



July 18, 2008

In This Issue

W.D. Farr Scholarships Awarded at Cattle Industry Summer Conference

[W.D. Farr Scholarship Awarded at Cattle Industry Summer Conference](#)

The academic careers of two outstanding graduate students were recognized today with scholarships awarded in honor of one of the cattle industry's greatest pioneers. The National Cattlemen's Foundation honored the late W.D. Farr, of Greeley, Colo., through two annual \$12,000 graduate scholarships bearing his name.

[USDA Releases CRP List in Flood Regions for Grazing](#)

[E.Coli Outbreak Involves Five States](#)

[While We Debate ID, Consumer Speaks Clearly](#)

[CRP Haying and Grazing on Hold](#)

[Group Asks for "Clean ADUFA Reauthorization"](#)

[2008 Across-Breed Election Table Released](#)

[Cattle Feed Byproduct Distillers Grains for Grazing](#)

[California Voters Decide Animal Welfare Issue](#)

[\\$100,000 Up for Grab Missouri Roping Fundraiser](#)

[Cattlemen Open Reliance Effort](#)

[Market Now or Later?](#)

[Missouri Beef House Schedule Posted](#)

[MBC Board of Directors Election](#)

Mitchell B. Bowling is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Animal Sciences at Colorado State University, where he also received his master's degree. He received his bachelor of science degree in animal science from Texas A&M University. Originally from Texas, Bowling is utilizing his degree work in meat science and food safety to increase exports of U.S. meat products. His career goal is to actively contribute to the beef industry by applying scientific principles to solve problems with the end goal of making a safer, better meat product for the world to consume.

Crystal D. Mathews is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication at the University of Florida. A native of Missouri, she received her master's degree from Texas A&M University and her bachelor of science degree from the University of Missouri. Mathews' academic work focuses on agricultural education and communication with an emphasis on leadership. In her degree program, she is conducting research on volunteer leadership in the beef industry. Beyond graduation, Mathews aspires to develop leadership programs tailored to the beef industry.

W.D. Farr was president of the National Cattlemen's Association in 1970, and was the first president of the National Cattlemen's Foundation. His career in agriculture spanned 75 years and included innovations in cattle feeding, uniform beef grading, water conservation and banking. Farr died at age 97 in August 2007.

Response to the W.D. Farr Graduate Scholarship Program was outstanding, with 29 applications from 16 universities across the country, and three international applicants. Contributions to the scholarship fund total over \$200,000, with fundraising efforts pursuing additional dollars to support more young scholars in the beef industry.

"We are very pleased to honor the late W.D. Farr and his life's work in agriculture, while assisting young people who exemplify his drive and vision," said

[Missouri Master Farm Award-Deadline Exent](#)

Bob Josserand, chairman of the NCF Board of Trustees. -- *released by N.C.B.A.*

[FSA County Committ Nominations](#)

USDA Releases CRP Land in Flood Regions for Grazing

[National Junior Show Quickly Approachin](#)

USDA has released Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for livestock grazing in counties recently designated as Presidential Disaster Areas because of flooding. The release permits grazing only in counties designated as primary and contiguous disaster areas and only because of flooding.

[Cattlemen's Meeting](#)

Quick Links

The states with counties that will permit livestock grazing include: Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. For a county listing, go to:

[Missouri Cattlemen's Association](#)

www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2008/07/0179.xml.

