

Reproductive Advances

East Coast symposium details the latest developments in reproductive technology.

by Kasey Brown, associate editor

More than 170 cattlemen attended the 2013 Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle (ARSBC) Symposium in Staunton, Va., Oct. 15-16 — the first such meeting to be convened in an East Coast state, said Dee Whittier, professor and Extension veterinarian at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

Serving as the official host of the event, Whittier explained some of the history of the ARSBC to cattlemen, veterinarians and academia gathered at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel & Conference Center. ARSBC was initiated by the Beef Reproduction Task Force, which came together as a group in 2000 to effectively communicate to beef producers the latest information related to reproductive technologies.

This annual meeting is a little different, noted Whittier. Often at other conferences, speakers are asked to come in to summarize the work of many other people. In this conference, attendees get to hear directly from the people who have done the work. These speakers are incredibly knowledgeable about

their field, he said, encouraging attendees to utilize their time at the symposium to meet the speakers and to ask questions.

“These speakers have things to teach,” he added.

Conference attendees had the opportunity to experience some more of the Shenandoah Valley by dining at the Museum of Frontier Culture Tuesday evening.

Dinner and dessert were sponsored by Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) and Select Sires.

While listening to lectures is the time-honored way to learn things in academia, many people learn well in an interactive manner, Whittier noted. To cater

to this style of learning, the conference divided into three groups after dinner Tuesday for interactive sessions targeted to veterinarians, the artificial insemination (AI) industry, and cattle producers. With speakers present at each session, they gave attendees a chance to ask questions and dig deeper into the topics of the day.

The conference continued Wednesday with a full day of classroom-style sessions featuring practical topics such as the effects of endophyte-infested tall fescue



PHOTO BY TROY SMITH

► Dee Whittier, professor and Extension veterinarian at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine welcomed more than 170 cattlemen to the symposium.

on fertility, pregnancy determination, fetal programming, preparing donors and recipients for embryo transfer and others.

As part of our “Reproductive Strategies” theme for this February *Angus Journal*, we provide snapshots of the coverage presented. Comprehensive coverage of the symposium — including summaries, PowerPoints, proceedings and audio — is available online at www.appliedreprostrategies.com. Compiled by the *Angus Journal* editorial team, the site is made possible through sponsorship by the Beef Reproduction Task Force.

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