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CATTLEMEN'S NEWS



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What Stewardship Really Means
Who's Driving Farm Sustainability**



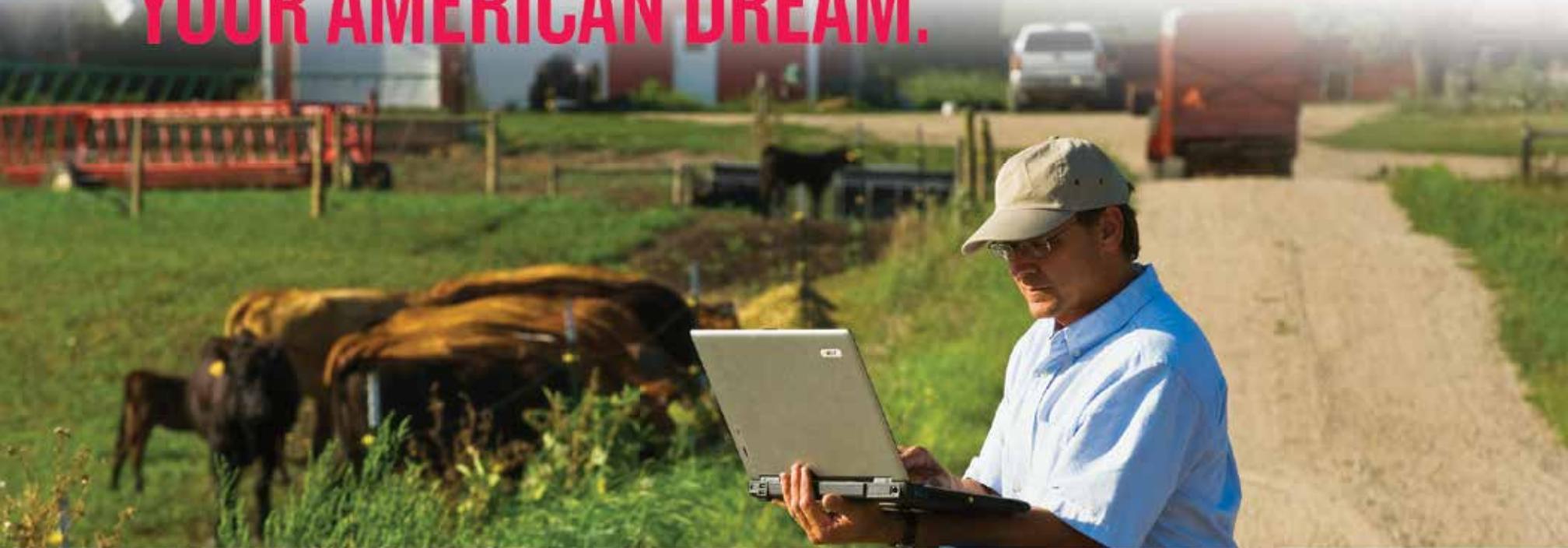
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VIEW FROM THE BLOCK

The market still looks good. We've seen some price breaks in the futures market and in slaughter cattle, but cash prices are holding on. Yearling cattle bounced back after we saw a \$2-4 decline. As we go into summer, I expect the market will struggle a little at times simply because of the time of year, especially the big heavy feeder cattle that weigh above 800 pounds. The calf market, though, just keeps going.

We've had a good spring and trade has been active on the lightweight cattle. As the new crop calves gain some flesh we may see them trade a little lower because of that extra condition. Fleishy cattle tend to get cheaper in the summer. All in all, it's a really good market.

May 11 is the wean date for our June 25 Value-Added Sale. If you take a 500-pound steer right off the cow that's worth about \$2.70, wean him and



get two rounds of shots into him, in June he'll weigh around 700 and bring \$2.40. You've put 200 pounds on him and gotten \$280 for it. That's going to make you money. If you have some extra grass, feed is fairly inexpensive and I think there's some money to be made by weaning those calves and keeping them. That Value-Added Sale has always been good and this year won't be any different.

The Best of the Best Calf Roping is coming May 24-25 at the Risen Ranch Cowboy Church Arena, just west of the stockyards. Proceeds will benefit the Risen Ranch Cowboy Church. It's a great event and we invite you all to come out and join us as we see some of the best cowboys rope for \$250,000.

Good luck and God bless.

Jackie

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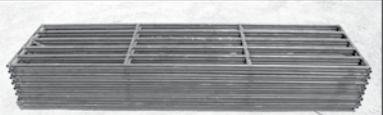
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Dade County cattleman John McDowell tells you how he's become a better steward of the land. See story on page 16.

—Cover photo by Joann Pipkin

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BEEF IN BRIEF

Missouri Governor Signs Agriculture Laws

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon on April 10, 2015, signed S.B. 12 and H.B. 259 into law at Edgewood Dairy in Purdy, Missouri. Senate Bill 12, which is an agriculture omnibus bill, contains several priorities of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association (MCA). House Bill 259, known as the Missouri Dairy Revitalization Act of 2015, is also supported by MCA.



Senate Bill 12 increases livestock hauling limits from 80,000 pounds to 85,500 pounds. It also allows Missouri beef producers to vote whether or not to make changes to the beef checkoff program. MCA President Janet Akers said the legislation expands the equine liability waiver to include all livestock. She said the liability waiver is a victory for everyone in the livestock industry.

The governor's signature on H.B. 259 made Missouri the first state to pass legislation that enhances the dairy title provisions of the federal farm bill. The legislation is intended to help slow the decline in Missouri dairy farms. Akers said MCA supports efforts to keep dairies in Missouri.



Southwest Missouri Cattlemen's Association members were on hand April 10 in Purdy, Missouri, as Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon signed S.B. 12 and H.B. 259 into law. — Photo by Joann Pipkin

—Source: Adapted from a release from Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

Cattlemen Invest in the Future of Agriculture

Cattlemen at Joplin Regional Stockyards came together April 8 to support Crowder College Agriculture Department at the second annual calf auction, raising more than \$9,000 to help support agriculture students. Newton County Cattlemen's Association member Gary Emmett, Flying E Ranch, Seneca, Missouri, donated a heifer calf to be auctioned for the benefit of the Crowder Aggies.

The funds will be used to support students as they attend an agriculture travel seminar to learn about agriculture across the country, as well as to assist with travel expenses at local, state and national contests and to host events such as Aggie Days for area high school students.

—Source: Crowder College release.



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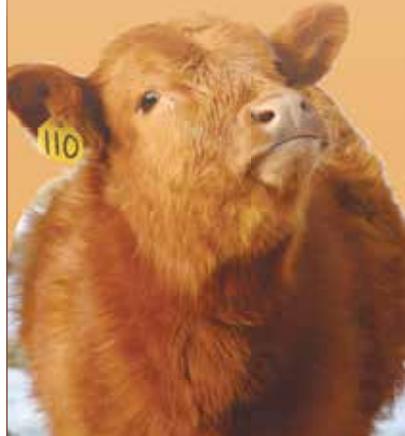
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The Most Important Nutrient

Clearing the air on clean water and animal performance

Story By Justin Sexten for *Cattlemen's News*

Water is the most important nutrient, essential for life and expensive to transport. No other nutrient influences cattle management decisions like water. Whether grazing pasture or confined to a dry lot, cattle require access to clean water.

If there was a benefit to the drought of 2012, it is that many ponds were cleaned out. This increased the holding capacity while reducing the sedimentation that often contributes to poor water quality due to moss and algae growth. To prevent future sedimentation and contamination, control cattle access to ponds by fencing them out or using controlled access points. Access points need not be complicated: a floating access point can be constructed of PVC pipe and moved into and out of the pond as water

levels change. Alternative to pond access is gravity flowing water through stand pipes to waterers below the dam.

Regardless of the method chosen to restrict access to the pond, bank erosion and sedimentation will be minimized by focusing traffic to an access area with the additional benefit of minimizing the cattle's ability to stand in ponds. Reduced pond standing helps to minimize the manure contamination of the water source while limiting the incidence of footrot.

Water intake is closely related to dry matter intake. Failure to provide adequate, clean drinking water depresses forage intake and ultimately reduces performance through reduced gain or milk production. The importance of adequate water



intake increases as temperatures rise due to the role water plays in regulation of body temperature.

Given a preference, cattle prefer water temperatures between 40 and 65 degrees. If temperatures exceed 80 degrees, animal productivity can decline due to reduced dry matter intake and inability to dissipate heat. Water plays a key role in reducing body heat, therefore water sources with sun exposure, such as above ground water lines and small tanks, might need to be shaded to prevent excessive heating.

While water quality is important, water quantity has greater importance as we begin summer. Those of you who have spent time hauling stock

water can appreciate water intake during heat stress. As a rule of thumb, water intake is approximately one gallon per 100 pounds of body weight during thermal neutral conditions. As temperatures rise above 90 degrees or during lactation, cattle water intake can double. This increased water intake is the animal's attempt to replenish body water due to losses associated with perspiration, respiration or milk production.

During high-water-intake periods, ensure adequate waterer space, 3 linear inches per head. Additionally, provide adequate tank reserves to ensure water supply is not exceeded by animal demand if the "herd" comes to water all at once.

Total dissolved solids (TDS) is a measure of water salt content and is commonly used as an indicator of water quality. Salinity effects on animal performance are not clear due to the wide range of mineral salts that can contribute to TDS. Therefore, TDS serves as only an indicator of water quality. Surface water testing results

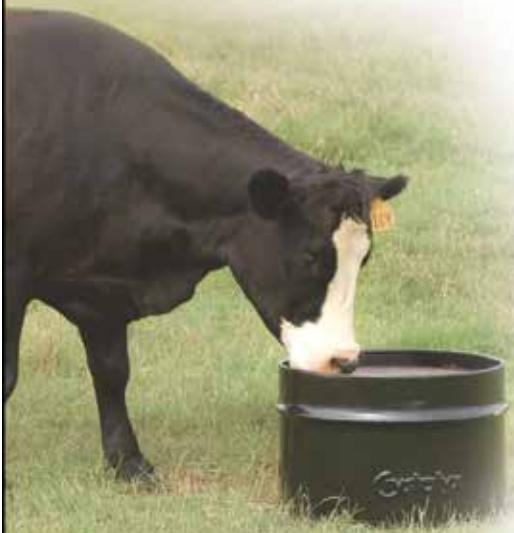
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STOP HORN FLIES BEFORE THEY START

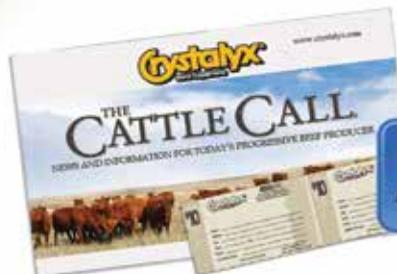
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IMPORTANT NUTRIENT FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

will vary over time due to precipitation, agitation and runoff. Periodic water testing will help identify unsuitable stock water sources. Remember, during extended drought periods, surface water evaporation can increase TDS to the point of reduced animal performance.

At 1,000 ppm TDS, water is generally safe for all classes of livestock without adverse health risk. As TDS increases to 5,000 ppm, diarrhea might be observed. When TDS exceeds 10,000 ppm, alternative water sources should be used due to adverse health risk.

If TDS results repeatedly indicate poor water quality, consider further testing to evaluate if a specific mineral is contributing to the excessive TDS. In recent issues, we have discussed mineral requirements and recommendations to meet these requirements. Water can serve as a good mineral source when availability is consistent with requirements. However, the downside to mineral-rich

water is potential overabundance and the resulting antagonism water minerals can provide.

