

News from University of Missouri Extension – Adair County

2011 Missouri Livestock Symposium Features Sheep and Meat Goat Experts from Coast to Coast

Internationally recognized sheep and meat goat experts will be in Missouri on December 2 and 3 to share information to help sheep and meat goat producers succeed regardless of the size of their operation or the experience of the producers. According to Garry L. Mathes, Chair of the Missouri Livestock Symposium committee, “we have scheduled three of the nation’s top authorities on sheep and goats and asked them to discuss topics that are both relevant and practical.”

This year’s program will feature Dr. T. A. Yazwinski from the University of Arkansas. Dr. Yazwinski will give two talks in both the Sheep and Meat Goat sections of the Symposium. His first talk in the Sheep Section will be “Important Parasites in Sheep” and his second talk will be “Controlling Worms in Sheep”. According to Mathes, one of the interesting things Dr. Yazwinski will address is a discussion on some of the new dewormers he has been evaluating in his research as well as other novel approaches to controlling worms in sheep. His two talks in the Meat Goat Section will focus on the same subjects he discusses for sheep producers, but will be targeted for goat producers.

Also speaking in the Sheep and Meat Goat Sections will be Susan Schoenian from the University of Maryland. Susan, who maintains one of the best sheep and goat sites on the Web (sheepandgoat.com), will cover two topics that always are a concern to producers. The first is “Hoof Health and Management,” which will include a report on a New England on-farm project to eradicate foot-rot on the farm. In addition, Susan will talk in both the Sheep and Meat Goat Sections on the timely topic of “Reducing Feed Costs.”

The third Sheep and Meat Goat Section speakers will be Dr. Bob Fielder of MacArthur, California. According to Garry Mathes, “we are bringing back Dr. Fielder for a third straight year because of his popularity and the fact that previous Symposium attendees asked us to do so!” Dr. Fielder has two topics he will address in each species section, “Breeding Better Sheep” (or “Breeding Better Meat Goats”) and “Antibiotic Strategies: What if My First Choice Is Not Working?”

Those attending sheep and meat goat programs will receive a free Small Ruminant Toolbox, courtesy of the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). These contain information that can assist sheep and meat goat producers with answers to common questions.

The 2011 Missouri Livestock Symposium is FREE and no pre-registration is needed. The doors open Friday, December 2 at 4 p.m. Those attending can see classic tractor exhibits, an agriculturally-related trade show, and enjoy a free beef dinner at 6 p.m. The Friday evening program will feature Mike Adams, host of the popular radio AgriTalk program.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium also features great speakers and topics on horses, beef cattle, forages, ranch management, stock dogs, meat cutting and cooking demonstrations, backyard poultry production, grant money to improve farmstead efficiency, and some interesting programs on the history of our foods in the United States. To see a complete program line up and activities, go to www.missourilivestock.com, or call Bruce Lane at 660-665-9866 or email lanen@missouri.edu or Garry Mathes at 660-341-6658. The Website also includes information on special hotel rates, free meal information and listing of trade show exhibitors and sponsors.

Hours for the 2011 Missouri Livestock Symposium are 4-9 p.m. on Friday, December 2 and 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 3. The Symposium is held at the Kirksville Middle School at 1515 S. Cottage Grove in Kirksville, MO.

The program culminates on Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. with a concert by Becky Blackaby (beckyblackaby.com). Tickets to the concert are \$10.00 and can be purchased at the Adair County Extension Center in Kirksville, MO.

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