,  
Some venture out in deep snow.

Clearing their voice ready to sing,  
Should be a complete choir come spring.

Some will make a sour off-key note,  
As they practice to clear their throat.  
Everyday they accumulate a few,  
As snow and frost mornings turn to dew.

Practice makes perfect as they sing along,  
A full choir makes for a beautiful song.  
There are choirs that sings many thing,  
Listen for the one that sings, early spring.

Mixed voices birds, frogs, all wild things,  
Blending their voices to the coming spring.  
Listen will receive a lift, One of Gods free gifts.

Red James  
Cedar Hill - 2/27/03



# Short Rows

If you are a landscape professional, you might want to attend a special conference at University of Missouri- St. Louis on April 1<sup>st</sup>. "Landscaping with Native Plants" teaches landscapers how to use common native plants in landscape settings. The charge is \$85. Call me for details.



There was a special town meeting in Ladue last week to discuss coyotes. It seems that this affluent suburb has been overrun with coyotes, which apparently are moving to Ladue to share in the opulent life style. Evidently, the town meeting was called to decide what should be done with the coyotes. I think I know how to solve the problem. Drop an anvil on them. The roadrunner has been doing it for years!?!?!

I wanted to write an article about the Country of Origin Labeling bill, COOL, which is scheduled to go into effect on September 30, 2004. The bill, which designates that meat must be labeled as to the country in which it is produced, has generated a ton of controversy. Many believe

that mandatory identification of beef cattle is the next step. This all leaves lots of questions on just how this would be done. As soon as I understand more, I'll pass it on to you.

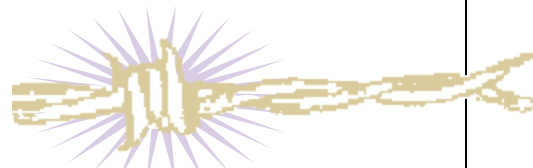


The Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District, along with the Franklin and Washington County Districts, is sponsoring a tour of the University's Wurdack Farm in Steelville in early June. More on that to come at a later date.



Did you ever have one of those days? I'm sure that something will be lost in the telling of the story, but Jim Stewart of De Soto had "one of those days"! He was using his skid steer loader on his farm when the steering on one side quit working. Well, as you can imagine, it's hard to drive in a straight line with only right side steering. Jim

decided that a little thing like no steering wouldn't stop him, so he proceeded to work his way until he got the skid steer up against the fence. Only then did he stop to work on it. He soon realized that the part he needed to try and fix was on the side that was against the fence! He managed to crawl between the machine and the barbwire and started to work.



Accidentally, he pushed the lever the wrong way and it pinned him against the barbwire, just tight enough that he couldn't get out and that he could just feel the barbs in his back. Finally, realizing that there was no one around that could give him a hand, he crawled through the fence nearly tearing off his clothes and scratching himself up real good. I asked him why he didn't just wait until his family came looking for him before trying to get out. He replied, "I had just paid the bills and I was afraid they wouldn't notice I was gone until next month!?!?"



**Dean Wilson**  
Agriculture Specialist