Resident cow herds might not show mineral contaminate symptoms associated with water due to long-term exposure and adaptation. Water contamination symptoms are most common in stressed or naïve calves and those with increased water intake due to heat stress. Mineral contamination is a long-term challenge most operations have learned to manage over time.

A more common short-term contamination problem is associated with dirty waterers. A good rule of thumb to know when to clean a waterer is if you cannot remember when the waterer was last cleaned, then it needs cleaned again. Alternatively, if you cannot see the bottom of the waterer, then cleaning may be in order. As summer begins, make a commitment to ensuring a clean supply of the cheapest and most essential nutrient.

—Justin Sexten is state extension specialist, beef nutrition, University of Missouri-Columbia. Contact him at sextenj@missouri.edu.

NEWS TO USE

Spring Sale Not as Bullish Compared to Fall Sale

The Southwest Missouri Beef Cattle Improvement Association's bull sale on March 30 left consignors disappointed in the \$4,585 average sale price. But that is only because the bull sale in October 2014 ended with 42 bulls selling for an average of \$4,952.

Forty-one bulls sold at the Springfield Livestock Marketing Center in the Spring 2015 sale. The 34 Angus bulls averaged \$4,747, four Herefords and Polled Hereford came in at \$4,450, two Charolais averaged \$3,100 and the only Shorthorn sold for \$2,600.

The top sale of the evening was a Hereford consigned by Bonebrake Herefords, Springfield, Missouri. The successful bidder at \$7,500 was Two Bar D Ranch, Niangua. The \$7,500 price tied for the highest in the sale's history dating back to 1973.

According to Cole, buyers at this sale seemed to use expected progeny differences (EPDs) as they made their selection.

"Calving ease still ranks high in their minds with weaning weight values following close behind," said Cole.

To qualify for the sale, bulls must rank in the 50th percentile or better for at least three of the following EPDs: calving ease direct, weaning weight, yearling weight, milk, marbling and ribeye area.

—Source: Adapted from a release by University of Missouri Extension.



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How to be a Good Animal Health Steward

Get healthier calves with low-stress handling

Story By Dr. Dave Rethorst for *Cattlemen's News*

Stewardship — the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. What a powerful definition! In the conversion of cellulose to high quality red meat protein, aka, beef production, we have been entrusted with not only the careful and responsible management of our beef animals, but also that of the air, water, soil and grass that we utilize in the production of beef. Each time an animal in our care dies, not only is that animal's life wasted, but also the natural resources that were utilized in getting the animal raised to that point in its life. The grass and water it took to get the cow pregnant and to carry the calf to term are wasted along with the resources used during the calf's life.

A certain amount of death loss is inevitable in the beef industry. However, plenty of opportunity to reduce the death loss and waste exists, and put more steaks, roasts and hamburgers in the meat counter without increasing the size of the cow herd in the United States. We recently discussed the weaned calf crop in this country averages in the 80 percent range and the opportunity exists in increasing the beef supply through improving reproductive efficiency rather than increasing cow numbers. An even lower hanging fruit we can harvest is reducing the weaning-associated sickness and death loss caused by respiratory disease.

Five percent death loss seems to be the most common num-

ber used when calculating break-evens on high-risk, mismanaged calves. Many times the death loss is much higher than that and seems to be climbing in spite of new and improved vaccines and antibiotics. I have seen closeouts with death loss several times higher than that. Folks, that is unacceptable!

So, what do we do to reduce this death loss? First, we need to admit that vaccines and antibiotics by themselves are not going to do the job. If they were, we would be seeing reduced rather than increased death loss due to respiratory disease. Relying on vaccine and antibiotics is similar to single trait selection when buying bulls; it isn't going to get us where we want to be!

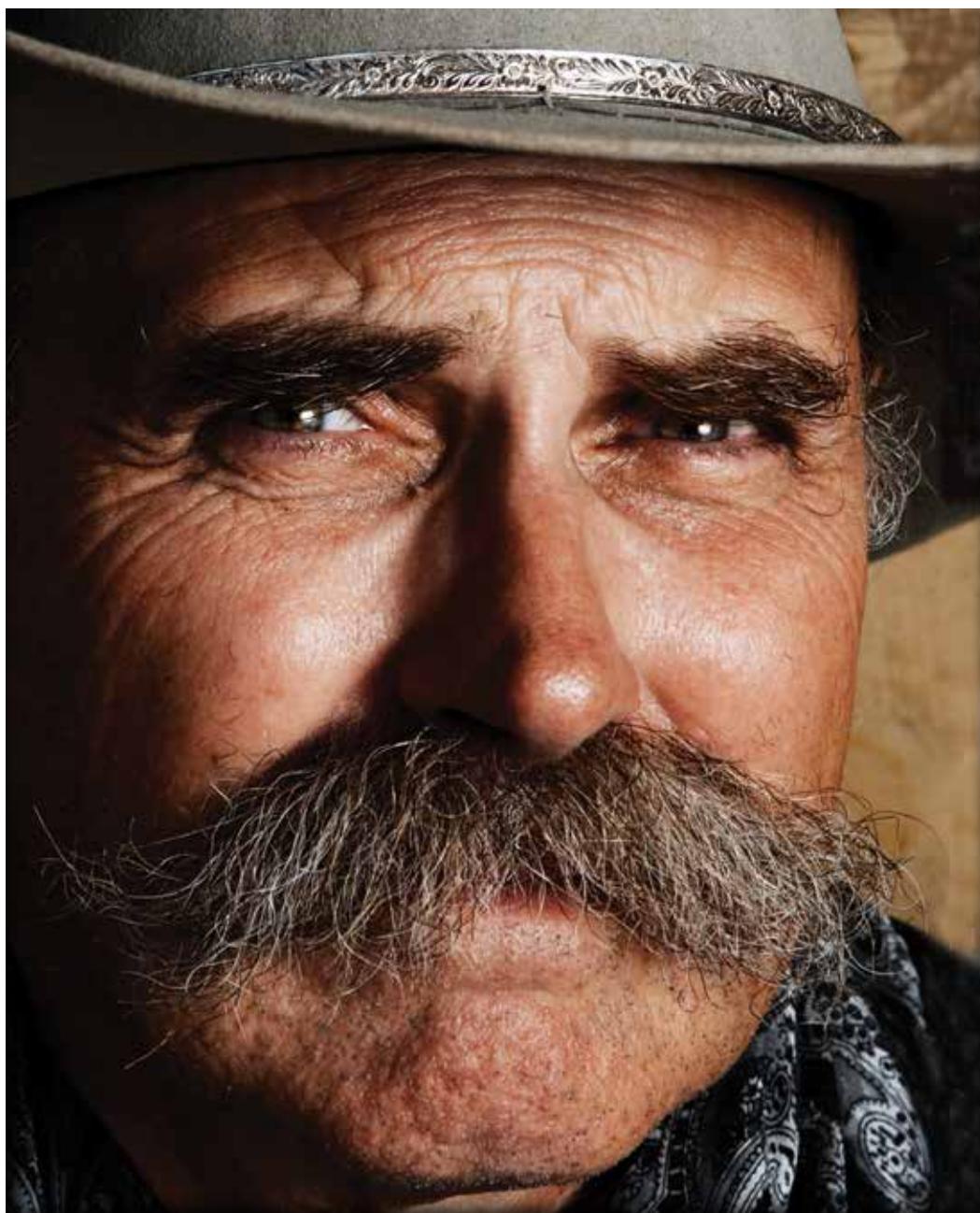


Secondly, we need to get calves weaned on the farm or ranch of origin for 45 days before they are marketed. Dealing with this stressor prior to shipping rather than compounding it with transportation greatly improves immune system function. In today's market, ample opportunity exists to be paid well for the time and effort of weaning just from the gain on the calves from weaning to marketing.

Next, we need to make sure that the calves are castrated at an early age. If castration does not occur until after the calves are sold, it becomes a bigger animal welfare concern in addition to being a major stressor. Once again, we are trying to improve immune system function by castrating early rather than compounding this stressor with weaning and/or transportation.

The adoption of low-stress livestock handling methods is essential. This is a mindset change for many producers that pays large dividends. It begins at birth and continues throughout the animal's life.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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ANIMAL HEALTH STEWARD FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

This deals with the manner in which cattle are gathered, handled, sorted and worked. Several low-stress weaning methods can be picked from as an alternative to the abrupt weaning that has been used in the beef industry for many years. These include the two-step (nose flap) method, fenceline weaning, the Hawaiian trained weaning and the Australian yard weaning. All four incorporate low-stress handling into the weaning process.

Another consideration is the nutritional management of the calf from conception to consumption. We are learning more each day about how optimal protein, energy and trace minerals during pregnancy affect the lifetime health and performance of the calf. Proper gestation nutrition (fetal programming) allows a calf to express its full genetic potential.

Finally, we can talk about vaccines. Vaccination of the cows with IBR and BVD viral vaccines certainly plays a role in controlling respiratory disease in the calves. If we have done everything right up to this point, simple vaccination programs work well to control respiratory disease because we have dealt with the major stressors and the two primary viral components of the disease.

If we can manage respiratory disease with this “system” approach rather than a “pin-point” vaccine-only approach, we can reduce the illness and death loss that we associate with weaning.

This will, in turn, reduce our use of antibiotics and reduce the chance of antibiotic resistance, which are both good in the eyes of our consumers. This approach reduces waste and allows for more efficient use of our natural resources. It is good stewardship. It is also sustainable.

In closing, I pose a question that was asked to me recently by a close friend: “If the ranchers in Hawaii can raise a calf with low-stress handling methods, castrate, vaccinate, wean it, ship it by boat to Vancouver, British Columbia, and by truck to a Kansas feedyard where they experience a less than 2 percent death loss, why do we tolerate the death loss in high-risk calves raised on the mainland that we do?” Furthermore, is that death loss the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care? I don’t think so!

—Dr. David Rethorst is director of outreach for The Beef Institute at Kansas State University.

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—Source: Polk and Dallas County Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

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NEXT GENERATION

Farm Leadership Transitions: What You Need to Know

Make sure the next generation understands key principles of business, finance

Story By Darren Frye for *Cattlemen's News*

On family farms, someone can be doing such a good job in a role that no one else in the operation actually knows how to do that job. And, that can become a major issue when a farm leadership transition is on the horizon.



Dad said he hoped the operation would continue to be successful for generations to come so future family members could have an opportunity to enjoy farming as a career.

They talked about what success would look like, how it could be measured in the future. And then, the son told his dad that he was feeling concerned about how he'd be able to make his dad's vision for the future a reality. He said he needed to make sure he was ready in all aspects to lead the farm, including the business and financial side.

Here's how the situation can play out on the farm. A farmer and his son are working together in their operation, and the plan is for the son to take over once Dad retires. The son was in charge of all aspects related to producing the cattle — from herd health to logistics and employee management.

Dad had a tight handle on everything related to the business side of the farm. Dad went alone to meetings with the banker. The financials weren't shared with his son. He wouldn't discuss the finances, though the operation was doing well.

The son — who was in his late 30s — got more and more anxious. He started wondering if there was some reason that his dad wouldn't share the numbers with him. He began to think the operation must be doing poorly financially, even though outwardly everything seemed to be fine.

He also worried about how he would run the business side of the farm once his dad decided to retire. How would he know what to do? He'd never even seen a balance sheet, let alone knew how to interpret one, or how to discuss it with the banker.

Having the conversation

The son got so concerned that he decided to have a more in-depth conversation with his dad. They met, and the son asked his dad what he hoped the operation would be like in the future, after he retired from farming.

