

News from University of Missouri Extension – Adair County

Beef Cattle and Forages Program at 2011 Missouri Livestock Symposium Offers Great Value

The Missouri Livestock Symposium has a reputation for being one of the best educational programs in the country for anyone interested in the production of livestock and forages. This year is no exception. Garry L. Mathes, Chair of the Missouri Livestock Symposium Committee says, “We are doing something a little bit different this year in our beef and forages sections.” According to Mathes, “we recognize the important undeniable link there is between beef cattle and forage production when it comes to profitability. As such, we are combining the two for the Saturday morning program to offer an unbelievable opportunity for our producers and others involved in livestock production.” The Symposium will be bringing Dave Pratt to the Symposium. Dave is one of the most sought after speakers world-wide on sustainable agriculture and profitable ranching. He has taught the “Ranching for Profit” school throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Australia and Africa. Pratt has worked closely with the internationally acclaimed grazing and management guru Stan Parsons. Parsons moved back to his home in Zimbabwe in 1998 turning over the reign of Ranch Management Consultants (RMC) to Dave Pratt. Although there are several qualified instructors that teach the Ranching for Profit courses, the Missouri Livestock Symposium will have the CEO of RMC, Dave Pratt actually teach at the Symposium. Mathes also says that, “this is a great opportunity and value for livestock producers to hear from one of the best and to find ways to help their bottom lines. The cost to hear Dave Pratt speak and teach at the Symposium for a full day is zero—no cost. Typically schools can cost over \$2,000.00 so this is a golden opportunity!”

Pratt will give several talks on Saturday, December 3. These include Ranching for Profit: Working on the Business, Ranching for Profit: Three Secrets to Profits, Ranching for Profit: Knowing What the Numbers Mean, Ranching for Profit: Hard Work and Harmony, Ranching for Profit: Wealthy on the Balance Sheet, Broke at the Bank, and a Question and Answer session.

Beef cattle producers will also hear from an expert beef cattle panel moderated by Missouri Director of Agriculture, Dr. Jon Hagler. The panel will tackle important topics and issues in the beef industry including updates on pinkeye, trichomoniasis, and other management considerations and issues. Panel members will include Dr. Tom Yazwinski, University of Arkansas; Dr. Linda Hickam, Missouri’s new state veterinarian, and Dr. Justin Sexten, University of Missouri beef cattle feeding specialist. Dr. Sexten will also provide producers with ways to reduce feed costs—something on a lot of producer’s minds lately.

The 2011 Missouri Livestock Symposium also features speakers from coast to coast for producers of sheep and meat goats. In the Equine Section, horse clinician Van Hargis from Texas and Dr. Ted Stashak of California, will provide horse enthusiasts with important ideas to keep their horses healthy and to assist them with equipment and training ideas that work. An expert panel of horsemen will address other important topics and issues as well.

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Mathes also indicated “there is something for everybody.” Stock dog owners will be able to get free advice from nationally known stock dog trainer Lyle East, who will give three separate talks on stock dog training. We will also have demonstrations related to new beef and pork cuts, cooking and tasting demonstrations, talks about the food we eat, and more. There will also be a speaker on backyard poultry production, tornado safety, and how to access grant money to improve farmstead energy efficiency.”

There is no cost to attend the 2011 Missouri Livestock Symposium. Hours are 4-9 p.m. on Friday, December 2 and 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 3. No pre-registration is needed and there will be a free agriculturally related trade show each day. A free beef meal will be served Friday evening at 6 p.m., free coffee and donuts on Saturday morning, and a free Governor’s Style Luncheon courtesy of Missouri commodity groups on Saturday. “If there is a better deal anywhere, we don’t know where,” says Mathes.

To access the entire program, including more information about speakers and topics, special attractions, special motel rates, and directions to the Symposium, go to <http://www.missourilivestock.com/>. If additional information is needed call Bruce Lane at 660-665-9866 or email lanen@missouri.edu and put MLS in the subject line, or Garry Mathes at 660-341-6625. The 2011 Missouri Livestock Symposium will be held at the Kirksville Middle School located at 1515 S. Cottage Grove in Kirksville, MO.

The Symposium closes out with entertainment Saturday night by Becky Blackaby (<http://www.beckyblackaby.com/>). Tickets, which are optional and the only cost item associated with the Symposium, must be purchased in advance for \$10.00 each. Call 660-665-9866 for ticket information or entertainment details.

PLEASE NOTE: Photos related to the Missouri Livestock Symposium can be obtained by calling 660-665-9866.