[National Cattlemen's B Association](#)

To be approved, CRP participants must write their county FSA office, obtain a modified conservation plan and receive county office approval before beginning to graze. Participants will experience a 25% reduction in their CRP rental payments. -- *Source: USDA news release; Beef Cow-Calf Weekly*

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E. Coli Outbreak Involves Five States

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said this week an E. coli outbreak traced to recalled beef in Michigan and Ohio has spawned cases in three other states. New York, Kentucky and Indiana each have one lab-confirmed case of a bacterial infection that matches the 41 previously reported cases. Last month, The Kroger Co. recalled ground beef sold in Michigan and Ohio stores, then this month expanded it to include other states. Nebraska Beef Ltd. supplied the meat, ultimately recalling 5.3 million pounds of beef. Of the 44 illnesses, 21 of the victims have been hospitalized and one developed kidney failure. Late last week, USDA announced a new rule that will allow the government to publicize the names and locations of retailers that receive meat subject to recall. USDA said the new rule would apply only to Class I recalls, which are characterized by a high likelihood that consumption of the product would cause sickness or even death. --*released by Drovers Alert*

While We Debate ID, The Consumer Speaks Clearly

The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) has never had either the support, or the detractors, that a lot of issues in our industry seem to attract. But in some circles, NAIS is seen as a rampant intrusion of government into private lives, and a slippery slope to losing every freedom and right we now enjoy.

There's been a litany of problems with NAIS and its implementation; perhaps none is more pronounced than having 29 different specie groups trying to devise their own means of implementing a program

that remains voluntary. While there are a lot of legitimate concerns about NAIS, ranging from cost to the right technology, farm-to-fork traceability is quickly becoming the standard in the global marketplace. It's also increasingly being demanded by consumers.

What's most striking, and problematic for the industry, is that consumers already assume the industry has such a traceback capability. As they become more aware of our lack of traceability, we can expect them to become increasingly vocal. -- *written by Troy Marshall, released by Beef Cow-Calf Weekly*

CRP Haying and Grazing is on Hold

USDA's May announcement that it would allow for the haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres after nesting season is now on hold. The National Wildlife Federation was able to obtain a temporary restraining order from U.S. District Court in Seattle for USDA's failure to do an environmental impact statement prior to the May announcement. A hearing on this issue is scheduled for next week.

-- *written by P. Scott Shearer, Washington D.C. correspondent; released by Beef Cow-Calf Weekly*

Groups Ask for "Clean" ADUFA Reauthorization

A coalition of livestock organizations is urging Congress to pass a "clean" reauthorization of the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA) this year. In a letter to Congress, the coalition said, ADUFA authorizes the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to collect fees to be "used to review certain animal drug applications. These fees allow FDA to supplement its rigorous and robust review of animal drugs by providing additional resources for timely reviews of new animal drug applications. More timely reviews ensure that livestock, dairy and poultry producers and their veterinarians have expedited access to new and innovative products for livestock and poultry without compromising the quality and integrity of the federal review process, thus ensuring public and animal health."

The coalition also informed Congress it opposes legislative proposals to ban the use of certain antibiotics for livestock. Some proposals would only allow the use of antibiotics when an animal is sick.

The coalition said, "Eliminating a producer's and veterinarian's ability to prevent disease with antibiotics actually would result in sick and suffering animals and would not improve public health or address the real concern of antimicrobial resistance in humans. Compliance with producer and veterinarian responsible-use programs will accomplish the goal of protecting public health and animal health and well-being."

Organizations signing the letter include: American Farm Bureau Federation, American Sheep Industry Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Chicken Council, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers Council, National Turkey Federation, and United Egg Producers. -- *written by P. Scott Shearer, Washington D.C. Correspondent; released by Beef Cow-Calf Weekly*



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2008 Cross-Breed EPD Table Released

The table of adjustment factors to be used to estimate across-breed expected progeny differences (AB-EPDs) for 16 breeds was presented at the Beef Improvement Federation Annual Meeting in Calgary, Alberta last week.

Across-breed adjustment factors have been calculated for growth traits and maternal milk since 1993. This year, adjustment factors for carcass traits have been calculated for eight of the 16 breeds for the first time. In order to be included, breeds had to have carcass data in the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) database and report their carcass EPDs on an actual carcass basis using an age-adjusted endpoint.

Bulls of different breeds can be compared on the same EPD scale by adding the appropriate adjustment factor to the expected progeny differences (EPDs) produced in the most recent genetic evaluations for each of the 16 breeds.

