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2007 Missouri Livestock Symposium Sheep Section Focuses on Topics Critical to Producers

The 2007 Missouri Livestock Symposium will be held in Kirksville, Missouri, on November 30- December 1. It is a remarkable program that features nationally known speakers from 13 states on sheep, meat goats, forages, beef cattle, horses, stock dogs, and more. A complete program lineup can be found on the web at <http://missourilivestock.com> or by calling 660-665-9866. There is no pre-registration required and no registration costs. The doors to the Missouri Livestock Symposium will open at 4 pm Friday, November 30. Attendees can spend time at the sold out trade show until 6 pm when a free beef meal sponsored by the Missouri Livestock Symposium committee will be served. At 7 pm the evening program begins with Max Armstrong (<http://www.agbizweek.com/html/bios.htm>) of RFD TV's "This Week in Agribusiness" as the featured speaker.

The second day of the Missouri Livestock Symposium begins at 8 am when the trade show continues along with educational talks throughout the day. A free Governor's Style luncheon is provided at noon. The Symposium concludes on Saturday evening when the Bellamy Brothers perform at 7:30 pm. Tickets to the Bellamy Brothers (<http://bellamybrothers.com>) go on sale October 15 and are sold on a first come first sold basis. Seats are limited so that those interested in the concert should call 660-665-9866 after October 15 for ticket information and details. Tickets are \$10 and represent the only cost associated with the Missouri Livestock Symposium making it one of the best agricultural events going!

The Sheep Section of the program this year includes the following speakers and topics. Dr Ray Kaplan, DVM, University of Georgia, and a distinguished parasitologist will provide 2 hours of useful and new information to both sheep and goat producers about the present status of worm control and effectiveness of various dewormers marketed for sheep and goats. He will discuss some of his recent field work related to this topic which sheep and goat producers should find both interesting and useful. The program also features Dr. Kreg Leymaster of the USDA Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, Nebraska. A leading sheep researcher, Dr. Leymaster will discuss new information pertaining to sheep breeds well suited to low input, pasture based production systems. The presentation will include new information pertaining to both woolled and hair breeds of sheep. Dr. Thomas, State Sheep Specialist, University of Wisconsin, is also a featured speaker at this year's Symposium. Dr. Thomas' talks include Practical Economic Feeding of the Ewe Flock and Useful Tools for Genetic Improvement of Sheep Health and Performance.

In addition to the Sheep Section, those interested in sheep and/or meat goats will find appealing topics in the Forages Section of this year's Symposium. Topics and speakers are: Alfalfa for Grazing (Dr. Garry Lacefield, University of Kentucky State Forages Specialist); Alfalfa for Hay and Silage (Dr. Lacefield); a Producer Panel of 3 innovative and progressive livestock and forage producers (Moderator: Dr. Dave Davis, Superintendent, Forage Systems Research Center, University of Missouri); and an opportunity to "Ask the Experts" – an open question and answer panel with Dr. Dave Davis; Dr. Garry Lacefield; Dr. Dee Cross (Clemson University, S. Carolina).

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The Missouri Livestock Symposium will also feature a top lineup of topics for those interested in stock dogs. Check the Missouri Livestock Symposium website at <http://missourilivestock.com> to view the program lineup.

For those interested in meat goats, a full section of topics and well known speakers will also be available. In addition to a parasite control talk – New Concepts in Parasite Control and Smart Deworming - to be given by Dr. Ray Kaplan of the University of Georgia, Margo Hale and Linda Coffey, both from ATTRA, Fayetteville, Arkansas will be program speakers. ATTRA is made up of the National Center for Appropriate Technology and National Sustainable Agriculture Service. Meat Goat topics include; Meat Goats – Hobby or Business?; Moving On – Other Opportunities with Meat Goats; and Don't Miss the Target – Planning for Success! Mark Kennedy, USDA/NRCS, and a popular speaker on forages will also present a talk on Goat Grazing Behavior and Pastures.

If you are looking for practical and immediately useful information on beef cattle, horses, sheep, meat goats, forages, or stock dogs – the Missouri Livestock Symposium is the place to be on November 30 and December 1, 2007. Last year the Symposium drew over 1400 people from throughout Missouri and 12 states.

Again, more information about the 2007 Missouri Livestock Symposium, including special motel room rates, can be found at <http://missourilivestock.com> or by calling Bruce Lane at 660-665-9866 (or email at lanen@missouri.edu and put MLS in the subject line); or call Garry Mathes at 660-341-6625.