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Upcoming Events & Meetings

MBIC Election closes Monday!

Be sure to vote for MCA's candidates in the MBIC election before Monday, August 31st. Those up for the election are:

Pat Wood: Region 1, Northwest Missouri

John Ridder: Region 2, Northwest Missouri

David Moore: Region 3, Southeast Missouri

Thank you for supporting MCA's candidates in the MBIC election.

Top Hand Update

This year the membership committee will reward the top hand MCA recruiter with two days' registration, cattlemen's college registration, hotel, and a \$200 travel voucher to NCBA's Convention.

As of now, the leading top hand recruiter still is Lynette Miller of Dallas County. This fiscal year began Oct. 1 2008 and will end Sept. 30, 2009. Congratulations, Lynette, on your leadership this far! One month left in the race!

Tiger Ag Classic is approaching

The MU Ag Alumni Association's 18th Annual Tiger Ag Classic Golf Tournament is set for Friday, Sept. 11, 2009 at L.A. Nickell Golf Course in Columbia. Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 11 a.m. Tee time is set for 11:45 a.m.

The steak fry will follow the tournament at about 6 p.m. at Dexheimer

Benton County

August 31, 7 p.m.

Benton County Extension
Office

Southwest Cattlemen's

Sept. 1, 7 p.m.

Southwest Missouri Center
Mt. Vernon, Mo.

Henry County

Sept. 3, 6:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church
Clinton, Mo.

Dallas County

Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m.

Simm's Restaurant
Buffalo, Mo.

Cooper County Field Day

Sept. 12

Cooper Co. Fairgrounds
Boonville, Mo.

MCF Charity Weekend

Sept. 25-27

Golden Hills Trail Ride/Resort
Raymondville, Mo.

Join Our Mailing List!

Pavilion, Cosmo Park, which is next to the golf course.



Members to receive discount with Mellor Trailers

Mellor Trailers in Booneville, Mo. is offering a discount to all Missouri Cattlemen's Association members (with proof of membership). Membership forms are available at the time of sale.

Discounts include:

10% discount off parts and accessories

- \$100.00 off** trailer purchases **upto \$5000.00**
- \$200.00 off** trailer purchases **from \$5000.00 to \$10,000.00**
- \$300.00 off** trailer purchases **from \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00**
- \$400.00 off** trailer purchases **from \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00**
- \$500.00 off** trailer purchases **from \$20,000.00 and up**

Discounts may not apply to certain items already discounted or on promotions. Please call for details.

PLUS! In conjunction with Elite Trailers and Mellor Trailers, MCA is rewarding one member with the free use of an Elite trailer (as shown above) for one year, which will be given at the Missouri Cattle Industry Convention and Trade show. To be eligible for this reward, an MCA member must pre-register for the MCA Convention and Trade Show. Furthermore, the member must be present at the convention awards banquet to win.

Mellor Trailer Sales
1550 West Ashley Road
Boonville, Missouri 65233
877-882-8433

Open Monday -Saturday
7:30 am - 5:30 pm

I-70 Exit #101 and
1 mile north on Hwy 5
For more information, contact MCA at (573)499-9162 or at cattleinfo@mocattle.com.

Foundation Charity Weekend and Trail Ride

Whether you like horseback riding or just want to relax and enjoy a beautiful fall weekend, the Texas County Cattlemen's Association, Golden Hills Resort and Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation want you to escape to southern Missouri for a great fall getaway.

Contact Katie Steen with Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation for more information at katiesteen@mocattle.com or at (573) 449-4923. Or visit www.mocattlemenfoundation.com for a registration brochure.

Economy Grows, for now...

Released by BEEFmagazine.com 8/25/09

Nobody knows whether the economy has finally hit bottom, but Wall Street investors' money suggested Friday that it has.

By the end of last week, all of the major financial indices (Dow, NASDAQ, S&P 500) reached their highest levels since the first week of October.

That optimism was driven by comments made by Ben Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve System, at the Federal Reserve Bank-Kansas City Annual Economic Symposium on Friday.

Bernanke suggested the economy is beginning to emerge from the most severe global financial crisis since the Great Depression.

"Although we have avoided the worst, difficult challenges still lie ahead," Bernanke said. "We must work together to build on the gains already made to secure a sustained economic recovery, as well as to build a new financial regulatory framework that will reflect the lessons of this crisis and prevent a recurrence of the events of the past two years."

In other words, the road to recovery, if it has indeed begun, promises to be lengthy.

Even with the struggling economy, market analysts with the Texas Cattle Feeders Association observed Friday, "The year-to-date comprehensive boxed beef sales is 242,659 loads, which is 100.2% of a year ago and up 15.4% over the five-year average."



