

Range Beef Cow Symposium Success

Nearly 600 participants ventured to Mitchell, Neb., to enhance beef production knowledge.

by Kasey Miller

Practical beef production knowledge was the name of the game at the 22nd Range Beef Cow Symposium (RBCS), in Mitchell, Neb., Nov. 29-Dec. 1. Nearly 600 participants traveled to Mitchell for the biennial event, which has a reputation for providing an excellent educational program. This year's program was no exception.

Angus Productions Inc. (API) was on hand to provide online coverage of this year's event at www.rangebeefcow.com. Site sponsor *LiveAuctions.tv* provided live streaming video from the meeting, and API has added post-event coverage to the site newsroom, where you will find coverage of the following presentations:

- ▶ *Policy affecting the cattle industry*, by U.S. Sen. Mike Johanns, (R-NE)
- ▶ *Public issues*, by Trent Loos, a sixth-generation U.S. farmer and author of *Loos Tales*, a multimedia column dedicated to exploring the interesting people and places of rural America
- ▶ *Challenges for cattle producers*, by Ivan Rush, professor emeritus, University of Nebraska
- ▶ *How will the cattle industry compete with the crop and ethanol industry?* by Ted Schroeder, Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University
- ▶ *Current inventory — causes and effects, and where are we headed?* by Jim Robb, ag economist, Livestock Marketing Information Center
- ▶ *Calculating your unit cost of production*, by Aaron Berger, extension educator, University of Nebraska
- ▶ *The future structure of beef production: calf-feds, yearlings, stockers*, by Tom Brink, chief risk officer and senior vice president, JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding LLC
- ▶ *What are subtherapeutic antibiotics and can we do without them?* by Mike Apley, production medicine, clinical pharmacology, Kansas State University
- ▶ *Weaned calf growing options: How do we economically produce a 1,000-lb. steer for feedlot entry*, by Terry Klopfenstein, ruminant nutrition, University of Nebraska
- ▶ *The cow side of producing a 1,000-lb. feeder: cow size and expenses*, by Ken Olson (presenter), beef specialist, South Dakota State University; Justin Waggoner, beef systems specialist, Kansas State University; and John Jaeger, beef systems specialist, Kansas State University
- ▶ *Determining who makes land use decisions, land ownership or land control, and what decision options exist*, by Dave Goeller, assistant director/TAA specialist, University of Nebraska North Central Risk Management Education Center
- ▶ *Land/enterprise and ownership transfer*, by panel of producers: Lucy Meyring of Walden, Colo.; Ed Blair of Sturgis, S.D.; and Tom Marcy, Marcy Cattle Co., Hay Springs, Neb.
- ▶ *Genomics for the rancher: How does it work and what does it mean?* by Jack Whittier, beef specialist, Colorado State University
- ▶ *Implementation of marker-assisted EPDs*, by Matt Spangler, beef geneticist, University of Nebraska
- ▶ *Feed efficiency: How should it be used for the cow herd?* by Andy Roberts, research scientist, USDA Agricultural Research Service
- ▶ *Importance of steak origin to restaurant customers*, by Chris Calkins, meat scientist, University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- ▶ *How to capture added value for the calves produced*, by Troy Marshall, Marshall Cattle Co., Burlington, Colo.
- ▶ *Adding value to calves: How to get age- and source-verified and how to capitalize on it*, by Todd Thrift, associate professor, beef cattle management, University of Florida
- ▶ *Cutting through the myths to feed a growing global population*, by Travis Choat, director of beef technical consulting, Elanco Animal Health
- ▶ *Activities and benefits from exporting beef*, by Paul Clayton, senior vice president, export services, U.S. Meat Export Federation
- ▶ *50 years of beef reproduction through my eyes: past, present and future*, by George Seidel, distinguished professor, biomedical sciences, Colorado State University
- ▶ *How do we achieve proper vaccination immunity?* by Jerry Stokka, Pfizer Animal Health
- ▶ *Labor solutions for ranch operations: How to find and retain quality employees*, by Harry Knobbe, Knobbe Cattle Co., West Point, Neb.
- ▶ *Economic model for multiple land use*, by John Ritten, agricultural and applied economics, University of Wyoming
- ▶ *Optimizing range management for game bird habitat*, by Ben Geaumont, wildlife biologist, North Dakota State University
- ▶ *Planning ahead to save AUMs and the cow herd in times of forage shortage*, by Jerry Volesky, range and forage specialist, University of Nebraska
- ▶ *Market outlook*, by Mike Miller, CattleFax

Broader program

The Range Beef Cow Symposium is sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and animal science departments of the University of Wyoming, South Dakota State University, Colorado State University and the University of Nebraska. Its location rotates among those four states.

Focusing on beef production issues in the Western states, the symposium regularly attracts hundreds of cattlemen and more than 80 agribusiness booth vendors. Commercial displays representing many segments of the industry are an integral part of the symposium. Exhibitors were present at this year's event to introduce new products and to discuss their product lineups.

The Bull Pen Sessions, which this year were at the Gering Civic Center, Gering, Neb., are one of the most popular aspects of the symposium. This is a time for attendees to have in-depth discussion with the speakers and an opportunity to ask specific questions in an informal setting. The majority of symposium speakers on Tuesday and Wednesday were present in the evening following their presentations.

Proceedings from the event are available for \$22 and can be ordered online at <https://carrierregistration.unl.edu/coursestatus.awp?course=11beef1129pa>.

Plan for 2013

Nothing beats the interaction with other producers and attending the Bull Sessions, so plan to attend the next Range Beef Cow Symposium in person. Range Beef Cow Symposium XXIII will be Dec. 1-3, 2013, in Rapid City, S.D.

API's www.rangebeefcow.com will feature hotel and registration information and the symposium schedule when they become available.