Dad said he knew he needed to share more information and discuss more about how he made business decisions for the operation. The farm was doing quite well financially, but it was just very tough for him to think about not being involved anymore. Still, he wanted to help his son prepare to lead.

They decided that the son would start shadowing his dad to learn business decision-making and financial skills. They planned to work together at least several hours each week, and attend all business meetings together. Reviewing the operation's financials and learning other financial know-how would be a major part of the time spent together.

Sometimes, tough conversations need to happen to help make sure the next generation is ready. What conversations do the people on your farm need to have to ensure a smooth transition and successful future?

Create the vision

Does your farm have a long-term vision? Do you find it helps you guide the business

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Merck Animal Health Enhances CreatingConnections™ Program

New Cattle Handling Video Released

Merck Animal Health released an educational video about cattle shipping and transportation as part of its CreatingConnections™ program designed to help producers better understand cattle behavior and use that knowledge to help reduce stress, improve reproduction and foster stronger immune responses. The first video in the series presents a practical look at low-stress handling techniques that capitalize on beef cattle natural behaviors. It also illustrates how to move cattle calmly from the feed-yard pens, through the chute, onto the trailer and delivered to the packing plant, utilizing a philosophy based on communication with the animals.

The CreatingConnections™ program, and this video in

particular, are designed to expand the understanding of how human and cattle interactions affect animal health and well-being, said Paulo Loureiro, D.V.M., Merck Animal Health. Through calm, confident movements, a handler creates a positive experience for the cattle, which builds trust. As a result, the cattle are easier to handle, diagnose and manage, which makes interactions safer for the animal and the handler.”

Understanding cattle behavior

The key to effectively moving, loading and transporting cattle is to use the animal natural behaviors and instincts. If cattle are relaxed, content and confident, they will move easily, said Tom Noffsinger, D.V.M., well known for his

FARM TRANSITIONS FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

into what you imagine it to be in the future? A vision for the farm is a powerful thing. It guides everyone toward what the future will be like and gets everyone excited and moving in the same direction toward that desired future.

Next, the broad, long-term vision for your farm needs to be broken down further into more short-term steps and goals. To reach that vision in your desired timeframe, what does the farm need to be like in 5 or 10 years?

Finally, what do you need to be doing now in order to get it there – to reach the goals in the

right timeframes? Who needs to be involved? What will they be responsible for?

Read more – including additional thoughts on how to prepare the next generation to lead the farm – in our quarterly publication, Smart Series, at waterstreet.org/smartseries.

—Darren Frye is President and CEO of Water Street Solutions, a farm consulting firm that helps farmers with the challenges they face in growing and improving their farms – including the challenge of transitioning the farming operation to the next generation. Contact Darren at waterstreet@waterstreet.org or call (866) 249-2528.

work on low-stress cattle handling practices. In the video, he walks the viewer through the process with a practical narrative and explains:

How to move slowly to guide cattle out of a pen, working with the group voluntary flow and follow-the-leader instincts.

Once in the chute, how to apply gentle pressure and calm motion to keep cattle at the front moving forward.

The important role that a truck driver plays, and tips for a successful, low-stress transport.

— Adapted from a release from Merck Animal Health.

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Clearing up the Misconceptions on Traceability

Selling at a livestock auction market

The Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule went into effect on March 11, 2013. However, after a 2-year grace period, the final component of the rule went into effect in April. Many producers have been asking questions recently to ensure they are complying with the rule. Some cattle ranch owners believe that the rule prohibits producers from traveling to a market across state lines to sell cattle. This is

not true. In fact, in most cases, when selling at market, producers do not need to do anything differently because they have the auction market owners to help ensure the rules are followed.

It is important to note that state rules still apply and are not consistent across the United States. Any questions about shipping to another state can

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TRACEABILITY FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

be answered by the state veterinarian's office in the receiving state.

The 2015 Phase-In

As of March 11, 2015, ear tags applied to cattle on or after this date must have an animal identification number beginning with the 840 or other prefix representing a U.S. territory in order to be recognized as official identification. The tag must also bear an official ear tag shield. This does not change what animals require official identification or when official identification is required. Rather, USDA simply allowed a 2-year phase-in period to ensure ear tags used as official identification would meet the standards listed above.

The ADT Rule

The ADT rule only applies to cattle moving from one state to another and not for those staying in state. For cattle, the following animals must be identified with official ID if traveling in interstate commerce: all sexually intact cattle and bison older than 18 months of age; all female dairy cattle of any age; all dairy males (intact or castrated) born after March 11, 2013; and cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo, shows, exhibition and recreational events. Cattle requiring official identification must have an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI), commonly called a health certificate, or alternate documentation agreed on by the state to move across state lines.

Shipping to Market or Slaughter

Some flexibility is built into the rule. Cattle requiring official ID may move across state lines directly to an approved livestock facility, including many livestock markets, without a health certificate if moved on an owner-shipper statement. Information required to be included on an owner-shipper statement, such as the location from which the animals are moved interstate and the destination of the animals, is spelled out in the ADT rule. In some cases, and existing document such as a tag in slip at livestock markets have been used as an owner-shipper statements. Additionally, cattle can move to an approved tagging site, including many livestock markets, prior to being identified as they

will be identified at the approved tagging site. In another exception, cattle moved direct-to-slaughter can move with approved backtags instead of official identification, even if moving between states.

State Veterinarian Decisions

State veterinarians also have the ability to make some key decisions under the rule. While official eartags always qualify as official identification, state veterinarians may accept the use of brands or tattoos accompanied by breed registration documents as official identification when agreed to by both the shipping and receiving states. State veterinarians may also accept movement documentation other than an ICVI, as long as both the shipping

and receiving state agree on the alternative document.

Other Rules Still Apply

The ADT requirements are in addition to state requirements for livestock identification, documentation and disease testing for cattle movement in their states. Veterinarians shipping to a state where they are unsure of import requirements should contact the state veterinarian's office in the receiving state for specific requirements.

Enforcement

For the first year under ADT, USDA focused its efforts on education about the rule. On March 4, 2014, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Administrator

Kevin Shea sent out a bulletin about the next phase of ADT implementation. While USDA will continue to work with people not in compliance to educate them about the requirements, USDA will also pursue penalties in situations where an individual repeatedly fails to comply with the regulatory requirements. USDA stated its priorities are:

1. Official identification of cattle
2. Proper administration of Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI)
3. Collection of ID at slaughter

— Source: *Livestock Marketing Association.*

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Conservation Program Helps Improve Soil, Water Quality

Missouri boasts highest erosion reduction rate

Story By Rebecca Mettler for *Cattlemen's News*

Preserving and improving Missouri's water quality is a main objective of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The Soil and Water Conservation Program (SWCP) assists agricultural landowners in soil and water conservation practices that not only improve the environment, but also in the quest to increase land productivity.

The SWCP operates on half of the funds from the Parks, Soils and Waters Sales Tax. Most of the money goes back to agricultural landowners in the form of financial incentives to implement conservation practices that help prevent soil erosion and protect water resources. The other half of the state tax funds state parks.

Colleen Meredith, director of the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Program with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, says farmers and livestock producers realize as well as anyone that we need to keep the soil in its place and continually strive to improve water quality.

"They (farmers and livestock producers) are conservationists," Meredith said. "They care about the land and want to protect it, not only for their own benefit but for the benefit of Missouri's next generation of farmers and beyond."

Meredith goes on to say that agriculturalists are good stewards of the land and, overall, it helps everyone in the state because a program to assist with funds and technical support for land and water improvement.

"They wouldn't do this if they weren't concerned about their property or the land," Meredith said.

When the tax was put in place in 1984, Missouri ranked second in the nation for the highest rate of erosion. Meredith boasted that the state could now claim the highest reduc-

tion rate of erosion compared to other states with 10 million acres of cultivated cropland.

As a state agency, Meredith describes the role of SWCP to work hand-in-hand with every county's soil and water district office. SWCP provides the funds and technical tools

"Really, I think it's a good delivery system," Meredith said. "Funds flow through those offices, and the funding comes from the department, but really it's the sales tax paid by the citizens."

Speaking of citizens, Meredith said that the last time the tax was voted for and approved it passed with 71 percent approval. Such a broad acceptance isn't often seen for a tax initiative. This speaks to the importance of the soil and water conservation efforts that take place in Missouri.

Since it's known that soil conservation affects water quality, the SWCP conservation

ent and pest management plan on another field. To continue, the producer might see the need to fence off a stream to protect water quality, which could easily lead into a managed grazing system. Meredith said that many times projects melds together over the years to create a very integrated set of conservation improvements to the land.

As the producer in the above example continues to add conservation practices, he or she agrees to a maintenance plan in each contract he or she employs with the SWCP. The landowner commits to maintain the practices for five or 10 years, depending on the prac-



The Missouri Soil and Water Conservation program has 50 practices for landowner participation. Resource concern areas include nutrient and pest management; woodland erosion, animal waste management; grazing management; sensitive areas; sheet, rill and gully erosion; and irrigation management.

—Photo by Jera Pipkin

to work with landowners on a county level. SWCP is fostering a good relationship with landowners through the local soil and water offices.

At the county level, each soil and water district has an elected board that consists of farmers.

"They are a part of the agriculture community and people know them," Meredith said. "There's a lot of trust with the local soil and water, they are farmers like everyone else."

She also points out that one member, who serves as the secretary of the board is an employee of the University of Missouri Extension program. Meredith said that the tie to Extension is a very important aspect of the county soil and water board.

practices intertwine between both soil and water conservation. SWCP has seven different resource concerns with 50 various practices. The concern areas include nutrient and pest management; woodland erosion; animal waste management; grazing management; sensitive areas; sheet, rill and gully erosion; and irrigation management.

"With the seven categories and 50 different practices, those with a small number of cattle could benefit and a those with a large number of cattle can benefit as well," Meredith said.

For example, livestock producers could find themselves beginning a SWCP project dealing with a seeding practice because of land erosion. Time progresses and the landowner sees the need to start a nutri-

tice. This, again, is a testament to the farmer or rancher's commitment to the land.

"Since the induction of the tax in 1984, 176 million tons of soil has been saved, there have been 100 watershed projects and \$635 million dollars have been given out to producers with 200,000 contracts with landowners, all on a voluntary basis," Meredith said.

We are all in this together as citizens, landowners and anyone partaking in the natural resources that Missouri has to offer. It's our responsibility to leave the land in better shape tomorrow than it was today. As the statistics show, Missouri landowners should be proud of the headway that has taken place over the last 31 years with the assistance of the SWCP funds.

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Feeding the Soil

Landowners practice stewardship, improve soil fertility

Story and Photos By Joann Pipkin, Editor

With grass nearly waist-high in the bottomland field, John McDowell names off the varieties he will soon harvest for haylage — hairy vetch, red clover, turnips, oats, triticale, wheat.

The Dade County farmer could graze the field, but with plenty of grass on hand this spring, haylage will be the best option.

“I’ll come right back in after harvest and plant an eight-way mix for summer,” McDowell explains. That mix will include multiple varieties of sudan, milo, haybeans, millet and cowpeas, all warm weather crops.

A fan of cover crops, McDowell explains how a conference he attended in South Dakota helped him realize what the plants could do for the soil.

McDowell says his mission is to improve the health of the soil, “but it’s obvious to me. It’s just like us eating donuts every day for a month. When you plant one crop in a field for several months, the soil doesn’t like it.”

And, just like we crave a little variety in our diet, so does the soil.

Use of cover crops is only one example of how McDowell works to be a good steward of the land. He’s also a cooperator with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Dade County.

