



NEWS



OUTREACH & EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

Courthouse, 300 Main Street, P.O. Box 497 • Hillsboro, MO 63050 • (636) 797-5391 • Fax: (636) 797-5059

Mandatory ID of Cattle Appears Closer



Many of you attended the January Cattlemen's meeting where we discussed electronic identification and the proposed mandatory identification plan for cattle. Since then Congress has proposed a one-time \$175 million expenditure for mandatory identification of cattle. The momentum for a national ID system has picked up and there appears to be very few opponents, fueled by the recent BSE case. The National Cattlemen's Association, along with most breed associations supports the idea. The framework for national identification is the United States Animal Identification Plan, (USAIP), released in October of 2003. For those of you that did not attend the meeting, the following is a **brief** sketch of the work plan:

- 1) The goal of the plan is to achieve a trace back system that can identify all animals and premises potentially exposed to an animal with a foreign animal disease within 48 hours after discovery.
- 2) All farms will be assigned a premises or farm number.

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Dear Friend,

This is your personal invitation for you and your family to attend the 80th Annual Jefferson County Soils and Crops Conference. This year's Conference will be held on Saturday, March 20th at the Hillsboro High School, 123 Leon Hall Parkway, in Hillsboro. Registration is at 5:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 6:30 pm. Highlights of the 2004 Conference include:

NEW MINI-SESSIONS – Perhaps the best mini-sessions ever!!!! Joy Stinger, featured in the Post, will demonstrate how to make beeswax candles. Andy Knuz, MU Meteorology Graduate Student, will discuss weather forecasting. We also have sessions on novel endophyte fescue, garden pests, effect of delayed castration in cattle, conservation, cost-share programs, solid waste and recycling, and "Color Me Beautiful", a program to help all of us hillbillies pick the right color that fits our personality!!! **Also, attend the Jefferson County Health Department session and receive a chance to win a new Stihl Chainsaw!!!!!!!**

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

Annual Meeting of the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District!!

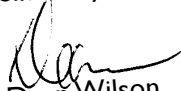
STEAK DINNER PROVIDED BY THE JEFFERSON COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION!!

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM FAMILY – Meet the Jefferson County Farm Family for 2004 and see a slide presentation of their farming operation.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by calling 797-5391 by Thursday, March 18th. Please call with 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 80th Annual Jefferson County Soils and Crops Conference.

Sincerely,


Dean Wilson
Agriculture Specialist

A "Bull" Story

This issue of the Ag News really focuses on beef cattle. So, to those of you that are not particularly interested in beef cattle and the beef industry, I apologize. Don't worry, we will be back soon with a more general newsletter for you. It's just that there is a lot happening in the beef business right now. Hope to see you at the Conference!

If you are even thinking about buying a bull, don't miss this sale . . .

Ben Davis, Extension Livestock Specialist, says that this is the best set of bulls that have been at the sale in a long time. Remember that the sale has been moved back to Farmington. Take a look at the EPD's on the website at www.semobeef.com or call me and I'll try and get a copy for you. You will find many bulls with outstanding performance of all breeds.



53rd All Breed Performance Tested **BULL SALE**

**Farmington Livestock
Auction**

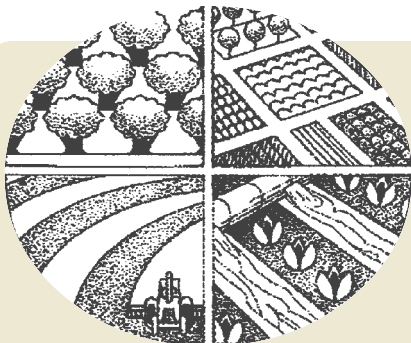
Farmington, MO located 5 miles
North of Farmington on Hwy. 67
**Friday March 26th -
7:00 P.M.**

47 - Performance Tested - 47

**All Bulls Enrolled in
University of Missouri
Performance Testing Program**

East Central Missouri Consignment Charolais Sale on April 24th

The East Central Missouri Consignment Charolais Sale will be held on Saturday, April 24th at 1:00 pm in Cedar Hill. Fifteen area Charolais breeders have consigned cattle to the sale. The consignments include 65 purebred lots and 20 crossbred heifers mostly with calves by their sides. For more information, call Stan Bonacker at 636-285-2554 or by email at windyhill@ruralcom.net.



