

BIF Announces June Program

Beef Improvement Federation will host 'Progress on the Prairie' June 14-17 in Manhattan, Kan.

Preparations are being finalized for the 2016 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Meeting and Research Symposium themed "Progress on the Prairie." The annual event will be hosted June 14-17 in Manhattan, Kan., and headquartered at the new Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center.

The BIF conference routinely draws a large group of leading seedstock and commercial beef producers, academics and allied industry partners. The attendance list is a "who's who" of the beef value chain, offering great networking opportunities and conversations about the issues of the day. Program topics focus on how the beef industry can enhance value through genetic improvement across a range of attributes that affect the value chain.

The event features two and a half days of educational programming and a full day of tours visiting regional seedstock and commercial producers.

The first morning's general session is titled "Opportunities for the Beef Value Chain: Can we become more coordinated and more profitable?" Headlining the event are industry thought leaders including Ted Schroeder and Glynn Tonsor, Kansas State University (K-State); John Stika, Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB); Brad Morgan, Performance Food Group; and Keith Belk, Colorado State University (CSU). The second day's general session is titled "Protecting producer profit for the future" and features nationally recognized speakers including David Lalman, Oklahoma State University; Chip Ramsay, Rex Ranch; Mark Enns, CSU; and Clay Mathis, King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management.

Afternoons are filled with breakout sessions focusing on a range of beef-production and genetic-improvement topics. The conference also features a Young Producer Symposium designed to network and equip young cattle producers with essential knowledge as they grow their role in the business. With the program's depth and breadth, there is something for everyone.

For more conference details, including lodging information, full conference program and registration please see: <http://beefimprovement.org/library/registration-info> or contact K-State hosts Bob Weaber, bweaber@ksu.edu, 785-532-1460; or Lois Schreiner, lschrein@ksu.edu, 785-532-1267.



Beef Improvement Federation Annual Conference and Research Symposium

Tuesday, June 14

8 a.m.-noon BIF board meeting

1-4:30 p.m. Young Producers Symposium and Reception

6 p.m. Opening reception/welcome, Weber Arena, Kansas State University (K-State)

Wednesday, June 15

General Session I: Opportunities for the beef value chain: Can we become more coordinated and more profitable?

8 a.m. Opening comments, Kansas welcome

8:15 a.m. What will the North American beef market look like 20 years from now? Opportunities for domestic and international growth — Glynn Tonsor and Ted Schroeder, K-State

8:45 a.m. Beef as a consumer-driven food business: Changing perspectives from cattle to food production — John Stika, Certified Angus Beef LLC

9:15 a.m. Who's our consumer, and what do they want 20 years from now? Trends in the protein landscape — Brad Morgan, Performance Food Group

9:45 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Genetics of meat science: What traits can we improve genetically that affect the value/palatability of beef? — Keith Belk, Colorado State University

11 a.m. Panel discussion featuring General Session I speakers

11:45 a.m. Awards Luncheon

1:30-5 p.m. Technical Breakout Sessions

- Selection Decisions — Chairman: Bob Weaber, K-State

- Emerging Technology — Chairman: Megan Rolf, Oklahoma State University

- End-product Improvement — Chairman: Tommy Perkins, International Brangus Breeders Association

6:30 p.m. Evening dinner at Stanley Stout Center, Manhattan, Kan.

Thursday, June 16

General Session II: Protecting producer profit for the future — Moderator: Matt Spangler, University of Nebraska

8 a.m. Call to order, housekeeping announcements

8:15 a.m. The 2016 and the 2036 cow herd: What we do and what we need to do better — Dave Lalman, Oklahoma State University

8:45 a.m. Things a cow-calf producer learns when owning a feedyard: What drives profit? — Chip Ramsay, Rex Ranch

9:15 a.m. Growing profit by understanding cow maintenance efficiency and maintenance requirement in an animal and systems context — Mark Enns, Colorado State University

9:45 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Making the cow herd more efficient and profitable by 2036: Where do we focus our efforts for the biggest impact? — Clay Mathis, King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management

11 a.m. Panel discussion featuring General Session II speakers

11:30 a.m. BIF caucuses and elections

Noon Awards Luncheon

What you heard, charge — Kent Andersen, Zoetis

1:30-5 p.m. Technical Breakout Sessions

- Producer Applications — Chairman: Darr Bullock, University of Kentucky

- Efficiency and Adaptability — Chairman: Mark Enns, Colorado State University

- Genomics and Genetic Prediction — Chairman: Mark Thallman, U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, Neb.

5:30 p.m. BIF board meeting and board photo

6:30 p.m. Evening reception and tours of Discovery Center, etc.

Friday, June 17

7:30 a.m. Depart for Kansas Beef Industry Tours, featuring regional seedstock and commercial producers