“Stewardship, to me, means that someone is willing to sacrifice some time and maybe even some money, to take care of the land so that it is as good or better than when (he or she) got it,” explains Drexel Atkisson, NRCS district conservationist.

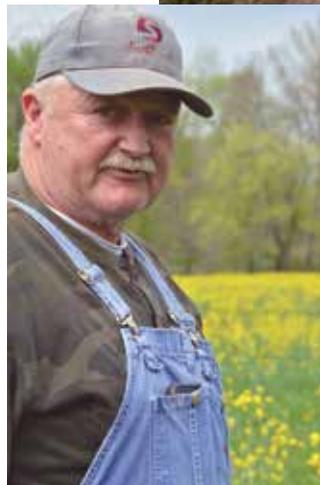
Atkisson works with McDowell and fellow Dade County landowner Mike Theurer. Both have installed grazing systems in an effort to not only provide better forage for their cattle operations, but also to improve their land.

“When we think of grazing systems, we think of subdividing larger fields into smaller ones so that animals can be controlled and their grazing habits managed,” Atkisson says.

NRCS cost-share programs provided assistance for McDowell and Theurer to install interior fences and watering systems on their farms. Grazing systems help landowners better manage carrying capacity, which ultimately means less dependence on commercial fertilizer.

“All of this leads to less erosion and fewer areas with bare ground where forage has been grazed out,” Atkisson notes.

With native prairie on much of his farm, Theurer works to mow that for hay before the bluestem reaches maturity. He also preserves prairie chickens on his land.



(Above and left) John McDowell is a fan of cover crops. He says plant variety helps improve soil health and reduces the need for commercial fertilizer. (Below) A field of turnips and other cover crops on McDowell’s farm await harvest.

Theurer says he keeps competition at bay so native plants can thrive.

A more intensive grazing management system is on the horizon for McDowell, but for now stringent record-keeping helps him stay on top of how long each pasture rests between grazing.

“The longer the rest, the better,” he says.

“They keep telling us at the grazing schools to do like the buffalo did,” McDowell says. “They want us to move the cattle every day.”

McDowell and Theurer have used the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), both funded through the Farm Bill to improve their operations. NRCS works with both full and part-time producers with any size operation.

According to Atkisson, EQIP is designed to help landowners install permanent practices

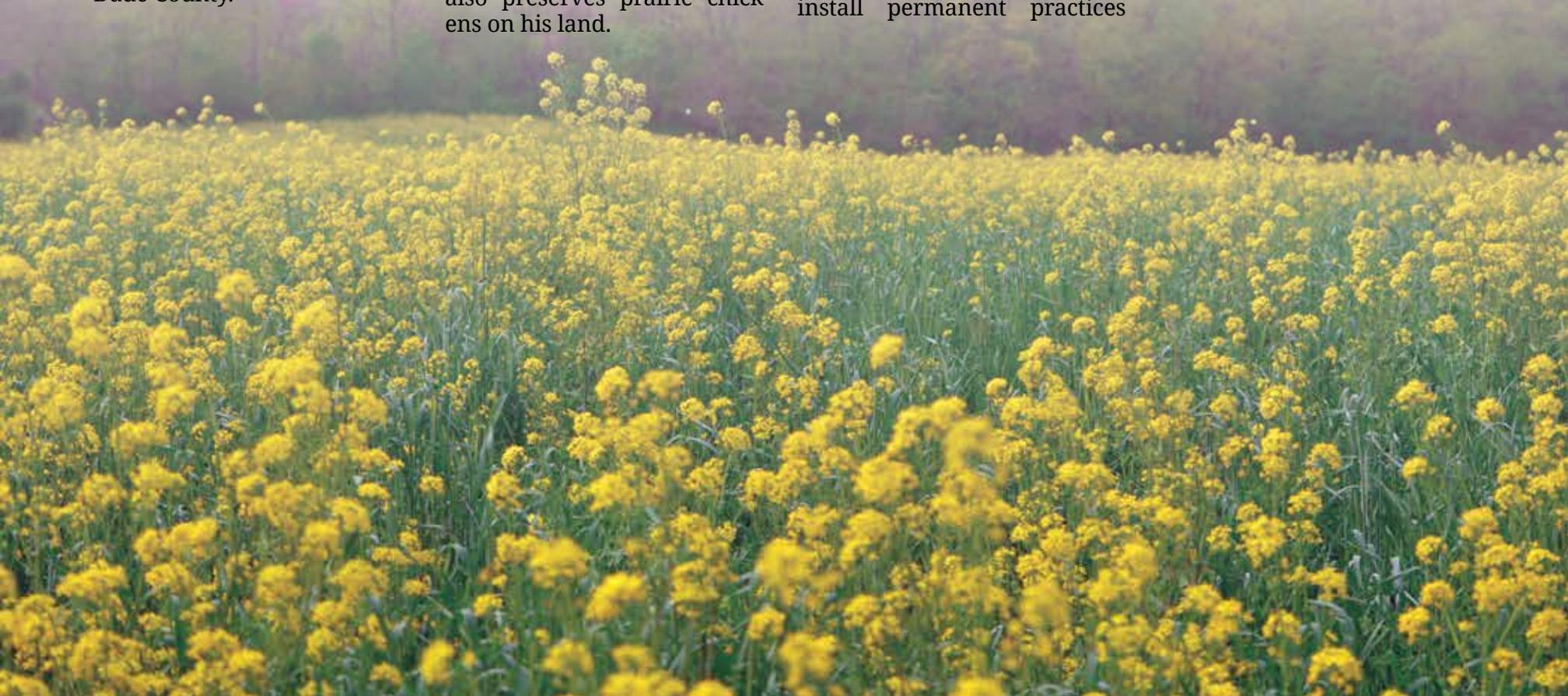
such as terraces, waterways, cover crops, no-till, permanent forage establishment and grazing systems. Those practices help protect resources from erosion or help water quality, slow runoff and improve filtration.

CSP, on the other hand, focuses on management. “It encourages landowners to take on the next level or step up and do some management that is not already being done,” Atkisson says, “to step out and do some practices not already done.”

All in all, Atkisson says regardless of whether or not a landowner seeks assistance from NRCS, opportunities to become a better steward exist.

Grazing management, establishing cover crops and planting without tillage are examples.

“A lot of times the assistance from our office just cinches something a producer needs to accomplish in his or her operation,” he says.



Innovative Water

Water critical element for grazing management

Story By Lisa Henderson for *Cattlemen's News*

“Water is the most essential nutrient, and the greatest attractant in the pasture where cattle are grazed,” says Jeff Davidson, watershed specialist with Kansas State University.

While other attractants such as salt or mineral feeders, shade, wind protection, breezy heights, supplemental feeding areas and cattle in adjacent pastures can be used to better distribute grazing, the water source is critical.

“Cattle tend to concentrate around water sources, leading to reduced vegetation and increased manure in and around the water source,” Davidson says.

Non-lactating cattle on pasture need 0.75 to 1.5 gallons of water per 100 pounds of body weight, according to Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University emeritus extension animal scientist. That amounts to 6 to 12 percent of their body weight, and means a 600-pound steer will drink 4.5 to 9 gallons of water per day.

Selk says lactating cows nursing calves might consume 18 percent of their body weight, so daily requirements for a typical spring-calving 1,200-pound cow are about 27 gallons of water each hot summer day.

“Water consumption is dependent on climatic conditions, feed types, production level and salt intake,” Selk says. “Water is an important nutrient. Decreased intake can adversely affect health, production and growth.”

Beef cows will drink about twice as much water when the air temperature is 90 degrees than when it is 60 degrees, which means an adequate water supply is critical for cattle in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas during the summer months.

Pasture and range specialists say installing multiple watering tanks in grazing operations has several advantages. First, cattle have access to ponds or streams and are more likely to

spend time loafing around the water source than using it to drink.

“Cattle will spend hours on a hot summer day simply stand-



Tractor and combine tires make cost-effective and durable water tanks. In many situations, the tanks are freeze-resistant in winter.

—Photo by Joann Pipkin

ing in the pond,” Davidson says. “This concentrated activity around water leads to water becoming polluted with sediment, nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, as well as fecal coliform and streptococcus bacteria. Phosphorus is the nutrient attributed to the algae blooms that have become more prevalent in recent years. Decomposition of manure will also deplete the dissolved oxygen in the water, which is vital to fish.”

According to James Gerrish, former Missouri Forage Systems Resource Center (FSRC) manager, “Some ways to limit water access would be to install a low barbed wire fence around the water source, which would still allow the cattle to drink from the source but would not allow access for entering the source. Other options would be to install other outlets from the main source for the cattle to drink from or implement a rotational grazing system.”

A FSRC publication cites installing waterers as a way to reduce pond or stream access, and when used in conjunction

with fencing of the pond, it improves pond water quality and life of the pond.

Additional water sources in grazing operations provide benefits beyond simply watering livestock. Managing where your cattle drink is good for the environment, range and pasture, researchers say. Specifically, when cattle damage creek banks and foul water with manure and urine, they tend to access that water less often.

mals. While each pasture must have a water source, rotational grazing programs will likely require that you install additional water sources.

That means you’ll likely need to bury pipe and install waterers. Several commercial waterers are available, but innovative producers have also designed waterers made from large, used, heavy-equipment tires. Sources include tractor tires, combine tires or large construction equipment tires. Such tires make cost-effective and durable water tanks, and in many situations they are freeze-resistant in winter.

Missouri’s FSRC has been using water tanks made from used tires for several years. Employees at the FSRC offer these tips to make a waterer from a used tire:

- Tires with heavier sidewalls create a much sturdier tank.
- The first step is to cut out one sidewall. A “Sawzall” type reciprocating saw works well, but don’t try to cut through the bead as that part of the tire is reinforced and difficult to cut. Make the cut so that you leave 5 to 6 inches of sidewall in from the lugs.
- Create a seal for the bottom. Concrete is a preferred method by many producers. Trench in the water supply and overflow line and set the tire over them with the intact sidewall down. Place the coupler fittings that will attach to the overflow riser and inlet valve to just above the rim hole on the bottom of the tire and pour concrete just to the top of that rim hole. Make sure to push concrete out under the sidewall of the tire. Having screw-in fittings just above the level of the concrete bottom makes them much easier to plumb.
- Tank re-charge rate is important. Cattle usually come to drink as a group, so install a high-capacity flow valve in the tank.

On the Prowl

Preventing, controlling predators can be a big concern for cattlemen

Story By Brittini Drennan for Cattlemen's News

Producers face threats from multiple types of predators including dogs, bobcats and most commonly coyotes. Other types of wildlife might not cause physical harm to cattle, but animals such as otters, beavers and wild hogs can cause costly damage to property.

Implementing multiple methods, as opposed to just relying on one, is most effective in deterring unwanted animals, according to Dan McMurtry, wildlife biologist USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, who spoke at the Southwest Missouri Forage Conference in March. McMurtry said the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) reported 39,800 head of cattle and 180,100 calves were lost in 2010 due to predators. In Missouri alone, 700 head of cattle and 6,500 calves were lost. Coyotes were the single largest predator cause, accounting for about one-third of predator losses according to the report.

"Predators can be economically detrimental to an operation, and it's worth the additional time and money to implement preventative methods," McMurtry said. "In 1998 a study found that for every dollar spent on predation management, three dollars worth of livestock were saved."

McMurtry noted three key points to predator control. First, producers need to determine the cause of death in livestock to identify whether or not there is a predator problem. Second, they can take measures to prevent predation from occurring, and third, they need to know what steps to take following a predator attack.

