

11-2015

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Range Beef Cow Symposium in Colorado, Nov 16-19

September 2015



Colorado State University's Department of Animal Sciences is proud to host the 24th Range Beef Cow Symposium, Nov. 17-19 at The Ranch in Loveland, Colo. The biennial symposium, sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and Animal Science Departments of Colorado State University, South Dakota State University, the University of Nebraska and the University of Wyoming, offers an exclusive program of practical production management information specific to the region's cattle producers.

This year's program will highlight a variety of industry speakers delivering valuable, cutting-edge information on beef cattle management strategies ranging from consumer preferences to grazing schemes. Additionally, sessions will incorporate speakers and events geared toward young and up-and-coming producers, including a Young Producers' Professional Networking Social and a producer panel focusing on how to enter the cattle business as a first generation cattle producer.

An always-popular feature of the Range Beef Cow Symposium is the evening "Bull Pen Sessions". Speakers will be present for questions and discussion of their topics, offering attendees an opportunity to acquire more in-depth and applied knowledge from presentations earlier in the program.

A pre-symposium Beef Quality Assurance training will be provided on Monday, Nov. 16 featuring Curt Pate.

The symposium also boasts a top notch trade show, showcasing a variety of commercial displays from over 75 allied industry vendors. A pre-symposium Beef Quality Assurance training will also be provided on Monday, Nov. 16 featuring Curt Pate.

Cattle producers across the Great Plains region are encouraged to join Colorado State University's Department of Animal Sciences in Loveland to take advantage of the educational and profit building seminars at this year's Range Beef Cow Symposium. The early registration deadline is October 26, after which registration prices will increase.

For a full schedule of events and speakers, hotel accommodations and online registration, visit the Range Beef Cow Symposium website at www.rangebeefcow.com, or contact Jason Ahola (970-491-3312; jason.ahola@colostate.edu) or Libby Bigler (970-491-2333; libby.bigler@colostate.edu).

<http://www.rangebeefcow.com/>

Welcome

Welcome to the *Angus Journal's* coverage of the 2015 Range Beef Cow Symposium (RBCS), which is scheduled to be Nov. 16-19, 2015, at [The Ranch](#), an event center on the Larimer County Fairgrounds in Loveland, Colo.

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. The biennial symposium has a reputation of being an excellent educational program, offering practical production management information since the first symposium in Chadron, Neb., in 1969.

The event rotates between Colorado, western Nebraska, western South Dakota and Wyoming. Focusing on beef production issues in the Western states, the symposium regularly attracts 800-1,200 attendees and more than 80 agribusiness vendors for the three-day event.

[Some new, some tradition](#)

This year's event features some new attractions the afternoon and evening prior to the traditional program. Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) coordinators for the four host states will host certification workshops beginning at 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16. Curt Pate will present a BQA stockmen and stewardship session at 3, followed by a BQA wrap-up at 5.

Leachman Cattle of Colorado will host a preconvention reception and seminar at 5:30 and 6 p.m., respectively.

Also new this year is a focus on young producers, who are invited to a social Monday evening and an inspirational breakfast Tuesday morning.

The traditional program begins Tuesday morning at 8:45. Topics range from heifer selection to consumer insights and from range management to marketing. See the [Schedule](#) page for full details.

Evening Bull Pen Sessions are one of the most popular and unique aspects of the Range Beef Cow Symposium. The sessions provide time for attendees to ask specific questions of speakers and to discuss more in-depth the day's topics. The majority of symposium speakers will be present Tuesday or Wednesday evening following their respective presentation.

Commercial displays representing many segments of the industry are an integral part of the symposium. Exhibitors will be present to introduce new products and discuss their product lineups.

Meeting hosts have kept participant registration costs to a minimum — \$79, with student and young producer passes available for \$25. Optional add-ons include Tuesday night's dinner (a beef sampler) and tickets to the Colorado Eagles hockey game Wednesday night. Tickets are available with meeting registration on the [Registration](#) page.

Angus Media will bring you coverage of the event on this website. Browse through the site now to review [the program](#), find a [listing of hotels](#) near The Ranch, see who will be attending as [vendors](#) and [register for the symposium](#). You can also browse through an [archive](#) of *Angus Journal* coverage of the 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013 events. During and after the conference, *Angus Journal* will post summaries of the sessions, along with the PowerPoint presentations and proceedings, if available, and audio of the sessions in the [Newsroom](#).

