



MISSOURI CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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Dept. of Agriculture Extends Beef Tax Credit Deadline

The Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA) recently extended the pre-qualifying deadline for the Qualified Beef Tax Credit program to Oct. 1, 2008. The program's qualifications were also expanded in order to give current beef backgrounders a greater opportunity to participate encouraging economic activity in the state. In January, Gov. Matt Blunt announced this economic incentive to beef producers to put more pounds on their cattle in Missouri rather than sending them to out-of-state feedlots.

"We have some of the best beef cattle genetics in the country and want to keep high quality cattle in Missouri," said Don Steen, director Missouri Department of Agriculture. "By extending the deadline for applicants for this program, we are ensuring that more producers will have the opportunity to apply."

The Qualified Beef Tax Credit program offers an incentive in the form of tax credits to cattle producers who begin backgrounding and/or finishing their calves in Missouri. The expanded qualifications will allow beef producers who are already backgrounding calves to also participate in this program by allowing them to increase the number they are currently backgrounding. The program allows producers to earn tax credits by keeping their calves for at least 200 pounds past an established baseline weight, and in some cases, adding additional cattle to their current backgrounding or finishing operation.

For more information on this program, please contact MASBDA at (573) 751-2129 or by email at

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masbda@mda.mo.gov. For complete guidelines and application, visit www.mda.mo.gov. -- released by Missouri Department of Agriculture

***The third approved change to the Missouri Qualified Beef Tax Credit Program states that in lieu of 3 years financials the beef producer may give MASBDA permission to review their QSA or PVA customer profile.*

Retailers Receiving Recalled Products to be Disclosed

USDA Secretary Ed Schafer said last Friday his agency will begin in August to publicize retail stores receiving meat and poultry products involved in Class I recalls, those of the most serious concern to public health. The announcement provides a 30-day notice after the rule is published in the Federal Register before the process of listing retail stores takes effect.

USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) will post on its website - www.fsis.usda.gov - a list of retail stores that receive products subject to Class I recalls, generally within 3-10 business days of issuing the recall release. A Class I recall is one involving a reasonable probability of serious health consequences or death for those with weakened immune systems.

Retail stores include supermarkets or other grocery stores, convenience stores, meat markets, wholesale clubs and supercenters. FSIS won't identify distribution centers, institutions or restaurants, since they prepare food for immediate consumption without packaging that is identifiable or available to consumers.

Recall announcements from FSIS always include the name of the establishment recalling the meat or poultry, reason for the recall, product description, identifying product codes, the recall classification and contact info at FSIS and the company involved. The additional info releasing the names of retail stores receiving recalled meat and poultry will improve the consumers' ability to identify, and discard or return, such products purchased, or still in their home, by checking the list of stores and locations, USDA says. -- USDA release; Source: Beef Cow-Calf Weekly

CRP Restraining Order Frustrates Cattlemen

Confusion and frustration ruled in many rural areas of the country last week after a federal judge in Washington state issued a temporary restraining order relating to USDA's release of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands for haying and grazing. Judge John Coughenour, U.S. District Court-Seattle, issued the order in response to a lawsuit filed by the National Wildlife Federation and six affiliate chapters. The suit claimed USDA failed to conduct an environmental impact assessment before opening up the acreage.

Announced in late May, USDA's Critical Feed Use program was designed to open up as many as 24-million CRP acres nationwide to emergency haying and grazing after the primary nesting season had ended for grass-nesting birds. USDA said the measure was necessary to help livestock producers cope with escalating feed and forage costs.

The most immediate impact of the restraining order came in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma, where the primary nesting season ended July 2 and some producers had already begun grazing and haying on CRP land. Coughenour's ruling ordered USDA to notify those producers that they should remove cattle and halt haying operations immediately. The order also instructed USDA and the Farm Service Agency to stop processing or approving any additional CRP contract modifications allowing haying or grazing.

