



Eldon Cole, Livestock Specialist, P.O. Box 388, Mt. Vernon, MO 65712
(417) 466-3102 or colee@missouri.edu or <http://muextension.missouri.edu/lawrence>

October 20, 2021

BEEF WORKSHOP

University of Missouri Extension is offering a day-long beef program November 12, 9 am to 5 pm at the Southwest Research Center, 14548 Highway H, Mt. Vernon. The topics include: managing for an ultra-short calving season; managing cow body condition economically; heifer selection; maintaining cows in positive energy balance in variable forage conditions; minimizing effects of stress (heat, fescue toxicosis, etc.) on reproduction; bull management in and out of season.

The day will include a tour of the Center's cattle operation, the new Extension manual and lunch. The registration fee is \$150 per person. A second attendee from the same operation is charged \$50.

Please register at <https://bit.ly/ReproSystems>. Leading the workshop will be Dr. Jordan Thomas along with other Extension specialists. If you have other questions, please call 417-466-3102.

TESTED BULL SALE

The 98th All-Breed Performance Tested Bull Sale at the Springfield Livestock Marketing Center is October 25, 7 pm. We have 49 Angus, 1 Gelbvieh and 4 SimAngus bulls. All have genomic enhanced Expected Progeny Difference (EPD) and to make bull shopping less complicated we've attached the percentile rank on 6 or so of the primary traits you might be interested in.

Some sale catalogs include every bit of EPD; genomic and indexing information they have, but some buyer's eyes glaze over. You might call it information overload, but I challenge you to pick out as we do in our bull sale a few big EPD items. The choices we feel are basics that the majority of cow-calf producers are interested in: calving ease direct; weaning weight; yearling weight; milk; marbling or intramuscular fat (IMF) and rib eye area.

Those six EPDs in our sale also have a percentile rank on them which gives you quickly an idea if it's above or

below average in that breed. Remember a 50 rank is average for the breed. A 10% rank means it's in the top 10% for that trait and if you're looking to make improvement, you'll need to select those top EPD bulls.

There are some bulls that are in the top 5% for growth and marbling which will really be a blessing if you're feeding out your own calf crop. There's a lot of interest in some circles on visual scores for hooves, leg structure, docility, udder score and yes, even hair shedding for those wanting cattle that don't do so well on "hot" fescue.

I feel most serious cattle breeders are now comfortable with the use of EPD and Index evaluation. If not, before your next bull sale do some, "what if scenario games," and see what's selling well EPD-wise and what's not getting much action. We still have lots of love for calving ease, but we can get too extreme. The same with milk and mature cow weight.

Following the bull sale on the 25th there will be females sold. They will also have EPD and percentile rank available if you want to, "shop by the numbers." Specialists will have our 5:30 pm program to answer questions in the sale ring.

SHOW-ME-SELECT HEIFERS

Mark your calendar for the next Show-Me-Select bred heifer sale on November 19 at 7 pm at Joplin Regional Stockyards. We have 200 head catalogued that will calve from late January to the end of April the catalog is available on-line at:

<https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/show-me-select-replacement-heifer-program/replacement-heifer-regional-sales>

If you prefer, you might call your nearest Extension Center for a copy. Most of our regular consignors are back, but we have a few new ones.

STEER FEEDOUT TIME

We're back in the Feedout business, but on a small scale. We have our weighin program at Joplin Regional

Stockyards on November 2 with supper at 6 pm. At 7 pm we'll parade the 40 steers through the ring and have the panel of evaluators comment about what they like and dislike about each group and how they'll finish out.

I don't have the list of buyers, etc. who will make comments, but it will be worth your time to apply their comments to your calves at home. There is no charge for this activity of the SW MO Cattlemen's Association.

POISONOUS PLANTS

Ten days or so ago a couple of fellows came to me wanting to know if I'd ever heard of a plant their veterinarian told them was very poisonous. They showed me the note and sure enough it was perilla mint. Neither one could ever remember hearing that perilla mint was one of the worst toxic plants we encounter. Apparently, in their neighborhood in late September or early October, 8 or so cows were diagnosed as victims of perilla mint.

