

MISSOURI CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION PRIME CUTS™

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JBS S.A. to Become World's Largest Beef Processor

Giant beef processor JBS S.A. will soon control 10 percent of the global beef market. In a stunning announcement this week, JBS said it has acquired two U.S. packing companies, an Australian packer and the world's largest cattle-feeding company. Joesley Mendonca Batista, president of the São Paulo, Brazil-based JBS, said company sales will rise to \$22 billion a year once the transactions are complete, compared with \$12 billion now. JBS says it will pay \$1.27 billion in cash and stock for Smithfield Foods Inc.'s beef unit, Tasman Group in Australia and control of closely held National Beef Packing Co. in the United States. The deal also includes the purchase of Five Rivers Ranch, the world's largest cattle-feeding operation, which Smithfield jointly owns with ContiGroup Companies

By acquiring Smithfield Beef and National Beef, JBS would become the largest U.S. beef processor. The acquisitions would allow JBS to slaughter more than 42,000 head per day in 12 U.S. plants America's second- and third-largest beef packers are Cargill Meat Solutions, 29,000 head per day, and Tyson Foods at 28,000 head per day. Last year JBS bought Swift and Company for \$225 million, with a slaughter capacity of about 18,000 head per day. JBS's Australian acquisition, Tasman Group, is Australia's largest multi-species meat processor. Additionally, Tasman operates a feedlot for 25,000 cattle and 45,000 lambs. JBS's acquisition of Five Rivers Ranch includes the company's 10 feedyards with a capacity of more than 800,000 head. - Drovers Alert by Drovers Journal

Postage Rates Increase Again

Stamps Increasing by One Cent to 42¢ on May 12

The United States Postal Service has announced the price for a one-ounce First-Class stamp will increase from 41 to 42 cents on May 12.

Prices for other mailing services, such as Standard Mail, Periodicals, Package Services (including single-piece Parcel Post), and Special Services will also change (see chart below). The average

increase by class of mail is at or below the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

"The Postal Service developed the Forever Stamp for consumers to ease the transition during price changes," said Postmaster General John Potter. "We encourage Americans to buy Forever Stamps now for 41 cents, because like the name suggests, they are good forever." The price goes up to 42 cents on May 12.

The Postal Service has sold 5 billion Forever Stamps since the launch last April and plans to have an additional 5 billion in stock to meet the expected demand before the May price change.

- United States Postal Service

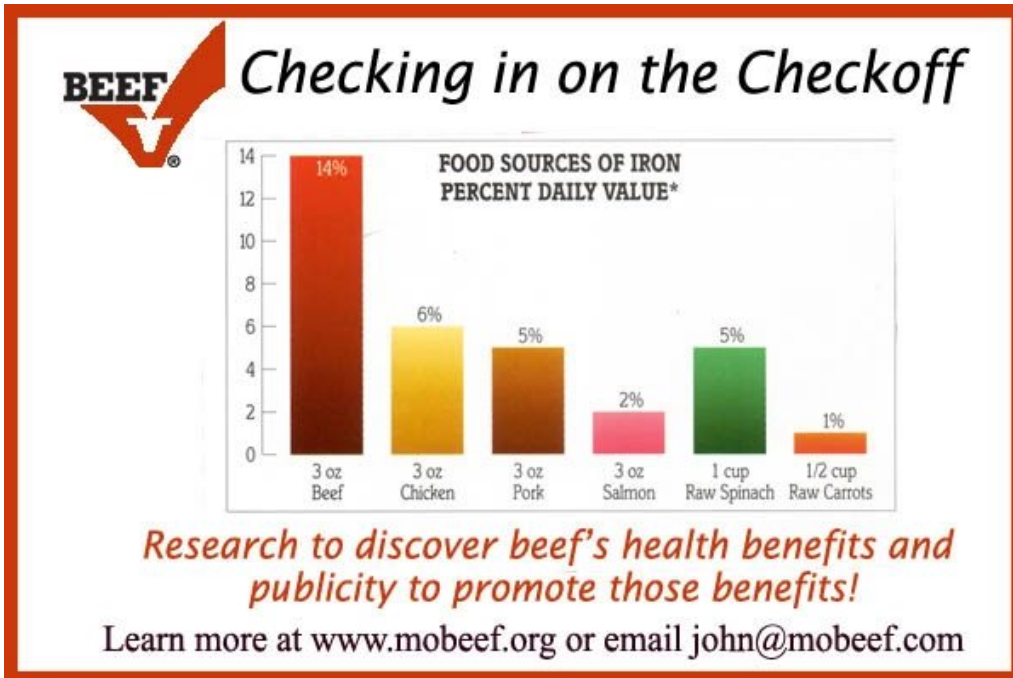
Beef Producers Given Incentives to Put on the Pounds

Gov. Matt Blunt announced that the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA), through the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA), is offering an economic incentive to Missouri beef producers to put more pounds on their cattle in Missouri rather than sending them to out-of-state feedlots. At the governor's urging, during the 2007 special legislative session, the Missouri General Assembly appropriated \$3 million for the Qualified Beef Tax Credit Program for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008.

