

Business & Ag

‘Beef industry tour’ held at local extension office

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The Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service, 2600 East Street in Baker City, was host to a 2015 Beef Industry Tour Monday evening, with Reproductive Management and Genetics of Beef Cattle as the major topic for discussion.

Joining Leticia Varelas, OSU Extension Service Livestock and Natural Resources Agent for Baker and Union counties, was Cliff Lamb, University of Florida, North Florida Research and Education Center (NFREC)-Marianna, Reinaldo Cooke, OSU, Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (EOARC)-Burns, J. Benton Glaze, University of Idaho, Twin Falls Research and Extension Center (TFREC)-Twin Falls, and David Bohnert, OSU, EOARC-Burns.

The tour, sponsored by the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association (OCA) and Genex, Cooperative, Inc., began at 4 p.m., and ended at about 7:30 p.m., in the east meeting room of the Extension Service building. Attendees were allowed a dinner break partway through, and were provided with delivery pizza and beverages. Registration for the tour, payable to EOARC, was \$10 per person. Each speaker used a slide show presentation, displayed on the meeting room’s TV monitor, to discuss their topics.

Varelas was the first speaker of the evening, presenting her segment titled “Basic Concepts on Cattle Reproduction and Genetic Management.” She said, “I just want to thank everyone for coming out tonight. It’s good to see such a good turnout, and, thanks to all of our speakers...”

She gave a basic introduction to her topics, explaining some issues with non-producing cattle, or under-producing cattle, and the economic effects associated with that. She emphasized the importance of pre-calving nutrition, and she discussed the benefits of developing a program to encourage earlier spring calving, and a shorter breeding season, when possible.

Varelas also discussed herd management, including having a consistent vaccination program, and detailed record keeping, a critically important practice, she said. She said that the beef industry has “... made great strides...” in the area of Expected Pro-



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

Cattle producers from across the county gathered at the Extension Office this week for several hours of industry information.

eny Differences (EPD). “EPD is the prediction of how future progeny (offspring) of each animal are expected to perform relative to the progeny of other animals listed in the database,” according to the American Angus Association.

The EPD values list includes almost 20 items, including birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, yearling height, maternal milk, mature weight, and carcass weight.

Varelas explained briefly some details about the OSU Across-Breed EPD Calculator, a program developed by Barbi Riggs and Bohnert. This topic was discussed in greater detail later in the tour by Bohnert.

Lamb followed Varelas, presenting his segment, “Economic Impacts of Estrus Synchronization (ES) and Fixed-Time AI (Artificial Insemination) in Beef Systems.” Lamb, who grew up in Zimbabwe, South Africa, began by explaining briefly his background and education, and he said, “I’ve spent a lot of time working on more advanced reproductive systems.” While commenting on his background, he said, jokingly, that crime is a “bit” of a problem in South Africa.

He’s conducted AI research for the last 25 years, and he spoke about his involvement in updating AI protocols for different companies around the U.S., each year. He said, “Just to be very clear here, it is a lot easier to synchronize recipients for embryo transfer, than it is to synchronize cows for artificial insemination, because, we don’t have to have a healthy follicle for embryo transfer.”

Lamb discussed, among other things, the economics of using a bull, versus AI, and, he said that using AI is probably the better route. Data for his overall discussion were gathered from studies he’s conducted with herds at UF-NFREC.

Cooke, originally from Brazil, followed Lamb, with his topic, “Trace Mineral Supplementation To Gestating Beef Cows.” He discussed cattle nutrition, using an example of a human pregnancy to describe how, in the human case, a mother actually needs the weight gain—of about two pounds a month during the nine months—for proper body conditioning, which he said is a similar idea associated with calving.

Cooke spoke about organic versus inorganic minerals, and, he said that, according to his studies data, organic mineral supplements translated to a better body conditioning score (BCS), more weight gain, and more income for the producer.

After about a 20-minute dinner break, Glaze continued the discussion with his topic, “Use of Genetic Tools in Beef Cattle Selection.” He spoke about the importance of sire selection and culling, and different traits regarding selection. He said he knows using EPD is a valuable tool, but, the beef industry is slow in acceptance of it.

Glaze discussed details regarding trait selection and EPD, citing the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium as one source. He used different value tables, and discussed expected performance, versus actual performance, the interpretation of EPD.

Bohnert followed Glaze, as the last speaker of the evening, with his topic,

“Using the OSU Across-Breed EPD Calculator.” This topic included a handout with instructions for using the program, developed by Bohnert and Riggs, as mentioned earlier.

Bohnert used a computer to display, on the TV monitor, a live example of using the EPD Calculator, using different breeds and values. The calculator, formatted to run most efficiently in Excel 2007 (Excel is required), can be downloaded from www.beefcattle.ans.oregonstate.edu, or by contacting the Extension Service.

