

Ranchers can learn more about current issues and topics important to ranch management and beef production when the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension hosts the popular Ranching for Profitability meeting series across western and central Nebraska Jan. 10-13.

Planning in uncertain and global markets will be covered by Dr. Darrell Mark, who will walk participants through step-by-step to “Build A Marketing Plan For Risky Times.”

The plan can be used every year to hedge once the calves hit the ground. Mark will discuss the options to reduce risk in fluctuating markets.

The last several wet summers have led to an increase of flies on cattle. Dave Boxler, UNL Extension Educator entomologist, will discuss “Fly Control Methodology for Pastured Cattle in Nebraska.”

Stable flies, horn flies, and face flies can cause reduced weight gains, either from blood loss or cattle spend their time fighting flies instead of grazing.

Flies can become resistant to eartags, if the same pesticide is used every year. Boxler will talk about new insecticide eartags recently approved for use.

He also will discuss what pesticides to use, and when, to prevent fly outbreaks. Other pasture fly control methods will also be discussed.

Dr. Richard Randle, UNL Extension veterinarian, says pinkeye continues to be a problem affecting cattle performance. Randle will review the latest updates on methods of treatments and prevention.

Also, there are growing concerns about antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance.

Randle will answer the question “How can I be responsible with my antibiotic use?” with continued antibiotic effectiveness, to prevent residues in food, and avoid antibiotic resistance in bacteria.

Meeting dates, locations and times:

- Jan. 10: O’Neill, Courthouse Annex Meeting Room, 10 a.m. CT.
- Jan. 10: Ainsworth, Zion Lutheran Church, 5 p.m. CT.
- Jan. 11: Broken Bow, Broken Bow 4-H Building, 10:30 a.m. CT.
- Jan. 11: Elm Creek, Village Center (Water Tower), 5 p.m. CT.
- Jan. 12: Valentine, Cedar Canyon Steakhouse, 10 a.m. CT.
- Jan. 12: Mullen, Sandhills RC&D Building, 5 p.m. MT.
- Jan. 13: Kimball, Kimball Event Center, 10:30 MT.

To register, call the local UNL Extension Office. Pre-registration is encouraged one week prior for a meal count. Contacts include: O’Neill 402-336-2760, Ainsworth 402-387-221, Broken Bow 308-872-6831, Elm Creek 308-324-5501, Valentine 402-376-1850, Mullen 308-645-2267, and Kimball 308-235-3122. Registration is \$15.

The Ranching for Profitability meeting series is sponsored by UNL Extension and Pfizer Animal Health with support from local sponsors.