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(S.D.)-Beef Symposium To Be Held In Rapid City

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 10/24/2013 11:00 AM

(Rapid City)-The 23rd Range Beef Cow Symposium (RBCS) scheduled for Dec. 3-5 at the Rushmore Convention Center at Rapid City, S.D., will include 2 and a half days of educational programs, evening "bull-pen" sessions with the speakers, and a trade show with displays from the beef industry.

The bi-annual educational event, designed as "in-service training for cow-calf ranchers," will feature well-known speakers on production topics in the areas of beef industry issues, genetics, reproduction, range and forage management, cattle health, beef nutrition, and more.

The symposium began in 1969 as a joint effort of the Extension services from South Dakota State University, Colorado State University, University of Wyoming and University of Nebraska. It regularly attracts more than 600 ranchers and industry-affiliates.

UNL Cow-calf and Range Management Specialist Karla Jenkins at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center said the program will address some of the key issues and needs facing the industry today:

- Maintaining herds when resources are scarce
- Using technology to boost production to keep up with population growth
- How to put knowledge about DNA, genetics and genomics to work on the ranch level
- Inspiration and encouragement

Presentation topics include policy and trade issues, pregnant cow nutrition, limit feeding high energy diets, post-AI nutrition, managing cow costs, using technology to improve efficiency, understanding how to use DNA tools, optimal range management, and many others.

Also, 2011 Miss America Teresa Scanlan will share her experiences advocating for agriculture as Miss America. Beef spokesrunner Dane Rauschenberg will motivate the audience to "Ignore the Impossible."

Advance registration by mail or online is due by Nov. 15. The fee is \$90 per participant, \$60 for students, and single days for \$50. Credit card registration is available at the iGrow Marketplace at igrow.org/product/range-beef-cow-symposium-registration/

A downloadable brochure with a registration form also is available at panhandle.unl.edu.

Many companies in the beef industry attend this symposium and set up vendor booths. Their participation keeps the cost minimal for producers and also provides producers with an opportunity to discuss products, equipment, nutrition, genetics, and services available for their cattle business.

For additional information about registration, contact Ken Olson, SDSU Extension Beef Specialist, 605-394-2236 or kenneth.olson@sdstate.edu; or Julie Walker, SDSU Extension Beef Specialist, 605-688-5458 or Julie.walker@sdstate.edu.

Questions about the program can be directed to Jenkins at 308-632-1245, email kjenkins2@unl.edu.

(Information courtesy UNL Extension)