



"Working for Nebraska beef producers providing leadership, education and representation."

NBIS Announces 2015 Speakers

The 2016 Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars class at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, in cooperation with the Nebraska Cattlemen, is excited to announce more detail about the line-up of topics and speakers at this year's Beef Summit. The Summit will be held Thursday, November 19th in the Animal Science Complex on UNL's East Campus. The seminar will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. More information can be found at the UNL Animal Science web page with a link to registration and sponsorship forms.

Welcome will be provided by Dr. Larry Berger, UNL Department of Animal Science Faculty Head

First on the speaking agenda is **Stan Moore of Michigan State University** to address the ever-challenging issue of **Recruiting, Hiring, and Retaining Quality Labor** in beef production. Mr. Moore is a senior educator in the dairy department at Michigan State and has taken special interest in Labor Management having developed and presented multiple presentations on the topic throughout the Midwest. When many Nebraska ranchers and Ag producers are asked what their biggest challenge will be in the next 10-20 years, they respond, "finding and keeping good help." Stan will provide some great insight to the strategies and effort it takes to attract quality employees and prevent your operation from being limited by a lack of labor.

Next, **Michael Maroney**, a representative of **Commodity and Ingredient Hedging (CIH)** in Chicago, Illinois will talk about **Managing Risk in Volatile Markets**. Mr. Maroney leads CIH's Beef Margin Management Service team to help cattle producers manage profitability. Michael began his career as a runner on the floor trading futures and options in grains, equities, and treasuries at the Chicago Board of Trade and his expert knowledge of managing risk in the markets has led him to his current position at CIH.

Following Mr. Maroney, an update and **Question & Answer on Beef Industry Issues in the Nebraska Legislature** will be led by **Jay Rempe** of the **Nebraska Farm Bureau**. Jay is Nebraska Farm Bureau's Vice President of Governmental Relations. Jay will provide quality insight to the both the issues currently being discussed and those that may be coming in the future, and what action producers need to take to have their voices heard or prepare to adapt.

After lunch, there will be a panel discussion titled: **Freedom to Operate vs. Sustainability – Do They Conflict?** This discussion was deemed appropriate following the great deal of recent discussion about sustainability in beef production and its inclusion in the U.S. Dept. of Health's 2015 Dietary Guidelines. With so many definitions and connotations of the word sustainability, is it just a way for anti-agriculture agencies to paint the wrong picture of beef production? This panel will address the challenges beef production faces to continue to operate amidst growing environmental and external regulations.

Present on the panel will be:

Joan Ruskamp, Dodge, NE. Joan and her husband Steve own and operate a feedlot west of Dodge, NE. Joan is an avid “advocate” having worked in beef production advocacy through a multitude of positions and agencies including the Beef Checkoff, NCBA, American National Cattewomen, and many others.

Dean Settje, Raymond, NE. Dean is the founder of Settje Agri-Services and Engineering, Inc. (SASE), a company that has been the leader in the Midwest for livestock systems design and environmental compliance. SASE provides assistance to beef producers through a team of professional engineers, agronomists, geologists, and groundwater monitoring specialists.

Steven Zabel, Ag Dept. of NDEQ. Steven will be representing the Department of Environmental Quality and further explaining some the development and enforcement of environmental regulations with a feedlot emphasis.

Scott Yager, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. Mr. Yager works on the NCBA environmental counsel and has spent much time advocating for the beef industry regarding the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) proposed legislation.

The final speaker of the day will be **Brian Lubbers, DVM, of Kansas State University**. Brian is the director of the Microbial Surveillance Lab at K-State and oversees the day-to-day case management of bacterial and fungal diagnostic specimens. Brian will be addressing the upcoming **Antibiotic Regulations and Veterinary Feed Directive** and the imminent changes producers will have to make in their beef herd health programs and systems.

Closing remarks will be given by **Troy Stowater**, Wayne, NE, **Nebraska Cattlemen Vice President**.

We look forward to a very informative and valuable day with much to gain for all involved in the beef industry in Nebraska!