When addressing a cause of death, producers need to consider all possibilities including disease, poisoning, infections and natural causes. For calves, determine if it was stillborn or abandoned. To determine whether or not death was caused by a predator, look for teeth marks, puncture

wounds, animal tracks on the property and the aftermath results.

Taking preventative measures is the best way to control predators. Maintaining good fences or exclusions is the best way to keep out predators. If producers have to be gone for a short period of time, turbo fladry has proven to temporarily deter animals such as wolves and coyotes. Installing electric fence is one of the common and more effective ways to prevent predators.

"Electric fences are most effective when hot wires are alternated instead of having everything hot," McMurtry said. "They are the best option for preventative control, but they are more costly than other methods and require constant maintenance."

An additional method of prevention is immediately disposing of dead carcasses. Burying animals or composting with sawdust or mulch wards off vultures, hawks and bald eagles, which McMurtry said are on the rise in Missouri. Vultures especially endanger vulnerable and weak newborn calves and can cause damage to equipment. Also, producers can synchronize calving as another method of predator prevention, allowing cattlemen to keep a closer, more watchful eye on cows calving.

"Routine animal checks are important for more informed decision making and discovering the reason for trouble or disaster should something happen," McMurtry said.

Finally, cattlemen need to know what to do and what steps to take if a predator does attack. Alan Leary, wildlife management coordinator for the Missouri Department of Conservation, oversees the department's damage program.

"Coyotes are certainly the biggest concern for livestock and calves," Leary said. "Dogs can

Tool Helps Farmers Determine Economics of Using Cover Crops

NRCS to provide free tool

By now most farmers have heard about cover crops and how incorporating them into rotations can increase yields and reduce input costs while providing other valuable benefits. But many farmers still have not tried cover crops because they are unsure about the costs.

To help answer that question, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, or NRCS, has developed a simple digital tool. The Cover Crop Economic Decision Support Tool is a spreadsheet that helps farmers, landowners and others make informed decisions when considering whether to add cover crops to their systems. It was developed by two NRCS economists, Lauren Cartwright, of Missouri, and Bryon Kirwan, of Illinois.

Missouri State Conservationist J.R. Flores explained that

also be a threat, and we have responded to calls resulting from dog attacks."

Leary advised the first step following an attack is to determine the type of animal and its access point. For example, the access point might be where the animal crawled under the fence.

"Then, we try to educate the producers on what steps they can take or what they can do to control the problem," Leary said. "Once they determine what method they are going to implement, we teach them how to go about doing that and what procedures to follow."

Several options for control are available such as snares, live traps and leg hold traps for terrestrial animals like raccoons, foxes, bobcats and coyotes. Snare are, Leary said, one of the most effective tools if the point of access can be determined. Calling and hunting coyotes can be effective if the problem is limited to just one or two coyotes. Leary cautions producers to be aware

the tool offers a partial budget analysis. It focuses only on operational changes that affect the actual costs and benefits that farmers see when they add cover crops.

Cartwright said her inspiration for developing the tool came from attending some of the many soil health workshops throughout the state.

"I would hear the main speakers, farmers who have been using cover crops for many years, talk about how they have no runoff and they are producing corn for less than \$2 per bushel," she said. "And I found myself thinking 'That's good. But how did you get to that point, and how much did it cost to get there?'"

The spreadsheet tool that Kirwan and Cartwright developed is designed to measure direct nutrient credits;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

of hunting and trapping laws. For example, using snares requires a special permit. Damage biologists are able to grant depredation permits under certain situations.

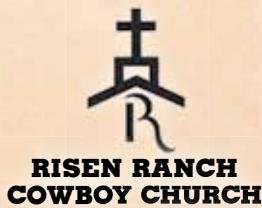
Leary suggested that landowners use guard animals if predator control is a continuous problem. Dogs and llamas are the most common types of guard animals.

"There are a variety of options for prevention as well as control if producers face predator threats," Leary said. "It's ultimately up to the landowner. We just try to provide producers with the options and educate them on how to implement proper procedures."

Additional educational resources about wildlife trapping and control are available on the Missouri Department of Conservation website at mdc.mo.gov, or contact Leary with problems or questions at alan.leary@mdc.mo.gov.

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Going, Going Strong

Sustainability is here to stay

Story By Rebecca Mettler for Cattleman's News

Researching beef's sustainability from an industry-wide basis was spurred by the erroneous claims from the United Nation's report *Livestock's Long Shadow*. The 2006 report was famous for saying that livestock were responsible for 18 percent of all man-made greenhouse gasses.

"In 2007, TIME magazine suggested that a 16-ounce T-bone is like a Hummer on a plate, and vegetarianism can shrink your carbon footprint by 1.5 tons of carbon dioxide equivalence per year," said Kim Stackhouse-Lawson, executive director of global sustainability research with National Cattleman's Beef Association (NCBA).

The beef industry then rose to the occasion and started building scientific evidence to show, demonstrate and prove that we are a sustainable industry.

The research to follow, *The Beef Industry Sustainability Assessment*, was the largest and most in-depth project of its kind and dealt with much more than just greenhouse gasses.

"We studied 14 indicators and looked at the most complex system in the world, the beef industry from the birth of that animal to consumption by the consumer," said Stackhouse-Lawson.

So, how did the beef industry do as a whole? Results from a six-year comparison of 2005 to 2011 showed an improvement of overall sustainability by 5 percent. An improvement of 7 percent can be seen in just the environmental and social aspects of sustainability. Emissions to water and soil were reduced 10 percent and 7 percent, respectively. The beef industry has also reduced its carbon footprint by 2 percent in the same six-year period.

How has agriculture increased sustainability? According to Stackhouse-Lawson, it's a multifaceted approach that involves increases in crop

yields, equipment technology, increased animal gains and performance, improved efficiency in irrigation and more precise manure management in feedlots, just to name a few.

However, the subject of sustainability is ambiguous. Just defining sustainability in the beef industry was difficult. Stackhouse-Lawson explained that most everyone would have a slightly different personal explanation of what sustainability means.

"To most ranchers, it's about passing down the business to their kids, to leave it better than when they got it, but really it's about raising more cows on less," Stackhouse-Lawson said.

But, when a group of 1,800 beef-eating consumers were surveyed three years ago, their buying habits were most centered on quality and price. And for the first time, sustainability aspects entered the top 10 factors for purchasing products.

When asked to define sustainability, half of the people surveyed did not answer. Granted, the question wasn't multiple-choice, but Stackhouse-Lawson realized that they didn't know the answer.

"First, they told us it's important to them and told us how they think we are doing, and then we ask them to define it and half of them couldn't," Stackhouse-Lawson said. "Of the remaining half, 20 percent said that it was the ability to reuse."

The second most common answer was the ability to maintain production. Though her first reaction was to believe that some people actually understood what beef producers do, her excitement diminished when the third most popular answer was the amount of time the food stays good.

As an industry, much needs to be done to convey the correct message of sustainability as it pertains to beef production,

TOOL HELPS FARMERS FROM PAGE 18

input reductions; yield increases and decreases; seed and establishment costs; erosion reductions; grazing opportunities; overall soil fertility levels; and water storage and infiltration improvements.

The tool's analysis depends on data that farmers enter. They can run "what if" scenarios if they want to evaluate a range of values. The tool offers results in both dollars and graphs, showing short-term and long-term benefits.

Cartwright said for most scenarios, the tool shows a clear financial benefit for those who learn to manage cover crops

and stick with them. There is a significant jump in benefits over time, primarily because of increased organic matter in the soil. The tool also indicates that short-term costs can be offset by farmers who incorporate grazing of cover crops.

According to NRCS and other research, long-term use of cover crops offers improved profitability because of higher yields and lower input costs. Healthier soil also improves water quality, infiltration, weed and pest control, wildlife habitat, and more.

Farmers can download the spreadsheet at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mo/soils/health/.

but improvements have been made.

"Sustainability is not only about the beef industry becoming more sustainable," Stackhouse-Lawson said. "It's about everybody in the value chain, the food system becoming more sustainable."

Everyone in agriculture must do more with less because of dwindling resources and a growing global population.

"We are going to have 9 billion people on the planet in 2050, and they are going to require 70 percent more food, and there are estimates that they are going to require 100 percent more animal protein," Lawson said.

What Now?

In an effort to expand the initial sustainability research, the second phase of research is concentrated on regional data collection. The group has finished data collection in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota. Stackhouse-Lawson said that many Missouri beef producers have received surveys via e-mail regarding their operations.

"It's an effort to make the life cycle assessments better, more comprehensive and more accurate," Stackhouse-Lawson said. "More importantly, it's to demonstrate that sustainability is not a one-size-fits-all approach. What works for you in Missouri might not work for Florida,

and we need that data to defend your freedom to operate."

Another effort to increase sustainability efforts in the U.S. beef industry comes from an organization formed in March 2015, the U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (USRSB).

A group of U.S. beef value chain participants including producers, processors, retailers, foodservice operators, packers, allied industry and non-governmental organizations launched the USRSB. The multi-stakeholder roundtable will identify sustainability indicators, establish verification methodologies and generate field project data to test and confirm sustainability concepts for use throughout the United States, according to a news release from NCBA.

As Stackhouse-Lawson pointed out, the beef industry has been sustainable for generations, but it's time for the rest of the world to see that. Sustainability is here to stay and is a part of USRSB companies mission statements. And, although the term has been hijacked by people critical of beef, it's not a word fear.

"In my opinion, the beef industry has one of the best sustainability stories in the world," Stackhouse-Lawson said. "It's incredible."



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Protecting a calf at the beginning of the production period — while it is still on the ranch or farm — can have a big impact on the animal's productivity for the rest of its life.

"A calf's ability to stay healthy is shaped by what happens at the ranch," says Bruce Hoffman, D.V.M. and Elanco technical consultant. "Sickness can reduce animal well-being and productivity, so it is important to have a strategy to keep calves from ever getting sick."

Animals vaccinated on the ranch are better prepared to meet disease challenges at the sale barn and beyond. Spring is a critical time to start immunizing calves and build a plan for preconditioning later in the fall.

"Most producers are focused on keeping calves healthy on the ranch," says Hoffman. "But in addition to ranch health, it is critical that feedyards communicate the need for proper vaccinations to reduce death loss when calves enter the feedlot this fall."

Decreasing death loss

Using Elanco Benchmark® data, we see that death loss in fed cattle is trending higher (Chart 1). Even when we break it down by region, the data still show 3 out of 4 regions are where death loss is trending higher (Chart 2). There are many factors associated with these trends, but the tendency for the Midwest producers to buy more sourced cattle with known vaccination history could be having an impact on calf health. Vaccination is one aspect of protecting the calf.

