

Entries Being Accepted For Missouri Steer Feedout

SPRINGFIELD, MO.

Beef cow owners who calve in the winter-spring season may now enter a sampling of their steer calves in the next Missouri Steer Feedout.

Eldon Cole, University of Missouri Extension livestock specialist says feeding out cattle may not return great profits but participants benefit from the data provided by feedlot and carcass results.

"You need to look at the long run when you enter a feedout and be willing to make changes if the performance results indicate changes are needed to achieve certain goals," said Cole. "Those who enter five selected steers out of a 100 head calf crop may not receive an accurate picture of their herd's genetic makeup."

The Missouri Steer Feedout program requires producers to enter a minimum of five head. There is no maximum limit but a popular number seems to be 10 to 12 head.

The Missouri calves will be collected on Nov. 3 at three locations, Joplin Regional Stockyards, Paris Veterinary Clinic and in the Savannah area of northwest Missouri. They are sent to a participating feedlot in southwest Iowa as part of the Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity. The Missouri steers are normally commingled into two pens, based on weight at arrival time.

Following a 160 to 190 day finishing period, the steers are harvested at Tyson's plant in

Denison, Iowa and sold on a grid basis that includes age and source verification. The latter, added-value program has given owners an extra \$20 to \$35 per carcass. Birth dates and some additional paperwork that's completed before delivery is required.

The steer feedout program has been in Missouri since the early 80's and Cole says overall it has been successful in allowing participants to evaluate their genetics, management and marketing programs.

"It's especially helpful to the young cattle producer or the person just putting together a cow herd as they get an unbiased report on whether their cattle offer what the feeder cattle buyer is looking for at a sale," said Cole.

Entry deadline is Oct. 10 and calves should be weaned at least 45 days prior to the November pickup date. They should also have received two rounds of vaccination for respiratory diseases. The target weight in November is between 550 and 750 pounds.

For entry information, contact any of the MU Extension livestock specialists in southwest Missouri: Eldon Cole in Mt. Vernon, (417) 466-3102; Gary Naylor in Dallas County, (417) 345-7551; and Dona Goede in Cedar County, (417) 276-3313 or use the information online at: <http://extension.missouri.edu/LAWRENCE/ag.shtml>.
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