

Beef Sire Selection And Management Seminar Scheduled For Feb. 6

URBANA, ILL.

Just as cattle prices signaled the cow/calf sector to stabilize and move toward expansion, two consecutive years of drought have driven cow numbers down to record lows. If rainfall levels move back toward normal, demand for breeding stock will likely skyrocket as producers restock their once drought-stricken pastures.

Selecting the right genetics and buying the correct bull will affect the level of premiums received for cattle. Understanding the traits that will best fit the market in years to come could position a cattleman to see large profits.

The annual Beef Sire Selection and Management Seminar will equip producers with the knowledge and management strategies to increase profits. The meeting will be held at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill., on Feb. 6, in Menard Hall, room 2207, on the second floor. It will start at 4:45 p.m. and finish at 8 p.m.

“The program covers important information that producers can directly implement and turn into dollars in their pocket,” said Travis Meteer, a beef extension educator with the University of Illinois.

“The current industry dynamic is set up for the cow/calf producer to see increased profit potential due to strong demand for breeding stock as well as feeder calves,” he continued. “Genetics will play a big role in determining to what extent producers can take advantage of this scenario.”

Meteer will talk on management of yearling bulls and give an update on the Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale. Dan Shike, U of I, will cover physical trait selection and incorporating Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) into bull selection. Mark Wellman, Vita-Ferm, will speak about the advantages of a breeding-season-focused mineral program. Jerry Cassady, regional field representative for the American Angus Association, will discuss new sire-selection tools and Kevin Devore, ABS, will make a presentation on future trends in the beef industry.

Come join fellow cattlemen in Springfield. Pre-registration is suggested; the cost is \$15, payable at the door. To preregister, contact Travis Meteer at 217-823-1340, or email him at wmeteer2@illinois.edu by Feb. 1. Meeting details are available at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/oardc>. Δ