The program, according to the handout, “...is a tool to help commercial cattlemen evaluate and compare sires of different breeds using adjustment factors generated from the MARC (Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska) data.” The adjustment factors, which change each year, are a result of using the most recent genetic evaluations for eighteen different breeds, currently including: Angus, Hereford, Red Angus, Shorthorn, South Devon, Beefmaster, Brahman, Brangus, Santa Gertrudis, Brangvieh, Charolais, Chiangus, Gelbvieh, Limousin, Main Anjou, Salers, Simmental, and Tarentaise.

Stops on the Beef Industry Tour included Central Oregon Community College, in Prineville, on December 8, Black Bear Diner, in Medford, on December 9, and Springfield Golf Club, in Springfield, on December 10. More information about the tour and other subjects can be found at www.beefcattle.ans.oregonstate.edu.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, December 4, 2015 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady compared to week ago prices. The upcoming holidays have slowed sales. Many producers have decided to hold on to their hay for now, in hopes for higher prices. Snow has hit some of the hay producing areas.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa — Large Square, Good/Premium	900 130.00-130.00	130.00
Alfalfa/Orchard Mix— Small Square, Good	17 195.00-200.00	195.50
Timothy Grass — Large Square, Good	65 200.00-200.00	200.00
Timothy Grass— Small Square, Good	5 200.00-200.00	200.00
Barley Straw—Small Square Utility, Fair	5 125.00-125.00	125.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, December 2, 2015
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1,404

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 201.00 - 232.00	Top 240.00
400-500#	Bulk 179.00 - 221.00	Top 225.00
500-600#	Bulk 158.00 - 200.00	Top 201.75

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 172.00 - 194.00	Top 197.00
400-500#	Bulk 162.00 - 191.00	Top 198.00
500-600#	Bulk 153.00 - 175.50	Top 176.50

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 155.00 - 173.00	Top 174.00
700-800#	Bulk 154.00 - 164.00	Top 165.00
800-900#	Bulk 144.00 - 153.50	Top 154.00
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 137.00 - 161.00	Top 163.00
700-800#	Bulk 141.00 - 153.00	Top 155.00
800-900#	Bulk 135.00 - 143.00	Top 144.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 121.00 - 128.00	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	47.00 - 59.00
Butcher Cows	61.00 - 69.00
Butcher Bulls	61.00 - 78.00
Stock Cows Yng.	N/A
Younger Hfrts.	97.00 - 115.00
Stock Cows Older.	1075.00 - 1275.00

ProducersLivestock.com
541-473-3136

— LOG PRICE REPORT —

Price per 1,000 board feet: Northeast Oregon

Doug Fir	is \$415.00/mbf
White fir	is \$365.00/mbf
Ponderosa Pine	is brought sold on diameter splits
6 to 11 inch dib	\$300 to \$310/MBF
12 to 17 inch dib	\$350 to \$375/MBF
18 to 23 inch dib	\$400 to \$430/MBF
24 inch plus dib	\$450 to \$500/MBF

DIB is diameter inside bark at small end of log.
MBF is thousand board feet lumber, net scale.
People interested in selling logs should call and get specific quotes from saw mills.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen,
Andersen Forestry Consulting

— PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD
Gold: \$1,074.10
Silver: \$14.14
Platinum: \$847.81
Palladium: \$547.75
Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn:	\$373.50/bu/USD
Wheat:	\$481.50/bu/USD
Soybeans:	\$876.75/bu/USD
Oats:	\$242.00/bu/USD
Rough Rice:	\$10.97/cwt/USD
Canola:	\$483.20 CAD/mwt
Live Cattle:	\$127.08/lb./USD
Feeder Cattle:	\$153.85/lb./USD
Lean Hogs:	\$58.35/lb./USD
Bloomberg.com	

ODFW adopts new rehab rules

SALEM, Ore.—The Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted new rules for wildlife rehabilitators today at its meeting in Portland.

The new rules provide species-specific guidance for reporting, handling and rehabilitating common mammals like black bears, deer and elk. They also add language to make state rules consistent with federal guidelines for federally-listed or endangered species and prohibit certain types of

wildlife from importation into Oregon for rehabilitation. Oregon has about 35 licensed rehabilitators who help care for and eventually return sick, injured or orphaned wildlife to the wild.

In other business, the Commission:

Adopted administrative rules for HB 3315, which requires ODFW to track and prepare reports that show the number of hours spent providing services to other state agencies as these agencies imple-

ment their own fee-funded programs.

Amended Division 435 rules for wildlife control operators, private businesses that respond to wildlife damage and wildlife-human conflicts. The new rules require all employees doing wildlife control activities to pass a WCO test, charge a fee of \$25 for the test and a \$60 biannual permit fee, extend permit validation period from one to two years, and reduce live-trap check times from 72 to 48

hours.

Approved funding for 10 project proposals and one modified project recommended by the Restoration and Enhancement Board. Projects include replacing the Thief Valley Reservoir Boat Ramp, which has been damaged by ice, with a more weather-resistant boat ramp. All projects are designed to restore or enhance fisheries in Oregon.

The next meetings are Jan. 15 in Salem and Feb. 12 in Tigard.