Pre-qualified Missouri beef producers are eligible to receive a ten cent per pound incentive, in the form of a Missouri State Tax Credit, on weight gains of 200 pounds or greater than the baseline weight of cattle sold in previous years. To qualify, beef animals must meet the following criteria: born in Missouri after Aug. 28, 2008, as verified by written birth records; raised and backgrounded in this state by a Missouri taxpayer or raised, backgrounded and finished in this state by a Missouri taxpayer; and no more than 30 months of age as verified by written birth records.

All beef cattle producers wishing to participate in the Qualified Beef Tax Credit Program must submit a completed application for eligibility no later than Aug. 1, 2008. For additional information about the Qualified Beef Tax Credit Program, please contact MASBDA at (573) 751-2129 or visit MDA's Web site at www.mda.mo.gov to download a complete set of program guidelines and an application.

- Missouri Department of Agriculture



Missouri Fence Law Workshops to be held March 19

Joe Koenen, University of Missouri (MU) Extension ag business specialist, will explain state statutes governing fences during an upcoming workshop that will run from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

On March 19, the program can be seen in Kirksville, Palmyra, Salem, Mexico, Pilot Grove, Lincoln and Osage Beach.

Koenen will provide an overview of both state and county laws, as well as landowners rights and responsibilities.

The program will originate from the Kirksville Telecommunications Community Resource Center and will be broadcast to other locations via interactive video. Participants at all locations will be able to ask questions and interact with one another.

The cost is \$5 per person, which includes materials. Individuals should preregister by contacting MU Extension in Unionville at 660-947-2705 or by e-mail at koenenj@missouri.edu.

March 19 locations include:

Kirksville - TCRC, 315 S. Franklin

Palmyra - MU Extension-NE Region, 400 S. Main, Suite 2200

Salem - TCRC, 1200 W. Rolla Road

Mexico - TCRC, 2900 Doreli Lane

Pilot Grove - C-4 School, 107 School St.

Lincoln - Lincoln High School, 101 W. Lamine St.

Osage Beach - State Fair Community College, 3797 Highway 54

Grazing School to be held April 9th & 10th

Are you interested in increasing the plant diversity and quality of your pasture, and possibly

increasing the number of cows per acre that you can graze? Rotational grazing could be the answer that you have been looking for! The Montgomery and Warren County SWCD's and NRCS in cooperation with University of Missouri Outreach and Extension are holding grazing school April 9th and 10th at the Lions Building in Montgomery City. The cost of the two day school is \$40 per person or \$50 for a couple, if registered by April 4th, 2008. If registration is paid at the door it will cost \$50 per person or \$60 per couple. This fee includes the cost of the needed materials and lunch for two days. Morning refreshments and beverages throughout the two days will be provided by the Montgomery City MFA, Rhineland MFA and Warrenton MFA. This event is sponsored by the Charrette Creek, Bear Brush and Loure AgNPS project areas. This school is limited to the first 25 paid people. This two day seminar is an approved school for the DSP-3 cost share practice. If you are interested in receiving more information contact either the Montgomery or Warren County office at 573-564-3715 ext.3 or 636-456-3434 ext. 3.

2008 BIF Meeting Set

The 2008 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Research Symposium and Annual Meeting will take place June 30-July 3, at the Hyatt Regency in Calgary, Alta., Canada.

The event is expected to attract more than 500 seedstock and commercial producers, feedlot operators, academia, industry experts and beef industry service providers. Symposium topics will include the most current genetic improvement research and innovation dedicated toward advancements in beef production.

Angus Productions Inc. (API) will once again host online coverage of this popular industry event at www.bifconference.com. Symposium and tour schedules, accommodations and travel information, and archived coverage will be available in the weeks preceding the event. During and following the symposium, proceedings, audio, photos, synopses of presentations, and committee coverage will also be available.

A tentative schedule and registration information is now available by clicking on the BIF meeting link at www.canadianbeefbreeds.com. - Angus Productions Inc.

A Sad Farewell

Editor's note: I regretfully inform you that this will be my last issue of Prime Cuts. Due to budget constraints, the Missouri Cattlemen's Association has eliminated the Director of Communications position. I have greatly enjoyed working with and serving the members of the association over the past seven years. While the staff changes were unexpected, I wish the association and its members much success. It has been an honor to represent an industry that means so much to Missouri and to me personally.

Calendar of Events

- March 18 Monroe County Cattlemen**
Paris Senior Center, 6:30 p.m.
- March 20 Jasper County Beef Producers**
First Assembly of God, Carthage
- March 27 Mid-Missouri Cattlemen**
Miller County Regional Stockyards, 6:00 p.m

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