

River Valley Beef Cattle Conference Set For Feb. 15 At Morrilton

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Beef cattle outlook, trichomoniasis and a detailed look at weed control are among the agenda topics for the 2012 River Valley Beef Cattle Conference set for Feb. 15 at the 101 Livestock Auction in Morrilton.

"Producers say they find this annual conference to be one of the best in the United States," said Tom Troxel, associate head – animal science for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. "Cattle producers shouldn't miss this opportunity."

The River Valley Beef Cattle Conference is a joint educational effort by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture and Farm Credit of Western Arkansas.

The conference speakers are:

- Dr. Jeremy Powell, associate professor and veterinarian

- Dr. John Riley, assistant professor

- Dr. John Boyd, visiting assistant professor

Powell, associate professor and veterinarian for the U of A Department of Animal Science, will discuss causes of trichomoniasis and how to protect cattle herds from contracting it. Trichomoniasis, known as "trich," is a disease catlemen do not want their cattle to contract.

Trich is not a new disease, but it is new to Arkansas. It can reduce a calf crop up to 50 percent. Powell will also address the new Trichomoniasis regulations for intrastate movement for bulls.

Volatility and cost of production are the most common descriptions for today's cattle market situation. Riley, an assistant professor at Mississippi State University, will discuss the cattle market and provide some insight on where the market is going. "Expansion" is another buzzword, with many in the industry wondering if the cow and calf industry should expand. Riley will sort out the data and provide some insight.

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With dry, hot conditions, pastures suffered. In addition, with escalating fertilizer prices, many producers hesitated to purchase fertilizer. Consequently, grass stands thinned and weeds increased. Boyd will address these conditions and provide cost-effective answers on how to control pasture weeds.

The conference is from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and registration is \$20 at the door. For more information, contact your county extension office or visit www.uaex.edu. △



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