As an example, suppose a Hereford bull has a weaning weight EPD of +35 lbs. and a South Devon bull has a weaning weight EPD of +32 lbs. The across-breed adjustment factors for weaning weight (see table) are -2.9 lbs. for Hereford and 3.6 lbs. for South Devon. The AB-EPD is 35 lbs. + (-2.9) lbs. = 32.1 lbs. for the Hereford bull and 32 lbs. + 3.6 lbs. = 35.6 lbs. for the South Devon bull. The expected weaning weight difference when both are mated to cows of another breed (e.g., Angus) would be 32.1 lbs. - 35.6 lbs. = -3.5 lbs.

The AB-EPDs are most useful to commercial producers purchasing bulls of more than one breed to use in cross-breeding programs. In terminal cross-breeding systems, AB-EPDs can be used to identify bulls whose progeny would have the highest growth potential when mated to a third, unrelated breed (e.g., choosing between a Simmental and Charolais bull when mated to an Angus female).

Birth weight AB-EPDs are useful for selecting bulls for use on first-calf heifers to decrease the likelihood of dystocia. The carcass adjustment factors can be used to determine which bull's progeny would have

more marbling and larger ribeye areas or reduced backfat.

Uniformity from one generation to the next can also be improved by selecting bulls with similar AB-EPDs. Selection for uniformity is especially important in rotational cross-breeding systems for traits such as birth weight to manage calving difficulty and for traits related to cow size, and milk production to effectively manage feed requirements in cow herds.

Most breed associations publish EPDs on an annual basis. These EPDs predict differences expected in performance of future progeny of two or more bulls within the same breed for birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, and maternal milking ability (as reflected in progeny weaning weights). Normally, the EPDs of bulls from different breeds can't be compared because most breed associations compute their EPDs in separate analyses and each breed has a different base point.

The across-breed adjustment factors allow producers to compare the EPDs for animals from different breeds for these traits; these factors reflect both the current breed difference (for animals born in 2006) and differences in the breed base point. They should only be used with EPDs current as of July 2008 because of potential changes in EPD calculations from year-to-year.

The adjustment factors in the table were updated using EPDs from the most recent national cattle evaluations conducted by each of the 16 breed associations (current as of July 2008). The breed differences used to calculate the factors are based on comparisons of progeny of sires from each of these breeds in the Germplasm Evaluation Program at USMARC in Clay Center, NE. These analyses were conducted by USMARC geneticists Larry Kuehn (Larry.Kuehn@ars.usda.gov, 402-762-4352) and Mark Thallman (Mark.Thallman@ars.usda.gov, 402-762-4261). -- *Source: Larry Kuehn, USMARC research geneticist; released by The Beef Blog*

Cattle Feed Byproducts: Distillers Grains for Grazing Yearlings

Nebraska researchers wanted to know what use these products might have for growing cattle on pasture. They used yearling British-Continental crossbred steers initially weighing about 650 lb. A treatment group (TRT) had free-choice access to dried distillers grains (DDG) on Sandhill pasture from early June to early August. Controls (CON) were not fed.

Consumption of DDG averaged 11 lb/day. TRT gained 2.8 lb/day and CON gained 1.9 lb/day. Forage consumption was estimated to be about 30% less by TRT. So, for every CON animal, about 1.4 TRT animals could be run on the same pasture area. After grazing, all animals went to a feedyard. TRT were harvested 14 days before CON. There were no statistically significant differences between the two groups in final weight, ADG, or carcass characteristics. There was a tendency ($P < .15$) for TRT to have more Choice (67% vs 51%). The economic value of DDG was 17% over its cost for grazing and 11% over cost for finishing. The authors stressed that the use of DDG in this manner would depend on pasture cost, DDG cost, feeder cattle price, and fed cattle price. (Prof. Anim. Sci. 23:170)-- *Source: Texas A&M Ag Extension; released by The Beef Blog*

