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livestock specialists.....

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## DATES TO

### REMEMBER:

- February 15th—Show-Me-Select membership dues need to be paid to your Livestock Specialist
- February 20th—Cattle Feeders Conference, Savannah
- February 20th—Harrison County Cattlemen's Meeting, guest speaker Dr. Bob Weaber, Bethany
- February 25th—NW MO Beef Improvement Association Performance Tested Bull Sale, Maryville

## Cattle Feeders Conference

The 2nd Cattle Feeders Conference will be held at the Clasbey Center in Savannah, Missouri, located just west of the Savannah High School on Monday, February 20, 2006 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program will start off with Ken Disselhorst- Regional Manager, Meyer Natural Angus Beef, discussing "Natural Beef Procurement Process"; then Rodney Saunders-District Conservationist, NRCS will give update on "Water and Nutrient Management Issues for Open Feedlots"; Darrell Busby-Coordinator, Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity and Beef Specialist, Iowa State University, will talk about "Cow/Calf Producers Utilization of Feedlot and Carcass Information"; then KC Olson-Beef Specialist, University of Missouri, will discuss "The Missouri QSA Program"; and David Trowbridge-Manager of Gregory Feedlots, will complete the program with "Overview of Feeding Cattle in Southwest Iowa". Those planning to attend are asked to register by February 16. Cost to attend is \$10 per person and includes lunch, if you want more information call 816/324-3147.

## Now is a Good Time to Frost Seed Legumes

Just a reminder that mid-February through mid-March is a great time to frost seed legumes into your cool season pastures. During this time period the thawing and freezing that normally occurs works the legume seed into the soil. This has many benefits which include improving the quality of the diet, fixing nitrogen into the soil, and even diluting the effect of endophyte infected fescue.

## County Ag Update Meetings

There are several ag update meetings scheduled throughout the region for February. The dates and counties are as follows: 2/1 - Nodaway, 2/2 - Harrison and Mercer, 2/9 - Atchison, 2/14 - Andrew, 2/15 - Daviess and Grundy, 2/22 - Buchanan and Clinton. The goal of these meetings is to provide timely updates to producers in several different areas. Also, those needing to obtain or recertify their private pesticide applicator's licenses can do so at these meetings. For more information contact your local county extension office.

## Show-Me-Select Heifer Sale Update

There seems to be a high level of interest in a NW Missouri Show Me Select Heifer Sale. If you are interested in participating, please send your \$5.00 Show Me Select membership dues to your livestock specialist by February 15th.

## Kansas Feedlot Performance and Feed Cost Summary

Kansas State University Extension just released their December 2005 closeout information in their latest Focus on Feedlots report which includes data from seven different Kansas feedlots. The 16,399 steers averaged 1,348 pounds, 141 days on feed, 3.64 average daily gain, 6.03 feed/gain dry basis, .70% death loss and \$51.57 average cost of gain. The 23,179 heifers averaged 1,203 pounds, 143 days on feed, 3.18 average daily gain, 6.26 feed/gain dry basis, .94% death loss, and \$54.25 average cost of gain.



February marks the start of bull buying season in NW Missouri. Wouldn't it be nice if as much thought and planning went into bull buying season as it does into deer season? You know, making sure you have the right equipment, sighting in the rifle, scouting out hunting sites, putting up the deer stand, etc. Why do people do all of this work ahead of time? Because they want a successful deer season that ends with a trophy buck on the wall and venison in the freezer. All jokes aside, the same principles apply to bull buying season. You need to do your homework ahead of bull buying season, too. The bull you use has the single biggest impact on the genetic makeup of your herd.

## Campus Corner

### Bull Buying Tips

**Dr. Bob Weaber, State Extension Beef Genetics Specialist**  
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With bull buying season upon us it pays to spend some time preparing to make your most important genetic input purchases. In a herd where replacement females are kept, sire selection is responsible for a vast majority of the genetic improvement in your herd over time. So, the genetics you bring to your herd through purchasing bulls will impact your herd for many years to come. Even if you buy replacements, sire selection impacts each calf you market. Here are some tips to help prepare you for buying bulls:

- (1) Evaluate your production records to identify traits that need improvement. Make sure your cow's biological type, mature size and lactation potential fit your production environment.
- (2) Evaluate your mating system to identify the breed of bull that best fits your objectives.
- (3) Evaluate how your current bull battery is performing by comparing their current EPDs to the performance of their progeny.
- (4) Be sure you know how to correctly use EPD and Selection Index tools.
- (5) Get current percentile rank tables for non-parent bulls to evaluate potential purchases to other bulls in the breed.
- (6) Let your calf marketing point guide you to the appropriate selection index.
- (7) Build a list of EPD or index criteria that bulls will need to meet for selection.
- (8) Request sale catalogs early in season so you get them well in advance of sale dates.
- (9) Evaluate bull offering to identify a short list of purchase candidates that meet criteria established above.
- (10) If possible visit seedstock supplier in advance of sale to review their production system, the dams' of purchase candidates and development of sale animals.

### ??Question of the Week??

#### ***Can I use liquid dish soap as a lubricant when pulling a calf?***

Although many people have used liquid dish soap as a lubricant, it is not a good practice. Most dish soaps are designed to break down oils and greases and therein lies the problem with using them for a lubricant when pulling a calf. You can actually do more harm than good by breaking down the cow or heifer's natural lubrication with the liquid dish soap. A much better option would be to use an actual OB lube. With such a product, you get the benefits of both the natural and artificial lubricants and hopefully an easier pull.

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