For more information about the symposium, contact CSU hosts Kevin Pond, head of the Department of Animal Science, at 970-491-7295 or [Jason Ahola](#), assistant professor of beef management systems, at 605-394-2236. For more information about this website, contact [Shauna Hermel](#) at 816-383-5270.

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Schedule

[Monday](#) | [Tuesday](#) | [Wednesday](#) | [Thursday](#)

Monday, Nov. 16 — Pre-symposium events

- 1:00 p.m.** Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Certification Workshop, presented by **BQA Coordinators** for Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado
- 3:00 p.m.** BQA Certification Workshop — Stockmanship and Stewardship, by **Curt Pate**, Curt Pate Stockmanship, Montana
- 5:00 p.m.** BQA Program wrap-up
- 5:30 p.m.** Reception with hors d'oeuvres, hosted by Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Lee Leachman, Wellington, Colo.
- 6:00 p.m.** Pre-symposium seminar, by **Lee Leachman**, Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Wellington, Colo.
- 8:00 p.m.** Young Producers' Professional Networking Social

Tuesday, Nov. 17 — Range Beef Cow Symposium

- 7:00 a.m.** Registration open
- 7:00 a.m.** Inspirational breakfast and speaker (TBA) for young producers
- 8:45 a.m.** Welcome by morning ramrod **Kevin Pond**, head, Colorado State University Department of Animal Science
- 9:00 a.m.** **Marketing:** Market outlook, **Jim Robb**, senior ag economist, Livestock Marketing Information Center, Denver, Colo.
- 9:30 a.m.** **Consumers:** Why does consumer opinion trump science (animal welfare, GMOs, food animals vs. pets, etc.)? **Ronnie Green**, Harlan vice chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
- 10:00 a.m.** **Consumers:** No more food fights — preparing for the beef industry's future, **Michele Payn-Knoper**, founder, Cause Matters Corp.

- 10:30 a.m.** Break and visit industry booths
- 11:00 a.m.** **Animal Welfare:** Animal welfare programs in U.S. cattle production, **Lora Wright**, beef supply chain manager, Tyson Foods
- 11:30 a.m.** **Animal Welfare:** Status of animal welfare research on dehorning, castration and branding practices in the beef cattle industry, **Jason Ahola**, assistant professor of beef management systems, Colorado State University
- Noon** Lunch and visit industry booths
- 1:25 p.m.** Afternoon ramrod: TBA
- 1:30 p.m.** **Consumers:** An update on sustainability and the beef industry, **Cameron Bruett**, Corporate Affairs and Sustainability, JBS USA, Greeley, Colo., and current president of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef
- 2:00 p.m.** **Reproduction:** Challenges with heifer selection — how many should I breed, and what are they worth? **Ron Lemenager**, beef specialist, Purdue University
- 2:30 p.m.** **Reproduction:** Producer perspective on using reproductive technologies, **Chad Blair**, Blair Brothers Angus Ranch, Sturgis, S.D.
- 3:00 p.m.** Break and visit industry booths
- 3:30 p.m.** **Reproduction:** Impact of estrus synchronization and artificial insemination on cow herd performance over time, **Cliff Lamb**, North Florida Research & Education Center, University of Florida
- 4:00 p.m.** **Production Efficiency:** Running more cows on less grass, **Roberto Eizmendi**, manager, Syracuse (Kan.) Cow-calf Facility, Cactus Feeders, Amarillo, Tex.
- 4:30 p.m.** **Production Efficiency: Producer Panel:** Cow feed efficiency unknowns, including utilization of range forages, Moderator: TBA; Panel members: **Trey Patterson**, CEO/president, Padlock Ranches, Ranchester, Wy.; **Douglas Olsen**, Olsen Ranches, Bridgeport, Neb.; **Lee Leachman**, Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Wellington, Colo.
- 5:30 p.m.** Adjourn
- 6:00 p.m.** Optional dinner (prepaid ticket holders only)