California Voters to Decide Animal-Welfare Issue

The California secretary of state has formally designated the Farm Animal Initiative of 2008 as Proposition 2 on the upcoming November ballot. The initiative, sponsored by a coalition of animal-rights groups, including the Humane Society of the United States, got on the ballot after collecting the required number of voter signatures. If passed, the proposition would require that gestation sows, egg-laying hens and veal calves have enough room to lie down, stand, turn around and fully extend their limbs. In essence, it would end the use of gestation-sow stalls, which has already occurred in Florida, Arizona, Colorado and Oregon. Californians for Safe Food, which fought to keep the proposition off the ballot, says that in addition to creating costly consequences for livestock producers, the initiative jeopardizes food safety and public health. -- *released by Drovers Alert*



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\$100,000 Up for Grabs in Missouri Roping Fundraiser

The "Best of the Best," Joplin Regional Stockyards' (JRS) annual fundraiser for Camp Barnabas, a Christian camp for kids and teens with life-threatening illnesses and disabilities, is set for Saturday, August 9, 2008.

Set for the Missouri Entertainment & Event Center in Springfield, the day includes the JRS "Best of the Best" calf-roping contest with the top National Finals Rodeo qualifiers from 2007 vying for \$100,000 in prize money. In addition, "Whiplash" the cowboy monkey from Taco John's television commercials, will display his herding prowess by working sheep.

Also part of the day is a Cattle Industry College and Trade Show, which includes a presentation by Mike Murphy of CattleFax on "Navigating The Changing Business Environment."

For more info, call 417-548-2333 or visit www.joplinstockyards.com. --Source: JRS News Release and BEEF Cow Calf Weekly

Cattlemen Open Relief Effort for Farms and Ranches Devastated by Midwest Flooding

The National Cattlemen's Foundation, in cooperation with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), has launched a disaster relief effort to assist farm and ranch families impacted by catastrophic flooding in the Mississippi River corridor and surrounding areas.

Thousands of family farm and ranch operations in Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin have been devastated by flooding caused by persistently heavy rains and subsequent levee failures on the Mississippi River and other major waterways. Many families have been completely displaced from their homes, or remain without power, potable water, and other utilities. Crop losses are enormous, including hay and forage normally used for livestock feed, as well as crops targeted for fall harvest. Downed fences and other property damage have also resulted in stranded and lost livestock, with thousands of farmers and ranchers struggling to make repairs and keep their operations functioning as well as possible.

NCBA is joining forces with state cattlemen's associations across the nation to provide assistance through the National Cattlemen's Foundation. Every dollar contributed will directly assist families struggling to keep their farms and ranches operating under these difficult conditions. In conjunction with the foundation, state cattlemen's associations from states in the affected region will manage distribution of all funds donated.

Credit card contributions can be made by calling 1-866-BEEF-USA (1-866-233-3872) with Visa, MasterCard, and American Express cards accepted. Online contributions can also be made by going to the foundation's Web site at www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org, then selecting "Contribute Now" on the left-hand side of the screen. Donations are tax-deductible.

Contributions by check can be made payable to National Cattlemen's Foundation, with "disaster relief" included on the memo line. Donation checks should be mailed to:

National Cattlemen's Foundation
9110 East Nichols Ave., Suite 300
Centennial, CO 80112

-- released by NCBA

Market Now or Later?

In sizing up calf marketing this fall, Dillon Feuz, Utah State University livestock marketing specialist, says there will be some profit opportunities, but they may not come from doing the same things you've always done.

"The past two years, anyone forward contracting or selling on video sales for fall delivery early received a better price than waiting for fall sales," Feuz says. That's because corn prices rallied the past two falls, depressing calf prices.

Considering weather-induced, later-than-normal corn planting and emergence, projected trend-line yields were already in jeopardy by the first week of June 2008.

"I suspect corn prices will continue to be very volatile. I think we'll see fall calf prices lower than last year," says Tim Petry, North Dakota State University livestock economist and marketing specialist. That was before Midwest flooding blasted corn futures past \$7 for all traded months through September 2009.

