



January 18, 2007

UPCOMING DATES:

January 19-20, 2007

Ag Expo

Black River Coliseum

Poplar Bluff, MO

January 29, 2007

Calving Difficulty Program

Ripley Co. Fairgrounds

Doniphan, MO

February 1, 2007

Deadline for Show-Me-Select

Heifer Program sign up

February 24, 2007

Goat Day

Pinecrest Camp

Fredericktown, MO

March 13-15, 2007

Cattle Artificial

Insemination School

Wayne County Feeder Calf

Barn, Silva, MO

March 23, 2007

SEMO Bull Sale

Farmington Livestock Barn

April 6-7

Grazing School

Ellington, MO

May 5, 2007

Show-Me-Select Heifer Sale

Fruitland Livestock Auction

Kendra Graham

Livestock Specialist

Wayne Co. University of

Missouri Extension

P. O. Box 200

Greenville, MO 63944

(573) 224-3035

E-mail:

grahamkk@missouri.edu

Website:

<http://extension.missouri.edu>

GOAT DAY IN MADISON COUNTY:

Saturday, February 24th is the date for the second Southeast Missouri Goat Day. The event will be held at Pinecrest Camp, five miles south of Fredericktown, MO. The keynote speaker will be Terry Hutchens from the University of Kentucky. Terry will speak about goat nutrition including the use of by-products in feed rations. During the breakout sessions Terry will cover hoof care and diseases. Helen Swartz, small animal specialist from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO will be speaking about her current research on internal parasite control and alternatives to chemical dewormers. A producer panel of area producers will speak about their goat operations along with a representative from the American Dairy Goat Association. A lunch will be available to participants. Refer to the enclosed flyer for registration information.

CATTLE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION SCHOOL:

If you are interested in learning how to artificially inseminate your cattle there will be an AI school March 13-15, 2007. The school will be held in the evenings starting at 5:30 p.m.. We must have a minimum of 7 people to hold the school. Costs will run in the neighborhood of \$200 per person. The location will be at the Wayne County Feeder Calf Sale Barn in Silva, MO. The ABS semen company will be conducting the school which is sponsored by the Wayne County University of Missouri Extension Council. Call me soon to sign up.

CALVING DIFFICULTY PROGRAM:

Calf loss due to calving difficulty is a multi-million dollar annual deficit for cattle producers and is second only to losses from cows failing to get pregnant. Prevention is the best way to avoid calving problems. Prevention methods include proper nutrition/weight of the cow, using a bull that has the proper breeding, making sure the heifer has a large pelvic measurement, and calving a heifer at age 2 or later. There are also several uncontrollable situations that cause calving difficulty such as calf position, shape of the calf, gestation length, and twins. Proper management of cows during pregnancy and paying extra attention to first-calf heifers will help reduce calving problems, however you may have to help with the birthing process.

If you would like more information about calving, a calving difficulty seminar will be delivered by Kendra Graham, Livestock Specialist with the University of Missouri Extension, Monday, January 29th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the courtroom of the Ripley County Courthouse in Doniphan, MO. Kendra will speak about assisting the beef cow at calving and caring for the young calf. For more information or to pre-register contact the Ripley County Extension office at 573-996-2921 or e-mail them at ripleyco@missouri.edu.

AG EXPO:

The 2007 Ag Expo will be January 19-20 at the Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff. Highlights for the expo include over 118 agricultural exhibits, super farmer contest, milking contest, duck calling contest, petting farm, the Show-Me Missouri mobile fish aquarium and several educational seminars including topics on horse pastures, animal identification, goat production and the Missouri fence law. Admission is free and the event is sponsored by the Butler County University of Missouri Extension Council and the Three Rivers Community College Agriculture Club. Doors open at 1 p.m. Friday. Call the Butler County Extension office at 573-686-8064 for more information.

SEMO MEAT GOAT POOLED SALE:

Written by Steve Wagoner, President SEMO Meat Goat Producers Assoc.

The Southeast Missouri Meat Goat Producers Association had it's annual pooled sale over two days this year, Monday and Tuesday, December 4 and 5. We sold a total of 1,263 goats from 50 producers. This was down slightly compared to last year when we sold a total of 1,297 goats from 55 producers. The primary reason for the lower number sold is due to lower prices per pound for our goats. It is believed that the drought last summer across the Southern states caused a large number of goat producers to sell off unusually high numbers of their herds which in turn flooded the market thus driving prices down.

Overall the sale ran very smoothly. Bill Sheehy, from Ironton who organized the sale had most of the large producers deliver their goats on Monday, December 4. We took in a total of 679 goats on the first day from 22 producers. The following day, Tuesday, we took in 584 from the remaining 28 producers. The trucks arrived just before 5:00 pm on Tuesday and we had them loaded and on the road by 6:30 pm. This would not have been possible had it not been for the good help we had from our membership and others who pitched in to make this thing happen.

We usually have a few animals that die during shipment, this can and should be expected when dealing with such large numbers of goats and transporting them so far away. This year was exceptional in the fact that we did not lose a single animal during shipment. On the down side, our buyer noted that our goats were not as well conditioned as they have been in the past years. I believe that this can be attributed in part to the dry weather that most of us had during the Summer of '06.

When pastures and woods are stressed from lack of rain the nutritional value of the forage and browse is reduced. This results in slower growth rates and lower shipping weights in goats and other livestock. Supplemental feeding or herd reduction can be considered to counter the effects of drought stressed pastures.

GRAZING SCHOOL:

There will be a grazing school held in Ellington on April 6 and 7, 2007. If you attend this school it will qualify you for any cost share programs with the Soils and Water Conservation District. For more information or to enroll contact Russell Ramsey in the Reynolds County Extension office at (573) 663-2251 or e-mail him at ramseyr@missouri.edu.

SHOW-ME-SELECT HEIFER SALE:

The December Show-Me-Select heifer sale went extremely well considering the drop in cattle prices and jump in feed prices late in the year. 22 consignors sold 195 heifers for an average of \$1289 each. There were 84 registered buyers including 4 from Illinois, 2 from Kentucky, and one from Arkansas. 34 buyers actually purchased heifers with two of the buyers being from out-of-state.

If you are interested in enrolling heifers into the program the deadline for participating in the December 2007 sale period is February 1st. There is a \$5 annual membership fee. Call me for enrollment forms and more information. You can also visit the website at www.semobeef.com and click on the Show-Me-Select tab at the top of the page.


CORN ALTERNATIVES:

With corn prices over \$4 per bushel everyone is looking for feed alternatives for their animals. By-products can effectively substitute corn in livestock rations. When purchasing by-products, a few things that you should look at is nutrient content, consistency of nutritional values, ease of handling, availability, and trucking costs if they are not available locally. Common by-products used in cattle and goat rations include corn gluten, soy hulls, rice bran, distillers and brewers grains, wheat midds, whole cottonseed, and red dog (corn screenings). A listing of by-product feeds, prices and sources can be found at:

<http://agebb.missouri.edu/dairy/byprod/bpmenu.asp>

If you are interested in formulating rations using by-products let me know and I can work up a ration for you.

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

Wayne County
P.O. Box 200
Greenville, MO 63944

University of Missouri, Lincoln
University, Missouri Department of
Agriculture, and Local Extension
Councils Cooperating