



March 6, 2009

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Missouri Cattlemen's Association Suffers Great Loss

Missouri Cattlemen's Association 2nd Vice President, Mike Grimes, passed away on Monday, March 2, 2009 at his home in Ballard, Missouri. Mike has always been very involved in both the state and county associations and is a great friend to the cattle industry. He will be sorely missed by all who new him.



Mike was born on August 11, 1950 to Don and Norma Jean Hill Grimes in Clinton, Missouri. Mike is survived by his wife, Charlotte Grimes of Ballard, Missouri; one son, Drew Grimes of Blue Springs, Missouri; a stepson, Rocky Allen and wife Natalie of Parker, Kansas; three stepdaughters, Kristie Clearwater of Coosada, Alabama, Kerry Nickell of Garnett, Kansas and Jamie Schomaker and husband Ron of Yates Center, Kansas; his parents, Don and Norma Jean Grimes of Archie, Missouri; two brothers, Randy Grimes and wife Karen of Archie, Missouri and Dale Grimes and wife Kelly of Urich, Missouri; two sisters, Joyce Combs and husband Troy of Leeton, Missouri and Janice VanSandt and husband Ronnie of Adrian, Missouri; and seven grandchildren, Austin Kelpis, Tommy Nickell, Samantha Nickell, Cole Wallace, Trent Allen, Cody Allen and Ella Shomaker. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Mica Jean.

Funeral services for Mike were held Friday, March 6 at Schowengerdt Funeral Chapel in Butler, Missouri. The burial took place at Crescent Hill Cemetery in Adrian, Missouri. Contributions can be made to Bates County Cattleman Scholarship Fund.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mike's family and friends as they go through this hard time.

CALL TO ACTION - Reopen the comment period on the enhanced feed ban

On April 25, 2008 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published in the Federal Register a final rule entitled "Substances Prohibited from Use in Animal Food or Feed." This rule will be effective April 27, 2009 and finalizes a proposed rule that the FDA originally issued for public comment in 2005 regarding some additional feed ban requirements pertaining to all animal feed.

For several months now, we have received numerous reports of producers having difficulty in getting dead animals picked up, and when they do, the prices charged by the haulers and renderers is much higher than it ever has been. This economic impact is growing and will hit the bottom line of all producers.

As such, we are asking that the rule be delayed by 60 days and that the comment period be re-opened to evaluate the economic impact to cattle producers and the logistical impact of dealing with the dead stock.

Senators Mike Johanns and Ben Nelson have put together a letter to FDA asking that the rule be delayed and that the comment period be re-opened so that the cattle industry can comment on the negative impacts we have seen due to this rule.

So far, the following Senators have signed onto the letter:

Johanns - Nebraska
Ben Nelson - Nebraska
Roberts - Kansas
Brownback - Kansas
Bond - Missouri
Grassley - Iowa
Inhofe - Oklahoma
Chambliss - Georgia
Casey - Pennsylvania
Bennet - Colorado

The following have told us no:

Tester - Montana
Johnson - South Dakota

Please call your Senator if they are not on this list and ask them to sign on. Republican offices should talk to T. J. Birkel in Senator Johanns' office and Democrat staffers should talk to Jonathan Coppess in Senator Ben Nelson's office. Johanns and Nelson have asked that the deadline be close of business on Monday.

Below is a copy of the letter and NCBA's talking points on why the expanded feed ban is detrimental to the cattle industry.

NCBA is opposed to this rule based on science, risk analysis and proven facts

-NCBA has opposed this rule since the original proposal was published in 2005 due to its

failure to pass a cost/benefit analysis and the lack of statistically valid improvements to animal health and food safety. The miniscule potential gains in safety are far outweighed by the negative consequences of cost as well as exacerbation of already existing disposal problems.

-The very high level of existing U.S. Feed ban compliance combined with an extremely low incidence of BSE suggests that the risk of BSE in the United States is already negligible. This has been proven even more so in the four years since this enhanced feed ban was first proposed and failed an economic cost/benefit analysis.

