FENCE BUILDING WORKSHOP

Fence building or repairing is always a common chore on farms and ranches. Barbed and woven wire fences have been around a while but the newer electric fencing materials can cause some confusion as to what to do with all those insulators, crimps and tighteners.

On November 10th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Frank Wideman, Natural Resource Engineer from Perryville, will try to clear up some of the questions related to building fence along with teaching some techniques. Topics to be covered at the workshop include: electric fencing – chargers, grounds, wire types, posts; wire fencing – barbed wire, woven wire, and brace posts. Participants will have the opportunity to practice techniques and skills learned during the workshop that day. The location of the workshop will be at Henson Farms in Williamsville. Participants will meet at the shop of Jeff Henson located at the intersection of Highway A and V near Williamsville. From there the group will travel to a few locations and view different types of fencing systems. The group will return to the shop for lunch. Cost for the program will be $10 per person and includes lunch and handouts. We ask that you please RSVP for a meal county by November 8th to the Wayne County Extension office by calling (573) 224-5600 ext. 8 or e-mail Kendra Graham at grahamkk@missouri.edu.

GOAT & SHEEP CONFERENCE

Lincoln University Cooperative Extension and University of Missouri Extension along with the Missouri Department of Agriculture is presenting a Goat and Sheep Conference Saturday, December 11th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Perryville Higher Education Building in Perryville. Topics for the day include:

► Getting Started in Small Animal Production—Jodi Pennington and Dr. Helen Swartz, Lincoln University
► Market Grading: What Producers Need to Know for Uniformity—Mark Kennedy, Missouri Dept. of Ag
► Marketing with Economic Savvy—Darvin Green, Lincoln University
► Social Media: Facebook, UTube, Twitter, etc—Rachel Heimerich and Sarah Gehring, Missouri Dept. of Ag
► Biosecurity: Rules and Regs Update—Rachel Heimericks, MO Dept. of Ag
► Production Demonstrations: hoof trimming, deworming/injections, weight estimates/body condition scoring, and biosecurity on the farm.

Cost for early registration is $10 per person and includes lunch or $15 at the door. You may pre-register by contacting the Wayne County Extension office at (573) 224-5600 ext. 8. Checks made payable to LUCE can be mailed to Wayne County Extension, P.O. Box 200, Greenville, MO 63944.
TRICHOMONIASIS

Source: University of Missouri Cooperative Media Group

Just five years ago, trichomoniasis—a venereal disease of cattle—was virtually unknown in Missouri. Today, “trich” is a likely culprit in cattle herds with low pregnancy rates, said a University of Missouri Extension veterinarian.

Trich is caused by a protozoan parasite called Trichomonas foetus. Transmission of this organism during breeding can reduce the calf crop by as much as 50 percent due to early embryonic death or abortion, said Craig Payne, veterinarian with MU Extension Commercial Agriculture.

“This disease can have a devastating financial impact because of poor calf crops and expenses associated with cleaning up an infected herd,” he said.

Between March and August of this year, at least 18 Missouri counties were known to have cattle herds infected with trich. Most of those counties were in southwest Missouri, but no part of the state appears to be immune.

“The initial infection in the cow usually does not interfere with conception but rather results in death of the embryo or abortion at 50 to 70 days of gestation on average,” Payne said. “As a result, cows and heifers typically return to estrus one to three months after breeding, but a period of infertility may last for two to six months as a result of the infection.”

Cows and some young bulls tend to clear themselves of the infection eventually, but bulls 3 years and older tend to become permanent carriers. A small percentage of cows, though still able to deliver normal calves, may become permanent carriers and spread the infection to other bulls the following breeding season.

There’s no treatment for trich and individual animals show little or no obvious clinical signs of infection, Payne said. “Symptoms of an infected herd appear as an excessive number of open cows—40-50 percent on average—and/or a calving interval prolonged over several months.”

Diagnosis is usually made by testing the bulls. If you suspect trich, have a veterinarian collect samples and make a diagnosis. Modern tests using PCR (polymerase chain reaction) are far more sensitive than the traditional method of culturing samples and looking for the trich organism under a microscope. “A bull can be declared trich-free with one negative PCR test, whereas the culture method requires three negative test,” he said. Management of the disease involves culling infected bulls and open cows and replacing them with young, tested bulls and/or virgin heifers.

Preventing trichomoniasis in your herd

-Isolate and test new bulls.
-When possible, buy only young bulls and virgin heifers.
-Consider artificial insemination and use defined breeding seasons.
-Be careful about breeding your cows with borrowed/leased bulls.
-Keep accurate records.
-Monitor fences.

MAESTRO

The University of Missouri and Extension is partnering with the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA), Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the Missouri Agriculture and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA) and EnSave, Inc. to provide livestock operations with energy audits, low interest loans, and rebates to install energy-saving equipment for the farm operation and the farm residence. This program is called the Missouri Agricultural Energy Saving Team: A Revolutionary Opportunity (MAESTRO).

Options available to the farmers through the MAESTRO program include:
- Comprehensive energy audits for farm & farm residence
- Rebate on energy audit cost when equipment is installed
- Loan interest rate buy-down to 3% or equivalent amount in cash down payment

Lending institutions can benefit from a 75% loan loss reserve program (loan guarantee).

Currently, the mission is to educate as many people as possible about this program and to instill confidence that MAESTRO will help conserve energy and save money. In the future, a website will be available to further explain the program details, guidelines, contact information, deadlines, and provide additional educational materials.