On the other hand, bullishness in the futures market has been downright awe-inspiring. The first week of June, April 2009 live-cattle contracts were trading for \$110 and June at \$106.

"If those contracts drop even \$5, that will push calf prices down at least \$7-\$10," Feuz says. "I have a hard time believing the market will get a lot better between now and fall."

Consequently, Nevil Speer, Western Kentucky University beef industry analyst, says, "There's so much uncertainty out there about what might or could influence the market that I believe forward contracting should be investigated closely this year."

In North Dakota, the current epicenter of extreme drought where cow-calf pairs were already moving to auction in May, Petry explains, "No one here wants to be locked into a November delivery date when the drought means they may have to move them before then."

For producers who can consider forward contracting, Feuz points out, "The few reports I've seen

indicate there's not the over-exuberance on price there has been the past two years. Prices for fall delivery are more in line with the futures when adjusted for basis."

Pounds vs. cost

Even with high corn prices and more moderate early-season, forward-contract offers, it's not like cattle feeders have pulled in their buying horns as much as many expected; over-capacity in that sector continues to buoy calf and feeder prices.

There has been added demand for heavier weight cattle entering the feedlot, though. As such, adding more pounds to calves than typical could pay some producers this year.

"The main thing is determining at what price you can add pounds," Feuz emphasizes.

"Figure a 550-lb. calf, onto which you add 200 lbs. in order to make a feeder for the end of January or first of February. Assuming a cost of gain (COG) of \$92/cwt. (first part of June), there's about a \$35/head profit. If you can achieve a COG significantly less than \$90/cwt., using things like corn stalks and wheat pasture, there's money to be made."

Likewise, Darrell Mark, University of Nebraska-Lincoln livestock marketing specialist, says, "By cowboy arithmetic (using fall futures prices adjusted to average Nebraska basis and price spreads), you could be looking at \$131/cwt. for a five-weight steer this fall, or \$723/head. Background him for 120 days at an average daily gain (ADG) of 1.67 lbs. (200 lbs.), and you'd have a 750-lb. steer in mid-February. With average Nebraska basis early next year, you'd expect \$1.18/cwt., or \$900/head. That leaves \$167 to add the weight, about \$83/cwt. for 200 lbs. If you can do it for less cost than that, it could make some sense."

Feuz says another factor that might help in this scenario, at least regionally, is the Conservation Reserve Program ground made available by USDA recently for grazing and hay.

In general terms, though, Speer says, "Despite a narrowing price differential between calves and yearlings due to higher corn prices, the market is still providing a fairly substantial 'feed truck' premium. Feedyards need cattle and continue to bid them at or above breakevens. As long as that occurs, it's difficult in most instances for retained-ownership to make sense given the assumed risk associated with extended ownership."

Keep in mind these comments are pointed at adding significant weight and substantially delaying the marketing of weaned calves vs. weaning, preconditioning and then marketing the calves about 45 days later.

Ironically, though high input costs make preconditioned calves more valuable than previous years when premiums for them have generally averaged \$4-\$8/cwt., those same costs may make it difficult for premiums to increase enough for producers to take the preconditioning risk.

"Part of it depends on the calf weight coming into fall," Feuz says. "Last year you couldn't give away a five-weight calf in the fall; seven-weights were bringing the same price. If the same scenario holds this fall, it would probably be advantageous to precondition a calf weighing 500-550 lbs. and start earlier to put more weight on him.

"If it's a four-weight calf or one just barely 500 lbs., there might be more interest in a market looking for lighter-weight calves for wheat pasture or backgrounding programs, so there probably wouldn't be any incentive to precondition them," Feuz adds.

Either way, Speer stresses, "The decision to precondition calves depends on a number of factors, including a realistic assessment of willingness and ability to manage freshly weaned calves, coupled with availability of facilities, time and labor. Next, preconditioning must enhance profitability and

provide a positive return on investment.