7:30 p.m. Bull Pen Sessions (marketing, consumers/welfare, reproduction, production efficiency) Moderators: **Kevin Pond**, head, Colorado State University Department of Animal Science; and **Jason Ahola**, assistant professor of beef management systems, Colorado State University

Wednesday, Nov. 18 — Range Beef Cow Symposium

7:30 a.m. Registration open

7:55 a.m. Welcome by morning ramrod: TBA

8:00 a.m. **Genetics:** Application of selection indexes and use of across-breed expected progeny differences, **Matt Spangler**, beef genetics extension specialist, University of Nebraska

8:30 a.m. **Genetics:** Crossbreeding strategies, including terminal vs. maternal crossing, **Bob Weaber**, beef cattle geneticist, Kansas State University

9:00 a.m. **Genetics:** How to use commercially available genomic predictions, **Michael Gonda**, animal geneticist, South Dakota State University

9:30 a.m. **Health/Management:** High-altitude disease and feedlot and respiratory issues: Are they linked? **Joe Neary**, Texas Tech University

10:00 a.m. Break and visit industry booths

10:30 a.m. **Health/Management:** Managing compromised and weak calves at birth, **Frank Garry**, Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Colorado State University

11:00 a.m. **Health/Management:** What's the value of low-stress stockmanship from a feedlot's perspective? **Anne Burkholder**, Will Feed Inc., Cozad, Neb.

11:30 a.m. Range/Grazing: Impact of long-term weather patterns on grazing, **Brian Bledsoe**, chief meteorologist, KKTV, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Noon Lunch and visit industry booths

1:25 p.m. Afternoon ramrod: TBA

1:30 p.m. **Range/Grazing:** Cow supplementation: Getting the best bang for your buck, **Ken Olson**, beef extension specialist, South Dakota State University

2:00 p.m. **Range/Grazing:** Using a cover crop for grazing options, **Nancy Peterson**, Plum Thicket Farms, Gordon, Neb.

- 2:30 p.m. Range/Grazing:** Effects of grazing on grass, **Casey Matney**, range specialist, Colorado State University, Sterling
- 3:00 p.m.** Break and visit industry booths
- 3:30 p.m. Range/Grazing:** Use of stockers on a cow-calf operation to manage grass, **Mark Frasier**, Frasier Farms, River Bend Ranch, Limon, Colo.
- 4:00 p.m. Young producer:** The focus my millennial generation needs, **Cassie Lapaseotes**, Lapaseotes Feedyard, Bridgeport, Neb.
- 4:30 p.m. Young producer:** Young Producer Panel: How can young people get into the cattle business? Moderator: **Jason Ahola**, Colorado State University; Panel members: **Brandon Peterson**, Peterson Angus, Alcester, S.D.; TBA, Wyo.
- 5:30 p.m.** Adjourn
- 6:00 p.m.** Dinner on your own
- 7:30 p.m. Bull Pen Sessions** (genetics, health/management, range/grazing, young producer) Moderators: **Kevin Pond**, head, Colorado State University Department of Animal Science; and **Jason Ahola**, assistant professor of beef management systems, Colorado State University

Thursday, Nov. 19 — Range Beef Cow Symposium

- 7:30 a.m.** Registration open
- 7:55 a.m.** Welcome by morning ramrod: TBA
- 8:00 a.m. Management:** Mentoring and managing employees to ensure husbandry and assure consumer, **Bob Budd**, executive director, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust
- 8:30 a.m. Management:** Feedlot and carcass data: Making “cents” and making decisions, **Julie Walker**, extension beef specialist, South Dakota State University
- 9:00 a.m. Management:** How to manage all types of risk on small- and medium-sized cow-calf operations, **Wayne Fahsholtz**, Fahsholtz AgWin Group, Dayton, Wyo.
- 9:30 a.m. Management:** Evaluating and valuing cull beef cows, **Dale Woerner**, meat scientist, Colorado State University

10:00 Break and visit industry booths
a.m.

10:30 **Marketing:** Objectively valuing feeder cattle for buyers, **Tom Brink**, Top Dollar
a.m. Angus; and Lee Leachman, Leachman Cattle of Colorado

11:00 **Marketing:** International aspects of the beef industry: An update on exports and
a.m. imports, **Duane Lenz**, general manager, Cattle-Fax, Centennial, Colo.

Noon Adjourn