The economic impact of this rule is significant and harmful to producers

NCBA is already seeing negative consequences due to this rule, months before it goes into effect. Renderers across the country began as early as December 2008 to no longer pick up dead livestock because of the severe economic realities of this proposal. Just this week, one of our members lost a cow and called the local renderer for a pickup. They told him it would cost \$102 for them to pick her up. They previously were charged \$37, which continues to be the rate for under 30 month dead animals.

-Because of increases in production costs and in the market value of finished rendered products over the past four years, we believe the cost of implementing and complying with the proposed regulations would now be even greater than originally estimated.

-FDA estimates this rule will cost producers \$28-39 million per year, possibly including:

- lower cattle prices to offset segregation and disposal costs at slaughter
- loss for cattle no longer rendered
- increased dead stock collection fees

This rule significantly exacerbates existing problems with producer's legal disposal options

NCBA and our state and breed affiliates are hearing from producers and veterinarians across the country that no longer have legal methods to dispose of dead livestock. This affects all species and communities across the U.S., exacerbating already existing challenges in the proper disposal of the approximately three billion pounds of ruminant carcasses that result annually from typical production mortalities and natural weather variations.

FDA acknowledges the rule will cause more problems than it solves.

-FDA admits that this rule creates a new inedible waste stream for which there are currently no legal or technical avenues to accommodate.

-FDA admits this rule:

- will have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities;
- will cause disposal problems for which there currently are no solutions;
- has the potential for collateral negative impact on other industry sectors;
- will cause environmental difficulties, especially in areas where there are no rendering services available;
- will generate an FDA estimated additional 28 million pounds of prohibited cattle-derived

material at the slaughter plant level;

-will create an estimated 26.2 % - 41.6 % decrease in cattle carcasses being picked up by rendering services, which translates into an additional 369 to 577million lbs. annually that will have to be disposed of by some other means (this is in addition to the approximately 3 billion pounds of ruminant carcasses resulting annually from natural causes.

Sample Letter:

February 13, 2009

Dr. Frank M. Torti
Acting Commissioner
The Food and Drug Administration
Parklawn Building
5600 Fishers Lane
Mail Code HF-1
Rockville, MD 20857

Reference: Ruminant Feed Ban Rule, 21 CFR Part 589 [Docket No. 2002N-0273]

Dear Commissioner Torti:

As you know, on April 25, 2008 the Food and Drug Administration promulgated a final rule entitled "Substances Prohibited from Use in Animal Food or Feed," commonly known as the "Ruminant Feed Ban" rule, scheduled to go into effect on April 27, 2009.

The rule clarifies standards for the treatment of deceased cattle; defines what products are covered; and establishes new recordkeeping requirements that could lead many livestock rendering companies to terminate their service to the livestock industry.

Many in the agricultural industry are concerned that the final rule will be implemented without regard to viable alternatives for safe, economical disposal of deceased livestock. While the safety of our food supply is the top priority for all of us, we are concerned about the potential for this rule to cause unnecessary economic hardship for farmers and ranchers.

We encourage you to delay the implementation of this rule by sixty days and to re-open the comment period for an additional 30 days to allow affected stakeholders an opportunity to provide more complete information.

The courtesy of your prompt response would be appreciated.

Very truly yours,
YOUR NAME

Released by National Cattlemen's Beef Association

'Cow tax' bill enters Congress

U.S. Sen. John Thune on Thursday introduced legislation to prevent future implementation of a so-called "cow tax," which, if enacted, would require producers to purchase permits to offset the gases their livestock emit.

The proposal was deemed "onerous" by Thune, but the executive director of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association on Thursday had stronger words for the cow tax and applauded Thune's efforts.

"If this ridiculous cow tax is imposed on the livestock producers, it will essentially put them out of business," said Margaret Nachtigall, who works in the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association's Rapid City office.

She said the work of Thune and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. - a co-sponsor of the legislation introduced Thursday - is appreciated by the association, and that South Dakota's livestock producers are pleased with "their bipartisan efforts to keep our rural economy viable and profitable and free of these outrageous attempts to regulate the livestock industry."