Eldon White, executive vice president of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, says the judge's ruling raised "significant concerns" among his group's membership. He points out many livestock producers had already made significant investments in fencing, watering systems and other improvements for CRP pastures based on USDA's May announcement. "Others entered into agreements with farmers and other landowners to rent CRP land for grazing," he says. "To say now that the land is not going to be available for use would be a cause of major financial hardship for many of these producers."

"It's a wreck," says Caren Cowan, New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association executive director. "In many areas of the state, people are dealing with a serious drought. Without this grazing, they're going to be faced with liquidating all or part of their herds."

Cowan also notes that, under the Critical Feed Use program, grazing in New Mexico was to be allowed from July 2 to Nov. 10. "The longer cattle are kept off the CRP ground while this is being settled, the less valuable that grazing will be," she says. "It makes absolutely no sense from any perspective other than someone just trying to harm the cattle industry."

Even in states where the primary nesting season doesn't end for several weeks, the judge's ruling is likely to be a cause of frustration for livestock producers. "It would be tough to be a farmer out there right now, hearing about all these potential rule changes," says Steve Barnhart, Iowa State University Extension forage agronomist. "How can you plan for anything when you don't know what the rules are?"

Adding to the confusion, the Seattle ruling only applies to the Critical Feed Use program announced in May. USDA officials say it doesn't apply to USDA Secretary Ed Schafer's recent announcement allowing immediate grazing of CRP acres in flooded Midwestern counties in exchange for a 25% reduction in CRP rental payments.

Some clarity on the issues related to the Critical Feed Use program ruling was expected later this week. Coughenour had scheduled a hearing for July 17 to determine whether to issue a preliminary injunction.

-- written by Rick Mooney, eHay Weekly Editor

Source: Beef Cow-Calf Weekly

USDA Releases CRP Land in Flood Regions for Grazing

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.

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:

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

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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Speculation Abounds on JBS Merger Decision

Recent articles suggest that the U.S. Department of Justice has focused its concern on the JBS merger in a couple of areas. The first is the vertical integration that would be created by the world's largest packer owning the world's largest feeder (Five Rivers), and the potential impacts on fed-cattle prices. The second is the impact of having National Beef's Brawley, CA plant and Smithfield's Tolleson, AZ plant under one management from a regional standpoint.

Industry insiders are now betting that while the merger will be allowed largely intact, JBS will likely have to divest itself of one of the plants in the California/Arizona market. They also are betting that Five Rivers will face operational restrictions, possibly even mandating that it continue to operate as a stand-alone company. --written by Troy Marshall

Source: *Beef Cow-Calf Weekly*

Grants Offered to Missouri Farmers to help Add Value to Agricultural Products

Furthering Missouri's rural communities and creating added opportunities for farmers, the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA) announced today that it is currently accepting proposals for the Missouri Value-Added Grant program. The objective of these grants are to provide funding for the creation, development and operation of rural agricultural businesses that add value to Missouri agricultural products and aid the economies of rural communities.

"The Value-Added grants give Missouri farmers an opportunity to explore opportunities that will add value to their commodities and farms," said Don Steen, director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture. "Farmers are encouraged to make an effort in helping offset their increasing cost of producing food and fiber by participating in this program."

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applications will be considered individually and judged on the following criteria: economic development potential for the agricultural industry, credibility and merit, probability of near-term commercialization and practical application of project results, presence, source and level of matching funds and where the project will have an economic impact.

Applications for the Missouri Value-Added Grant program are due on or before Sept. 30, 2008. For more information and a copy of complete guidelines and application, visit www.mda.mo.gov or call (573) 751-2129. -- *Missouri Department of Agriculture Press Release*

South Sioux, NE Plant Will Use Beef Tallow to Make Biodiesel

In a week's time, Beef Products Inc.'s plant in South Sioux City churns out about 22 million pounds of beef tallow.

That's a whole lot of fat. Soon, most, if not all, of it will be used to power semi-trucks, pickups and other vehicles that run on diesel fuel.

BPI, the world's largest producer of lean boneless beef, has teamed with a biodiesel producer, Natural Innovative Renewable Energy. The two firms on Friday formally unveiled plans for a 60-million-gallon-per-year biodiesel plant, expected to create three dozen new jobs.

