



Convention Issue

**December
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**Pfizer Cattlemen's College, a staple during the
Missouri Cattle Industry Convention**

The annual Pfizer Cattlemen's College will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday, December 12. Pfizer Cattlemen's College is a staple event during the Missouri Cattle Industry Convention and each year provides information to producers about key issues affecting the industry. This year's college will be no different. The 2008 Pfizer Cattlemen's College will be host to several industry leaders as they cover four segments affecting Missouri's cattle producers.

Kicking of the morning, Steve Flick, Jim Bannerman, and John Hensley will combine their expertise to speak on alternative energy sources. Flick will speak on Cellulose, Bannerman will give a presentation on Ethanol production, and Hensley with Wind Capitol Group will lecture on wind energy.

Next in line, will be a Veterinarian Panel made up of Dan Goehl and John Groves, who will present on "Using your veterinarian as an Investment, not an Expense."

Also, presenting on Friday morning will be Justin Sexton. Sexton is a University of Missouri- Extension Beef Nutrition Specialist and will talk about using alternative feed sources and the benefits of using distiller grains.

Closing up the mornings presentations will be Tom Brink. Brink will be discussing how to "Make your Cattle Work for the Consumer."

Foundation

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Agriculture

The Pfizer Cattlemen's College lunch will be sponsored by U.S. Premium Beef. Commentator for this year's college will be Craig Payne.

This year's Cattlemen's College is a much anticipated event. For more information on Pfizer Cattlemen's College contact MCA at (573) 499-9162 or cattleinfo@mocattle.com.

Register Your Premise

As cattlemen we encourage all producers to take part in premise registration as it is the best method for immediate notification in case of a disease outbreak. MCA takes animal health very seriously in order to protect the state's livestock industry. Registering your premise is a primary step in accomplishing this goal. To register your premise visit the [Missouri Department of Agriculture website](#).

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Beef Idol Competition

During the 2008 Missouri Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show in Springfield, Missouri, the Missouri CattleWomen will host their 2nd Annual Beef Idol Competition.

The competition is open to all ages and types of performances. Although each contestant does not have to be a MCA member they must be sponsored by a county affiliate of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

The grand prize for the competition will be 50% of the entry fees. 2nd place will receive 25% and 3rd will receive 15%.

Beef Idol will be emceed by Rick Moore, Radio Talk Show: Country FM Springfield.

For more information on Missouri CattleWomen's Beef Idol Competition please call (573) 499-9162.

Canada Files WTO Complaint Over U.S. COOL Policies

Canada filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization on Tuesday over a new U.S. law that requires retailers to provide country-of-origin labeling for fresh beef and pork. According to the Associated Press, the Canadian government said it was concerned the U.S. rules were discriminating against Canadian agricultural exporters, who have lobbied

hard for a legal challenge at the WTO.

"We believe that the country-of-origin legislation is creating undue trade restrictions to the detriment of Canadian exporters," Canadian Trade Minister Stockwell Day said in a statement.

The WTO confirmed receipt of Canada's complaint. Canadian farm groups say a growing number of meat plants in the U.S. are refusing to accept Canadian cattle and hogs for processing since the Country Of Origin Labeling (COOL) law went into effect on Oct. 1.

Under country of origin labeling, Canadian cattle and pigs must be segregated in U.S. feedlots and packing plants, prompting some firms to only deal with American livestock, the AP reports. Canadian animals are also required to have more documentation about where they come from and, in the case of cattle, must have tags that indicate they are free of mad cow disease.

Released by USAgNet 12/3/08.

EPA Tax Proposal Apparently Untrue

EPA's Statement on "taxing" livestock GHG emissions:

"It is unfortunate that recent media articles have incorrectly reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has decided to tax emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, from livestock.

EPA welcomes public comments from all interested parties on this important issue.

EPA's greenhouse gas advance notice of proposed rulemaking (GHG ANPR) does not recommend the use of any particular Clean Air Act (CAA) authority, make judgments about a preferred pathway, regulate any emissions or commit to specific next steps to address GHGs.

The GHG ANPR represents EPA's next step in responding to the Supreme Court case finding that GHGs are air pollutants under the CAA. It examines the interconnections among CAA provisions and implications of applying particular CAA authorities to reducing GHGs. The ANPR also provides a comprehensive, in-depth exploration of the opportunities and challenges application of CAA authorities would present.

More information about the GHG ANPR and how to comment is available online at: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/anpr.html>"

NCBA continues to monitor and work on this issue. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me, Elizabeth Bostdorff, at 202 879 9128 or ebostdorff@beef.org.

