

Extension offers beef practicum

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Mid-Plains Beef Education in Economics and Forages Practicum programs will be offered beginning in September at the Dalbey-Halleck Research Farm near Virginia.

The Mid-Plains BEEF Practicum is a collaborative educational effort between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and Iowa State University Extension.

There will be instructors from both universities, along with instructors from Kansas State University, the University of Missouri, as well as beef industry professionals who will share their beef cattle expertise with participants.

The program, designed for producers, veterinarians, college students or persons involved in the beef industry, will help participants learn more about the systems approach to beef cattle production through these multi-session, hands-on learning experiences in beef production, economics and forage management.

The Mid-Plains BEEF Practicum is a multi-session course. It will begin Sept. 8, and then continue Dec. 1, Feb. 9, 2011 and June 8, 2011. These four sessions will provide the hands-on learning; in addition to these four sessions, four distance education sessions via webinar will be scheduled during November, January, March and April.

Participants will learn about body condition scoring, weaning time, supplementation, reproductive program management, nutrition software utilization, ration development, forage quality, grazing response, grazing system design and management, pasture monitoring, alternative forage resources, analyzing production costs, managing price and financial risk, and economic tools to help make decisions. All of these things lead to the systems approach, where activities will demonstrate the connection between production, economics and forage management.

If registered by July 15, the registration fee is \$400, which covers educational materials, noon meals and breaks. After July 15 participants may still register, but the cost is \$500. Participants are responsible for their travel and lodging expenses. An initial payment of \$150 must

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accompany the practicum registration. The Mid-Plains BEEF Practicum is limited to 30 participants. If openings are no longer available, the money will be refunded. Otherwise, the balance must be received by Sept. 8.

Participants must attend seven of the sessions (hands-on and webinar) to receive a certificate of completion.

To register for the workshop program, contact Darci McGee, UNL Extension Educator in Nuckolls-Thayer Counties, at (402) 225-2381 or visit [online](#) for registration and further information.