The company hopes to start construction this fall or early next year, said Jim Venner, a Breda, Iowa-based consultant for the biodiesel project. After the startup, production could begin as early as 18 months later, he said.

The \$100 million project would become Nebraska's largest biodiesel plant, and the first in the state to make the clean-burning, renewable fuel from animal fat.

Gov. Dave Heineman, who headlined Friday's groundbreaking ceremony, said he expects Natural Innovative Renewable Energy to help elevate the Cornhusker state's biodiesel industry to the same level as its corn-based ethanol production, which now ranks No. 2 in the nation.

"We want to be out of front and be a leader in terms of biodiesel, and that's the opportunity we have here today," Heineman told an audience of about 100 who gathered under a large tent set up in a field in the industrial park.

Nebraska currently has three biodiesel plants -- in Arlington, Beatrice and Scribner -- that process the fuel from soy oil. As grain prices have risen dramatically, animal fat, such as beef tallow, has increasingly become a more affordable feedstock, said Jim Venner, a consultant for the Natural Innovative Renewable Energy project.

"It gives us an economic advantage over other biodiesel plants," Venner said. "We want to become the low-cost producer.

Natural Innovative Renewable Energy was formed in 2005 by a group of local investors who wanted to build a biodiesel plant near Akron, Iowa. It was designed to process soy oil, or animal fat, but investors eventually were forced to move away from the former feedstock.

"The economics of using soybean oil fell through the cracks when it tripled from 24 cents to over 60 cents," said John Lucken, chairman of the NIRE board of directors. Luken noted many of NIRE's investors are from the Akron area and got involved with the project to create new jobs and economic opportunities in the Plymouth County town of about 1,500. Eventually, they were forced to look for a site that was not only closer to their preferred feedstock, but also was already shovel-ready, with water and sewer systems and other infrastructure, he said.

The investment group found just the place at South Sioux City's Roth Industrial Park off, named for BPI founders Eldon Roth and his wife, Regina. Roth noted he first looked into the biodiesel industry four years ago, traveling to Germany and Austria to take a look at plants there.

"The mistake I made was I didn't build one at that time," Roth jokingly told the audience Friday.

In addition to supplying the NIRE plant with high-quality tallow, Roth said he and his company also are investing in the biodiesel venture.

The NIRE plant will be built on a 10-acre site just north of the BPI beef plant. Plans call for the tallow to be sent from one facility to the other through an above-ground pipe, Venner said.

It takes 7 1/2 to 8 pounds of tallow to produce one gallon of biodiesel. At that rate, the NIRE plant would require about 480 million pounds of fat to reach its biodiesel production capacity of 60 million gallons. In addition, the factory is expected to annually produce 55 million pounds of glycerin, a product widely used in the pharmaceutical industry.


Once the biodiesel plant reaches full capacity, Roth said, he likely would have to tap into other sources of tallow beyond his company's South Sioux City beef plant. There are multiple possibilities in the tri-state area, home to a large number of meatpacking plants.

The state of Nebraska leads the nation in commercial cattle slaughter, producing about 1 billion pounds of tallow annually.

Because the biodiesel plant would add value to tallow, Heineman said he would expect prices paid to cattle producers to increase.

South Sioux City Mayor Bob Giese praised the NIRE venture, noting it would produce more clean-burning fuel that would help protect the environment and reduce America's reliance on petroleum. -- *written by Dave Dreeszen, Souix City Journal*

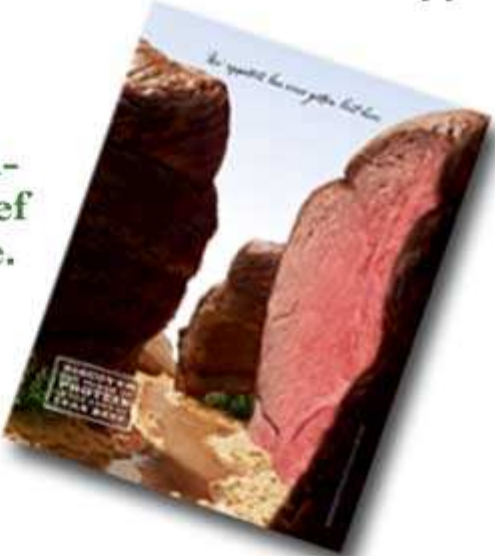
Source: *The Beef Blog*



Checking in on the Checkoff

Running ads to remind health-conscience consumers that beef is a passion that is permissible.

