

2011 Missouri Livestock Symposium to Focus on New Era Profitability and Practical Ideas for Producers

Garry Mathes, Missouri Livestock Symposium planning committee chair says, "I couldn't be more proud of this year's program and the work our committee did in planning this year's Symposium. Once again they have come up with outstanding speakers and topics and have added a new wrinkle for the Beef Cattle and Forage Sections." The 2011 Missouri Livestock Symposium will be held December 2 & 3, 2011 at the Kirksville Middle School, 1515 S. Cottage Grove in Kirksville, MO. Past Symposia have drawn producers and agribusinesses from throughout Missouri and the country. There have even been attendees from several foreign countries. The Missouri Livestock Symposium will feature programs for producers of beef cattle and forages, equine enthusiasts, sheep and meat goat producers, and provide information for those who raise or use stock dogs. In addition, there will be talks on consumer topics and farm related issues affecting anyone involved in agriculture. High profile speakers will come from coast to coast to share their knowledge and expertise. Here are a few examples of the 2011 Missouri Livestock Symposium:

Producers will have an opportunity to receive training from Ranching for Profit founder Dave Pratt of California. Pratt is one of the most sought after speakers on profitable ranching in the world today. He has taught Ranching for Profit schools throughout the U. S. and in Canada, Mexico, Australia and Africa. He has practical roots and has earned a reputation for innovative teaching with a practical edge. In 1999 he became the CEO of Ranch Management Consultants, Inc. Ranching for Profit schools can cost producers thousands of dollars to attend so this is a unique opportunity to hear from the founder himself at no cost! Pratt will speak on 6 different topics often taught in Ranching for Profit schools. Participants can attend any or all of these. Topics include Three Secrets to Profit; Working on the Business; Knowing What the Numbers Mean; Hard Work and Harmony; Wealthy on the Balance Sheet, Broke at the Bank; and a question and answer session.

The Beef Section will also feature a beef cattle panel moderated by Missouri Department of Agriculture Director Jon Hagler. This expert panel will discuss the latest information related to beef cattle health (emphasis on pink eye and trichomoniasis), cattle management, and feeding.

University of Missouri Extension Beef Specialist Dr. Justin Sexten, always a popular speaker, will speak on "Feed Costs, Feed Efficiency and Profit." Beef producers and consumers can see how their checkoff dollars are being used when Bridget Wasser of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Denver, Colorado, teams up with the Missouri Beef Industry Council to demonstrate some of the newly developed cuts of beef that are finding their way into our food chain. In addition to the cutting demonstration, there will be a cooking and tasting as part of the program.

The sheep and meat goat sections will feature three of the industries "big hitters" who will talk about some of the biggest problems facing producers. Dr. T. A. Yazwinski from the University of Arkansas will discuss internal parasite control and share some of the latest research on new products and strategies to control worms. Susan Schoenian of the University of Maryland will cover both feed costs and foot health. Veterinarian Dr. Fred Groverman will

fly in from Petaluma, California to share his knowledge related to breeding better sheep and goats as well as keeping the sheep flock or goat herd healthy.

This year's horse section will bring in Van Hargis from Sulfur Springs, Texas. Known as "The Horseman with a Message," Hargis will give two talks—Standing While Mounting and Bit by Bit (bit education). Dr. Ted Stashak of Northern California will talk about the latest on Horse Wound Care. Dr. Stashak is an international expert on this topic and has published articles, book chapters, and even a textbook on the subject. He may also speak on horse lameness. Rounding out the equine program will be an expert panel moderated by Dr. Jon Hagler. The panel will provide timely information on a variety of horse topics and also allow for audience questions and answers.

Other 2011 topics include livestock and farm protection, backyard poultry production and management, Farmers Care program, providing safe food to consumers, the impact of food and drink on the history of the world, available grant money to improve farmstead efficiency, and even floral arranging. Stock dog owners can receive tips from stock dog training expert Lyle East of Clinton, MO.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium also features an agriculturally-related trade show, a classic tractor contest and display, and entertainment Saturday evening by Becky Blackaby (beckyblackaby.com). There is a FREE beef supper at 6 p.m. on Friday evening; free coffee, juice and donuts on Saturday morning; and a Free Governor's Style Luncheon on Saturday at noon. **No pre-registration is required and there are no registration costs.** Just show up and take advantage of what many have called the best producer oriented program held in the United States today!

For additional information on the Missouri Livestock Symposium, visit our Website at <http://www.missourilivestock.com/>, or our Facebook page, or call 660-665-9866 or 660-341-6625. Our Website contains links to all speakers and provides other useful information on schedules, lodging, etc. The Missouri Livestock Symposium is organized and run by a 20-member volunteer committee representing all livestock species and multiple agriculturally related agencies and educational institutions.

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