

Sheep and Meat Goat Speakers from Coast to Coast Highlight the 2009 Missouri Livestock Symposium

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The Missouri Livestock Symposium, for good reason, has become one of the best known and premier events for livestock producers in the US. Not only is the entire program free, it features internationally known speakers on all species of livestock, stock dogs, and forages. It also features a well-known keynote speaker on Friday evening and concludes with big-time country music to close out the program on Saturday night.

This year's Missouri Livestock Symposium is scheduled for Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5 at the Kirksville Middle School Complex, 1515 S. Cottage Grove, Kirksville, Missouri. Complete program details can be found at missourilivestock.com or by calling 660-665-9866 or emailing lanen@missouri.edu and putting MLS in the subject line.

The sheep and meat goat program was recently announced by Garry Mathes, chair of the Missouri Livestock Symposium planning committee. According to Mathes "we are excited about both the speakers and the topics that have been confirmed for the 2009 Missouri Livestock Symposium". Mathes goes on to say that "each year our committee works very hard to identify the best possible speakers and the most relevant topics – this year I think we have succeeded once again."

This year's speakers and topics in the Sheep Section are: *Choosing the Right Antibiotic(s)/Treatments for Common Sheep Ailments* (Dr. Robert Fielder, DVM, Mac Arthur, CA); *Why Treat When You Can Prevent Disease Problems* (Fielder); *Alternative Dewormers – Do They Work on Sheep* (Dr. Charlotte Clifford-Rathert, Jefferson City, MO.); *Strategies for Genetic Improvement of Parasite Resistance in Sheep* (Dr. Dave Notter, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.); *Genetic Improvement Opportunities for the American Sheep Industry* (Notter); *Making Pastures and Forages Work for Sheep* (Dean Oswald, University of Illinois).

In the Meat Goat Section the always popular Fred Homeyer from Antelope Creek Boer Goats in Robert Lee, Texas, returns to give two talks titled *Boer Goats Around the World* and *What Conformation Can Tell You About Other Important Meat Goat Traits*. Other Speakers and their talks include: *Alternative Dewormers for Meat Goats – Do They Work?* (Charlotte Clifford-Rathert, Lincoln University, MO.); and two talks by Louisiana State University meat goat expert Dr. Ken McMillin titled *"Efficiencies for Meat Goat Profitability"* and *"Meat Goat Industry and Marketing Options."*

Additional speakers and talks on beef cattle, horses, stock dogs, and forages make certain that producers who attend have plenty to choose from.

The Friday evening program opens with welcomes from Tom J. Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and Missouri's Director of Agriculture Dr. Jon Hagler. It will also feature the presentation of the Missouri Livestock Symposium's Livestock Person of the Year and the announcement of the Agriculture Educators Lifetime Achievement Awards. Keynote speakers will be nationally syndicated radio AgriTalk host Mike Adams and Dr. Craig Payne, University of Missouri Extension beef cattle veterinarian. The latter will address the issue of "Agriculture Under Attack".

The Missouri Livestock Symposium concludes at 8 PM Saturday evening with a country music concert by Curb Recording artist Steve Holy (www.stev holy.com), best known for his number one hits *Brand New Girlfriend* and *Good Morning Beautiful*. Concert tickets are optional and are the only cost associated with the Missouri Livestock Symposium. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling 660-665-9866. Seating is limited and tickets are sold on a first come first sold basis.

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NOTE: LMS speaker photos and entertainer photos are available by calling 660-665-9866 or emailing lanen@missouri.edu and putting MLS in the subject line.