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Ads run in over 30 national publications like Health, Real Simple, Parents, Mens Fitness and many more. They also run in several Missouri publications.

Cargill Introduces Branded Beef "Value Cuts"

With grocery costs climbing and some research suggesting that 30% of consumers may be cutting back on beef usage due to economic pressures, Cargill Meat Solutions has introduced a line of eight "value-priced" cuts of beef.

These lesser-known cuts of beef have been repositioned, with their standard cut names replaced with fanciful names derived from the Romance languages. The new trademarked brand names, along with their traditional cut names are:

- Cabrosa™ Steak (ball tip)
- Cordelico™ Sirloin (flap meat)
- Delombre™ Petite Tender (teres major)
- Maranada™ Steak (flank steak)
- Marbello™ Steak (inside skirt)
- Rigosa™ Roast (eye of round)
- Savran™ Steak or Roast (top round)
- Solenta™ Sirloin (tri-tip)

In the initial phase of market rollout, more than 2,000 grocery stores are offering a combination of the branded value cuts in their meat case. In addition to renaming traditional cuts, Cargill is offering menu cards, which provide a recipe for the beef cut, as well as complementary side items and an in-store shopping list. -- *Cargill Meat Solutions press release*

Source: Beef Cow-Calf Weekly

Beef Checkoff Launches New Website

MyBeefCheckoff.com is a one-stop shop for producers to learn about their checkoff investment. Designed by the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB), which administers the national self-help program, the website informs visitors how national beef checkoff dollars are invested and the results of those investments.

Among the highlights of the new site are: easy access to CBB members and staff, expanded state beef council info and access, monthly e-newsletter signup, producer profiles, links to all checkoff-funded consumer and industry sites, and a newsroom.

"The site is interactive, well organized and very user-friendly," says CBB member Richard Nielson, cow-calf producer from Ephraim, UT, and chair of the producer communications committee. -- *CBB news release*

Source: Beef Cow-Calf Weekly

Macon County Cattlemen Announce Scholarship Winners

The Macon County Cattlemen's Association (MCCA) announced the winners of their annual scholarship program on Saturday, July 12, 2008 before the livestock auction at the Macon County Town and Country Fair. This year the Cattlemen awarded \$9,500 to 19 high school seniors and college students in the amount of \$500 each.

This year's winners include the following high school graduates:

Atlanta: Zeke Garnett, Cody Miller, Katelyn Wiggans, Dexter Wilhelm, Neil Sampson, and Brandi Carter

Bucklin: Wayne Hanson

La Plata: Dusty Baker

Macon: Caleb Shoush and Kara Grimes

Macon County R-IV: James Rowe and Ashley Lile

College scholarship recipients include Justin Miller and Amy Marsh, graduates of Atlanta High School, Alicyn Wyatt, Amber Schiff, and Whitney Ratliff, Bevier, and Caitlin Morris and Mallory Muck, Macon.

-- *Released by Macon County Cattlemen's Association*

\$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

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!

