

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



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## DATES TO

### REMEMBER:

- June 18th-19th—  
Ranch Stewardship  
Live, Sedalia
- July 4th—Holiday,  
Extension Offices  
Closed
- August 25th—  
Missouri Beef Tour,  
Linn County
- August 28th—  
Graves-Chapple  
Farm Field Day,  
Corning
- September 5th—  
Hundley-Whaley  
Field Day, Albany

## Priorities First (Identifying Management Priorities in the Commercial Cow-Calf Business)

The American Angus Association recently released a very interesting publication called *Priorities First*. The idea for the project stemmed from commercial focus sessions that the Association held. The need for an unbiased study to prioritize management and economic issues for cow-calf beef producers, regardless of geographic location, became apparent. *Priorities First*, by Dr. Tom Field, Colorado State University, studied the survey responses. The study participants had no knowledge regarding the American Angus Association's sponsorship. As a result, the study is an unbiased report representing producers, veterinarians, nutritionists, marketing professionals, and reproduction specialists. In total, 217 surveys were collected from 130 producers and 87 specialists. Producers represented cow-calf operators with varying herd sizes across the U.S. Producers and specialists were in general agreement as they gave their views on management priorities. The correlation between their mean priority scores was 0.90 (highly correlated) among the survey's 15 main management categories. The top 10 rankings of concerns are as follows: (1) Herd nutrition (2) Pasture and range management (3) Herd health (4) Financial (5) Marketing (6) Production (7) Genetics (8) Labor (9) Information management (10) Harvested forages. Identification, natural resource management, biosecurity, facilities and equipment, and technical support were ranked 11th through 15th respectively.

For a copy of the publication, contact the American Angus Association at (816)-383-5100.

## Kansas State University Focus on Feedlots Report

Kansas State University Extension just released their April 2007 closeout information in their latest *Focus on Feedlots* report which includes data from nine different Kansas feedlots. The 14,636 steers averaged 1,232 pounds, 186 days on feed, 2.83 average daily gain, 6.41 feed/gain dry basis, 2.36% death loss and \$77.61 average cost of gain. The 25,717 heifers averaged 1,131 pounds, 178 days on feed, 2.58 average daily gain, 6.66 feed/gain dry basis, 1.84% death loss, and \$82.10 average cost of gain.

## Potential tax credit for Missouri calves finished in Missouri

A bill has been proposed in the legislature that would provide the opportunity for tax credits for producers who finish Missouri-born cattle in the state. The thought is that it would encourage cattle feeding in the state. The Missouri Beef Audit indicates that while 175,000 cattle were fed in Missouri, there were 1,464,000 Missouri calves fed out-of-state. The numbers clearly illustrate that most of Missouri's calves are leaving the state to be finished. If the tax credit does become an option for producers in the state, we'll let you know the details.



While the focus of this newsletter is pretty much on beef cattle, we do realize that several of you probably use or have horses to help with the daily tasks of your operation or for just recreation. As we spend quite a bit of time driving around the country, it is troubling to see the large numbers of horses that are running loose in pastures and wearing halters. This is a very risky and dangerous practice. Horses can very easily catch halters on tree limbs, fences, gates, panels, even their own hooves often times causing serious injury or death. Unless you have a "break-away" halter designed to break under pressure, un-halter your horse before turning it out in the pasture.

**Campus Corner:**

**2007 Missouri Beef Tour**

**Dr. Bob Weaber, State Extension Beef Genetics Specialist (573)-882-5479, weaberr@missouri.edu**

The 2007 Missouri Beef Tour will be held in North Central Missouri on Saturday, August 27th. The focus of this year's tour will be three fold: (1) backgrounding, (2) crossbreeding, and (3) using distillers grains. The tour will be starting at Terrill Lane's backgrounding operation near Brookfield to look at what he is doing management wise, nutritionally, coping with environmental issues and the relationships he is building with cow calf producers and feedlots. We will move on to Galen and Keenen Switzer's near Bucklin to see how Galen is working as a satellite lot for Terrill and to hear about how they manage crossbreeding in their cow herd. The next stop will be Bryan Switzer to see Show-Me-Select heifers and how they balance maternal and carcass traits in their cow herd. The final stop will be at FSRC near Linneus to hear about DDGS work and get information on the tax credits that may be available for beef producers. Jim Brinkley, purebred Angus producer from Milan, will be at FSRC to discuss the marketing assistance he is providing his bull customers.

Look for more information and a detailed schedule to be released soon.

**??Question of the Week??**

***I have a problem with thistles. What should I do about them?***

We deferred this question to Wayne Flanary, Regional Agronomist headquartered in Holt County. His recommendation follows. Mature thistles are pretty difficult to control by spraying. However, spot spraying with Cimarron Max® at maximum rates can be effective.



Another strategy would be to mow the thistles down at this time. Then a number of products could be used in the fall or early spring to get effective control.

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