Successfully managing the cow herd in the course of drought will be the focus for the 2013 Tri-State Cow/Calf Symposium and Trade Show Jan. 8.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Central time with opening remarks beginning at 9 a.m. and the program concluding around 4:30 p.m. at the Red Willow County Fairgrounds Community Building in McCook, Neb. The symposium is held in conjunction with a trade show featuring regional vendors. Attendees will have time throughout the day to visit displays.

The symposium is an every-other-year effort between Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska and is held in cooperation among Colorado State University Extension, Kansas State University Research and Extension and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension services.

This year's program will open with some remarks from the new UNL Extension dean and director, Chuck Hibberd, on his visions for the future of Extension.

The keynote speaker will be James Robb, director of the Livestock Marketing Information Center in Denver. Robb will provide participants with an economic update of the drought's impact on cattle numbers and provide a current market/situation outlook for the upcoming production year.

"Three concurrent educational sessions will be available throughout the day as well and participants will have the opportunity to pick and choose which topics they want to attend," said Brian Strauch, UNL Extension educator.

Aaron Stalker, UNL Extension beef nutritionist, will discuss Beef Cow Nutritional Implications During and Following Drought; Rick Rasby, UNL Extension beef specialist, will discuss Feeding and Grazing Cornstalks and Alternative Rations During Drought; and Richard Randle, UNL Extension beef cattle veterinarian will be talking about the recent decline in conception rates and some preliminary results of a UNL survey.

Other topics of the concurrent educational sessions include: Good Beef Production Practices, Beef Cow Genetics Advances and Economic Implications of Herd Management Decisions during Drought.

The symposium will conclude with an industry panel represented by various producers and university researchers.

The free symposium is sponsored by McCook National Bank, AmFirst Bank-McCook, First Central Bank-McCook, Furnas County Livestock Association, Farm Credit Services of America, Ag Valley Coop, Adams Bank and Trust, Frenchman Valley Coop and DuPont.

Registration is required by Jan. 2 to secure proper quantities of drinks, rolls and the noon meal, as well as handouts from presenters.

Vendors are welcome. Contact Brian Strauch at 308-345-3390 or 877-674-6947 to learn more.

For more details or to register for the symposium, contact the UNL Extension office in McCook at 877-674-6947 or email red-willow-county@unl.edu or contact Strauch at brian.strauch@unl.edu.

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