Although the Environmental Protection Agency has not made an attempt to tax livestock emissions, the possibility of such a tax stirred the emotion of producers nationwide late in 2008. Around that time, the EPA discussed regulating greenhouse gases, possibly including livestock.

According to numbers from Thune's office, the tax could cost South Dakota producers an estimated \$367 million, or \$174 per dairy cow, \$87.50 per beef cow and \$20 per hog.

If approved, the Schumer-Thune bill would prevent a livestock-based tax from becoming reality.

"The Clean Air Act was written to curb pollution from smokestack industries, not to regulate livestock production in South Dakota or elsewhere," Thune said. "Livestock producers do not need another burdensome regulation to worry about, and this legislation would ensure that the cow tax never becomes reality."

According to a release from Thune, the USDA has indicated that if the EPA chose to ever move forward with regulating farm animals, farms with more than 25 dairy cows or 50 beef cattle would need to purchase permits for each ton of methane their animals emit. That, according to figures from Thune's office, would cost a medium-sized cattle farm with 200 to 300 cows between \$17,000 and \$27,000 a year.

Thune said the financial impact would be devastating to the thousands of family-owned farms in South Dakota.

Nachtigall said the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association heard many comments about the cow tax from its membership, either at public meetings or by telephone and e-mail.

"There probably aren't more than one or two issues that have ever caused as much concern among the livestock folks that this tax did," she told The Daily Republic Thursday. "Some thought it so ridiculous that it was laughable. Others were concerned that it actually may be implemented." *Written by Korrie Wenzel, The Daily Republic; Published Friday, March 6, 2009. Released by CattleNetwork.com.*

Upcoming Cattlemen's Events & Meetings

Lafayette County - March 7

Trade Show 5:30; Dinner 7:00
American Legion Hall, Higginville

St. Charles County - March 7

Dinner 6:00; Dance 8:00

Lion's Club, Wright City

Vernon County - March 7, 6:00
Eagles Lodge, Nevada

Bates County - March 10, 7:00
MO-Kan Livestock Market

Dallas County - March 10, 6:30
Simm's Restaurant, Buffalo

St. Clair County - March 10, 5:30
Brownsberger Veterinarian Clinic, Appleton City

Gentry County - March 11, 6:30
Stanberry Community Center, Stanberry

Henry County - March 12, 6:30
First Baptist Church, Clinton

Polk County - March 12, 7:00
Smith's Restaurant, Bolivar

Trichomoniasis Update

Bovine Trichomoniasis "Trich" is a reproductive disease of cattle that has caused significant economic losses in cattle herds for many years, predominantly in the western states. Obviously, as we import more breeding cattle from the West to the Midwest we increase the risk of importing trichomoniasis into our herds. Your cattle will probably not show any signs of the infection- although some cows have a mild discharge-other than common signs of infertility, repeat breeders with extended heat cycles. The first signs may be when the herd is preg checked and you discover several open or late bred cows.

Trichomoniasis is diagnosed in bulls by culturing via preputial wash and placing the sample into a special culture media or perform a PCR test; a two week sexual rest prior to testing is recommended. One culture will identify 80-85% of the positive bulls; three cultures at one-week intervals increase the chances of successfully identifying a positive bull to 99%. Only a single PCR is required to obtain the same success as three cultures. This test could easily be added to your prebreeding semen test protocol.

The economic impact in affected herds occurs due to smaller and less uniform calf crops, cost of culling and subsequent replacements. For every cycle a cow fails to conceive, the weaning weight of the calf drops by 35-40 pounds, which could contribute to a \$35-40/calf loss depending on the current market. First time infected herds have experienced 50-70% calf crop with a 3-8 month calving interval. In 2000, a group of Colorado producers estimated the impact of trichomoniasis in their herd at \$143.17 per cow.

