

Nebraska To Host National Angus Conference And Tour

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. — Angus breeders and commercial cattle producers from across the United States are invited to attend the 2001 National Angus Conference and Tour, set for September 30-October 3, in North Platte, Neb.

"Leading the Angus Advance" is the theme for the four-day event, which includes a workshop program, two-day tour and one-day conference program.

A collection of speakers will discuss current topics ranging from the basics of production to emerging new technologies in the beef industry.

Dr. Bill Mies, Future Beef Operations and formerly of Texas A&M University, will deliver the keynote address.

"We've selected topics for the conference program that hit the heart of some of the beef industry's most prominent issues, said

Richard L. Spader, executive vice president of the American Angus Association.

On Sunday, September 30, attendees have the opportunity to participate in two workshops and the "Basics of the Business Breed" program.

Scott Johnson, director of Angus Information Management Software (AIMS) will conduct a workshop geared to both new and experienced users.

Angie Denton, director of Web marketing for Angus Productions Inc. (API), will offer a Web marketing workshop on services API offers to producers for marketing their herd on the Web.

A new addition to this year's event is the "Basics of the Business Breed" program on Sunday evening, where association staff will conduct mini workshops for both new and experienced breeders.

John Crouch, director of performance programs, will discuss the basics of Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR), including how to determine contemporary groups, completing AHIR forms and the basics of sire evaluation.

Bryce Schumann, director of member services, will discuss the basics of herd identification and tips on how to complete forms and submit them to the association for trouble-free service.

The third session addresses member logon services available on the association's Web site and how more and more members are accessing their individual herd information, submitting registrations and doing other business with the association online.

The conference also features several tour stops at Angus operations in the area.

The conference program concludes the four-day event on Wednesday, October 3, and features some of the most influential speakers in the beef industry. In addition to Dr. Bill Mies, attendees will also hear from Dr. Bill

Beal, Virginia Tech, on the basics of reproduction and Dr. Twig Marston, Kansas State University, on producing pounds, product and pregnancy.

The remainder of the morning program will begin with Dr. Dan Moser, Kansas State University, on the role of DNA in genetic improvement programs and continue with Bill Bowman, director of commercial relations for the American Angus Association, on meeting the technology needs of the commercial industry. James Henderson, B3R Meats, will conclude the morning program with a presentation on information flow and its importance to the beef business.

The final leg of the program will start with Dr. Doyle Wilson, Iowa State University, discussing the tools for designing a better end product. Tim Schiefelbein, ConAgra Beef, will share insight on what the grids tell us and John Landry, SYSCO Inc., will talk about taking beef to the consumer.

Registration for the conference is \$65 before the September 1 early registration deadline. Cost after the deadline and on site in North Platte is \$80. To request a registration packet, contact Linda Campbell at (816) 383-5143. You can also register online at www.angus.org.

For more information about the 2001 National Angus Conference and Tour, contact the American Angus Association at (816) 383-5100 or go to HYPERLINK <http://www.angus.org>.

Money Available For Innovative Marketing Projects

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Two small-grant programs aimed at improving the profitability of farmers and farmer groups are now available.

For the first grant program, Individual Marketing Grants, a total of \$20,000 in grant awards (up to \$500/award) is available for individual farmers who are working to increase their access to new or existing markets in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Examples of potential projects include: extending the growing season through the use of row tunnels or hoop houses; conducting an open house or farm day to recruit potential customers; or developing a brochure for recruiting potential restaurant buyers.

The second grant program, Group Marketing Grants, is aimed at improving the profitability of farm organizations, farmer groups and/or farmer cooperatives in the mid-Atlantic region. A total of \$30,000 in grant awards (up to \$4,000/award) is available for farmer-based groups or organizations that are working to adopt and promote innovative marketing techniques and strategies in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia or Pennsylvania.

To qualify for funding, projects must be the result of collaboration among farmers looking to sell their products in an innovative manner.

To apply for funds from one of these grant programs, submit a funding request (two-page maximum) that includes the following information: Grant Program Applying To Title of Project Name (of group, organization, or individual submitting proposal) Introduction/Situation Objectives Project Plan (including timetable) Summary Budget (personnel costs, travel, supplies/materials, other) Total Budget Request, and Plans to Evaluate Results.

Please submit one copy of the proposal (two-page maximum) by August 30 to: Jim Hanson, University of Maryland, Maryland Cooperative Extension, 1200 Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742. If you have questions, contact John Berry, (610) 391-9840, e-mail; or Bruce Mertz, Future Harvest-CASA, (410) 604-2681, e-mail.

The grant programs are a component of the USDA-funded project titled "Bridging the Urban/Rural Divide: Marketing Local Food in the Mid-Atlantic." The project is a partnership of agriculture organizations, including Future Harvest-CASA, the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA), Winrock International/Wallace Center, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Extension agencies in Maryland and Pennsylvania, and the Accokeek Foundation.

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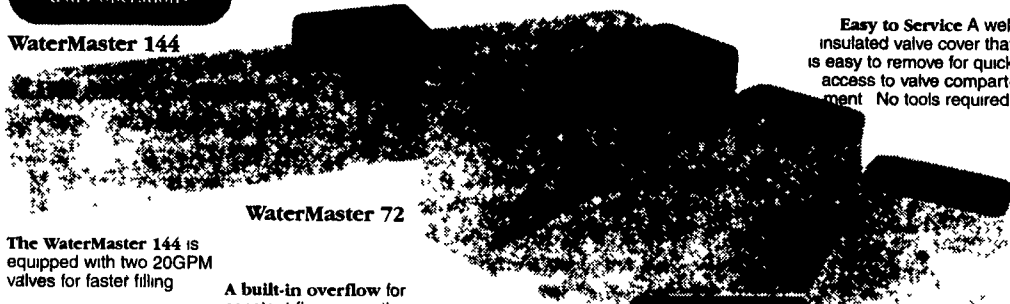
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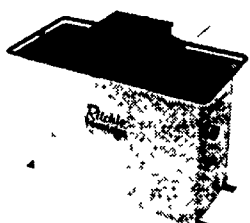
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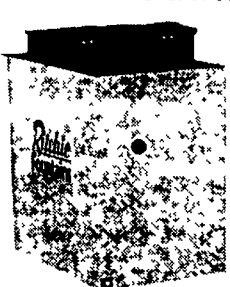
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FORAGING AROUND

The newsletter of the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council (PFGC), includes several farm features with a focus on pasture quality. The special summer section will be included with **Lancaster Farming** July 14. Another section, the fall PFGC issue, is scheduled Sept 15.