

Unique On-Farm Demonstration Scheduled For Cattle Producers

MT. VERNON, ILL.

On March 1, area cattle producers have a unique opportunity to see one of the most efficiently-run beef cattle operations in southern Illinois and learn about the benefits of the Illinois Heifer Development Program (IHDP). An IHDP Pre-Breeding Processing Demonstration will be held at the Charlie and Todd Slykhuis Farm just north of Raleigh, Illinois, on Saturday, March 1 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 February 27. There's no charge to attend the program, and a complimentary lunch will be provided by Southern FS, Harrisburg. To register, call University of Illinois Extension, Saline County, 618-252-8391. Or, email your name, postal address and phone number to saline_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."

Stuart James, American Breeders Service, 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 75 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 Slykhuis operation shows how these requirements can be met from a practical standpoint so that producers can improve their profits."

The Slykhuis Farm is a commercial 200-head cow herd operation that makes major use of artificial insemination.

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