4-State Beef Conference Scheduled January 14-15 in Four Locations

Kansas State University (K-State) will team with Iowa State University (ISU), the University of Nebraska (NU) and the University of Missouri (MU) to present the 25th

Annual 4-State Beef Conference Jan. 14-15.

The conference, which is designed to give beef cattle producers in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska an annual update on current cow-calf and stocker topics, will take place in four different locations so cattle producers can attend the location most convenient for them. The program will be the same at each location.

Speakers and their topics for the 2009 conference are Rick Rasby, NU, "Update on Storing Coproducts;" Darrel Mark, NU, "Economics of Storing Coproducts;" Vern Anderson, North Dakota State University, "Drylotting Beef Cows;" Barry Dunn, executive director of the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management, Texas A&M, Kingsville, "Whole Herd Management Strategies for Tough Times."

The conference is scheduled for Wed., Jan. 14 and Thurs., Jan. 15, 2009. The Wednesday morning session will begin at 10 a.m. in Washington, Kan., at the First National Bank, and the afternoon session will begin at 4 p.m. in Tecumseh, Neb., at the Community Building. The Thursday morning session will also begin at 10 a.m. in Lewis, Iowa, at the ISU Armstrong Research Farm, and the afternoon session will start at 4 p.m. in King City, Mo., at the Eiberger Building. The conferences provide a forum of Extension specialists from four of the leading beef cattle land-grant universities in the United States.

The registration fee is \$25 per person, and reservations are requested by Jan. 9, 2009. The fee includes a meal and a copy of the conference proceedings. Reservations for the Kansas location can be made by calling the Washington County, Kan., Extension office at 785-325-2121. Reservation can also be made by contacting any local county Extension office, or online at www.extension.iastate.edu/feci/4StBeef/.

Released by Angus Productions, Inc. 12/2/08.

2008 Missouri Cattle Industry Convention & Trade Show

December 12 & 13

University Plaza Hotel/Springfield Expo Center
- Springfield, MO -

REGISTER TODAY!!!

Be sure to save your Ralgro Wheels & Magnum Strips

The Schering-Plough "Wheels for Bucks" program, Missouri Cattlemen's Association and Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation join together to raise money for the Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation Scholarship Fund and the Missouri Cattlemen's Association Leadership, Education and Youth Programs.

For every 10 used Ralgro wheels, and every 5 used Magnum Strips, Schering-Plough will donate 1 full Ralgro wheel to be auctioned off during the Foundation Auction on the evening of December 12th at the Missouri Cattle Industry Convention.

Please encourage your veterinarian, neighbors, and friends to save Ralgro wheels and Magnum strips and bring them to the MCA Office or to the Convention prior to noon on Friday, December 12.

For more registration or convention information please contact Lesley at the MCA Office (573) 499-9162 or by email at lesley@mocattle.com.

Some cattle producers upset over lawsuit

Pasco feedlot sues over labeling

A federal lawsuit filed by a Pasco feedlot has the Cattle Producers of Washington upset because the feedlot is suing the USDA about changing new country of origin labeling regulations for cattle.

The regulations requires growers and producers to label a good share of imported food products coming into the U.S., said Williard Wolf, a member of the cattle producers group and a Valley Ford, Wash. livestock producer and broker, on Monday.

"The litigation proves premiums are being paid for beef derived from cattle eligible for the Product of U.S.A. label under the mandatory country of origin labeling requirements," he stated.

But following the regulations would result in increased record keeping and operations costs, according to a Sept. 22 complaint filed by Easterday Ranches Inc. in U.S. District Court.

The Columbia Basin Herald was unable to reach Cody Easterday and his attorney Michael B. Gillett for comment on Monday.

Easterday told The Associated Press he started seeing a decrease of about \$30 per head for Canadian beef after the new regulations took effect in September.

He wants the law rewritten as regulations could deter customers from buying Canadian beef from his feedlot, according to the AP.

He also told the AP foreign food products are "subject to the same food safety laws and the same USDA inspection. It's not a safety program. This is a marketing program only."

Court documents show Easterday Ranches was denied a temporary order against the USDA, which asked the judge to restrain the enforcement of the new labeling rule.

Wolf was critical of the operation because it deals with Canadian cattle, which he said takes business away from the U.S.

But Wolf added he's not a protectionism person and is all for free trade.

The health of the public and livestock has to be part of that agreement, he added.

"We have an inspection program and all of these regulations we meet to keep food safe for the consumer," Wolf noted. "Of course what's happening is, the American consumer is demanding to know where they're food comes from. I'm the same way and I'm a producer of food."

