

# Beef Redbooks Available Now From Extension Livestock Specialists

**MT. VERNON, MO.**

University of Missouri Extension livestock specialists in southwest Missouri now have the pocket-sized "Redbook" for herd record keeping available for \$5 each.

The Redbook has become a standard for many cattle owners throughout the United States. It began in Idaho in 1985 as part of the Integrated Resource Management Program.

"Missouri became involved in the late 1980's with the idea of giving the book to cow herd owners then requiring them to turn the books in at the end of the year. Extension specialists would glean data on the year to make comparisons around the state for cattle and pasture performance," said Eldon Cole, livestock specialist with University of Missouri Extension.

Selected growers received the books free, but Cole says at the end of the year, they wouldn't turn the books in because they felt the information was something they would use.

"With that in mind the extension specialists decided we would still make the Redbook available, but at a small price," said Cole.

Currently the \$5 covers part of the expense, but the Missouri Show-Me-Select Heifer program picks up the remaining portion. For their contribution, the Missouri Show-Me-Select Heifer program has its name and logo on the book along with MU Extension.

The book includes a regular calendar in which weather data may be included. There are other sections designated for calf birth data, weaning weights, pasture rotation use, vaccination schedules, parasite control practices and more.

"A number of producers have successfully used the Redbook to help them with verifying age and source information in case of an audit. Many use the book as a field tool, but transfer the data back at the house to a computer record program," said Cole. △



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