

March 17, 2008

UPCOMING DATES:

March 20, 2008

Fence Law Program
Poplar Bluff Telecenter
7-9:30 p.m.

March 28, 2008

SEMO Bull Sale
Farmington Livestock Auct.
7 p.m.

April 3, 2008

Women in Ag Program
Vance Vineyards Winery
Fredericktown, MO

April 16, 2008

Ag Marketing Outlook Conf.
Extension Office, Greenville
12—1:30 p.m.

April 25, 2008

Pasture Walk
Laut Farms, Fredericktown
12-4 p.m.

May 3, 2008

Show Me Select Heifer Sale
Fruitland Livestock Auct.
1 p.m.

May 6-7, 2008

Grazing School
Mineral Area College

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SEMO BULL SALE

The 62nd Southeast Missouri All-Breed Performance Tested Bull Sale will be March 28, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the Farmington Livestock Auction. 34 bulls will be for sale including 27 Angus, 4 Charolais and 3 Simmental. There are some really good-numbered bulls in this sale with many qualifying as Show-Me -Select bulls. I have catalogs in my office. Catalogs are also available at your local extension office and can be printed off of the website at www.semobeef.com. Darrell Aufdenberg is the new sale manager and can be reached at 573-243-2756 or 573-270-6755. Anyone is invited to attend the weighing and grading beginning at 8 a.m. March 28th.

BULL BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAM

It looks as though spring will be here quickly, thank goodness! Approaching spring means a fast-approaching breeding season. Planning for that breeding season includes a lot of variables that should include one of the most important players, your bull(s). It is easy to overlook preparing your bull for the breeding season until you go a calving season with few to no calves hitting the ground because of infertility.

Several factors influence a bull's fertility including development, puberty, mating ability, scrotal circumference, semen quality, libido, male-to-female ratio, and social dominance. Puberty can be adversely affected in a bull that is undernourished at a young age. Be sure that when you purchase or raise a bull, he receives enough energy in his diet to grow properly. About 95% of all 16 month-old bulls are considered reproductively mature and can produce good quality semen.

To thoroughly evaluate your bull for soundness it is best to have your veterinarian perform a breeding soundness exam (BSE). The evaluation includes a physical exam, scrotal circumference measurement, and evaluation of semen quality. To pass a BSE, a bull must have at least 30% sperm motility, 70% normal sperm morphology, and a minimum scrotal circumference based on age ranging from 30 to 34 cm. It is recommended to have a BSE performed on your bull annually one month before breeding. Sperm production is a continuous process. Sickness or injury can inhibit sperm production but it might not be permanent which reinforces the need for a yearly test.

Other factors that may have an impact on breeding that is not tested by a BSE are libido, bull-to-cow ratio, and social dominance. Libido refers to the desire to mate but has no affect on semen quality. If a bull is not eager to mate, pregnancy rates will drop. The bull-to-cow ratio can also affect pregnancy rates and the health of your bull. The number of bulls you require will depend on the age of your bull, if you synchronize the cows and how your bull performs. The ratios range from 1:10 to 1:60. Bull dominance also needs to be evaluated in multiple bull herds. A dominate bull with poor semen quality can be detrimental to pregnancy rates because other bulls are not allowed to breed the cows. Creating separate herds will help alleviate this problem.

Reproductive traits are not highly heritable so continuous evaluation of your bull is necessary to maintain his soundness and have a good calf crop.

More information on bull fertility can be found in MU Guide 2011.

USDA LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Livestock Compensation Program 2005-2007 (LCP) provides benefits to livestock and catfish producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, including losses because of blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007. Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for losses in the calendar year 2007 grazing season that are attributable to wildfires occurring during the applicable period, as determined by the U.S. secretary of agriculture.

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit your local USDA Service Center or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

AG MARKETING OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

On Wednesday, April 16 from noon until 1:30 p.m. I will be hosting an Ag Marketing Outlook Conference over the computer in my office located in the basement of the courthouse in Greenville.

MU ag economists present current outlook information and analysis and respond to questions from the audience. At the April conference, Ron Plain, Melvin Brees, and Joe Horner will discuss fundamental analysis of cattle, hogs, corn, soybeans, wheat, and dairy as well as current ag. policy issues. Pat Guinan will give a weather update. Seating for this program is very limited so please call ahead to the office at 573-224-3035 if you plan to attend. Bring your own lunch.

MANAGEMENT INTENSIVE GRAZING SCHOOL

The 2008 Grazing School will be held on May 6-7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mineral Area College in Park Hills, MO. This is the school required by Soils and Water and NRCS for some cost-share programs. For more information contact Patty Roth at 573-883-3566 ext. 3. I also have flyers in my office.

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

The Wayne/Madison Farm Service Agency and the Madison County University of Missouri Extension Office is excited to announce the 2008 2nd Annual Women In Agriculture Program on Thursday, April 3, 2008 from 8:30 to 3:00 p.m.

This year's program will be held at the Vance Vineyard and Winery located in Fredericktown, Missouri. The goal of this event is to bring together women from our communities who are involved in or interested in the many areas of agricultural life.

This will be an informal event that will facilitate questions and conversations from many aspects of rural Missouri agricultural lifestyles. The program is open to the public at no cost, however, seating is limited and pre-registration is required. Lunch will be prepared by the chef from the Vance Vineyard and Winery and will be at no cost to registered participants.