Puget Sound Cooperative Natural Markets Director Trudy Bialic stated in part consumers are demanding country of origin labeling and it "supports independent, family-scale

ranches by helping them distinguish their products as grown in the USA."
Released by Columbia Basin Herald on 11/25/08. Written by Lynne Lynch.



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on all online purchases at Dungarees.net.

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Add your order to the cart and when proceeding through the check out process
there is a "Comments" box under the "Bill to"
information. In the "Comments" box be sure to note:
*5% discount per Missouri Cattlemen's Association membership along with your
membership number.*
(You must provide your membership number to receive the discount.)

 

IRS Announces 2009 Standard Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service today issued the 2009 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2009, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 55 cents per mile for business miles driven
- 24 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The new rates for business, medical and moving purposes are slightly lower than rates for the second half of 2008 that were raised by a special adjustment mid-year in response to a spike in gasoline prices. The rate for charitable purposes is set by law and

is unchanged from 2008.

The business mileage rate was 50.5 cents in the first half of 2008 and 58.5 cents in the second half. The medical and moving rate was 19 cents in the first half and 27 cents in the second half.

The mileage rates for 2009 reflect generally higher transportation costs compared to a year ago, but the rates also factor in the recent reversal of rising gasoline prices. While gasoline is a significant factor in the mileage rate, other fixed and variable costs, such as depreciation, enter the calculation.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs as determined by the same study. Independent contractor Runzheimer International conducted the study.

A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for any vehicle used for hire or for more than four vehicles used simultaneously.

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

Revenue Procedure 2008-72 contains additional information on these standard mileage rates.

Released by IRS 11/24/08.

Discounting Cutter-Bull Prices

Between the increased health cost, death loss, reduced performance and general hassle, everyone knows bull calves are worth less than their castrated peers. How much less is a debate that usually revolves around soft numbers and conjecture. Not so with Frank Brazle, a long-time respected stocker specialist at Kansas State University (KSU) who retired from that position. He didn't retire from running lots of stocker cattle, though, including purchased bull calves.

When he ran the numbers to present at this year's KSU Beef Stocker Field Day, based on research and his own numbers, Brazle calculates a +\$52.18 advantage to steers compared to bulls.

"This would calculate out to be about \$1.72/cwt. for each 100 lbs. of weight," Brazle says. "I would estimate the difference (in value) between steers and bulls to be somewhere between \$1.50 and \$2.00/cwt. for each 100 lbs. of weight."

In other words, a 500-lb. bull calf would be discounted \$7.50/cwt. (5 x \$1.50) to \$10/cwt. (5 x \$2.00). A 600-lb. bull calf would be discounted \$9/cwt. (6 x \$1.50) to \$12/cwt. (6 x \$2.00).

"As we get to 700- to 900-lb. bulls, this (discount) may be greater without good data on grade effect. As economic conditions change in terms of feed costs, etc., these differences could change as well."

You can find Brazle's complete discussion and calculations in the proceedings from this year's field day at www.ksubeef.org.

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For more BQA information visit:

www.mocattle.com/BQA/bqa.htm

or www.bqa.org

To get certified online, visit:

www.mocattle.com/BQA/certification.htm

For more information on BQA programs contact Missouri Cattlemen's Association at (573) 499-9162 or cattleinfo@mocattle.com

2009 Go! St. Louis Family Fitness Weekend

Your beef checkoff is a major sponsor of the 2009 Go! St. Louis Family Fitness Weekend, which includes a marathon, half-marathon, marathon relay (4 person team), 5K, and children's fun runs, and we're looking for runners to help us showcase the power of protein! The races are held the weekend of April 18th and 19th - Great race courses, high-quality runner amenities, and an impressive expo are all part of the weekend! Email alane@mobeef.com if you're interested in participating in one of the events. Due to the popularity of the events, a race maximum has been set at 15,00 runners for all events, so sign up early! Visit www.gostlouis.org for more info.



Checking in on the Checkoff

Training senior dietetic students from across the state about media basics- from mastering the interview to key message tracks regarding the benefits of beef in a healthy diet.

Not only does this secure beef's relationship with future dietitians; but it also gives us third-party spokespersons.



To learn more about the checkoff's efforts to work with key influencers to keep beef center of the plate, visit us at www.mobeef.org or call 573-817-0899.

Upcoming Cattlemen's Events & Meetings

Missouri Livestock Symposium- December 5 & 6
Kirksville, MO
For details visit: www.missourilivestock.com

Macon County- December 8, 7:00 p.m.
Lolli Livestock Market, Macon

Bates County- December 9, 7:00 p.m.
MO-Kan Livestock Center, Passaic.

Gentry County- December 10, 6:30 p.m.
Stanberry Community Center

Greene County- December 11, 7:00 p.m.
Golden Corral, Springfield

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