

# David M. Barton Agriculture Research Center Opens Beef Research Facility

## Beef Operation Added To Row Crop Operation

**REGINA LAROSE**  
MidAmerica Farmer Grower

**GORDONVILLE, MO.**

**D**r. Michael Aide, Chair Department of Agriculture, Southeast Missouri State University, spoke at the recent ribbon cutting ceremony of the beef research facility at the David M. Barton Agriculture Research Center located on 252 acres in Gordonville, Mo.

Aide stated the facility is designed to handle beef. "It is for our students, so our students can have undergraduate research experience with beef as well as assist the local community. The research will improve the bottom line, the profit

Funding for the facility came from a USDA Rural Development Grant and Southeast Missouri State University.

Dr. Ronald Rosati, Southeast Missouri State University provost, stated, "the beef research facility will be devoted to improving farm profitability, providing innovative research and most importantly, it will be used to educate the next generation of cattle producers in our region."

Rosati added, "Missouri ranks second in the nation in total number of beef cattle in production with more than two million cows. Revenue generated from cattle production contributes nearly one billion dollars to the Missouri econ-



**Photographed at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Southeast Missouri State University David M. Barton Agricultural Research Center are from left to right: Dr. Mike Aide, Chair of the Department of Agriculture at Southeast Missouri State University; Dr. Ron Rosati, Southeast Provost; Greg Batson, Area Director of USDA Rural Development; U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson; Phyllis Minner, USDA Rural Development Representative; and Al Spradling, Vice President of the Southeast Missouri State University Board of Regents.**

Photo by John LaRose

margin of the local farms all through our region."

In the past Southeast Missouri State University beef research was conducted at the Jackson interchange. "We are completely converted to the David M. Barton Agriculture Research Center. The old farm was primarily just a beef operation where the new facility is both a beef operation and a row crop operation. The Crop Science unit is 100 acres; it's graded, it has a subsurface irrigation system. That is where we do corporate research for some of our corporate partners for Southeast Missouri," stated Aide.

Currently the facility has 60 cow/calf pairs and will work to improve feed efficiency. "We will increase the herd with a steer operation. Beef will be fed to gain weight for slaughter. We will DNA sequence the cows and then we use those genetic markers to improve feed efficiency. We work with AI breeding program in cooperation with the University of Missouri, Columbia. They are one of our research partners Southeast Missouri State University and the University of Missouri work closely to serve our region," explained Aide.

The facility's herd represents the state of Missouri, according to Aide. "Angus is the dominant one, and then there is some Simmental."

omy annually. The value of Missouri cattle production is nearly tied with the value of Missouri soybean production as the number one commodity in the state."

Board of Regents, vice president, Al Spradling said, "today we celebrate the addition of another outstanding facility to our agriculture research center, a facility that not only will provide teaching and research opportunities but will also provide our agricultural students with hands on real life experiences in animal sciences."

Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson was on hand and expressed her appreciation to Greg Batson with USDA Rural Development. Emerson recognized Batson for his efforts and stated, "We couldn't do it without you and your team. To all of you at Southeast Missouri State University, I want to congratulate you. You would not have had this help if you had not had the vision and understood not only the marketplace but the needs. You have the great passion of your students to learn more and the faculty; all of that combined together made it possible for USDA Rural Development and others to come and help."  $\Delta$

*REGINA LAROSE: Associate Editor, MidAmerica Farmer Grower*

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