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Missouri Steer Feedout

Wayne Shannon, Livestock Specialist

Entries are now being accepted from cow-calf producers who wish to participate in the Missouri Steer Feedout. This educational program allows calf producers to evaluate the genetic composition of their calves regarding post-weaning growth and carcass merit. Additionally producers learn about the health of cattle in the feedlot and what is involved in retained ownership of cattle in a low-risk situation. This information should assist you to participate in value-based marketing programs.



The Missouri steers will again be sent to a lot in southwest Iowa that cooperates with the Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity corporation in feeding cattle from a number of states. The delivery date will be November 3. In this part of the state steers will be loaded at Paris Veterinary Clinic, Paris. The entry fee is \$20 per head and the deadline for entry is October 10. Steers must have been born in 2009 and weigh 500 pounds or above on delivery. An entry consists of 5 or more steer calves.

Calves must be weaned at least 28 days prior to delivery, be castrated, dehorned and healed. Steers must receive these immunizations at least 28 days before delivery: IBR, PI3, BVD, Pasteurella, both haemolytica & multocida, BRSV and 7 or 8-way Clostridial. Two rounds of Modified Live Vaccines are recommended. For added protection some of these immunizations should be boosted before delivery. If Haemophilus somnus is given do not use it with the first round of vaccinations. Delay until calves are weaned.

If you don't have a handle on the carcass merit of your cattle, now is the time to start. One year's participation is not sufficient nor is sending 5 calves out of 100 head and sired by 5 different bulls. You need to develop a plan for accurate sampling of your genetic base.

Feedout data and documented genetics are the tools to develop reputation cattle.

The Steer Feedout Brochure & Entry Form can be found at:

<http://extension.missouri.edu/LAWRENCE/ag/FEEDOUT.BR2.pdf>

<http://extension.missouri.edu/LAWRENCE/ag/Entry%20Form.pdf>

Rust Update

Scott Killpack, Agronomy/Natural Resources Specialist

As of September 17, rust has not been detected in Missouri. Rust has been spreading in south Georgia and north Florida, and it has been aggressively spreading in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. It has been found in one county in southwest Tennessee, one county in west Kentucky near the border with Indiana and Illinois, and in two counties in South Carolina. Rust has been spreading in Arkansas and is near the border of southeast Missouri. There is a belief that rust may very likely be detected in southeast Missouri over the next couple weeks. Soybean growth is far enough along in our area that the appearance or detection of rust poses no concern. In 2009, rust has been found in nine states and 172 counties in the United States.

Conservation Stewardship Program

Scott Killpack, Agronomy/Natural Resources Specialist

Written by Renee Cook, NRCS District Conservationist

Missouri farmers may begin applying for benefits under the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced.

Renee Cook and Tammy Teeter, District Conservationists, say that while the program is available on a continuous basis, the first cutoff for ranking purposes is September 30. They encourage farmers who think they are eligible for CSP benefits to begin the application process. The next ranking cut off will not be until mid January 2010.

CSP is a voluntary conservation program designed to encourage agricultural and forestry producers to adopt additional conservation practices and improve, maintain and manage existing ones.

To apply for CSP, individual farm operators, legal entities and Indian tribes are asked to use a self-screening checklist to determine whether the program is suitable for them or their operations. The checklist is available online and at NRCS field offices.

Individual farm operators, legal entities and Indian tribes must meet several requirements to obtain a CSP contract: they must be listed as the operator or owner/operator in the USDA Farm Service Agency farm records management system for the operation being offered for enrollment; they must document that they control the land for the term of the 5 year contract and include all eligible land in their entire operation in that contract; they must comply with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions; and they must comply with Adjusted Gross Income provisions. If there is land in an operation that farm operators do not obtain written documentation of control of land from the owner, it can be excluded from the contract.

Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie, improved pastureland, rangeland, and non-industrial private forestland. Land enrolled in the Conservation Security Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Grasslands Reserve Program and Wetlands Reserve Program is not eligible for the Conservation Stewardship Program and must be excluded from the contract.

Plan to attend one of the following informational meetings:

Tuesday, September 22, at 7 a.m. at the Montgomery City Lions Building - RSVP (573)564-3715, Ext. 3

Wednesday, September 23, at 7:30 a.m. at St. Peters University of Missouri Extension - RSVP (636)922-2833, Ext. 3

Wednesday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Louis County Library Bridgeton Trails Branch - RSVP (636)922-2833, Ext. 3

Thursday, September 24, at 8:00 a.m. at Troy University of Missouri Extension - RSVP (636)528-4877, Ext.3

For additional information about CSP, visit http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CSP/stewardship/csp_general.html or call your local NRCS office in St. Peters (636-922-2833 Ext. 3), Troy (636-636-528-4877 Ext. 3), Warrenton (636-456-3434 Ext. 3), or Montgomery City (573-564-3715 Ext. 3).

Preharvest Corn Scouting

Rich Hoormann, Agronomy Specialist

As the corn crop matures, it's still important to scout.

Field scouting last week found that **corn earworms** are active in the Whiteside area of Lincoln County. One of the fields I checked had 90% infestations with larvae size ranging from 0.5"—1.25" in length. Last year many fields had earworm damage that allowed ear diseases to get started in the field.

There is no practical rescue treatment for earworm, but it still pays to look. Earworm infestations create opportunities for ear rots to develop in the field prior to harvest.

Checking for ear disease will aide in harvest decisions such as which fields to let dry down in the field, harvest first,

and bin management practices such as the temperature goal for drying equipment. Kernels infected with Fusarium, Gibberella, and Diplodia continue to develop in storage, unless grain is managed properly.

While you're in the field be sure to do a "push" test and/or a stalk squeeze test for stalk rot detection, as an additional harvest scheduling tool.

