

Livestock Symposium focuses on beef profits at 20th annual event

KIRKSVILLE, Mo. – Beef producers will learn to improve profits through management tips from the 20th annual Missouri Livestock Symposium, says Garry L. Mathes, chairman.

Farmers and ranchers will learn the value of management and genetics at the Symposium, Dec. 6 and 7 in Kirksville.

Eric Bailey, University of Missouri Extension, focuses on nutrition and heifer development in Missouri.

Dr. Temple Grandin, will give the keynote Friday evening. Next day, she, headlines the beef speakers lineup. Grandin, gained fame for her animal handling and animal welfare. She tells how improved stockmanship helps bottom lines. She gives insight to how animal welfare shapes the industry.

Jordan Thomas, MU Extension reproduction specialist, will talk on ranking cows in beef herds. Thomas teaches finding most profitable animals in a beef herd. Culling losers boosts herd profits.

Zac Erwin, MU Extension livestock specialist and symposium vice-chair, says, “Cattle producers faced several years of small or negative profits. They battled tough winters and dry summers. But cow and heifer slaughter numbers now point to a change in the cattle cycle.”

“The Beef program this year aims to give producers tools to take part in an upturn of prices in the cattle cycle,” Erwin says...

A noted visiting speaker will be David Lalman, a University of Missouri graduate now at Oklahoma State University. Lalman knows Missouri beef systems, Erwin says. Lalman has good data on how cow size and environmental

constraints apply to Missouri herds. “He’s an excellent presenter,” Erwin says. “He shares vital insights for Missouri cattle producers wanting to gain profit potential.”

A large agricultural trade show opens during the two days of the Missouri Livestock Symposium. The MLS meets at Matthew Middle School, 1515 Cottage Grove, Kirksville. Hours are 4 to 10 pm. Fri. Dec. 6, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat., Dec. 7.

Multiple tracks go at the same time.

In addition to beef, other tracks cover horses, sheep and market goats. Others add forages, stock dogs and farm succession planning.

No advance registration needed for the free program. Big Symposium attractions include free beef dinner, at 6 p.m. Fri. and free lunch on Sat. The Missouri Department of Agriculture coordinates meals. Missouri commodity groups co-sponsor meals, adding varied Missouri tastes. A volunteer committee plans the Symposium.

Find details on the internet at www.missourilivestock.com. Or call Adair County MU Extension Center at 660-665-9866. Or call Mathes at 660-341-6625.

The free Symposium draws visitors from across Missouri and nearby states. It’s planned by farmers.

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