



Beef Brief
by
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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM CLOSE BY

The Eastern Cattleman's Symposium at State College has been an annual event for a number of years as part of the Pennsylvania Beef Expo program.

This year the Symposium will be held in three locations around the state: Adamstown in Lancaster County, Selinsgrove in Snyder County, and at State College. The dates and locations are March 25 in Adamstown at Weaver's Market at the intersection of Rt. 897 and Rt. 272, March 26 just north of Selinsgrove at Mill Road and Rt. 11-15, and March 27 in State College at the Tofrees Resort Hotel just off the Rt. 322 bypass at the Tofrees exit.

We are proud to have Pfizer Animal Health as a sponsor of the event again this year as part of their Cattleman's College program. Their support has enabled us to provide a great program.

Featured speakers this year will include Dr. Chuck Lambert, Dr. Lee Myer, Henry Bergfeld, and Dr. Ken Odde.

Dr. Lambert is the chief economist with the National Cattle-

men's Beef Association in the Washington, D.C. office. Cattle markets have recently experienced some tremendous changes, and Chuck will discuss the forces that made this happen as well as how these forces will influence the beef market in the future. Dr. Lambert will be on the program on March 25 and March 26.

On March 27 we are pleased to have Dr. Lee Myer join us from the University of Kentucky. Lee will discuss market outlook with the State College audience as well as bring us some perspective for the cow-calf sector for the future.

Henry Bergfeld is manager of Summitcrest Angus Farm in Summitville, Ohio. For the past several years, Henry has directed a breeding program at Summitcrest with the objective of consumer satisfaction for beef. In the age of the "consumer-driven" beef industry, these efforts will provide a guide to much of the future in breeding beef cattle. Henry will be with us on March 27 in State College.

Dr. Ken Odde is from Pollock, S.D. and is a consulting veterinarian with Pfizer Animal Health. He was instrumental in setting up Pfizer's "Electronic Cattle Drive"

that allows prevaccinated and pre-conditioned feeder cattle to be offered for sale on a national data transmission system. Dr. Odde will be discussing the value of the preconditioned calf to the industry at all three locations.

Other topics to be discussed include using feed resources more effectively, calving management, handling facilities that work, and management of replacement heifers. The cost of meeting is \$20 for each location if registered by March 20 and the cost is \$25 at the door. The fee includes a buffet lunch and a copy of the proceedings for all of the sessions.

You may register or get further information by contacting the Pennsylvania Cattleman's Association at (814) 692-4208.

Get The Calves Castrated

Anyone who has heard me give a presentation about basic herd management around the state has heard my challenge to take all of the rubber bands and the banders and throw them away.

The practice of banding calves (or not castrating male calves at all) is one of the most costly mistakes that can be made in a cow-calf operation. We have well documented that rubber bands fail 8-10 percent of the time. This is very costly to the feeder who has to spend \$100 or more to fix the problem, or simply takes the loss by selling the animal. A real concern I have is for the welfare of the animal that has been banded.

We can do a better job of castration that will result in 100 percent effectiveness and be more tolerant of the animal. That practice is castration with a knife as soon after birth as possible. Cut off the bot-

Tractor Safety Program Set

ERIE (Erie Co.) — According to the Fair Labor Standards Act, minors under the age of 16 may work outside of school hours in farm jobs not declared particularly hazardous. An exception is made for youth 14 and 15 years old who may drive a tractor on a farm that is not owned by their parents provided they successfully complete the necessary tractor safety program.

This safety program allows them to drive a tractor over 20 PTO horsepower and to connect and disconnect farm implements from these tractors. It does not permit them to operate or assist with the operation of any PTO-driven implements or other self-propelled machines.

This year, Crawford and Erie County Cooperative Extension Offices will provide the safety training needed to allow youth 14

and 15 years old to drive a tractor on a farm other than that of their parents. Other youth over 13 years of age who wish to learn more about tractor safety are encouraged to participate, but will not take the test on Saturday.

Sessions will be held at Valley Tire, on Route 19 just south of Waterford. Classroom instruction will be on Wednesday evening, March 5, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and on Thursday evening, March 6, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. A testing session is scheduled for Saturday morning, March 8, from 9 a.m. to noon. A charge of \$5 per participant will be due at the first session on March 5. Please phone in your reservation by March 4 to the Erie County Extension Office at (814) 825-0900.


The emphasis of this program is the safe use of farm equipment. It is not intended to teach youth how to drive a tractor. However, those youth participating will need to demonstrate their ability to drive a tractor in the testing session on Saturday, March 8.

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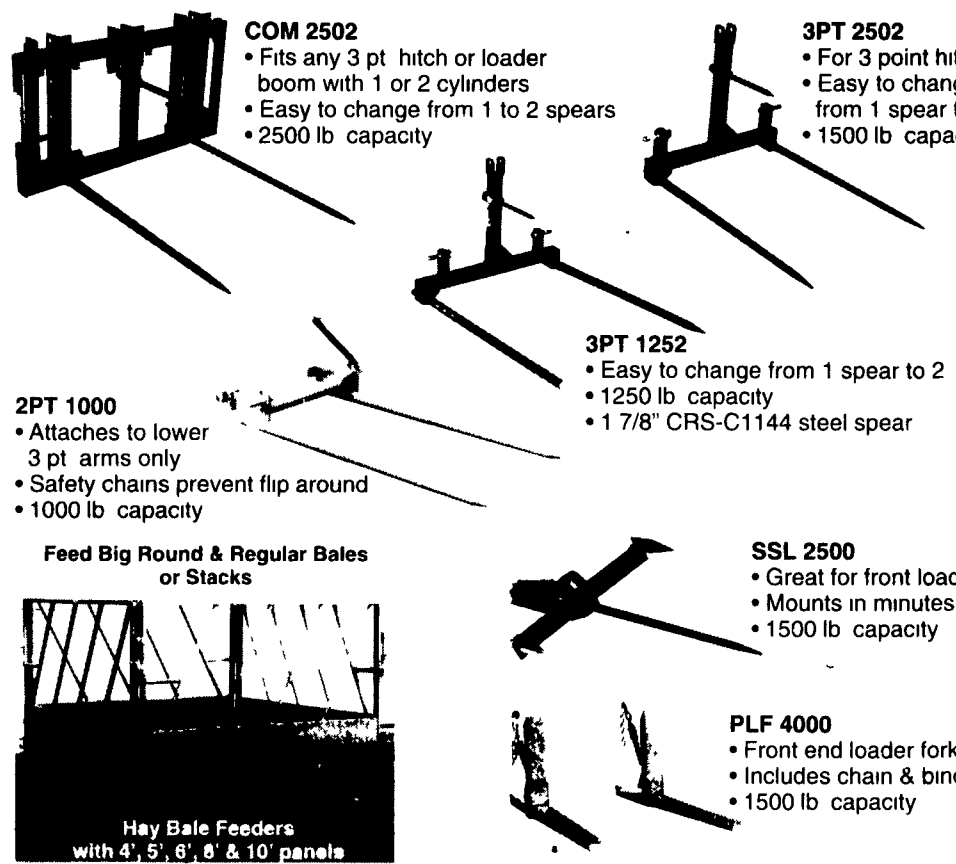
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