Chart 1. U.S. overall mortality data, 500-600 lb cattle*

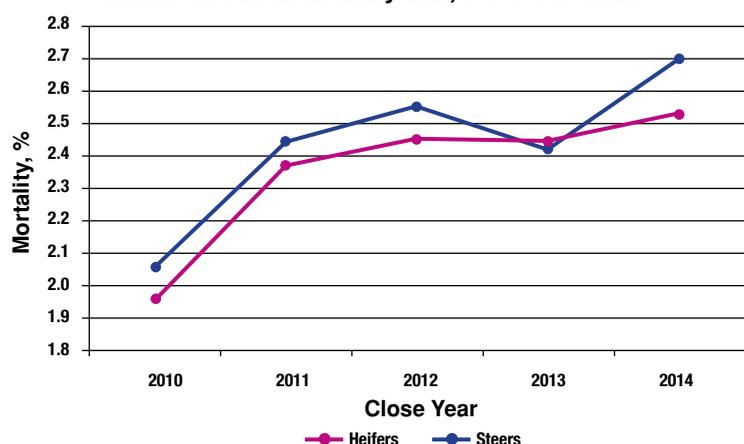
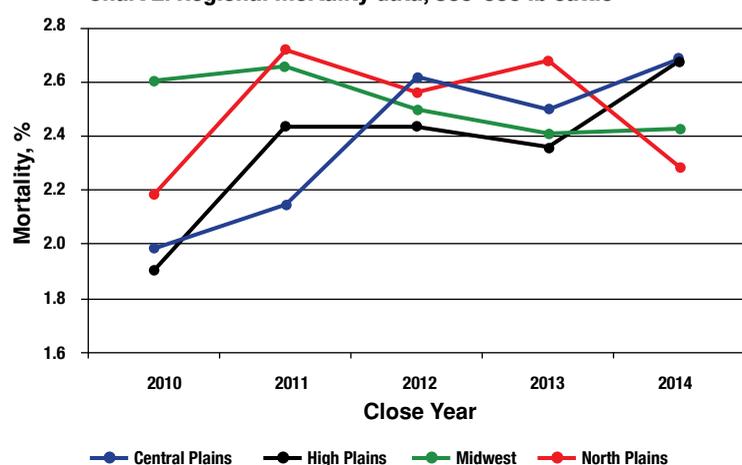
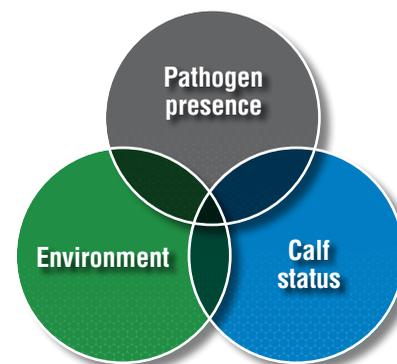


Chart 2. Regional mortality data, 500-600 lb cattle*



Keeping calves healthy

According to Hoffman, three factors affect a calf's ability to resist disease: the status of the calf, the animal's environment and pathogen presence. Calf status includes animal stress level, how well the calf is prepared to fight off disease, genetics and nutrition. Environment includes cold or heat stress, crowding and comingling. Finally, the presence — or absence — of bacteria and viruses within a calf can affect the potential for disease. These three factors work together to protect a calf or cause it to get sick.



"The biggest question is, how do we reduce stress to the animal?" says Hoffman. "While the calf is on the range, it's in a low-stress environment, but when it gets to the sale barn or feedlot, it's generally under a lot of stress and has a greater chance of getting sick."

Once a calf is stressed, its immune system is compromised, reducing the animal's ability to resist disease and allowing viruses and bacteria — some of which occur naturally inside the animal — to cause infection. While an animal may not get sick on the ranch, if its immunity has not been built up properly, it can be susceptible to viruses once it leaves the ranch. This sets up a pathway for bacteria, primarily *Mannheimia haemolytica* and *Pasturella multocida*, to move into the lungs and cause life-threatening infections. Even if an animal overcomes this disease challenge, the lifetime profitability of the animal is reduced.

"As you source cattle, making sure they have been properly vaccinated and minimizing stress from transportation helps to reduce the impact of respiratory infections and disease on the feedyard," says Hoffman.

Increased productivity, increased profit

Sourcing quality calves that have been vaccinated for respiratory pathogens on the ranch is a good way to reduce the probability of an animal getting sick later in life.

"The key is getting the vaccine into a healthy, well-nourished animal before periods of stress. In the face of stress, the immune system does not respond as well, so ideally we want to give vaccines in a low-stress environment," says Hoffman. "This enables the animal to have immunity when it gets to that high-stress environment and is challenged by pathogens."

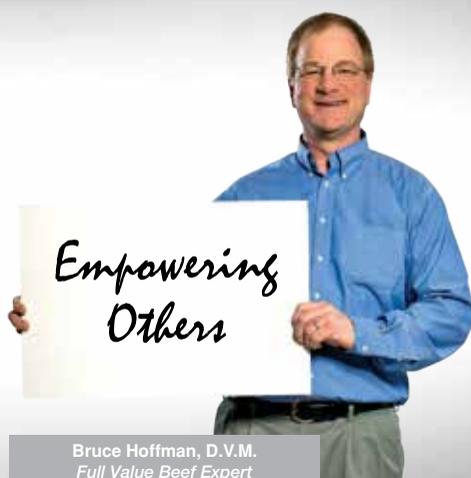
The ranch is a low-stress environment where a calf can respond to a vaccine by building immunity. A calf that has been vaccinated early in life will have a much stronger response to the pathogen exposure it may encounter at the sale barn and is less likely to get sick or be affected by disease damage throughout its life.

"In general, there are too many calves that do not get vaccinated for respiratory bugs before they leave the ranch," says Hoffman. "Producers need to realize the importance of vaccinating for viruses and bacteria. As an industry, it is our responsibility to prepare these calves for life by vaccinating, because disease not only costs producers money, it also impacts the entire production chain."

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*Benchmark analysis of 88,107 lots closed from 2010-2014 — mortality data of 500-600 lb steers and heifers across all regions.



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What is Stewardship Anyway?

Take responsibility for your environment, land and livestock

Story By Elizabeth Walker for *Cattlemen's News*

When asked if I could write an article on stewardship, I said, "Sure, I can do that." Then, over the next few days, I asked myself, "What is stewardship?" I have always been the type of person who said, "Sure, I can do that" only to realize later that I had no idea what it was I thought I could do. So, I tend to "wing" things a lot.

The definition of stewardship, comes right out of Merriam-Webster, the knower of all things. I am the opposite to Merriam and Webster and do not know everything. What I do know, or perhaps feel, is that agriculture done right is the act of stewardship. If it isn't in the soil, then it isn't in the plant, then it isn't in our livestock, then it isn't in us. Stewardship is the act of taking responsibility for keeping our environment, our

animals and each other healthy and staying on the land as a form of profitable employment.

In Missouri, compared to other states, we have what appears to be an ample supply of fresh water both falling from the sky and running through our pastures in the form of creeks, streams and rivers. As part of stewardship, it is our responsibility to ensure our land uses water in an efficient manner. A variety of grazing methods can help our soils retain the water that falls so that it can be used by forages. The right amount of hoof action on the soil creates micro-lakes, which help stem the flow of water from our fields to our creeks. Several of our soil scientists have shown this, and many of our Missouri Natural Resources Conservation Service specialists can as-



sist producers with developing a rotational grazing system that would help retain water for use in their fields. At my own farm, my husband and I have noticed less water runoff in the dry weather low spot/creek that crosses our driveway. Where water used to cross our road after a heavy shower, we now barely notice a trickle.

In addition to water stewardship, we also have a responsibility to the land itself and the microorganisms that call it home. With ruminant livestock, we often talk about feeding the microbes in the rumen and the importance of keeping them happy and content. From unwanted experience, many of us know what can happen when livestock accustomed to forage decide to break into

the feed room and devour an unneeded supply of grain. The negative effect on the rumen can be fatal to the animals. Soil microbes are just as sensitive to changes in their environment as rumen microbes are to theirs. The only difference is that when the soil microbes get out of whack, the results can be magnified over a much larger area and take much longer to resolve themselves. Stewardship over the land is crucial for a sustainable environment and a sustainable career in production agriculture.

The more I learn about stress in humans and livestock, the more I feel that it may have one of the largest impacts on our overall health. Stress can come in many forms from environmental, weather and improper animal handling. Dr. Ron Gill from Texas A&M University recently gave a demonstration on low-stress animal handling at Missouri State University. Dr. Gill isn't alone in professing the needs of low-stress or even no-stress livestock handling, and we have local "experts" in Missouri who also profess the needs of reducing stress in our

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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McDonald's Drives Farm, Ranch Sustainability

NCBA's environmental stewardship awards applaud land protection efforts

Story By Lisa Henderson for Cattlemen's News

Last year, McDonald's announced it would work with ranchers, packers and others to develop a supply of sustainable beef for its restaurants. The company's stated goal is to begin purchasing beef that meets a standard for sustainability in 2016.

Sustainability has become a buzzword that many ranchers view with a healthy dose of skepticism, largely because the term lacks a standard definition for agriculture operations. McDonald's and other food service companies, however, are working to overcome that hurdle, and beef producers are finding many of their current management practices fit into the sustainable category.

Those practices have been showcased for 23 years by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Environmental Stewardship Awards Program (ESAP), funded by Dow AgroSciences, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Each July, seven ranching families are selected as Regional ESAP winners, with an overall winner announced during the Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show in February.

"Perhaps the unusual thing about winners of the Environmental Stewardship Award is just how common their experience is," officials at NCBA say. "They run farming and ranching businesses, adjust to the weather, worry about budgets and use conservation practices used by their peers. But they're nominated – usually by those peers – because they've gone the extra mile. And, they're willing to share their story with their peers, with the public and with policymakers."

Through more than two decades of the ESAP, cattlemen have generated positive media coverage, influenced policy and demonstrated how properly managed cattle production is sustainable agriculture.

Still, ranchers take notice when an international food giant such as McDonald's wants to influence ranch sustainability. Bob Langert, former McDonald's vice president of sustainability, told beef producers at Kansas State University's annual Cattlemen's Day they should not fear McDonald's sustainability efforts.

"McDonald's sustainability initiative is driven by consumers, not activists," Langert says. "Sustainability is part of growing our business and your business."

STEWARDSHIP • FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

livestock. Animal stewardship falls into low/no stress animal handling.

I admit I am guilty of high-stress animal handling. It was just the way I was taught growing up in Texas. I was taught low-stress horsemanship, but certainly not low-stress sheep, goat or cattle handling. The first time I realized low stress animal handling could be applied to livestock I was in high school, probably my senior year. I thought about the way I trained my horse's versus the way I trained my lambs. A light went off in my head and sure enough, the fastest way to teach my lambs to push against my knee, was slow and easy, and humanely. It took many years to fully learn that lesson, but I stand behind slow and easy over loud and quick, any day, any time, any animal, any farm, and with any type of corral system.

—Elizabeth Walker is associate professor of animal science at Missouri State University.

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¹ Data on file, Study Report Nos. 2839A-60-00-025, 2239A-60-00-029, 2239A-60-00-030, 2239A-60-00-033, 2239A-60-92-027, 2239A-60-94-003, 2239A-60-94-007, 2239A-60-94-067, 2239A-60-94-068, 2239A-60-94-070, 2239A-60-95-156, 2839A-60-97-123, Zoetis Inc. All trademarks are the property of Zoetis Inc., its affiliates and/or its licensors. ©2014 Zoetis Inc. All rights reserved. DMX14002

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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

EPA's Clean Water Rule Finalized

Late spring release is scheduled

Story By Rebecca Mettler for Cattleman's News

On April 6, 2015, Gina McCarthy, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator and Jo-Ellen Darcy, the assistant secretary of the Army announced via the EPA Connect blog that the Clean Water Rule was finalized and thus sent to the Office of Management and Budget for interagency review on April 3.

Garrett Hawkins, national legislative programs director with Missouri Farm Bureau explained that the reviewing office has as many as 90 days to go over the ruling, but the EPA is confident a final ruling will be announced later this spring.

The Missouri Farm Bureau and other agriculture organizations have kept a close eye on the Clean Water Rule, also referred to as Waters of the United States (WOTUS), due to its potential overreaching authority of the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the possibility for landowner rights to be infringed upon from an agricultural standpoint and beyond.