Prevention of Trichomoniasis is the key to maintaining a healthy herd. Prior to the introduction of non-virgin bulls into your herd, inquire about Trichomoniasis; request the non-virgin bulls be tested. Consult with your veterinarian and include "Trich" testing to your prebreeding semen test protocol. The MDA Springfield Diagnostic Laboratory is performing the culture test, please contact

them at 417-895-6861 for test kits.

Information written and provided by Dr. Linda Hickam, Missouri Department of Agriculture, Animal Health.

Texas Cattle Trichomoniasis Program Adopted: Interstate Rules Effective April 1, 2009; In-State Rules Effective January 1, 2010

Beginning April 1, 2009, breeding bulls entering Texas from any other state must be either 24 months of age or younger and certified as a virgin, or be tested negative for cattle trichomoniasis within 30 days prior to entry. The entry requirements are part of a regulatory package adopted by the commissioners for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) February 24 to address trichomoniasis, a venereal disease of cattle that causes infertility and abortions, and results in extended breeding seasons and diminished calf crops, which costs livestock producers valuable income. Cattle trichomoniasis is not a human health issue. The second phase of the program, which will address in-state movement of Texas breeding bulls, will go into effect January 1, 2010.

"Industry members had significant input into the development of these regulations," said TAHC Commissioner Coleman Locke, who represents the beef industry on the commission and headed the Trichomoniasis Working Group, comprised of producers, market operators, veterinarians, laboratory representatives and educators. "The 74 comments we received from associations and individuals regarding the proposed regulations were reviewed carefully, and adaptations to the proposed rules were made in the adopted regulations to make the program workable for the producers."

"We have worked for months with industry members, veterinarians and the working group, to gather information, develop the proposed regulations, and following the conclusion of the comment period, considered all comments to develop a viable, cost-effective program to address this disease that can drain a cattle producer's profits," said Dr. Bob Hillman, executive director of the TAHC, the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. "Industry associations and producers asked us to work with them to develop a program that would stop the introduction and unchecked spread of this protozoal disease. At least 15 other states in the western half of the United States have developed similar trichomoniasis programs to address the disease in their states."

"The regulatory components of the Texas' Cattle Trichomoniasis Program will focus only on breeding bulls, which, even when infected, continue to appear and act normally. Under the new regulations, Trichomoniasis also becomes a reportable disease in Texas, which will give us more information on where and how much infection already is in the state," explained Dr. Hillman. "There is no effective treatment or vaccine for bulls, and as they age, the surface of their organs becomes more hospitable to the protozoa, perpetuating the infection."

"Although the primary impact of the disease is on cows, which can become infected during breeding and lose the fetus, the cow herd is not included in the regulations. The majority of infected cows will clear the infection, if they are given 120 - 150 days of sexual rest. A vaccine also can be administered to infected cows to help control the disease in the cow herd. The majority of producers who commented on the proposed rule and members of the working group recommended that the disease in the cow herd be managed through information and education efforts. Producers with infected herds should consult with their veterinarian to determine the most appropriate measures to employ to eliminate the disease from their herds."

Dr. Hillman explained that the interstate, or state-to-state movement, phase of the trichomoniasis regulations will begin April 1, 2009. Breeding bulls entering Texas must be officially identified, and may come certified as virgins, provided they are 24 months of age or younger, and have not commingled with female cattle. A breeder's certificate must accompany the virgin breeding bull, signed by the breeder, and the information also must be included on the certificate of veterinary inspection. Routine documents also are required, including the certificate of veterinary inspection, and other applicable tuberculosis or brucellosis entry requirements must be met, depending on the state of origin, or if the bull is a beef or dairy animal.

Non-virgin breeding bulls or bulls older than 24 months of age entering Texas on and after April 1 must be tested negative for trichomoniasis within 30 days prior to entry. During the test period and prior to shipment, the bulls must have no contact with female cattle. Like virgin bulls, the non-virgin bulls must be officially identified with a breed registry tattoo or brand, a USDA metal ear tag, official RFID tag, official trichomoniasis ear tag from the state of origin, or other official identification. The animal must be accompanied by a completed trichomoniasis test document, certificate of veterinary inspection and other routine health documents.