"That's going to be especially difficult for producers to accomplish given the run-up in feed prices, unless they're managing a large number of cattle," he adds. "Sick cattle cost a lot more than they used to, and I'm not sure the market's premiums have or will keep up with that reality in 2008."

What about retained ownership?

Given the bullishness of the futures market, there's apparently some opportunity to retain ownership through the feedlot this year, but tread carefully.

"Unless the calf market falls considerably, the market has them priced at a level where there isn't a big incentive to retain ownership through the feedlot, although there is more incentive than in the past two years," Feuz says.

Carry Mark's earlier math one step further: Put 700 lbs. on that same 550-lb. steer that you could sell at weaning, and make him weigh 1,250 lbs. for the mid-May to June 2009 market (3.3 lbs. ADG for 210 days). "With June 2009 futures approaching \$1.10, and expected May fed cattle prices of \$1.09 (adjusted for basis), that gets a lot of people excited about retained ownership," Mark says. "That would give you \$1,367 for the fed steer compared to \$723 this fall, which leaves you \$644 to put on that 700 lbs., or about \$91-\$92/cwt. The difficult thing is to achieve that COG."

At \$5.80 corn, he figures feeding cost in Nebraska at \$1.07 (using a conventional corn only diet), which is higher than breakeven. So, he says you'd have to find ways to cheapen up COG, like adding some of the weight with forage and contracting distillers grains (DGs) this summer, or buying DGs this summer and storing them.

But, Mark cautions, "It's harder for smaller operations to originate DGs and achieve the feed conversions and COG of larger operations. So, those larger operations have more incentive to bid cattle up to breakeven levels or even beyond, betting on the come."

Plus, he says, size, efficiency and availability of ration ingredients are spreading variation in cost of gain. "I know some cattle feeders making money with \$6 corn and others losing a lot of money," he says.

"Even if I could get COG down to \$70-\$75 in planning, prices can change significantly between now and then. So, it isn't something I'd recommend unless you protect the prices," Mark says. He'd use forward contracting, Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) or puts and options to mitigate the downside risk.

"That's what I like about LRP - it gives you a floor," Petry says. "I'd encourage producers to look at it; at least you've got a floor price and don't have to worry about it. You can still sell them into any market, and you aren't locked in to where or when you market them."

