

What's the future of DNA technology in beef industry?

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The use of DNA technology—past, present and future—in beef cattle will be addressed at a June 7 conference at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center.

Attendees will learn about recent advances in the application of DNA technology as it relates to making selection decisions in beef cattle, said Matt Spangler, UNL Extension beef genetics specialist.

This will include how this information is used in combination with expected progeny differences in some breeds, the benefits of parentage testing, economic considerations of using this technology and issues in which scientists are exploring.

All cattle producers, educators and affiliated industry personnel who have a vested interest in the genetic improvement of cattle are encouraged to attend, Spangler said.

Speakers at the meeting include Spangler; Alison Van Eenennaam, animal genomics and biotechnology extension specialist at the University of California-Davis; Sally Northcutt, genetic research director at AGI, Bob Weaber, extension beef genetics specialist at the University of Missouri; Larry Keuhn, research scientist at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, and Steve Kachman, professor, statistics, UNL.

The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch and end at 5:30 p.m. Registration is \$10 to cover handouts, lunch and snacks. For more information, contact Spangler at (402) 472-6489, mspangl2@unl.edu. To RSVP for the lunch, contact Terri Behl at (402) 472-6411, tbeh1@unl.edu by May 31.