80th Annual Soils & Crops Conference

We appreciate your interest and support for the **80th** Annual Jefferson County Soils & Crops Conference. Please select one of the following registration choices and return to the Extension office by March 18th, 2004.

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 5:30 P.M. with the meal served promptly at 6:40 P.M. Once again, thank you for your support.

Dean Wilson
Agriculture Specialist



Complete Steer Auction Results

Name	End Wt	Gain/Day	\$/lb.	Buyer
Dallas Wilson*	1372	3.27	2.10	Farmers and Merchants Bank
Samantha Weber**	1268	2.91	1.75	St. Clair MFA
Garrett Robinson***	1268	4.25	1.50	House Springs Quarry
Ben Shropshire****	1282	3.03	1.35	Hillsboro Civic Club
Bailey Robinson*****	1266	3.85	2.10	Mary Bonacker-Windy Hill Farm Supply
Madison Houttuin	1170	1.88	1.50	Kenny Wilson-Wilson Farm
Ken Grodie	1176	3.04	1.75	Farmers & Merchants Bank
Jennifer Weber	1318	2.96	1.85	Jeff & Karen Bonacker
Josh Grodie	1110	2.88	1.45	Kevin Roberts
Melinda Houttuin	1304	2.78	1.45	Wade Houston
Shane Wilson	1182	2.34	1.60	Law firm of Roberts, Breeze, & Dodson
Samuel Waymon	1408	3.85	1.75	House Springs Quarry
Tony Overmann	1228	2.53	1.35	Jack & Nathan Stewart

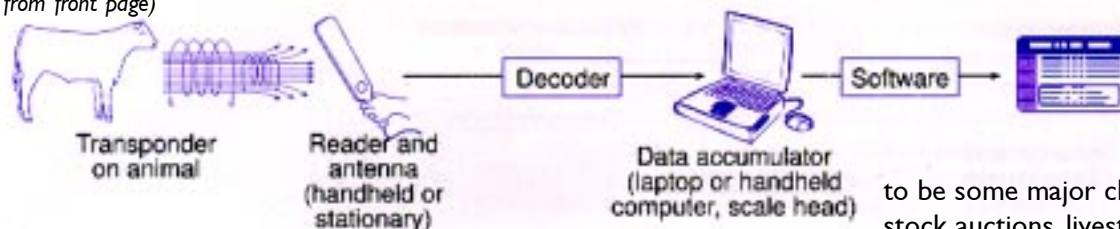
**Total Sale
amount
\$27,156.10**

Average Price
per/Pound=\$1.78

* Grand Champion Steer ** Reserve Grand Champion Steer ***Rate-of-Gain Winner
****Hillsboro Civic Club Junior Showmanship Winner *****Snowy River Charolais Herdsman Award Winner

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(continued from front page)



- The means of identification of cattle will be the radio frequency identification tag, (RFID).
- Tags will contain the country of origin, state, premises or farm number, and individual identification number.
- Each time an animal changes owners or premises, the ID numbers must be reported to the database.
- Cattlemen will be required to tag and report the cattle prior to sale or take the cattle to an approved "tagging station" and have them tagged and reported for a fee. Tagging stations may be a private company, veterinarian, or a sale barn or auction market.

- Processors will read the tags at harvest and report the information to the database so that the numbers can be retired.
- Data reported will be secure. Only health officials can access the data and they can only access to trace a disease. IRS, the assessor, your ex-wife, your neighbor, will not be able to access the information.

How the plan will be funded remains a mystery, although the plan talks about "government and industry sharing the cost." Most cow-calf producers will not have to radically change their operations. There will be some additional cost and time to have RFID tags applied and to report the information. However, there will need

to be some major changes for live-stock auctions, livestock dealers, and to some extent backgrounders.

