

Unique On Farm Demonstration Scheduled For Cattle Producers

MT. VERNON, ILL.

On March 15, area cattle producers have a unique opportunity to see an efficiently-run beef cattle operation and learn about the benefits of the Illinois Heifer Development Program (IHDP). An IHDP Pre-Breeding Processing Demonstration will be held at the Stan and Lisa Buzzard Farm, Beecher City, Illinois, on Saturday, March 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Beef producers can arrive when they want and leave when they need to. But, if you plan to be there for lunch, please register by March 12. There's no charge to attend the program, and a complimentary lunch will be provided by the Effingham Animal Health Center. To register, call University of Illinois Extension, Fayette County, 618-283-2753. Or, email your name, postal address and phone number to fayette_co@extension.uiuc.edu.

"This program will explain what the IHDP is, what producers need to do to participate in the program, and how IHDP participation results in added value for beef cattle," explains Tom Saxe, retired U of I Extension educator and IHDP coordinator. "Heifers in this program typically bring a premium of \$200 to \$500 at the IHDP

sale."

Frank Rincker, American Breeders Association, will offer his advice on Proper Selection of Bulls, Use of Artificial Insemination, and Estrous Synchronization Methods. Kathy Faber from Intervet will discuss and illustrate Health Management Procedures, and Saxe will demonstrate Pelvic Measurements. Approximately 40 heifers will be processed that day.

"Heifers enrolled in the IHDP must meet strict health and reproductive requirements, but it's not difficult," says Saxe. "The Buzzard operation shows how these requirements can be met from a practical standpoint so that producers can improve their profits."

The Buzzard Farm is a commercial 150-head cow herd operation that makes major use of artificial insemination.

For more details, contact Saxe at 618-627-2243.

Directions: From Beecher City, take Route 33 West to Route 128, turn south. Proceed to first crossroads (3050 N and 2400 E). Turn west. Go approximately 1.7 miles. The farm is on the left.

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