The unusual thing to me was the fact the deceased cattle were all in good health and as one fellow put it, they were fleshy and almost pampered with cubes. When I hear about mint poisoning it's mostly for cattle that are thin and hungry. I've even seen adult cows in the winter eat the dry seed pods and die.

If you aren't familiar with mint you should go to your computer and look it up before next summer for I'll bet you've got in some of your shaded areas where the soils a little damp. Once you see or smell it you'll never forget it. The stem is square and the stem and leaves have a purplish color to them. Cattle don't normally bother it, but for some reason these cows must not have had a mother tell them to not eat it. News flash from Dake BSE day, 6 or 8 Corriente roping steers died from perilla. They were shipped in from another state.

OTHER POINSONOUS PLANTS

If you'd like, sometime attend one of Tim Schnakenberg's poisonous weed presentations. We always have big concerns about johnsongrass toxicity, both from prussic acid or nitrate problems. Here's a partial list I've pulled out of my head. I'll bet you can come up with others:

Poison Hemlock	Poke
Oak leaves or sprouted acorns	Cocklebur
Buckeye – young shoots & seeds	Jimson Weed
Nightshade – bull or horse nettle	Yew shrub clippings
Wilted wild cherry leaves	
Jonquils – note next spring nothing ever touches them	

Fescue – fescue from leaves, stems and seed heads probably cause more lost animal performance, if not deaths over the years.

Yes, I have a feeling, cows do pass word around in their own mysterious way to calves not to eat certain plants.

CATTLE LOSING ADAPTATIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSORS

Dr. Jared Decker and his grad students have published a report that there's evidence cattle are losing important environmental adaptations. They attribute this to a lack of genetic information available to farmers. They've used genetic material dating back to the 1960's and found specific DNA variations associated with adaptations that could one day be used to create DNA tests for cattle that could tell farmers whether their cattle are suited for an environment or not.

Decker's team gives the example of cows in Colorado that may ease the stress on their hearts at high altitudes. But if those adaptations decrease over the generations the cow herd will lose advantages that would have been useful to a Colorado farmer.

The team looked at six decades worth of bovine DNA from cryo-preserved semen from breed associations. They found that over time, while genes associated with higher productivity and fertility improved due to careful selection by farmers, many genes connected to environmental adaptations have failed.

Looking down the road, Decker says we need user friendly cattle DNA tests for a particular specific adaptation. An adaptation that rings a bell to me might include resistance to vasoconstriction, a narrowing of the blood vessels that occurs at high elevations and puts undue stress on the heart-resistance to a toxin in grass that can also cause vasoconstriction and tolerance for high heat and humidity. These tend to recede over generations as cattle are removed from the associated environments.

Decker says, "we must produce food more sustainably and be good environmental stewards." Making sure a cow's genetics match their environment makes life better for cattle and helps farmers run efficient and productive operations.

As you read this keep in mind of cattle you raise that seem able to tolerate fescue that you've had around for years. Hurry up Jared and find those DNA tests that will guide us into a more high-tech way to co-exist with hot fescue.

Southwest Missouri Cattlemen's Association

How would you like to win a set of
**Gallagher Multi Purpose Loadbars & Data
Collection Manager?!**

(Nearly a \$4,000.00 Value!)

Or a 30 gallon Mira-Fount 3345 Waterer (\$700 Value!)

Join us at the November Show-Me-Select Heifer
Sale at Joplin Regional Stockyards on
Friday November 19, 2021 at 7:00 pm

2 Ways to Win:

Option 1: Bring proof of your current Missouri Cattlemen's Association membership

- Post Card
- Membership Card
- MO Cattlemen's Magazine
- Prime Cuts Email
- MO Cattlemen's Email

Option 2: Join Missouri Cattlemen's Association!
Membership Pricing: \$70.00/year or \$200.00/3 years

New members will receive a New Membership Welcome Package!
(While supplies lasts)