

Across the County

Tri-State Cow/Calf Symposium Jan. 8 in McCook

By
Marty
Fear



County Extension Agent

Successfully Managing the Cow Herd in the Course of Drought will be the focus for the 2013 Tri-State Cow/Calf Symposium and Trade Show Jan. 8.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. central time with opening remarks beginning at 9 a.m. and the program concluding around 4:30 p.m. at the Red Willow County Fairgrounds Community Building in McCook. The symposium is held in conjunction with a trade show featuring regional vendors. Attendees will have time throughout the day to visit displays.

The symposium is an every other year effort between Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska and is held in cooperation among Colorado State University Extension, Kansas State University Research and Extension and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension services.

This year's program will open with some remarks from the new University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension dean and director, Chuck Hibberd, on his visions for the future of Extension.

The keynote speaker will be James Robb, director of the Livestock Marketing Informa-

tion Center in Denver. Robb will provide participants with an economic update of the droughts impact on cattle numbers and provide a current market/situation outlook for the upcoming production year.

"Three concurrent educational sessions will be available throughout the day as well and participants will have the opportunity to pick and choose which topics they want to attend," said Brian Strauch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension educator.

Aaron Stalker, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension beef nutritionist, will discuss Beef Cow Nutritional Implications During and Following Drought; Rick Rasby, Extension beef specialist, will discuss Feeding and Grazing Cornstalks and Alternative Rations During Drought; and Richard Randle, Extension beef cattle veterinarian will be talking about the recent decline in conception rates and some preliminary results of a University of Nebraska-Lincoln survey.

Other topics of the concurrent educational sessions include: Good Beef Production Practices,

Beef Cow Genetics Advances and Economic Implications of Herd Management Decisions during Drought.

The symposium will conclude with an industry panel represented by various producers and university researchers.

The free symposium is sponsored by McCook National Bank, AmFirst Bank-McCook, First Central Bank-McCook, Furnas County Livestock Association, Farm Credit Services of America, Ag Valley Coop, Adams Bank and Trust, Frenchman Valley Coop and DuPont.

Registration is required by Jan. 2 to secure proper quantities of drinks, rolls and the noon meal, as well as handouts from presenters. Vendors are welcome. Contact Brian Strauch at 308-345-3390 or 877-674-6947 to learn more.

For more details or to register for the symposium, contact the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension office in McCook at 877-674-6947 or email red-willow-county@unl.edu or contact Strauch at brian.strauch@unl.edu.



BANNER ANNOUNCING CHRISTMAS EVE services went up Monday. Pastor Jeff Landers, left, and Jim Reynolds hang the sign. Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

County employee health care cost goes over budget

By Karen Krien
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Health insurance for the county employees has been an issue for the past two years. The cost of the insurance goes over budget and continues to cost the county and taxpayers. At the last meet-

ing, Tim Carson, vice president of Corporate Plan, went over the options for the county.

Mr. Carson had sent a new quote for the commissioners to go over at the Monday meeting. The quote would save the county about \$36,000 but the responsibility of the employees would go up. The employee's out-of-pocket costs would go from \$700 to \$1,500 and, the family out-of-pocket expense would go from \$1,200 to \$3,000.

Dale Patton, commissioner, had looked into a state insurance but, he felt that they would be just as well taking the Corporate Plan again, especially with the \$36,000 savings. Insurance, he said, is just high and, now with the new health reform regulations, it will probably be higher in the future. If we make this step now, I think it is a step in the right direction.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said he felt the county should have a policy in place where current employees who stay with the county, they will have the opportunity to have their insurance grandfathered in. When new employees come on, they will know up front that they will possibly not have the same insurance benefits. The county has a good benefit package and we need to keep our employees - good employees are hard to replace.

No decision was made on the insurance but it was the consensus of the board to go with the proposed Corporate Plan.

Association holds country Christmas

The annual Country Christmas celebration sponsored by Center Church Association was held at the Bird City senior center on the evening of Dec. 7. Members sat down to hobo stew and finger foods prior to the singing of carols and Christmas devotional sharing time.

mary Powell, "Story of the Three Kings;" Irma Deeds, "The Man in the Very Front Row;" Marsha Magley, "Joseph's letter to his Mother."

Special words and greetings and best wishes were given by Arnold Jr. and Sandra Magley, Carol Duncan, Lucille Wright, Hollis Dapron, Shirley Watson, Marcea Weaver and Merna Dautel.

The wonderful fellowship time closed with prayer, love and best wishes for a Merry Christmas

Beecher Island News

There were 65 at Sunday School. Mary E. Allen gave the special number. Garret Hulburt and Isabel Prentice gave their birthday offerings. Speaker on Sunday will be Phil Mitchel with a pot luck lunch to follow.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Harms visited Mr. and Mrs. Bill Strangways Thursday.

Elaine Crider and Betty Rogers visited Bessie Dent Wednesday morning. Paul Leven visited in the evening.

Ellen Mansfield went to Greeley with Gary and Sharilyn Mansfield

By
Bessie
Dent



Saturday. They went on the Holiday home tour on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Osmus returned home Tuesday from visiting the Matt Osmus family in Texas.

Jim Soehner visited Mr. and Mrs Bill Strangways on Friday.

Excellence in Joint Replacement helps keep you on the go!

Debbie Stevens wasn't about to let a congenital hip condition slow her down. She conferred with one of Community Hospital's visiting orthopedic surgeons, who advised her of the outstanding joint replacement care right here in McCook.

Community Hospital's Orthopedic Package included classes to learn about pain management, and therapy strategies to help Debbie speed her recovery.

After surgery, Debbie had physical therapy at the Community Hospital Rehabilitation Center. Now she enjoys swimming, golf, and so much more!

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Florence Antholz is celebrating her 80th Birthday!

Her children request the honor of your presence at a reception
Dec. 30 - 2-4 p.m.
Prairie Developmental Center,
208 S. 4th, Atwood.
Cards may be sent to her at:
601 Vine, Atwood, KS 67730

Wedding Registry

Bob Sharp & Jean Marie Verde

Wedding
Jan. 4, 2013

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