

Moyer ranch to host annual Feedlot Field Day in Emporia

Contact:

Jeff Davidson, K-State Watershed Specialist
jdavidso@k-state.edu

EMPORIA, Kansas – The Jaret and Shawna Moyer ranch will host a Feedlot Field Day on Tuesday, October 3, with registration to begin at 2 p.m. The program will address environmental challenges faced by cattle feeders. Discussion will center on proper pen location and design, grass buffer management, non-confined feeding options and more. A complimentary beef meal will conclude the event at 6:00 p.m.

Five sessions will focus on pen placement, cleaning schedule, and management of grass buffers downslope of pens. Additional topics include non-confined feeding and cover crop use, as well as USDA programs that assist cattle feeders. Speakers include beef systems specialists and a beef veterinarian from K-State Extension, K-State watershed specialists, and the Supervisory District Conservationist from the Lyon County Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Moyer will welcome participants to the event, as well as speak about the use of a Bud Box, a system which allows handlers to easily unload cattle and facilitate cattle flow. A Kansas native, Moyer is a board member of the Kansas Beef Council, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and the Kansas Livestock Association, where he has also served as president.

The Jaret and Shawna Moyer ranch focuses on growing light cattle using a combination of Flint Hills pastures and a backgrounding facility featuring grass buffers downslope of the pens to slow and absorb drainage from the confinement area. The program incorporates small traps of cover crops for non-confined feeding, and features a state-of-the-art processing facility.

"The Moyer facility showcases how environmentally responsible a cattle feedlot can be," said K-State watershed specialist Jeff Davidson. He listed the ranch's feedlot drainage and well-maintained grass buffers as two instances of how the ranch maintains good water quality.

The day is sponsored by K-State Research and Extension - Lyon County, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE), and Kansas State Research and Extension. Those interested in attending should contact the Lyon County Extension Office at 620-341-3220 or email Lyon County Extension Agent Brian Rees at brees@ksu.edu. More details about the Field Day are on the KCARE website, <http://www.kcare.k-state.edu>.