"EPA is saying that they have listened and that comments received by the agencies influenced changes in the final ruling, but we will see," Hawkins said.

The influence has come from 400 meetings and one million comments and input from a wide range of stakeholders. Of the one million comments, roughly 20,000 were unique and meaningful comments with the majority of those opposing the proposed ruling. Hawkins believes the outpouring of comments was unprecedented to that extent.

Via the official blog of EPA's leadership, the government agency is suggesting that they are tightening the definitions of tributaries and other points of concern for commentators. Also, it specifically point out in their blog post on April 6, 2015 that they are preserving the Clean Water Act exclusions and exemptions for agriculture.

Some of the bullet points from the blog post include more

clearly defining both tributaries and how protected waters are significant, defining tributaries more clearly, providing certainty in how far safeguards extend to nearby waters, and being specific in the protection of the nation's regional water treasures.

Lastly, EPA addressed the focus on tributaries instead of ditches.

"We're limiting protection to ditches that function like tributaries and can carry pollution downstream—like those constructed out of streams. Our proposal talked about upland ditches, and we got feedback that the word "upland" was confusing, so we'll approach ditches from another angle," stated the EPA.

The debate surrounding these "ditches" or erosional features in a farmer's field that are defined as a tributary has been a main concern for many agriculture organizations. According to Hawkins, the EPA and the Corps now contend that the feature is considered a tributary under the current regulation but not under the regulation that is soon to be released. Hawkins said agriculturalists have long argued that those features are erosional in nature and not tributaries.

"At the end of the day, we are concerned that they thought they had the authority to regulate to that extent in the first place," Hawkins said. "It's concerning because it's not our interpretation of the Clean Water Act from an agricultural standpoint. It shows how broadly they are interpreting and extending their power. We are anxious to see the fine print."

What's Next?

"There is no word of an effective date but the priority is still congressional action," Hawkins pointed out.

He believes that Congress needs to step in and establish appropriate parameters to rein in the two government agencies as well as bring clarification to the ruling.

RANCH SUSTAINABILITY FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Does that emphasis on sustainability mean McDonald's will be telling ranchers how to raise their beef? "No," Langert said. "I don't think that would be a good way to do it because we're good at running restaurants, but not raising beef — We're in this to collaborate, not mandate."

So just what is sustainable beef?

First, Langert says McDonald's seeks to make beef "more attractive. People want to eat food that they feel good about." And, consumers feel good about beef when they know more about the product and how it is raised, he said.

"The values consumers have are important to us," Langert explained. "Customers more than ever want to know where their food comes from, how it's processed, what's in it, and they expect companies—like McDonalds and others—to treat people with respect for the social part, the animal welfare part, and the environmental aspect. It's really the triple bottom line of people, planet and profit."

The ESAP initiative shows in detail how ranching families have led conservation efforts across the U.S., fulfilling the "planet" leg of the people, planet, profit description of sustainability.

"Today's cattlemen are some of America's last living embodiments of true environmental-

"Overall, we have been glad to see the interest in Congress. It's important we continue to put on the pressure, ask the right questions and bring in all the affected industries and individuals," Hawkins said.

The Senate passed its budget resolution for 2016, which held bipartisan support with concerns reaching across party lines regarding WOTUS. Hawkins said that it's important to note that the budget resolution's WOTUS amendment sends a message, but it isn't binding. It at least shows promise because it has bipartisan support and shows what the Senate's priorities are.

The appropriations bill, which allocates funding for the various governmental agencies, is expected to be out in May or

ism," NCBA says. "With generations of families living off the land, they have an innate love for the land and appreciation for land preservation."

NCBA and the ESAP sponsors seek to show how America's ranch families are dedicated to caring for the resources and species on their land. Ranchers know firsthand that good management demands they care for the environment – for their own welfare – as well as for future generations.

"Cattlemen, as individuals and as an industry, are actively working to protect and improve the environment. They know environmental stewardship and good business go hand-in-hand," NCBA says.

The ESAP initiative helps show American consumers that grazing is an efficient use of a renewable resource and that grazing utilizes one of America's most abundant, natural, renewable resources.

NCBA says cattlemen actively participate in the Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation programs to help reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters.

As McDonald's and other companies begin sourcing more sustainable beef, the ranching industry appears well positioned with a history of sustainable operations managed by generations of families. 

June of 2015. This is important because it puts parameters on agencies spending on various agency programs.

"Congress is already behind the ball," Hawkins explained. "It's very likely that the agencies will have a final ruling out before appropriations bills are signed into law, but when Congress does act they know what the final rule is and can better target their efforts."

Hawkins said that the work is not done. He reminds citizens to stay vigilant and talk to lawmakers to express the importance of Congress stepping in and stepping up. In terms of Congressional supervision, it has been good but needs to be followed up with legislative action, Hawkins said. 

Replacement Cow & Bull Sale

5 p.m. | Saturday
5.16.15

Joplin Regional Stockyards
I-44 & Exit 22 | Carthage, Missouri

Expecting **1000 head**

WEATHERLY FARMS LLC CONSIGNMENT | 392 MATURE COWS & BULLS

153 Spring Pairs with calves born Feb. 15 through April 30.

- 24, 2 yr. old first-calf heifers. All home raised. AI bred to Victor Polled Hereford bull. Pasture exposed to Angus bull.
- 18, 3 yr. old second calvers. All home-raised. AI bred to Victor Polled Hereford bull. Pasture exposed to Angus bull.
- 53, 4 yr. olds. All purchased as heifers.
- 44, 5 and 6 yr. olds.
- 14, 7 yrs. and older.

Spring cows have not been exposed to bulls. Cows and calves will have been vaccinated and wormed, and bull calves castrated prior to sale. Cows are ready to go to pasture with a bull.

131 Fall Calvers. Exposed 60 days to calve in September and October 2015. Bulls were placed with cows to achieve primarily baldy calves.

- 45, 3 and 4 yr. olds.
- 36, 5 and 6 yr. olds.
- 50, 7 yrs. and older.

Both spring and fall herds are approximately 50 percent home-raised. Twenty-five mature Angus cows were purchased. The remainder were purchased as first-calf heifers, including 40 from Oleen Brothers. All cattle were either raised on the farm or have been on the farm at least two years. Cattle are adjusted to fescue. Entire herd has been on BoviShield Gold and Scour Bos protocol from weaning through adulthood. Eighty percent of the cattle are black or black baldie. Ten head are purebred Hereford. Remainder are red crosses.

95 Heifers. All were born in the first 30 days of respective breeding season.

- 45, 15-month-old home raised heifers ready to breed. Breeding exam has been performed and pre-breeding shots have been given. Heifers are wormed and ready to breed.
- 50, 9-month-old Fall 2014 replacement quality heifers.

13 Bulls. Semen and trich tested. All bulls have been on the farm two years and used four breeding seasons. Papers and EPDs will be available sale day or contact in advance.

- 7, Circle A registered Angus bulls. 3 1/2 and 4 year olds.
- 2, Circle A Premium bulls. 3 1/2 year olds.
- 4, Oleen Brothers Hereford bulls. All 3 1/2 year olds.

OTHER EARLY CONSIGNMENTS

90 Angus/Brangus Cross Cows—Blacks, black motts and baldies. 4-6 years old. Fall Calvers bred to Circle A Angus, Genetrust Brangus and Adams Ranch composite bulls.

30 Spring Pairs—Blacks, black motts and baldies. 4-6 years old with 200 lb. calves by side.

80 Beefmaster Cows—4 years to short and solid. All home-raised. Fall calvers bred to Charolais or Beefmaster bulls.

50 Black Cows—5 years to short and solid. Fall calvers bred to Angus bull. Complete dispersal.

17 Mixed Cows—4 years to short and solid. Fall calvers bred to Balancer bull. Start calving late August.

23 Brangus Pairs—5 years old. Home-raised. Bred to Charolais bull.

21 Brangus First-Calf Heifer Pairs—Home-raised. Calves sired by Genetrust ultra black bulls.

8 F1 Brangus Heifers—Home-raised. Bred to Genetrust ultra black bulls for late summer, early fall calves.

10 F1 Brangus Heifers—Home-raised. Due to calve in fall to Genetrust ultra black heifer bulls.

25 Purebred Charolais Bulls—Semen and trich tested. Owner will transfer papers. 2, 18 months old. 23, 15 months old.

PHOTOS FROM THE WEATHERLY CONSIGNMENT



www.joplinstockyards.com

Bailey Moore
417.540.4343

Skyler Moore
417.737.2615



Jackie Moore
417.825.0948

JRS Office
417.548.2333

ON THE CALENDAR

Feedout Entries Due May 10

Learn quality, feedlot performance of fall 2014 calves

The only one way to find out if your fall 2014 calf crop really is outstanding, regarding quality and feedlot performance, is to retain ownership all the way to the packing plant.

The Feedout is offered twice a year, and the upcoming one is designed for steer calves born from July 1, 2014 to mid-October 2014. Those steers will be gathered on June 2 at Joplin Regional Stockyards. Northern and central Missouri area locations will be determined after the May 10 entry deadline.

The Feedout steers are sent to a feedlot in southwest Iowa that is part of the Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity. Steers should weigh at least 500 pounds, but 600 pounds is preferred. The feedlots require the steers be weaned at least 30 days, and 45 days is even better.

The entry deadline for the upcoming Feedout is May 10. Rules and regulations may be found online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/lawrence/livestock.aspx>.

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- JRS — Monday thru Thursday 8 to 4 pm
- Vet Office — Sale Days (417) 548-3074
- Feed & More — Mt. Vernon (417) 471-1410

Only visual tag required for JRS Vac-45, JRS Calf Vac and JRS Stocker Vac. Tags are handled through JRS.

For more information,
call Mark Harmon or Troy Watson.

