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livestock specialists.....

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DATES TO

REMEMBER:

- October 10—Missouri Steer Feedout Entries Due
- October 28-30—MU Extension Annual Conference, Columbia
- November 8-9—Pearls of Production - Women in Agriculture Conference, Columbia
- November 21—Beef Producers Seminar, Stanberry
- December 21—North Central/Northwest Missouri Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Sale, Green City

Missouri Steer Feedout for Spring-born Calves

The Missouri Steer Feedout allows cow-calf producers of any size the opportunity to gather feedlot and carcass data in order to evaluate the genetics and management of your calves. This educational program is held in conjunction with University of Missouri Extension and the Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity in southwest Iowa. Participants will receive reports on their cattle through the feeding period along with a final report once all the animals have been harvested and the data collected and analyzed. This is a great way to learn more about retained ownership and gain experience feeding cattle without the investment and risk of feeding an entire pen of cattle. To participate, eligible steers should be born after January 1, 2013 and a minimum of 5 head is required (no maximum). Optimum entry weights are between 600 and 750 pounds and the calves must be castrated, given vaccinations for respiratory diseases with boosters given appropriately, and must be weaned for a minimum of 28 days with 45 days preferred. The entry deadline is October 10 with a feedlot placement date set for early November. Individual calf birthdates and sire identity are highly recommended but not required. To learn more about the feedout or obtain entry forms, please contact your regional MU Extension livestock specialist.

Make Plans to Attend the Annual Beef Producers Seminar

The annual Beef Producers Seminar and Trade Show will be held on Thursday, November 21 at the St. Peter Parrish Hall in Stanberry, MO. Registration and the trade show begins at 5:00 p.m. and the program starts at 6:00 p.m. Speakers and their topics for this year's event are as follows: Dr. Rob Kallenbach, MU Extension State Forage Specialist and Dr. Justin Sexten, MU Extension State Beef Specialist - "Being Resourceful with Available Resources - Feed, Forage and Finances"; Dr. Twig Marston, Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service District Director - "How to Find the Man Amongst the Boys". Cost to attend is \$20.00 per person and includes the evening meal. To register for the program contact the Andrew County MU Extension Office at (816)-324-3147 by November 14 so that accurate meal preparations can be made.

Conference for Women in Livestock Production

Running a livestock operation often requires involvement from the entire family. That includes the ladies! University of Missouri Extension is offering an educational opportunity solely for women involved in livestock production. "Pearls of Production: Women in Agriculture" is an innovative and exciting new program designed to provide leadership and hands-on training for women livestock producers in Missouri. The conference will be held November 8th and 9th, 2013, at the MU Bradford Research Center in Columbia. The first day features a lineup of women speakers, updates on animal research, production trends, and industry issues. Day two is designed for hands-on learning in your choice of breakout session: beef cattle, sheep and goats, swine, or forages.

The early registration fee through October 8 is \$75 per person. Regular registration is \$100 per person. The fee includes meals (lunch and reception the first day and breakfast at the breakout sessions) and educational resources. A special lodging rate (\$94.00 + tax) is available for a limited time at the Courtyard Marriott in Columbia.

Details can be found on the conference website at <http://muconf.missouri.edu/womenandagriculture/>.

Now is a Good Time to Put Extra Condition on Cows

We are fast approaching weaning time for most of our spring calving herds. This is a really good time to take a hard look at your cowherd and take body condition scores. These range from 1 to 9 with 1 being extremely thin and 9 being obese. Cows need to at least calve in a BCS 5, preferably 6. By looking at your cows now you can make adjustments in your forage/supplement program and add condition at a time when it is more economical and physiologically possible due to the cows production stage.



Use the above photo as a reference for a BCS 5.

Manage Forages this Fall for Productivity in 2014

Fall has arrived and soon the growing season for our pasture grasses will be ending. How we manage our forages this fall has a major impact on next year's growth. Our common cool-season grasses in northwest Missouri require a certain amount of residual after grazing in order for the plant to recover. During the grazing season, tall fescue needs three to four inches of residual; smooth brome and orchardgrass, four inches; and Kentucky bluegrass, two to three inches. In the fall, those amounts typically increase. Both smooth brome and orchardgrass can be used lightly in the fall if six inches of stubble are left for winter. Kentucky bluegrass can also be lightly grazed in the fall if four inches of stubble are left for winter. As the end of the growing season approaches, our forages are actually getting ready for next year's growth. Many of these plants are setting tillers during this time for growth the following spring. No one wants to feed hay any longer than they have to, so we need pastures to green up quickly in the spring and be productive. Pastures stressed the year before from overgrazing will not green up as quickly in the spring, will not be as productive, and will likely have more weed issues. According to Craig Roberts, MU Extension state forage specialist, "In north Missouri, frequent and excessive removal of the canopy will result in a pasture containing plants like tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, white clover, and annual lespedeza." Essentially, our pasture plants are indicators of our management. If desirable forages aren't productive, or if we start to see weeds or less desirable forages, management needs to change to allow the preferred forages to be productive and persist. Leaving the appropriate residual when grazing can also give the plant greater ability to recover from dry weather. When plants are overgrazed and there is less of a canopy to shade the soil surface, the soil will actually dry out more quickly. When we do get rain, overgrazed plants cannot respond as well to that rain compared to plants that had the minimum leaf material left as residual. With some careful management, our pastures and hay fields can be more productive and resilient to whatever challenges Mother Nature sends our way.

??Question of the Week??

With the dry weather we had last year and also late this summer, my ponds are low and I wonder if the water in them is good quality. Can I have it tested?

Yes, you can collect a water sample and have a livestock suitability test conducted on it. You need to make sure that the sample container is clean and free of any possible contaminants. Your local health department should have water testing kits available that work well to collect samples, and they may even be able to send it in for testing. If not, your local extension office should be able to send it in for analysis as well. While often overlooked, water is the most important nutrient needed for healthy livestock production.

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