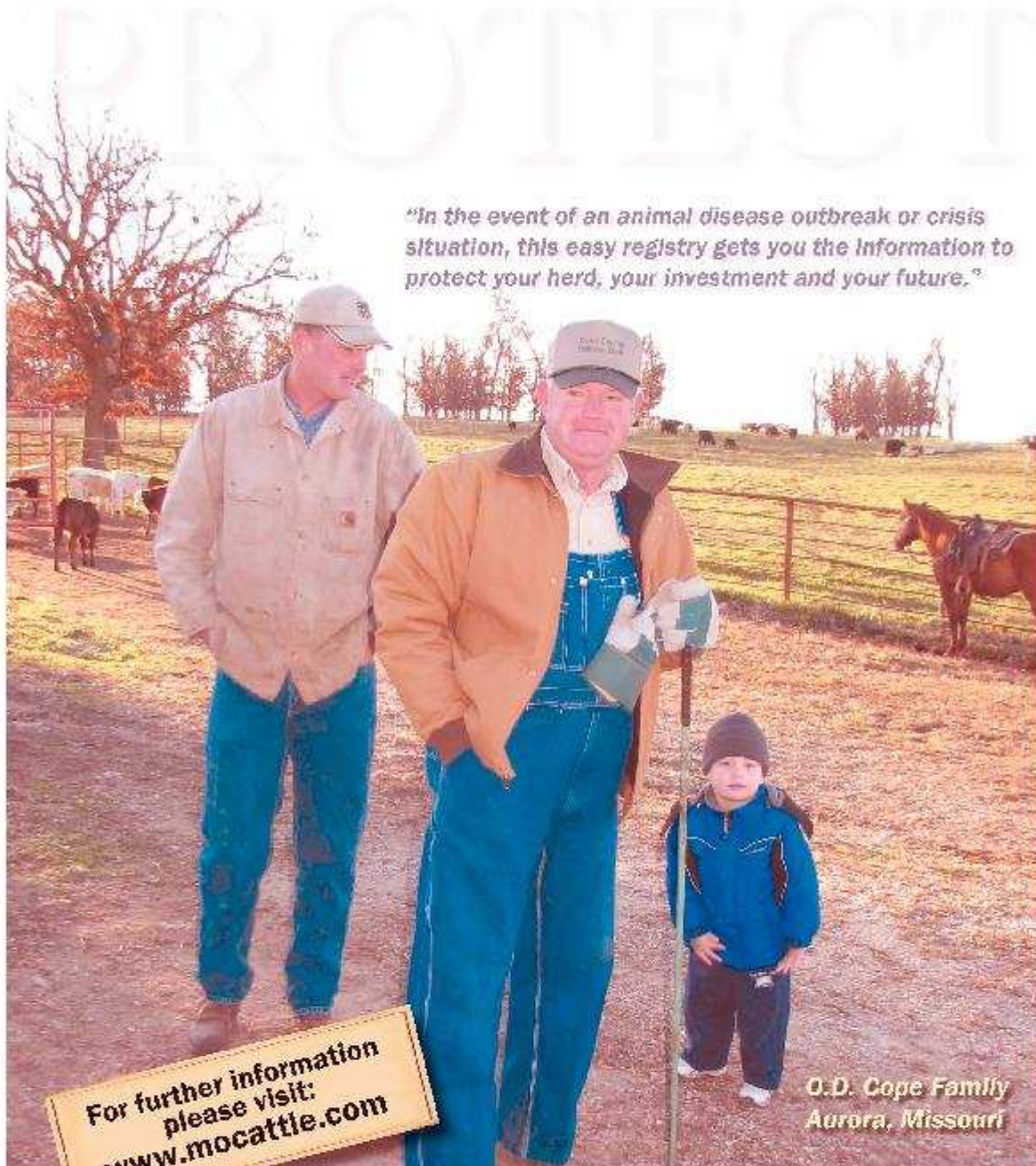
The first week of June you could find LRP contracts for October delivery at \$125/cwt. (\$4/cwt. premium) and at \$118.75 (\$2.25 premium).

"By late July and early August, we'll have a better idea of what the market is heading into fall. We'll start to see the trends and have a better feel for the value of a four-weight calf the end of September vs. holding them to market as a five-weight the end of October, then we can make some decisions," Feuz says. "But just waiting until Nov. 1 like normal and marketing them may not be the best strategy."

Or it may be. The point is, increased price volatility and value relationships, confounded by runaway input costs, demand more market planning (see "Market, don't sell," page 7).

"All those small decisions that could add \$1/cwt. here and there could be the difference in making a

profit or a loss this year," Feuz says. -- released by Wes Ishmael; Source: The Beef Blog



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Missouri Beef House Schedule Posted

It's that time of year again! The Missouri State Fair is right around the corner and that means it's time to start planning to volunteer at the Missouri Beef House!

The success of the Beef House is largely dependent on our county association volunteers. Please begin planning to carpool as a county and come enjoy some time at the Fair and in the Beef House!

To see a schedule of assigned county shifts, please visit our website at www.mocattle.com or look for it in the July issue of the Missouri Beef Cattleman.

If your county will be unable to fulfill their shift or bring their allotted number of people please contact MCA as soon as possible at (573) 499-9162.

MBIC Board of Directors Election - VOTE!

The Director of Agriculture will be conducting an election to fill three positions on the Missouri Beef Industry Council Board of Directors. One regional council member will be elected from each of regions 2, 3, and 4. The elected individuals will serve for three years.

