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### Managing New Herd Sires

Spring bull sales are fast approaching and special consideration needs to be made, not just before the new sire is purchased, but what comes after. In order to take full advantage of your new genetics, a considerable amount needs to be planned for from the time you pick up your new bull to before the breeding season.

New bull purchases are a large input cost and this is spread out over the useful life of the herd sire. Prior to the breeding season, as young yearling bulls are growing, they have been fed on a higher energy diet than what they will probably receive once they start their job. Without the proper adjustment to nutrition-or avoiding over conditioning diets in the first place-a noticeable decrease in fertility and libido can occur due to rapid weight loss. This can occur from going from a high-energy feed and little physical activity to grass pastures and chasing cows all day. Continued weight loss will affect your new bull's longevity. Should you need to change your new bull's diet, make these changes slowly.

As with BSE (Breeding Soundness Exams) occurring 60 days before the breeding season because this is the rate of maturation of sperm cells, this also applies to nutrition. During this time, slowly change the concentration portion of a ration but not restrict nutrient intake too much as these bulls are still growing. At the beginning of the breeding season, they should be at about a 6 BCS (Body Condition Score) and gaining 1.5 – 2 lbs a day.

To adapt physical condition before the breeding season-when a lot of activity will be taking place-it may be useful to allow more space. Sizeable pasture space permits for potential exercise or more travel between water sources and the hay ring to improve stamina. This is also a time to establish pecking orders with other bulls. This way less time is spent fighting come breeding season and more time getting cows bred.

### BQA Update and Trainings

The recent update was made regarding BQA (Beef Quality Assurance):

“... starting January 1, 2019, any cattle supplier to Tyson Foods, including livestock markets, will be required to have BQA training certification on file with the company...producers also have the option of online certification which is available at [www.bqa.org/certification/online-certification](http://www.bqa.org/certification/online-certification).”

Listed below are the following upcoming trainings. Contact your local Livestock Specialist if you have additional questions regarding this topic:

- 1-10-19 Audrain County 4-H Center – Mexico, MO (6:00 – 8:00 pm)
- 1-15-19 Lincoln County Extension Office – Troy, MO (2:00 – 4:00 pm)
- 1-17-19 Paris High School Agriculture Education Building - Paris, MO (2:00 – 4:00 pm)
- 2-12-19 Miller County Stockyards – Eldon, MO (6:00 – 8:00 pm)
- 2-21-19 Gainesville Livestock Market – Gainesville, MO (1:00 – 3:00 pm)
- 2-21-19 Howell County Extension Office - West Plains, MO (6:00 – 8:00 pm)
- 2-23-19 Franklin County Cattlemen's – Union, MO (6:00 – 8:00 pm)
- 3-7-19 Barton County Cattlemen's – location and time TBD
- 3-20-19 Missouri State University – Springfield, MO time TBD

### Fall Show-Me-Select Sale Summaries

Show-Me-Select Fall Sale	Date	# of Head	Average \$
Joplin	11/16/18	311	1,586
Kirksville	11/16/18	132	1,717
Kingsville	11/24/18	237	1,832
Fruitland	12/01/18	64	2,099
Farmington	12/07/18	74	2,334
Palmyra (F&T)	12/08/18	239	1,880

## Events

### **Your Farm, Your Business, Your Future (Session 1 of 3)**

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Richland School Library  
714 E Jefferson Avenue, Richland MO. This targets farmers and small businesses and provides basic estate planning concepts as well as helps participants seek out professional help. Three-night workshop being held January 17, 24, 31, 2019 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Cost is \$110.00 (plus \$50 for each additional person from the same business) and pre-registration is required by 5:00 Friday, January 11th. Participants may also register for a single session at a cost of \$45 for the first person and \$20 for the second person from the same business with one set of materials. The cost includes materials that cover case study examples, forms for planning, developing financial statements and record keeping. A light dinner is provided each night. Please contact Patricia Barrett, [barrettpr@missouri.edu](mailto:barrettpr@missouri.edu) MU Extension in Miller County or at 573-369-2394.

### **2019 Livestock, Crop, & Wildlife Winter Forum**

Join us for the first Livestock, Crop, & Wildlife Winter Forum on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Valentine Hall in Starckenburg, MO with registration starting at 8:30 am. The Livestock Segment will start at 9 am until lunch. The Crops Segment will follow at 1 pm – 4:30 pm. Tradeshow and social will continue afterwards until dinner at 6 pm with the final Segment on Wildlife. For more information, call the Warren County SWCD at 636-456-3434, ext. 3. Registration is \$5 and is due by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Soils, Crops, and Livestock Producers Conference**

The 95<sup>th</sup> annual SCLP will be on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 4 pm – 6:30 pm. Unlike previous years, this year we will be hosting at the 54 Country Dance Hall in Fulton, MO! This event is free and will include a sponsor and Ag showcase, a dinner, and a presentation/demonstration. Dr. Jordan Thomas will discuss fine tuning beef

breeding programs and demonstrate the use of a portable breeding barn. Mark your calendars!

### **Heifer Development Program**

Tuesday, January 22 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Washington County Library in Potosi. The program is about heifer development and will cover selection, nutrition & management, cost of buying vs. developing, prebreeding, sire selection and opportunities with Show-Me-Select. Please RSVP with the Washington Co. Extension Office at 573-438-2671.

### **Mid Missouri Grazing Conference**

Join us on Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 for the annual MMGC at the St. Martins Knights of Columbus in Jefferson, City, MO from 1 pm – 6:30 pm. There will be 6 topics and our Keynote Speaker, Greg Judy. Registration is \$30 by January 18 (\$40 at the door) and includes dinner and door prizes. Visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/midmissourigrazingconference> or call 573-897-3797 ext. 3 (Megan Rudroff or Cindy DeOrnellis) for more information.

### **February is the month for PPAT**

Check with your local Extension Office for dates for PPAT (Private Pesticide Applicator Training) trainings. These are taught in a classroom setting, led by your local Agronomy Specialist.

### **Livestock Newsletter Update and Other Sources**

This year I've started the Livestock Newsletter to every other month issues. Please let me know if you have a topic in mind that you would like me to address in a following issue!

As usual, keep up to date on upcoming Extension events in the area on our website <http://extension.missouri.edu/callaway/livestock.aspx> or visit your local Extension's county page at <http://extension.missouri.edu/YOURCOUNTY'SNAME>

For those inclined to the social media platforms; search in Facebook the MU Extension Center of Callaway County and Mid Missouri Grazing Conference. And check out all of the great resources at [AgEBB.missouri.edu](http://AgEBB.missouri.edu)!