Checking in on the Checkoff



Thanks to the beef producers who volunteered their time to serve on the "Pasture to Plate" panel of experts for Missouri culinary educators.

The checkoff is working to build relationships between food professionals and cattlemen, in an effort to answer common consumer questions regarding beef production.

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

Cattle prices to increase

Released by BEEFmagazine.com 8/25/09

"Cattle prices are no longer built on a foundation of long-term cycles in cattle numbers. Today, cattle price changes are dominated by rather short-term factors that can be abrupt," say analysts with the Livestock Marketing Information Center (LMIC) in their recent market outlook.

The latest shock, of course, being the economic recession bogging down domestic and global markets.

According to LMIC, fed-cattle prices (basis Southern Plains steer) were \$8.70 (9%) below a year earlier during the first six months of this year; about \$5 of that due to byproduct values. Despite declining feed costs, LMIC analysts point out feedlots have operated in the red for 26 months through July.

Southern Plains feeder steers (700-800 lbs.) were \$9 lower on average during the first quarter; Southern Plains steer calves (500-600 lbs.) were down \$11.05. Both gained back about \$6 in the second quarter.

Though the primary wild cards remain corn, demand and the world emerging from economic recession, the LMIC folks note bullish supply fundamentals and the absence of market shocks should boost 2010 prices above those received this year.

Specifically, the folks at LMIC expect prices to follow a normal seasonal pattern heading into next year, with fed cattle averaging in the upper to high \$90s in the second quarter, seasonally lower in the summer (still 5-8% above 2009) and then back to the upper \$90s by the last quarter. In the meantime, they say fed-cattle prices will continue under fire by declines in byproduct values and low pork prices.

LMIC projects feeder steers to average mostly \$100-\$104 for the second half of this year; except for October, steer calves are expected to average above last year's fourth quarter.

"If there is adequate rainfall, the number of calves grazing wheat or other pastures this fall and winter could be larger than in recent years," say LMIC analysts. "That could set the stage for yearling price volatility, especially early in 2010. If placements of cattle into feedlots bunch up, that will

translate into fed-cattle price swings, especially next summer."

Save your Ralgro Wheels

Wheels for Bucks: Turn those empty wheels into cash!

For every 10 empty wheels (or every 5 empty Magnum Strips) received, Schering Plough will donate a full wheel of Ralgro! These full wheels will be auctioned off Friday evening, Dec. 12 during the Cattlemen's Foundation Fund-Raising Auction.

The proceeds will be split equally between the MCF Scholarship Fund to assist young people achieve a higher education and leadership and youth development activities supported by the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

So get with your neighbors and start saving those wheels NOW!!! Get them to the Cattle Industry Headquarters or bring them with you to the Convention! Just don't forget to turn them in!

Small farms? Who said they were going out of business?

Released by CattleNetwork 8/25/09

The 2008 Farm Bill created the ACRE program to target farm support at the combination of yield and price risk, giving farmers a chance to protect their revenue, without encouraging additional production, which had been an international complaint about US farm programs. Critics of farm programs want support pulled from large farms and targeted toward small farms. Others who weigh into the debate promote specific commodity supports, since they are staples of the US diet, such as corn, wheat, and soybeans. But the folks who have to do the work to figure out just who should be supported and those who should be ineligible do not have an easy job. That is quite evident in USDA's report on "small farms."

Everyone in agriculture has their own definition of a small farm, a large farm, a family farm, a corporate farm, and every definition is different, since it is compared to one's own farm. But USDA agricultural economists who are forced to set parameters and specific financial boundaries have provided a glimpse into the foggy world of definitions when they reported to an international economics conference on whether small farms in the US were declining or persisting. (And they report that a fair share of them is doing quite well, financially, thank you!)

There have been quite a few dynamic forces in US agriculture in the past 25 years, and the so-called "small farm" has been one of those. As critics of US farm policy became louder for various reasons, they have continued their support for small farmers, which are usually seen as those with a few hardscrabble acres, a milk cow, some chickens, and a poor family trying to eke out a living with 50 year old two row machinery. Despite that Norman Rockwell version of US agriculture, USDA uses a definition of small farms based on sales from \$10,000 top \$250,000. The 2007 Ag Census found 676,160 of them in the US, but that was a 40% decline in the past 25 years. Some observers may say that is a function of the financial parameters, and commodity values increasing over time. But USDA also reports the number of

farms with less than \$1,000 in sales increased by 171% and make up one-third of all farms.