417.548.2333

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June 25, 2015

Wean Date May 11, 2015

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- MILLER - 40 Ac., Law. 1155, just off Hwy 96, fence for cattle, nice garage, w/o basement home **SOLD** NEW PRICE \$179,900
- LOUISBURG - 53 Ac., Hwy. 65, all open in grass, 3 ponds, 24x30 shop, barn, several buildings, kennel, 3 bed home \$225,000
- REPUBLIC - 40 Ac., Hwy. P, gently rolling, fenced, cross fence, pond, waterers, barn, great location **SOLD** \$230,000
- DADEVILLE - 92 Ac., Dade 193 off Hwy. W, hunter's paradise, beautiful pipe fence entrance & gate, 40x100 state of the art barn, 1/2 open, creek, pond, great hunting \$235,000
- ASH GROVE - 80 Ac., Hwy. F, mostly open fenced pasture, with 3/4 mile road frontage **SOLD** \$240,000
- LOUISBURG - 40 Ac., Hwy. 65, nice horse property, 3 bedroom home, 60'x120' indoor arena, 90'x200' outdoor arena, 30'x32' shop \$259,900
- CRANE - 33 Ac., FR2015, Just off Hwy. 39, South of Aurora, Beautiful Peaceful Setting, Nice 3BR Home, 40x40 Alfalfa, Orchard-grass, Timothy, Pond \$275,000
- MT. VERNON - 120 Ac., Hwy. H, near Freistatt, Numerous ponds, great Location with Pasture & Crop Ground **SOLD** \$349,500
- PIERCE CITY - 126 Ac., 90 Ac. crop ground, new fence, 2 barns, doublewide **UNDER CONTRACT** \$350,000
- MONETT - 50 Ac., Hwy. 37, Fantastic Horse Operation, 90x109 State of the Art Horse Barn, 72x90 Heated Indoor Arena, 100x200 Outdoor Arena, Rnd Pen, Cute Updated Home. \$495,000
- BOLIVAR - 164 Ac., Hwy WW, fenced & cross-fenced, 2 ponds, 3 bedroom home **UNDER CONTRACT** \$533,000
- BOLIVAR - 157 Ac., Hwy. 32, excellent grass, corrals, working pens, highly improved pasture \$549,500
- MT. VERNON - 160 Ac., Hwy. H, near Freistatt, Mostly Cropland, 1/2 Pond, Morton Building, nice Haybarn **UNDER CONTRACT** \$549,500
- EBENEZER - 145 Ac., off Hwy. 13, great location, private, 1/2 open, yr. creek, exc. hunting, totally updated cottage home **SOLD** \$628,400
- TUNAS - 310 Ac., off Hwy. 64 & T, private horse-man's paradise, rustic walk-out, indoor arena, stalls, tack room, great hunting \$790,000
- REPUBLIC - 157 Ac., FR 174, mostly open, in grass, new fence, 3 ponds, pole barn, exc. location, road on 2 sides \$786,500
- TUNAS - 675 Ac., Hwy. T, cattle ranch, exc. fencing, 1/2 pond, road on 3 sides, great hunting **UNDER CONTRACT** \$1,350,000
- HALLTOWN - 356 Ac., Just off I-44, excellent improved pastures & fencing, 4 barns, 4 ponds, house, shop, good hwy frontage \$1,408,333
- LEBANON - 520 Ac., off Hwy. 32, outstanding cattle ranch, secluded, part of Mt. Vernon National Forest, large w/ fabulous hunting, exc. fencing, outbuildings, barns, lakes, 60% open **UNDER CONTRACT** \$1,600,000
- BRIGHTON - 585 Ac., 559th Rd., beautiful Sac River bottom, 1 1/4 pond, irrigation pivot, deep black dirt, exc. crop farm **SOLD** \$1,800,000
- ALDRICH - 540 Ac., Hwy. T, one of Polk County's best! Excellent improved pastures & fencing, pipe corrals, hwy. frontage \$1,701,000
- AVA - 1,961 m/l Ac., off Hwy 14, exc. cattle ranch, mostly open, 90 pastures, exc. fencing, 40 ponds, springs & creeks, barns. \$4,412,250
- LEBANON - 2,750 m/l Ac., Hwy. NN, state of the art horse facility, 47 indoor stalls, 25,000 sq. ft. indoor arena w/apartments, lodge on Niangua River, huge spring \$7,300,000

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I wish to enroll in JRS Value Added Program

Check Protocol: JRS Calf / JRS Vac 45 / JRS Vac 45 /
 Vac Sourced / Weaned Sourced / Non-Sourced /

RANCH/OPERATION INFORMATION

Name cattle will be sold under _____
 Owner/Manager _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____
 Field Representative _____

Marketing Information

Total Number of Head Enrolling _____ Steers _____ Heifers _____
 Weaning Date, if applicable (mm/dd/yy) _____
 Approximate Marketing Date (mm/dd/yy) _____
 Approximate Sale Weight _____ lbs. to _____ lbs

ENROLLMENT

Check Marketing Choice:

- JRS Livestock Auction JRS Video Auction

Other Management Practice Information

Please check and date all that apply:

- Castrated/spayed _____ Dehorned _____ Bunkbroke _____ Tank broke _____ Guaranteed Open _____
 (date) (date) (date) (date) day of Sale
 ◆ SOURCE VERIFICATION: Home Raised Purchased source verified cattle Non-source cattle
 (See affidavit next page) PAPER DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR PROOF
 ◆ PRODUCTS ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO BQA GUIDELINES Yes (See affidavit next page)

Location of where tags were purchased: _____

Please attach proof of purchase and return documentation and completed form 7 DAYS PRIOR TO SELL DATE

JRS Value Added Enrollment, P.O. Box 634, Carthage, MO 64836 or fax to 417-548-2370: For more info or questions please call Mark Harmon at 417-548-2333. Info is also available on our website: www.joplinstockyards.com

Vaccinations should be administered in the neck area following Beef Quality Assurance guidelines. Write date of administration for each product used in appropriate area, month and day.

Administration Information: JRS recommends a good vaccination protocol – use named brand vaccines & wormers

Vaccine Protocol	PRODUCT ADMINISTERED		JRS Vac 45		Non-Sourced	
	JRS Calf	JRS Vac 45	JRS Vac 45	JRS Vac 45	Non-Sourced	Non-Sourced
	Vac Sourced	Weaned Sourced	Weaned Sourced	Weaned Sourced	Non-Sourced	Non-Sourced
	1 st Dose Date					
	White Tag	Gray Tag	Gray Tag	Gray Tag	Orange Tag	Orange Tag
	Booster Date					
Respiratory Virals IBR-BVD-Pi3-BRSV 1 st Round MLV or Killed Booster Dose MLV only	X	X	X	X	X	X
Clostridial/Blackleg	X	X	X	X	X	X
Haemophilus Somnus (Optional)						
Mannheimia (Pasteurella)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Haemolytica						
Parasite Control (Dewormer)		X			X	
Implant						

X indicates the vaccine is required and must be administered.

All males are to be castrated and all heifers are guaranteed "open". If any bull(s) are found, seller will be billed for the loss of the buyer; sellers any of bred heifer(s) will be given the option to take home the bred heifers or billed the loss after the re-sale of bred heifer(s)

PRODUCTS ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO BQA GUIDELINES Yes

I certify that the calves listed meet or will meet JRS requirements and products have been or will be administered according to label directions and BQA guidelines. I also certify that the information on this form is true and accurate.
 Signature of either OWNER/MANAGER OR VETERINARIAN IS REQUIRED

Signature of Owner/Manager/Veterinarian _____

Ranch/Operation Name _____

Date _____

MARKET WATCH

Joplin Regional Stockyards Market Recap | April 2015

JRS Sale Day Market Phone: (417) 548-2012
 Mondays (Rick Huffman) | Wednesdays (Don Kleiboeker)
 Market Information Provided By Tony Hancock
 Mo. Department of Agriculture Market News Service
 Market News Hotline (573) 522-9244
 Sale Day Market Reporter (417) 548-2012

Feeder Cattle & Calf Auction | April Receipts 20,951 • Last Month 34,161 • Last Year 17,740

Video Market from 4/16/15 • April Total Video Receipts 6.064

Date:	South Central States	Texas, Okla.,	New Mexico, Kansas, Mo.	Offering: 6,064							
4/17/15											
	FEEDER STEERS			MED & LG 1-2			FEEDER HEIFERS			MED & LG 1-2	
HEAD	WT RANGE	AVG WT	PRICE RANGE	AVG PRICE	DELIVERY	HEAD	WT RANGE	AVG WT	PRICE RANGE	AVG PRICE	DELIVERY
94	550	550	\$283.00	\$283.00	Current	65	730	730	\$203.50	\$203.50	May-Jun
62	810	810	\$210.00	\$210.00	Current	65	790	790	\$194.50	\$194.50	May-Jun
218	850	850	\$206.50	\$206.50	Current	1160	750	750	\$204.50-\$209.00	\$208.19	Jun-Jul
53	940	940	\$194.00	\$194.00	Current	910	850	850	\$205.00	\$205.00	Jul-Aug
53	950	950	\$191.75	\$191.75	Current	80	635	635	\$225.25	\$225.25	September
174	850	850	\$203.75	\$203.75	Apr-May	350	700	700	\$210.75	\$210.75	Sep-Oct
58	860	860	\$208.25	\$208.25	June		FEEDER HEIFERS			MED & LG 2	
600	800	800	\$213.10	\$213.10	July	HEAD	WT RANGE	AVG WT	PRICE RANGE	AVG PRICE	DELIVERY
400	850	850	\$210.00	\$210.00	July	260	735	735	\$209.25	\$209.25	September
56	900	900	\$206.50	\$206.50	August		FEEDER HEIFERS			LARGE 1-2	
800	975	975	\$197.75	\$197.75	August	HEAD	WT RANGE	AVG WT	PRICE RANGE	AVG PRICE	DELIVERY
	FEEDER STEERS			MED & LG 2		63	800	800	\$197.25	\$197.25	June
HEAD	WT RANGE	AVG WT	PRICE RANGE	AVG PRICE	DELIVERY		Eastern States	All States	East of the Miss.,	La., & Ark.	
125	825	825	\$205.00	\$205.00	Sept		FEEDER STEERS			MED & LG 1-2	
	FEEDER STEERS			LARGE 1-2		HEAD	WT RANGE	AVG WT	PRICE RANGE	AVG PRICE	DELIVERY
HEAD	WT RANGE	AVG WT	PRICE RANGE	AVG PRICE	DELIVERY	60	850	850	\$209.50	\$209.50	Oct-Nov
60	850	850	\$201.00	\$201.00	Current		FEEDER STEERS			LARGE 1-2	
58	850	850	\$203.50	\$203.50	Apr-May	HEAD	WT RANGE	AVG WT	PRICE RANGE	AVG PRICE	DELIVERY
58	850	850	\$207.00	\$207.00	May-Jun	60	850	850	\$208.25	\$208.25	Sep-Oct
58	850	850	\$209.00	\$209.00	Jun-Jul		FEEDER HEIFERS			MED & LG 1-2	
						HEAD	WT RANGE	AVG WT	PRICE RANGE	AVG PRICE	DELIVERY
						64	775	775	\$203.75	\$203.75	Oct-Nov

Tune in to the JRS Market Report



Monday 11:38 a.m.
 Wednesday 11:38 a.m.



Monday 12:15 p.m.
 Wednesday 12:15 p.m.



Monday 12:40 p.m.
 Wednesday 12:40 p.m.



M-F 9:55-10:05 a.m.
 (during break before AgriTalk)
 M/W/F Noon Hour
 (during Farming in the Four States)
 T/Th Noon Hour (after news block)



Monday 12:50 p.m. & 4:45 p.m.
 Wednesday 12:50 p.m. & 4:45 p.m.

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EVENT ROUNDUP

May

- 7 Spring Cattle Producer Seminar
Joplin Regional Stockyards, Carthage, Missouri
FMI: 816-308-3202
- 9 Magness Land & Cattle Female Sale
Miami, Oklahoma
FMI: 970-785-6170
- 15 Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Sale
Joplin Regional Stockyards, Carthage, Missouri
FMI: 417-466-3102
- 16 Replacement Cow and Bull Sale
Joplin Regional Stockyards, Carthage, Missouri
FMI: 417-548-2333
- 24-25 Best of the Best Calf Roping
Risen Ranch Cowboy Church Arena, Carthage, Missouri
FMI: 417-548-2333
- 29-30 Lindsay Austin Smith Memorial Rodeo
Fair Grove Saddle Club Arena, Fair Grove, Missouri
FMI: 417-988-0720

June

- 9-11 Southwest Regional Grazing School
Neosho, Missouri
FMI: 417-451-1007, ext. 3
- 9-12 Beef Improvement Federation Annual Meeting
Biloxi, Mississippi
FMI: 660-325-7465
- 16-18 Bud Williams Stockmanship Clinic
Springfield, Missouri
FMI: 417-327-6500
- 25 Value-Added Feeder Cattle Sale
Joplin Regional Stockyards, Carthage, Missouri
FMI: 417-548-2333

*Lindsay Austin
Smith*



Memorial Rodeo

May 29th and 30th 2015
Fair Grove Saddle Club Arena
7:00 P.M.
Auction Saturday May 30th at 5:00 P.M.

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