Ohio Beef School to Explore All Phases of Production

Hardin County – The OSU Extension Beef Team has announced the details for the 2017 Ohio Beef Cattle School. The Hardin County Extension office will serve as a host site for this winter’s series. The 2017 Ohio Beef School webinar series will begin on January 17 with a close look at what the cow/calf sector can do in the foreseeable future that will enhance profitability. What follows in subsequent sessions on February 7 and February 28 will be similar looks at the next two phases of production and how they all relate. Specifically, the second session will explore management of feeder cattle as they come from the cow and progress to the feed yard. During the last evening we’ll closely scrutinize the demands of the consumer and whether the entire production system – cow/calf through the feed yard and to the retailer – is meeting those demands and what it will take looking forward to achieve that goal.

As we progress through each evening in the series, the goal will be to demonstrate how the relationships between the three primary sectors of the beef industry in Ohio – cow/calf, backgrounding/stocker, and feedlot – must work together to produce high quality beef for today’s consumer. As we begin the conversation on January 17, Dr. Justin Rhinehart, Associate Professor, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, University of Tennessee Department of Animal Science, will focus on key management practices that will help the cow/calf producer stay viable in the beef cattle business. He will discuss how genetics and nutrition are key components of reproduction management that will keep females productive. Dr. Amy Radunz, Associate Professor, Beef Cattle Production, University of Wisconsin – River Falls will follow with “Achieving the genetic potential of your calf crop – it starts at conception!” This presentation will cover how nutrition and management during gestation impacts the lifetime development of the resulting calf.
Dr. Francis Fluharty, Research Professor, The Ohio State University Department of Animal Sciences, will be the featured on February 7, 2017. This session will compare grazing versus confinement growing systems for feeder cattle. Dr. Fluharty will evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of these two distinctly different management systems and explore how calf health and management impact the end product.

The series concludes on February 28, 2017 with Dr. Justin Sexten, Supply Development Director for Certified Angus Beef, discussing “Meeting consumer demand: Perspective from the feed yard to the consumer.” He will challenge the audience to consider questions such as: How do feeder, packer, grocer and restaurateur demands influence the decisions the cow/calf manager makes?; Does an end-user focused cow herd work on the farm?; What opportunities exist to capture value added processes?

As in the past, each evening’s webinar will be broadcast live beginning at 7 p.m. from host locations throughout Ohio as well as one in West Virginia. If you would like to attend any of these Ohio Beef Cattle School presentations, please call the Hardin County Extension office at 419-674-2297 or email Mark Badertscher at badertscher.4@osu.edu to RSVP so that preparations can be made to accommodate the number of people interested in attending. These webinar programs are sponsored locally by Farm Credit Mid-America, with an office in Bellefontaine. Refreshments will be provided to those who attend.