In-State Breeding Bull Regulations Begin Jan. 1, 2010

The second phase of the Texas Cattle Trichomoniasis Program will begin January 1, 2010, and will require that Texas breeding bulls offered for sale, lease, exchange or otherwise change possession for breeding within the state be certified as virgin bulls or be tested negative prior to selling, loaning, exchanging, giving or otherwise changing the possession of a breeding bull. (No test or certification is required for bulls shipped or sold directly to slaughter.)

"The TAHC Commissioners delayed the implementation of the intrastate, or in-state movement requirements, to January 1, 2010, to provide time to certify veterinarians to perform all components of the Trichomoniasis program, and to ensure producers are familiar with the disease, its implication to herd health, and the requirements for testing or certifying the virgin status of Texas breeding bulls undergoing change of possession," noted Dr. Hillman. "We will be working closely with cattle industry organizations, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the Texas Veterinary Medical Association and the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratories to develop and deliver an effective information and education effort for cattle producers in Texas. We will be attending and making presentations at local, area and state producer and veterinary meetings to review the requirements and to ensure that producers are aware of the disease program.

When the program is implemented, Texas breeding bulls undergoing change of possession must be officially identified with a USDA ear tag, official RFID tag, or breed registry tattoo or brand. The animals may be certified by the breeder to be virgins until the age of 24 months, as indicated by the presence of the animal's two permanent central incisors in wear, or more simply, by the birth date recorded on the animals' breed registry papers. The bull's virgin status can be extended to 30 months, which was requested by commenters, provided the breeder and the herd's accredited veterinarian certify on a breeder's certificate that the bull facility is sufficient to prevent contact with female cattle.

"After carefully considering the comments on the proposed regulations and discussions with the Trichomoniasis Working Group, the testing requirements for non-virgin bulls in Texas were revised to require only one PCR (Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction test) on the non-virgin bull undergoing a change of possession, or alternatively, three consecutive culture tests, each conducted not less than seven days apart.

Dr. Hillman noted that samples for testing must be collected by accredited veterinarians certified to conduct cattle trichomoniasis work, and tests will be run at the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL). "Seminars will be offered around Texas for accredited veterinarians to become certified, to ensure that the collection methods, paperwork completion, sample submission, disease reporting and management of infected bull herds are uniform throughout the state," said Dr. Hillman.


"Payment for sample collection and laboratory costs will be the responsibility of the producer," explained Dr. Hillman. Bulls of unknown status may be sold for breeding with one negative RT-PCR test or three negative culture tests, each conducted not less than one week apart. The breeding bulls must remain separated from female cattle during the testing. Negative test results will be valid for 30 days, but only if the tested breeding bulls continue to be separated from heifers or cows.

"Infected bulls will be restricted to movement for slaughter only, as there is no effective treatment for this disease," said Dr. Hillman. "The remaining bulls in the herd will be held, isolated from female cattle, until they are tested, at least once more by PCR test, or twice more by culture, each culture conducted at least a week apart. If the remaining bulls test negative (each non-virgin bull in an infected herd must have at least two consecutive negative RT-PCR tests or at least three consecutive negative culture tests in order to be classified as negative), they are free to move."

"Producers who have encountered cattle trichomoniasis in their herd know how devastating this disease can be to their calf crop and production," stressed Dr. Hillman. "This program is directly in response to producer and association requests for help to stop the spread of this insidious disease, and to stop the importation of infected bulls into the state. It is important to note that since this is an industry-requested program, input from the cattle industry is critical to the effective functioning of the program. To this end the rules contain provisions for the program to be reviewed annually by a broad-based Trichomoniasis Review Working Group, which can make recommendations on changes or even abolishment of the program."

"By enacting the interstate requirements now, we can address the importation of disease immediately," he said. "Delaying the intrastate regulations until the first of next year will ensure that everyone can be 'on board' to attack this disease and protect their herds."

Released by Texas Animal Health Commission on 2/27/09.



