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2007 Missouri Livestock Symposium “Kicks-Off” November 30

The 2007 Missouri Livestock Symposium will be held November 30 and December 1 in Kirksville, Missouri. The program features outstanding speakers, a sold out agriculturally related trade show, entertainment by the Bellamy Brothers, and even some free meals!

Garry Mathes is chair of the 2007 Missouri Livestock Symposium’s 23 member planning committee. According to Mathes, “this year’s program is perhaps the best yet.” Nationally known experts from 13 states will speak on timely and relevant topics targeted to horse producers, beef cattle producers, sheep and meat goat producers, forage producers, stock dog owners, and consumers in general. There will also be a section of programs featuring wildlife and conservation topics and issues.

Mathes says there are a number of reasons why the Symposium has become one of the more popular events for livestock producers in the Midwest. “The reason we have been drawing a good crowd – last year folks came from 63 of Missouri’s 114 counties and 10 states – is because our committee works hard to identify important, practical topics and then match these with some of the best livestock experts in the country,” said Mathes. “I suppose it doesn’t hurt that we have a great trade show, entertainment, free food, and free admittance.”

This year the Horse Section features Ken McNabb, a popular horse clinician from Cody, Wyoming, who is featured regularly on RFD-TV. McNabb will provide 3 hours of information in the horse section during two talks entitled “Horse Sense Made Common” and “Overcoming Your Riding Fears.” Also speaking in the horse section program will be Dr. Temple Grandin, internationally acclaimed expert in animal handling and behavior from Fort Collins, Colorado, and Dr. Dee Cross, professor Emeritus of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at Clemson University, South Carolina. Dr. Cross will talk about “Fescue Fears: What Horse Owners Need to Know.”

“How Commercial Producers Can Turn Cattle Information Into Profits” will be the subject covered by Mark Gardiner of Gardiner Angus Ranch, Ashland, Kansas. Other beef cattle section topics and speakers are: “Keeping Feed Costs in Check”, Dr. Justin Sexten, University of Missouri; “Products and Strategies that Improve Cattle Performance on Fescue Pastures,” Dr. Dee Cross, Clemson, South Carolina and Dr. Dave Davis, University of Missouri Forage Systems Research Center; “Cattle Handling Facilities: Learn From One of the World’s Best”, Dr. Temple Grandin; and the “Latest on BVD”, by Dr. Julia Ridpath, National Veterinary Services Laboratory, Ames, Iowa.

The sheep section program lineup includes Ray Kaplan, DVM, University of Georgia. Dr. Kaplan is recognized as one of the country’s leading experts in small ruminant parasite control. He is scheduled to speak for two hours in the sheep section on “New Concepts in Parasite Control and Smart Deworming Practices.” Joining Dr. Kaplan in the sheep section are Dr. Kreg Leymaster, Clay Center, Nebraska, and Dr. Dave Thomas, University of Wisconsin. Dr. Leymaster will unveil some new research results in his talk titled “How Sheep Breeds Measure Up in a Low-Input Pasture Lambing Production System.” Dr. Thomas speaks on “Practical Economical Feeding of the Ewe Flock” and “Useful Tools for Genetic Improvement of Sheep Health and Performance.” In addition, there will be a Q and A session where producers can get answers to their own questions.

The meat goat section also features Dr. Kaplan on parasite management – this time targeted to goat owners. “Meat Goats – Hobby or Business?” is the topic given to Linda Coffey of Fayetteville, Arkansas. She, along with another meat goat speaker, Margo Hale, are both Agriculture Specialists with the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service in Fayetteville. Hale will deliver a presentation on “Moving on – Other Opportunities with Meat Goats.” Mark Kennedy, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, will round out the goat topics when he discusses “Goat Grazing Behavior and Pastures.”

The forages section of the Symposium will feature the always popular Dr. Garry Lacefield from the University of Kentucky, Dr. Dee Cross from Clemson, South Carolina, Dr. Dave Davis, and both a forage producers panel and a forage experts panel. Both of these panels are designed to allow producers to hear practical ideas from fellow producers and to allow ample time for questions and answers from our “experts.”

In addition to the programs above the Missouri Livestock Symposium features a full lineup of speakers on wildlife and conservation topics plus around the home topics on meat buying tips, quilting, and even wind energy for the home and farm! And, according to Mathes, last but not least, the Symposium will feature outstanding talks for those interested in stock dogs.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium “kicks-off” November 30 when the doors open to the trade show at 4 pm. A free beef meal will be provided at 6 pm followed by the Friday evening program featuring keynote speaker Max Armstrong of “This Week in Agribusiness” fame.

Doors to the Missouri Livestock Symposium re-open Saturday morning, December 1 at 8 am. Educational talks begin at 9 am and a Governor’s Style lunch is provided at noon, courtesy of many of Missouri’s finest commodity organizations and coordinated by the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

No pre-registration for the Missouri Livestock Symposium is necessary. No registration costs are charged. The only cost connected with the Missouri Livestock Symposium is for those who want to attend the Bellamy Brothers concert Saturday night at 7:30 pm. Those tickets are \$10 each and sold on a first come first serve basis. Ticket details are available by calling 660-665-9866.

Complete details about the 2007 Missouri Livestock Symposium may be found at <http://missourilivestock.com> or by calling Bruce Lane (660-665-9866) or Garry Mathes (660-341-6625).