Topics scheduled to be discussed include:

- Intensive Grazing presented by Eric Fuchs of Mill Spring, Missouri
- Natural Regeneration presented by Brian Towe of the Missouri Department of Conservation
- Animal Health presented by Dr. Scott Mier of the Fredericktown Veterinary Clinic
- FSA Farm Loan Opportunities and the Missouri Cattleman's Association presented by Mike Hinkebein, Farm Loan Specialist from FSA and member of the Missouri Cattleman's Association.
- Tour of the Vance Vineyards and Winery

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts being served. The program will wrap up at 3:00 p.m. To get additional information or to register to attend, contact the Wayne/Madison Farm Service Agency at (573) 224-3410 Ext. 2, by March 27, 2008.

MISSOURI RESOURCE GUIDE

The University of Missouri has put together a Missouri Beef Resource Guide website that contains a wealth of information about raising cattle. The site highlights feeding, reproduction, handling facilities, health, decision making tools, industry news, and much more. You can find this resource by going to <http://agebb.missouri.edu/beef>

There is also a wonderful poultry resource located at <http://animalsciences.missouri.edu/extension/resources.php>

QUALIFIED BEEF TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

The Missouri Legislature has recently signed into law a new program called the Qualified Beef Tax Credit Program. This program provides an economic incentive to Missouri beef producers to put more pounds on their cattle in Missouri rather than sending them out-of-state to be fed. Pre-qualified producers are eligible to receive a ten cent per pound incentive, in the form of a Missouri State Tax Credit, on weight gains of 200 pounds or greater than the baseline weight of cattle sold in previous years. To be eligible you must submit an eligibility application to the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority. Information and applications can be found at

<http://www.mda.mo.gov/Financial/qualifiedbeef.htm> or call our office and we can mail one out to you.

The phone number for the Ag and Small Business Development Authority is 573-751-2129 and their e-mail is masbda@mda.mo.gov

MISSOURI FENCE LAW PROGRAM

An Interactive Television (ITV) program to discuss Missouri's Complicated Fence Law will be held on **Thursday evening, March 20 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the **University of Missouri Extension Telecenter** that is located on Three Rivers Community College campus. **Pre-registration is required** as space is limited.

"Missouri continues to have a very complicated fence law, in large part due to the fact that 2 separate laws cover the state depending on the county that your land is in" according to Joe Koenen, Agricultural Business Specialist with University of Missouri Extension who will be presenting the program that night. "Another problem is that both laws are subject to interpretation and can be a little different, depending on the county you're in" said Joe. A comparison of both laws will be given at this program. Joe has been presenting programs on the fence law for over 15 years throughout the state, including via ITV. Landowners need to be aware of what the law is in their county and this meeting will help them better understand their rights and responsibilities.

For additional information or to register, please contact the Telecenter by calling 573-840-9450, email at craftc@missouri.edu, or visit www.MUTelecenter.com.

MISSOURI LIVESTOCK INVENTORY

Missouri Goat Inventory Continues Rapid Increase

"Goat production for meat and milk continue to be the fastest expanding segment of Missouri's livestock sector" according to Gene Danekas, Director of USDA-Missouri Agricultural Statistics. Missouri goat producers had an inventory of 94,400 head on January 1, 2008, up 16 percent from the 81,000 head on hand a year earlier and 25 percent higher than 2006. Increases in meat goats to 80,000 head from 68,500 head a year ago and milk goats to 13,000 head from 11,000 a year earlier were slightly offset by a decline in Angora goats to 1,400 head from 1,500 head the previous year.

The January 1, 2008 inventory of all sheep and lambs in Missouri was 82,000 head, up 4,000 head from a year earlier.

Missouri Cattle Inventory Down 3 Percent

The January 1, 2008, all cattle and calf inventory in Missouri totaled 4.30 million head, down 150,000 head from the January 1, 2007 estimate. The 2007 calf crop was estimated at 2.03 million head, up slightly from the revised 2006 calf crop of 2.00 million head. Cattle on feed for slaughter market at 65,000 was down 13 percent from January 1, 2007.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2008 and percent changes from 2007 were as follows: all beef replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, down 9 percent to 300,000 head; milk replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, down 14 percent to 60,000 head; other heifers 500 pounds and over, down 4 percent to 260,000 head; steers 500 pounds and over, down 2 percent to 450,000 head; bulls 500 pounds and over, down 8 percent from last year to 110,000 head; and calves under 500 pounds, down 1 percent to 930,000 head.

The 2007 calf crop was estimated at 2.03 million head, up slightly from the revised 2006 calf crop of 2.00 million head. Cattle on feed for slaughter market at 65,000 was down 13 percent from January 1, 2007.

For more information go to:
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/mo/>



Wayne County

P.O. Box 200

PASTURE WALK

Laut Farms, Madison County Soils and Water Conservation District and Madison County Extension will be hosting a pasture walk on April 25 at the Laut Farm in Fredericktown, MO. The program will be from 12 to 4 p.m. with lunch provided.

Our speakers for the afternoon will include Frank Wideman, Agricultural Engineering Specialist, speaking about cattle handling facilities and livestock handling; Kendra Graham, Livestock Specialist, speaking about body condition scoring and culling; Mike Squires, NRCS District Conservationist, speaking about rotational grazing systems, electric fencing, fence chargers, grasses, and watering systems; Selman Mascaro, NRCS Soil Conservationist and Sarah Kennedy, SWCD District Technician will speak about cost share practices available to producers. Don Laut Jr. and Walter Laut will give an overview of their farming operation and conduct a wagon ride tour of their rotational grazing system.

For more information or to RSVP please call the Madison SWCD office at 573-783-5291. Please RSVP by April 22nd.

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

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