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Upcoming movie "Food, Inc." critical of modern agriculture

"Food, Inc.," a documentary that is the collaboration of director Robert Kenner and producer Eric Schlosser ("Fast Food Nation"), seeks to "expose" modern production agriculture. Executive producers Jeff Skoll and Diane Weyermann are well-known for their production "An Inconvenient Truth."

The movie is produced by Participant Media and River Road Entertainment. According to the Participant Media Web site (http://www.participantmedia.com/films/coming_soon/foodinc.php), "Food, Inc." is coming to theaters June 12. A first glimpse of the film was provided at the Slow Food Nation event Labor Day weekend in San Francisco. "Food, Inc." premiered Sept. 7 at the Toronto International Film Festival and was screened Feb. 8 at the Berlin International Film Festival.

A clip of the movie (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqQVll-MP3I>) can be viewed on YouTube. The "Food, Inc." Web site (<http://www.takepart.com/foodinc/>) describes the movie as "lift[ing] the veil on our nation's food industry, exposing the highly mechanized underbelly that's been hidden from American consumers with the consent of our government's regulatory agencies, USDA and FDA. Featuring interviews with such experts as Eric Schlosser and Michael Pollan ('The Omnivore's Dilemma') along with forward thinking social entrepreneurs like Stonyfield Farm's Gary Hirshberg and Polyface Farms' Joel Salatin, 'Food, Inc.' reveals surprising-and often shocking-truths about what we eat, how it's produced, who we have become as a nation and where we are going from here."

We are monitoring this documentary closely and will keep you updated as new information

becomes available.

Funded by The Beef Checkoff

Released by National Beef Cattlemen's Association.

California Bill to Restrict Antibiotic Use in Livestock

Two weeks after he proposed legislation to ban tail docking of dairy cows, California's Senate Majority Leader Dean Florez has introduced a bill that would restrict the use of antibiotics in raising livestock.

Senate Bill 416 would prohibit schools from serving poultry or meat products treated with antibiotics to pupils. That portion of the bill, if passed, would take effect in January 2012.

In addition, the bill would forbid a person from using antibiotics for nontherapeutic and prophylactic use in any animal raised for the production of any human food product. Further, the bill would require state and local governments, when purchasing meat supplies for human consumption, to prefer supplies produced without the use of medically important antibiotics as feed additives.

Florez (D-Shafter) chairs the California State Senate's Food and Agriculture committee, which will hold an informational hearing on "the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in our food supply" March 17 in Sacramento.

Earlier this year, the state senate announced it would put more emphasis on environmental and food safety issues through its revamped Food and Agriculture committee. "For the first time this committee is not just going to look at the production of food, we're going to look at the distribution of food and we're also going to look at the consumption of food," Florez told the Sacramento Bee in January.

Florez's district covers key dairy-producing areas of the Central Valley, including portions of Kern, Tulare, Kings and Fresno counties.

To read bill visit: http://dist16.casen.govoffice.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={2AC80668-8CD9-45FA-B963-BCAAA031638C}

Written by Catherine Merlo. Released by Beef Today 3/2/09.



Checking in on the Checkoff

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- Missouri Grape and Wine Conference
 - Food Pairing Information



Learn more at www.mobeeff.org or email dawn@mobeeff.com

Scholarships Available thru NCF for Graduate and Veterinary Students

W.D. Farr Scholarship

The National Cattlemen's Foundation is honoring the successful career of the late W.D. Farr of Greeley, Colorado through two annual \$12,000 graduate scholarships bearing his name. We lost a true industry leader and friend with W.D.'s passing on August 13, 2007, at the age of 97. Farr, a third generation Coloradan, pioneer rancher, statesman and banker is known for his extraordinary vision. His dedication to improving agriculture, livestock and water development has resulted in significant changes in farming methods that have influenced the practices of ranchers and farmers throughout the nation. All submissions must be postmarked by April 15, 2009.