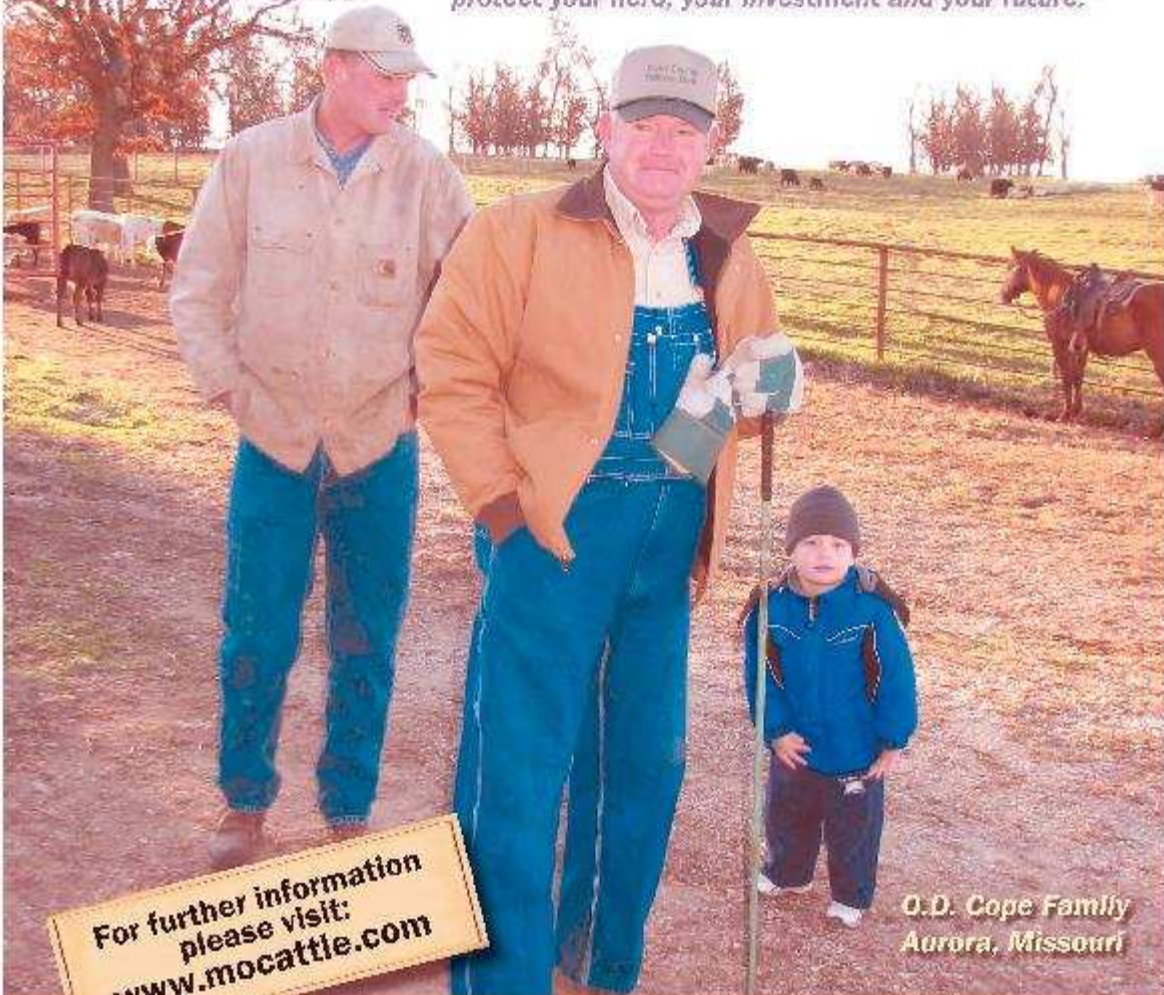
The success of the Beef House is largely dependent on our county association volunteers. Please begin planning to carpool as a county and come enjoy some time at the Fair and in the Beef House!

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.

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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*

Cattlemen's Meetings

August 2 - Moniteau County Cattlemen's Meeting

Moniteau County Fairgrounds - 5:00 pm

Members are asked to help serve at Steak Night for County Fair
Please bring one dessert.

August 5 - Bates County Cattlemen's Meeting; 7:00 pm

August 7-17 - Missouri State Fair; Sedalia, MO

August 14 - Polk County Cattlemen's Meeting

Smith's Restaurant - 7:00 pm

August 21 - Henry County Cattlemen's Meeting

First Baptist Church Calvary Hall, Clinton - 7:00 pm

*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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Do you have questions, comments or suggestions?

Would you like to advertise in our newsletter ?

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