

# Southern Illinois Beef Day Program Set For July 25 At Rend Lake College

**C**ow-calf producers and others interested in cattle production will find valuable, research based information at the fourth annual 2012 Southern Illinois Beef Conference. The conference will be held on Thursday, July 25 in the Applied Science Center at Rend Lake College, Ina, Illinois.

"The conference is designed for cow-calf producers to take home knowledge that will enhance the ability to improve on-farm management decisions and this year the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will unveil a new fescue pasture management program at the conference," said U of I Extension animal systems specialist Teresa Steckler.

Mike Plummer, retired University of Illinois Extension educator, will start the program discussing how cover crops can be incorporated into cow-calf management. This will be followed by a producer-led round table discussion. Cow-calf producers – Doug Kellerman from Pinckneyville, Ernest Weaver from Anna, and Grant Bauman from Vienna – will discuss how they have incorporated cover crops into their annual forage production and answer producer questions.

The morning session will conclude with Dr. Paul Walker, animal scientist from Illinois State

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University, discussing the future of corn by-products and its implications for the beef industry.

The afternoon session will offer three very different topics, the first of which is maximizing herd pregnancy rates that will be present by Dr. Teresa Steckler. Nic Anderson from the Illinois Livestock Development Group will discuss knowing the regulations as they relate to growing the Illinois beef industry. Jeremy Jackman, NRCS District conservationist from Mt Vernon, and Roger Staff, NRCS Grassland/Grazing Specialist will discuss a new program that will be offered by the NRCS – renovating endophyte-infected tall fescue pastures and cost share opportunities.

The conference will begin with registration at 8:30 am and the program will start at 9:15 am.

The registration cost is \$15, due by July 16. The fee includes a light morning and afternoon refreshments, a noon meal, and conference materials. Late and on-site registration is \$20. Lunch is not guaranteed for late and on-site registration. More information and registration forms are available by contacting Teresa Steckler at 618-695-4917, [tsteckle@illinois.edu](mailto:tsteckle@illinois.edu), or register

on-line <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/dsac/>. Δ



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