More information and applications are available at

<http://www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org/schoW.D.FarrLegacyScholarship.aspx>

Fort Dodge Animal Health Legacy Scholarship

The National Cattlemen's Foundation and Fort Dodge Animal Health are proud to announce the 2009 -2010 Fort Dodge Animal Health Legacy Scholarship. Through producer participation, Fort Dodge Animal Health will sponsor five scholarships of \$5,000 each. Three scholarships will be directed to veterinary school students who have designated an emphasis in beef production. Two scholarships will be directed to undergraduate students enrolled in an animal science program. The 2009-2010 Fort Dodge Animal Health Legacy Scholarship applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2009.

More information and applications are available at

<http://www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org/schoFortDodgeAnimalHealthLegacyScholarship.aspx>

South Poll Grass Cattle Association to Hold Annual Meeting/Field Day

The first South Poll Grass Cattle Association annual meeting and field day will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2009 at the farm of Greg and Jan Judy in Clark, Mo.

Activities will kick off at 10 a.m. with well-known grazier Greg Judy welcoming attendees to his farm and explaining his method of high stock density grazing.

Association President Teddy Gentry will also speak on the makeup and purpose of South Poll cows. Gentry is the founder of the four-way cross which includes Hereford, Angus, Senepol and Barzona breeds of cattle.

Gentry says the field day will be an opportunity to learn about progressive grazing methods and to see South Poll cattle as they fit into the efficient production of quality grass-fed beef. He describes South Poll cows as a "gentle, higher productive mama cow that is heat tolerant without having a Brahma base."

Visitors will be able to view Judy's cattle and some of the best bulls, mama cows and calves that Gentry has raised on his Bent Tree Farms in Fort Payne, Alabama.

The meeting will also feature tours of the Judy farm from 1 to 4 p.m. and will include lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

The organization will sponsor a silent auction throughout the day that would include a purebred South Poll heifer that Gentry will bring from Alabama along with many other interesting items.

The evening will close with a 5 p.m. campfire guitar pull in which Gentry, the bass player from the legendary country music band Alabama, and other Nashville songwriters will perform. Attendees must have paid an attendance fee to the annual meeting to attend the guitar pull.

Pre-registration for the annual meeting will be needed, with a \$35 per person fee being charged by the association for entrance to all the activities. Youngsters 16 and under will be admitted free. Anyone registering after June 1 will be charged a \$50 fee. To register online go to www.southpoll.com under downloads or contact Jan Judy at 573-874-1816 or Jerry Voss at 573-694-1681. A map to the Judy Farm can be found at www.greenpasturesfarm.net.

Registration forms and fees may be mailed to South Poll Grass Cattle Association, c/o Lisa Jeffery, 292 Co. Rd. 7, Fort Payne, AL 35967, Jerry Voss at P.O. Box 109, Linn, Mo. 65051 or to Jan Judy at 21975 Devil's Washboard Rd., Clark, MO 65243.

Executive board members of the association will hold their annual meeting on Friday afternoon at the farm.

Released by South Poll Grass Cattle Association.

Missouri Beef Leadership Conference Registration to Open March 1st

The Missouri Junior Cattlemen's Association will be hosting the first Missouri Beef Leadership

Conference "Show Me Beef Leadership" on June 4th through 6th in Columbia, Missouri. The conference will have a leadership and industry focus and will be open to teens entering the 8th grade through 12th grade.

Registration open until May 1st but is limited to the first 60 applicants so get registered TODAY!

If your business or county organization is interested in help sponsoring this youth event please contact Rachel Bartholomew at (573) 499-9162 Ext. 235 or by email at rachel@mocattle.com.

Be watching for more information and registration on the MCA website www.mocattle.com.

As always, MCA Membership is the key to the success of the organization. Without producers who back our association our voice is not as strong. Ask your friend, neighbor and fellow cattlemen to join the thousands of cattlemen in supporting the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

For more industry news visit:

[Missouri Cattlemen's Association Website](#)

[Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation Website](#)

[Missouri Beef Industry Council Website](#)

[National Cattlemen's Beef Association Website](#)

[Missouri Department of Agriculture Website](#)

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