

Successfully managing the cow herd in the course of drought will be the focus for the 2013 Tri-State Cow/Calf Symposium and Trade Show Jan. 8.

Registration at 8:30 a.m. CT with opening remarks at 9 a.m. and the program concluding around 4:30 p.m. at the Red Willow County Fairgrounds Community Building in McCook. The symposium is held in conjunction with a trade show.

Registration is required by Jan. 2 to secure proper quantities of drinks, rolls and the noon meal, as well as handouts from presenters.

The symposium is an every other year effort between Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska and is held in cooperation among Colorado State University Extension, Kansas State University Research and Extension and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension services.

The program will open with remarks from the new UNL Extension dean and director, Chuck Hibberd, on his visions for the future of Extension.

The keynote speaker will be James Robb, director of the Livestock Marketing Information Center in Denver. Robb will provide participants with an economic update of the drought impact on cattle numbers and provide a current market/situation outlook for next year.

Aaron Stalker, UNL Extension beef nutritionist, will discuss beef cow nutritional implications during and following drought; Rick Rasby, UNL Extension beef specialist, will discuss feeding and grazing cornstalks and alternative rations during drought; and Richard Randle, UNL Extension beef cattle veterinarian will be talking about the recent decline in conception rates and some preliminary results of a UNL survey.

Other topics include: good beef production practices, beef cow genetics advances and economic implications of herd management decisions during drought.

The symposium will conclude with an industry panel represented by various producers and university researchers.

The free symposium is sponsored by McCook National Bank, AmFirst Bank-McCook, First Central Bank-McCook, Furnas County Livestock Association, Farm Credit Services of America, Ag Valley Coop, Adams Bank and Trust, Frenchman Valley Coop and DuPont.

To register contact the UNL Extension office in McCook at 877-674-6947 or email red-willow-county@unl.edu or contact Strauch at brian.strauch@unl.edu.