Certainly the mandatory identification plan is not a done deal and the final version may be significantly different than the work plan that we have now. It is not hard to see what is driving this effort. In the recent BSE case, there were 81 cattle in the shipment from Canada. Only 25 were accounted for. It was assumed that the rest as dairy cows, had already left the herd and either had died or been slaughtered. The investigation took the better part of two months. **In theory**, with the USAIP plan in place, all of the animals would have been accounted for in two days. AT this point please understand that there are as many questions as answers as far as the details of how all this will really work. If you want to talk about it, please give me a call.

Grazing & Pasture Management Tour on April 17th

Check out this agenda for the Grazing and Pasture Management Tour on the Hal Reiser Farm on Mammoth Road in De Soto. The sponsors are Nichols Farms, Crown Equipment, Don Mueller Fencing, ADM Feeds, Merial SureHealth, and the Jefferson County Cattlemen's Association. We'll send you more prior to April 17th, however, the farm has a first class grazing system. You won't want to miss this!

sponsors-

- ADM Alliance Nutrition
- Merial Surehealth
- Jefferson County Cattlemen's Assn.
- Crown Equipment Co.
- Nichols Farms - Illinois Division

9969 St. Rte 3 . Red Bud, IL 62278

email wccangus@aol.com • www.wagnercattleco.com

AM

- 9:00 WELCOME** - Dustan Wagner
10:00 Pasture Tours - Cow/calf pairs
 Dean Wilson - Ag Specialist, U of Missouri Extension
- managed grazing • water management
 - fencing - Don Mueller (Mueller Fencing)

11:30 Heifer Judging Class - Prizes!

PM

- 12:00 EID ear tag demo** - Ross Havens
12:30 Beef Lunch
1:00 Introductions - Dustan Wagner
- Merial SUREHEALTH - Dennis Meyer Jefferson County
 - ADM Alliance Nutrition - Bruce Crutcher
 - Nichols Farms - Dave Nichols
- 2:00 Nichols Private Treaty Bull Sale**

Grazing and Pasture Tour Location:

From Festus, Missouri, on I-55, (Festus is 25 miles south of St. Louis, Missouri) take Exit 175, Highway A, west 9 miles to Highway 21. Go south, (left) on Highway 21, 8.3 miles to Highway H in De Soto. Take Highway H west, (right), 4.3 miles to Mammoth Rd. Go left on Mammoth Road 4.5 miles to the farm. Watch for signs.



Check out these programs coming up soon:

Healthy Choices for Active Living and Smart Snacking – Extension Center, March 25th, 2 sessions, 1:00-2:30 p.m. and 6:30-8:00 p.m. Learn how healthy snacks and physical activity can improve your life.

Embryology – The Extension Center will be hatching chicks in the classroom in area schools starting March 23rd. Last year over 100 dozen eggs were provided to county schools and daycares.

Dining with Diabetes – Extension Center, April 22nd, 29th, and May 6th. A repeat of the popular program that gives examples of entrees, snacks, and desserts that are healthy for the diabetic.

From Extension Council member Mike Minicky:

The local bar was so sure that its bartender was the strongest man around that they offered a standing \$1,000 bet. The bartender would squeeze a lemon until all the juice ran into a glass and hand the lemon to the patron.



Anyone who could squeeze one more drop of juice out of the lemon would win the money. Many people had tried over time, weightlifters, longshoremen, etc., but all had failed. One day this scrawny little man came in wearing thick glasses and a polyester suit, and said in a tiny, squeaky voice, "I'd like to try the bet. After the laughter had died down, the bartender grabbed a lemon and squeezed away. Then he handed the wrinkled remains of the rind to the little man. The crowd's laughter abruptly turned to silence as the man clenched his fist around the lemon and six drops fell into the glass. As the crowd cheered, the bartender paid the \$1,000 prize. "What do you do for a living?" asked the bartender, "Are you a lumberjack or weight lifter?" "No," the little man replied, "I work for the IRS!!!"


Dean Wilson
 Agriculture Specialist

