

Livestock symposium Dec 2-3

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Northeast livestock meeting features top speakers on horse, cattle, goats, related production topics

KIRKSVILLE, Mo. - The 2005 Missouri Livestock Symposium features programs on the care, the feeding and the profiting from all major livestock species, from horses to cattle, goats to stock dogs. The symposium, Dec. 2-3, is again at the Kirksville Middle School.

"We've included speakers of interest to all livestock owners, from hobbyists to commercial operators," said Bruce Lane, University of Missouri Extension regional livestock specialist in Kirksville.

Equine sessions were particularly expanded for the 2005 symposium in response to with the continued growth in horse ownership in the state, Lane said.

Speakers in the horse program include internationally known hoof expert and farrier Gene Ovnicek, who will lead two sessions. The first is on laminitis and founder treatment, followed by new treatments for navicular problems.

Other sessions in that track feature horse trainer and entertainer Wylie Gustafson, who will discuss training working horses for the farm and ranch; Mark Kennedy, with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, who will discuss pasture management for horses; Brian Nielsen, Michigan State University, will lead two sessions on feeding and exercise; and a presentation from master saddle maker Martin Bergin of St. Louis.

"Gustafson will be a special treat," Lane said. "Not only is he an excellent horse trainer, he's well known as an entertainer and his band, "Wylie and the Wild West" will perform Saturday night."

Other subject-matter tracks on Saturday each include a full day of sessions specific to beef, sheep, meat goats, swine, stock and guard dogs, predators and wildlife issues, forages and farm business news. Two additional tracks feature a mix of presentations on swine, crops and farm business; and on foods, crafts and other "around the home" subjects.

Livestock and related businesses will be on hand in the symposium trade show.

A separate workshop on sheep and meat goat production, also Dec. 2-3, is filled to its 30-student capacity, said Garry Mathes, chair of both that workshop and the main livestock symposium. "We had more than 100 applicants for the sheep and goat training, from many states," Mathes said. "While that training program is full, the same speakers will be on hand throughout the main livestock symposium, and many will be presenting during the symposium's goat and sheep track.

The symposium kicks off Friday evening with the opening of the trade show at 4 p.m. A free beef dinner starts at 6 p.m., followed by updates on farm and rural issues from Fred Ferrell, director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture; David Baker, assistant dean of the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Jerry Taylor, MU animal scientist working on genetic tests to identify cattle with high-value meat traits, and Ron Plain, MU agricultural economist, who will discuss land value trends in Missouri.

At 8:30 p.m., Orion Samuelson, nationally know farm broadcaster, will discuss farm issues of the day.

Subject tracks begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, ending after 4 p.m. A free luncheon will feature a variety of Missouri-based foods. The Wylie and the Wild West concert begins at 7:30, and is the only event requiring advance tickets.

For more information, contact Lane at (660) 665-9866 or visit the symposium Web site at <http://missourilivestock.com>

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