

'08 Cattle Feeding And Marketing Short Course Offered

URBANA, ILL.

The 2008 Great Lakes Professional Cattle Feeding and Marketing Short Course will be held on January 21 and February 4, 2008, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Building.

"We had so many requests from people last year who wanted to attend but couldn't because of the distance. So, this year, in order to accommodate people who live in central and southern Illinois, in addition to the DeKalb location we are offering the course live via satellite at the Bond County Farm Bureau Building in Greenville," said Richard Knipe, University of Illinois Extension Beef Specialist.

The first session of the shortcourse on January 21 will focus on techniques and strategies to minimize the consequences due to poor animal health.

"Animal health is one of the largest management challenges in feedlots," said Knipe. "Groups of cattle with high medical bills also tend to have greater cost of gains and lower carcass value. The old adage, 'cattle started right finish right' is even more important as the industry continues to implement value-added marketing. Improved management in this phase will yield larger returns than any other time pe-

riod in the feedyard."

The second session on February 4 will focus on the current issues of marketing and harvesting the optimal value from the cattle produced in your feedlot.

Knipe said that ethanol has created many changes in corn prices and availability this past year. "The longer term impacts are yet to be determined," he said. "It has created an opportunity to purchase distillers grains with solubles as a replacement for corn, but feeding this co-product has limitations."

The registration fee is \$30 for the two sessions, and is due by January 18. For more information on the short course or a brochure with the complete program, contact Rich Knipe (309-792-2500; rknipe@uiuc.edu).

The Great Lakes Professional Cattle Feeding and Marketing Short Course is a product of the Five State Beef Initiative, a cooperative effort to strengthen economic opportunities for the eastern Corn Belt's beef industry by providing added consumer value through a responsive production, marketing and information system. Other locations include East Lansing, Michigan, Bowling Green, Ohio, and Ontario, Canada. Additional sponsors include the University of Illinois Extension and the Illinois Beef Association. Δ