

Brought to you by your
livestock specialists.....



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DATES TO

REMEMBER:

- February 21st—Beef Meeting with John Kleiboeker from the Missouri Beef Industry Council, Middle School, Hamilton
- February 24th—NW Missouri Beef Improvement Association Performance Tested Bull Sale, United Producers Inc., Maryville
- March 29th—Gentry County Cattlemen's Association Meeting, Stanberry

Northwest Missouri Beef Improvement Association Performance Tested Bull Sale

The annual bull sale will be held Saturday, February 24th, 2007 at the United Producers Livestock Auction in Maryville. A total of 48 bulls will be sold (41 Angus, 4 Red Angus, 3 Hereford). Twenty-one will be either 2-year olds or 18 months old, with 27 being yearlings. Bulls will have passed a breeding soundness exam, will be tested negative for BVD, and will meet at least breed average EPD requirements for weaning and yearling weight as well as other requirements. Give one of us a call for a catalog.

Kansas State University Focus on Feedlots Report

Kansas State University Extension just released their December 2006 closeout information in their latest Focus on Feedlots report which includes data from nine different Kansas feedlots. The 9,501 steers averaged 1,349 pounds, 147 days on feed, 3.66 average daily gain, 5.90 feed/gain dry basis, 0.56% death loss and \$59.55 average cost of gain. The 21,564 heifers averaged 1,224 pounds, 142 days on feed, 3.33 average daily gain, 5.99 feed/gain dry basis, 0.77% death loss, and \$62.14 average cost of gain.

Utilizing Wet Distillers Grains with Small Herd Sizes?

Ethanol by-products can be an economical feed for beef cattle when purchased at certain times of the year. The problem with them in the wet form is that they have a relatively short shelf life (5 to 7 days in the summer, 10 to 14 days in the winter). Therefore it would be very hard for most of us to feed wet distillers grains (WDG) before they spoil due to our cattle numbers on hand. At our recent 4-State Beef Conference, Dr. Rick Rasby, University of Nebraska State Extension Beef Specialist, shared results of a study they did in order to figure out how to store the wet product. They looked at putting WDG into bags or in a bunker silo. It seemed like they had good results with the bags when 12.5% ground wheat straw or 15% ground hay was added. Their recommendation would be 35% ground hay with 65% WDG for a bunker silo. In a two month feeding trial that Dr. Rasby conducted comparing full-fed cows (silage, alfalfa hay, prairie hay, ground corn stalks, mineral), to limit-fed cows (35% ground hay and 65% WDG, ground corn stalks, mineral) cows performed essentially the same in terms of rate of gain and ending body condition scores. For more information on this, give one of us a call.

(Photos courtesy of Dr. Rick Rasby, UNL State Extension Beef Specialist)





Hopefully, you have not had to use anything like the above apparatus this calving season. Remember that the easiest way to reduce calving problems is through sire selection.

BIF Calving Ease Scores:

- 1—No difficulty, no assistance
- 2—Minor difficulty, some assistance
- 3—Major difficulty, usually mechanical assistance
- 4—Caesarian section or other surgery
- 5—Abnormal presentation

Campus Corner:

**Record Calving Ease Scores on Calves Born This Spring
Dr. Bob Weaber, State Extension Beef Genetics Specialist
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Dystocia, or calving difficulty, has several causes and is responsible for significant losses to beef producers each year. While first calving heifers more frequently experience dystocia than do cows, calving difficulty in either class results in longer post partum intervals, lower conception rates, increased calf morbidity and mortality. Selection for improved calving ease and maternal calving ease can dramatically reduce dystocia rates. Most major beef breeds now produce Calving Ease (CE or CED) and Maternal Calving Ease (CEM or DCE) EPD. Reduction in birth weight (BW) has traditionally been used to reduce dystocia. However, birth weight alone does not account for all dystocia events. Certainly many are due to calf shape and pelvic area of the dam. The genetic correlation between BW and CE in Angus cattle is -0.76 indicating a strong negative relationship between the traits--as BW increases the number of unassisted births decreases. This correlation is typically lower in Continental breeds indicating that BW contributes less to dystocia in these breeds than in Angus. Recording CE scores for your calves may help identify lines that excel in CE or where improvement is warranted. If you are a seedstock producer report these scores for inclusion in genetic evaluation with calf birth weights. Remember to score and report calves that died at or near birth--so the bull or cow gets the credit. CE scores are reported categorically from 1-5 as recommended by the Beef Improvement Federations. Scores 1-4 are included in the genetic evaluation. Abnormal presentations are not considered a heritable trait and are not used for computing EPDs. The five CE scores recommended by BIF are listed in the sidebar

??Question of the Week??

Where can I get the latest recommended estrus synchronization protocols?

Your livestock specialists recently received the updated estrus synchronization protocol cards. If you're not familiar with the cards, they illustrate protocols for both cows and heifers, whether you plan to do heat detection, heat detection and timed-AI, or fixed-time AI. The timing of each step--CIDRs/MGA, injections, heat detection, AI--is outlined for you. There's also a comparison of the protocols in terms of cost and labor. The benefits of estrus synchronization and AI are real...if done correctly!

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