Between 1982 and 2007 the number of farms with sales exceeding \$1,000,000 grew by 239%, which means that larger farms are producing more foods. For those large farms in that 25 year period, average corn acreage grew from 200 to 600, soybean acres grew from 243 to 490, and wheat acres grew from 404 to 910. In that same category, the average number of broilers grew from 300,000 to 681,000, the average number of hogs grew from 1,200 to 30,000, and fat cattle grew from 17,532 to 35,000 head.

But the nearly 700,000 small farms still contributed substantially to US production, with total sales of \$42.6 billion in 2007, equal to that of IL, IA, and IN. Small farms generally focus on beef cattle, poultry, grains and oilseed production and together produce 70% of the production in each of the three classes in that category. Small farms account for over 55% of poultry production and 40% of hay production, along with 20% of cash grains, but handle only small percentages of cotton, high value crops, and dairy. When it comes to receiving farm program payments, the USDA economists report, "Large farms (\$250,000-\$999,999) account for nearly half of program crop production and they received over 40% of all payments. Small commercial farms received 27.4% of commodity-related payments."

Small farm operators tend to be older, say the USDA economists, with 37% over the age of 65 years, compared to 15% of farmers older than 65 who operate farms in the largest classes. And when USDA looks at the operator, he is winding down. "When we add in occupational choice, we see that most operators in the smallest classes report that they are retired or that their principal occupation is off the farm. Many small farms are in transition; while some may be aiming to transition to a larger operation, others are run by older farmers who are cutting back their activity and transitioning to retirement."

Are small farms barely scraping by, or doing well financially? Their financial performance in 2007 shows a growing operating profit margin that increases with gross cash farm income. Those with the least income generally have negative operating profit margins and return on equity, but that turns around once gross income reaches \$100,000. However, those small farmers who are operating in the red, are not necessarily in poverty. USDA say substantial amounts of off farm income are reported in households where farm earnings would not be sustainable. USDA adds, "Many of these households with the smallest farm operations may farm as a consumption activity-farming is how they spend their money."

The analysis indicates that favorable returns and off-farm income have helped small farms to survive and persist, despite being small, and being family operated businesses. They still dominate US agriculture, but the major bulk of production continues its shift to larger sizes of family farms.

Summary:

Small farms were one of the fastest growing segments of agriculture in the last five-year Ag Census, but over the past 25 years, small farms have declined in numbers, but not totally in productive capacity. Small farms focus on beef, poultry, and grain and oilseed production and contribute 70% of the production in those categories. However with changing dynamics in agriculture, the production will shift to larger farms, although still those that are family operated.

Source: Stu Ellis, University of Illinois

Missouri Farmer Today

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Dead Animal Disposal Issues

Please contact your MCA staff with any dead animal disposal issues you may be having as a result of the FDA's Enhanced Feedband Rule. MCA will take your information and pass it on to NCBA.

Call at (573)499-9162

Or email at cattleinfo@mocattle.com

COF report shows on feed numbers down, placements way up

Released by Livestock Marketing Association 8/24/09

Friday's monthly USDA cattle on feed report showed the total of cattle and calves on feed, as of August 1, was 9.6 million head. That inventory figure is two percent below Aug. 1, 2008. Placements on feed during July hit 1.86 million head, and that was 13 percent above a year earlier. Analysts said declining corn prices led to the significant boost in placements.

Marketings of fed cattle out of feedlots in July totaled 1.93 million head, five percent below 2008. Friday's marketing figure was the third lowest in July since monthly reports began in 1996.

Time is running out!

Are you 70 1/2 or older? Do you know someone who is 70 1/2 or older? Do you or they own an IRA or other tax qualified asset? Time is running out!

You only have until December 31, 2009 to make the most tax efficient donation to the Missouri Cattlemen Foundation that the IRS has probably ever allowed.

You will probably never have this chance again to help to children of Missouri with the help of the IRS. Yes, the IRS will help you contribute to the foundation.

Call your tax preparer and call our partners at APEX Financial LLC to find out if you qualify for this exciting opportunity. Call 800-843-9429 or 573-876-6011 and tell them you want to talk about a Missouri Cattlemen Foundation Contribution.

Remember time is running out! You have until December 31 to take advantage of this opportunity.

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

For more industry news visit:

[Missouri Cattlemen's Association Website](#)

[Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation Website](#)

[Missouri Beef Industry Council Website](#)

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

[Missouri Department of Agriculture Website](#)

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Do you have questions, comments or suggestions?

Would you like to advertise in our newsletter?

If so, please contact Kaity Kerwin at (573) 499-9162 (Ext. 233) or kaity@mocattle.com.