The program is open to all livestock producers in Missouri who are not required to be permitted as a confined animal feeding operation (CAFO). Applicants must be a legal Missouri resident and at least 18 years old, and be able to provide proof of citizenship or immigration status, identity and residence. If the borrower employs laborers, he/she must also provide proof of enrollment and participation in the federal work authorization program. Other restrictions may apply; refer to the program forms at: http://mda.mo.gov/abd/financial/maestro.php or call EnSave at (800) 732-1399 to discuss the MAESTRO program.

For more information, contact your veterinarian or an MU Extension livestock specialist.

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BULL SALE SUMMARY

The 67th SEMO Bull Sale was held Friday, October 22nd at the Farmington Livestock Auction. 19 bulls were sold with a sale average of $2,456 per bull. The high selling bull was an Angus from Birk Beef Cattle in Jackson, sired by GAR Predistined, bringing $5,100. Ten Angus bulls averaged $2,790, two Charolais averaged $1,950, six Polled Herefords averaged $2,160 and one Simmental brought $1,600. You can find all the sale information on the website www.semobeef.com. The next sale will be Friday, March 25 at 7 p.m. in the Farmington Livestock Auction barn. If you are interested in enrolling bulls in the next bull sale let me know and I will get you an enrollment form. The enrollment forms will be due in January 2011.

VACCINATION WORKSHOP

Spring time is fast approaching and it is time to start thinking about vaccinations for the cow herd. Vaccinations are a type of insurance plan that helps us keep our cows healthy. You may not have experienced a disease like lepto or blackleg in your herd. However, if you have you realize how important vaccines are to the health of your cattle and your pocketbook. The cost of your cattle contracting one of the diseases we vaccinate for far outweighs the cost of the vaccine.

Are you questioning what vaccines you should be using and when? The Reynolds County Extension Council is sponsoring an evening program about cattle vaccines and health. Dr. Craig Payne, beef veterinarian from the University of Missouri will present the program on February 24. Location to be determined. For more information you can call the Reynolds County Extension Center at (573) 648-1035 or you can stop by their new office located in the courthouse in Centerville.

GROW YOUR FARM

University of Missouri Extension in cooperation with the Dexter Chamber of Commerce is offering an opportunity for prospective beginning farmers, growers, and experienced farmers to make a "new beginning" with sustainable farming methods. This program will be offered in ten consecutive sessions to anyone in the southeast area of Missouri. Sessions start January 25, 2011 and run every Tuesday for nine weeks. The program is $225 per farm with scholarships available. Call Van Ayers at the Stoddard County Extension office at (573) 568-3344 for more information or to enroll.

SHOW-ME-SELECT HEIFER SALE

The next Show-Me-Select Heifer sale will be Saturday, December 4th at 1 p.m. in the Fruitland Livestock Auction barn. There will be about 120 heifers available for sale including:

- 98% Black and BWF – Some Registered Angus, mostly Angus cross with some Angus Simmental.
- 55% A.I. bred with 20 Tier 2.
- Will calve between Jan. 25 and Apr. 25, 2011.
- Sorted into uniform lots of breed, color, size and calving date.
- Consignors include the best and high selling producers from this area and West Central at Kingsville, West Plains and North Central Missouri

Catalogs available at your local Extension office or on the website at www.semobeef.com. If you are interested in enrolling heifers for the December 2011 sale let me know. The deadline for enrollment is February 1, 2011.

AG EXPO

Be sure to join the Butler County University of Missouri Extension Council and the Three Rivers Community College Ag Club for the Ag Expo. The 2011 Ag Expo marks the 25th year of celebrating extension, agriculture, and natural resources in southeast Missouri.

Mark your calendars for:
Friday, January 21 from 1 to 8 p.m.
Saturday, January 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
## SOUTHEAST MISSOURI MARKET REPORTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cattle</th>
<th>Oct. 29</th>
<th>Southeast</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steers</td>
<td>$/cwt</td>
<td>Heifers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300-400 lbs.</td>
<td>$108.50-130</td>
<td>300-400 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400-500 lbs.</td>
<td>$105-125</td>
<td>400-500 lbs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>500-600 lbs.</td>
<td>$97-118</td>
<td>500-600 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-700 lbs.</td>
<td>$95.50-108</td>
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<tr>
<td>700-800 lbs.</td>
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<td>700-800 lbs.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goats</th>
<th>Oct. 15 Fruitland</th>
<th>Sheep</th>
<th>Oct. 15 Fruitland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25-37 lbs.</td>
<td>$118-130 cwt.</td>
<td>31-49 lbs.</td>
<td>$125-130 cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-65 lbs.</td>
<td>$130-150 cwt.</td>
<td>44-58 lbs.</td>
<td>$135-147 cwt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-75 lbs.</td>
<td>$140-150 cwt.</td>
<td>60-65 lbs.</td>
<td>$143-150 cwt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-92 lbs.</td>
<td>$112.50-122</td>
<td>72-82 lbs.</td>
<td>$135-147.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 30 Oregon Co.</td>
<td>90-125 lbs.</td>
<td>$121-132 cwt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-44 lbs.</td>
<td>$100 cwt.</td>
<td>Oct. 30 Oregon Co.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>45-60 lbs.</td>
<td>$145-155 cwt.</td>
<td>80 or less</td>
<td>$125-145 cwt.</td>
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<td>61-80 lbs.</td>
<td>$130-140 cwt.</td>
<td>Over 80</td>
<td>$110 cwt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 + lbs.</td>
<td>$80 cwt.</td>
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Market reports can be found at www.ams.usda.gov