Any cattle producer within these regions of Missouri who produces cattle for market and is the legal owner of one or more head of cattle is eligible to vote in this election. There are MCA members running for each region and we encourage all of our producers in those regions to register.

Registration can be completed at Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices prior to July 18, 2008. If you have participated in MBIC elections within the last five years, it is not necessary to register.

The MDA will mail ballots to the producers registered by August 15, 2008. Ballots must be postmarked no later than August 29, 2008 to be valid.

Any qualified producer may be nominated and have his or her name placed on the ballot. An independent nomination accompanied by a petition of at least 100 producers in the nominee's region and written permission of the candidate are required. Petitions must be delivered to the MDA Director's office by no later than July 18, 2008.

Register to vote!

Current Nominees:

Region 2 (NE)	Region 3 (SE)	Region 4 (SW)
Blue Geier*	Jim Freeman*	Jay Stahl*
Sally Angell	Mike Kasten	Chris Cloud
		Howard Hardecke

*Denotes incumbent

Missouri Master Farmer Award App - Deadline Extended

Missouri Ruralist and University of Missouri Extension, coordinators of the new Missouri Master Farmer Award program, have made the decision to extend the award application deadline to Aug. 1. The added time will allow farmers busy with rain-delayed planting, haying or flood cleanup an extra 30 days to complete their application forms.

Four Missouri farmers will be recognized with \$1,000 cash prizes and industry-wide recognition. Organizers plan an awards banquet plus an educational roundtable discussion with representatives from young farmer organizations this winter. FCS Financial is the gold sponsor.

This is a program for all Missourians involved in agriculture - whether you are a cattle producer, crop farmer, livestock producer, vegetable or fruit grower, tree farmer or vineyard owner. The award program seeks individuals with innovative ideas, business skills, sound conservation practices, agricultural leadership and community service.

FYI

For an application form, click on the Missouri Master Farmer Award link at www.missouriruralist.com. Forms are also available at MU Extension Centers and FCS Financial offices.

If you have questions or would like to nominate a deserving Missouri farmer for this award, contact Ron Plain at 573-882-0134 or e-mail him at plainr@missouri.edu. --released by *Missouri Ruralist*

FSA County Committee Nominations

USDA announced farmer and rancher candidate nominations for local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees begins June 15 and continues through Aug. 1. To be eligible to serve, a person must participate or cooperate in an FSA-administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election, and reside in the local administrative area in which the person is a candidate. Nomination forms for the 2008 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1. Ballots will be mailed to producers beginning Nov. 3 and must be returned by Dec. 1.

-- released by *P. Scott Shearer, Washington, D.C. correspondent*

National Shows Quickly Approaching for Many Juniors

As the show season for many juniors continues, many breed's national shows are approaching. These shows offer juniors the opportunity to meet other people engaged in their breed from across the country, participate in leadership development activities, and exhibit their livestock. Kansas City will be the location for four different breeds' National Junior Shows. Traveling to see these junior nationals would be a great opportunity to see youth engaged in the beef industry.

Dates for Junior Nationals Are:

July 12-19: Junior National Hereford Expo (Kansas City, MO)*

July 13-18: National Junior Limousin Show (Sioux Falls, SD)

July 13-19: National Junior Angus Show (Des Moines, IA)

July 14-18: American Junior Simmental Association National Clasic (Wichita Falls, TX)

*All shows held at the American Royal Complex in Kansas City

If you know of any breed's Junior Nationals not listed, please e-mail rachel@mocattle.com.

Cattlemen's Meetings

July 19 - Boone County Cattlemen's Meeting

Boone County Fairgrounds - 7:00 pm
Meat & Drinks provided - please bring a side dish

July 25 - Beef House Committee Meeting

Missouri Beef House, Sedalia - 10:00 am

*Looking for a program to present to your members during a county meeting?
MCA provides Beef Quality Assurance training programs for county cattlemen. More more information
contact (573) 499-9162.*

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If so, please contact Rachel Bartholomew at (573) 499-9162 or rachel@mocattle.com.