

For more information please contact:

Bruce Lane, University of Missouri Extension Livestock Specialist
lanen@missouri.edu

2008 Missouri Livestock Symposium Offers Intriguing Topics for Livestock Producers and Landowners

The 2008 Missouri Livestock Symposium scheduled for December 5 and 6 in Kirksville, Missouri, may have some “eye-opening topics” for livestock producers and landowners, according to Garry Mathes, chair of the Missouri Livestock Symposium planning committee. According to Mathes, “we take some pride in trying to help folks stay abreast of things that might have an impact on their operation.” As such, the Symposium, in addition to more traditional talks on beef cattle, horses, sheep, meat goats, forages, and stock dogs, will feature some renewable energy topics that “might raise the eyebrows” of some people.

As an example, Mathes cites Dr. David Bransby of Auburn University in Alabama. Bransby is slated to speak on “The Future of Grass - Energy or Grazing”. Producers are well aware of what has happened to feed prices of late and have speculated how renewables have influenced those prices. Bransby will talk about the potential competition and impact that grazing lands may see as cellulosic biomasses work their way into our economy.

Bransby holds degrees from the University of Natal, University of South Africa, and the University of Missouri, is a known leader and expert in the bioenergies field. In addition to receiving numerous and notable professional honors and awards, Bransby served as a Presidential Advisor on biofuels. He is presently a Professor at Auburn University.

With wind energy also on the forefront of the minds of many, the Missouri Livestock Symposium will also feature a Midwest wind energy overview as part of its renewable resources section of this year's program. The principal speaker on wind will be Mr. Harry Kemker of Florida who is known nationally for his work in the energies field. Kemker is expected to unveil some recent work that shows wind may be a very viable energy source in locations once thought to be less attractive.



The Missouri Livestock Symposium is absolutely free and no registration is needed. Mathes states that, "if you are involved with any livestock species, produce forages, raise or use stock dogs, have a passion for the green economy, or are involved in agribusiness, the 2008 Missouri Livestock Symposium on December 5-6 is the place for you."

The Missouri Livestock Symposium also features a sold out ag-related trade show and even some free meals! Hours are Friday, December 5th from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 6th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Symposium closes out with a concert Saturday evening at 7:30 featuring John Anderson. For concert tickets or more detailed information about the Missouri Livestock Symposium go to <http://missourilivestock.com> or call Bruce Lane (660-665-9866) or Garry Mathes at (660-341-6625). You can also email lanen@missouri.edu and put MLS in the subject line.

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