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Cornbelt conference returns with fresh topics to bring profit to cow-calf businesses

Ames, IA, 12/18/2009 – Best practices paired with profitability during difficult economic times are the topics at hand at this year's cow-calf conference held in Ottumwa, IA.

The 39th annual Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference — the largest such conference of its kind in the state — provides producers with the opportunity to learn and share ideas that will help make the cow-calf business profitable and competitive on a long-term basis. This year's conference is Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010, starting at 9:30 a.m., at the Bridge View Center.

This one-day event typically draws more than 500 people and costs just \$10 to enter. No preregistration is required, and all participants receive a copy of materials presented at the conference.

The conference includes presentations from producers and industry professionals alike, as well as several dozen exhibits, which will feature everything from live animals to mowers to feed. Along with several general sessions held throughout the day, there will also be two breakout sessions, sponsored by John Deere and Company in Ottumwa.

Several producers will be giving presentations on profitable practices, including Raymond Cooper, who will discuss using forages in your operation; Jennifer Peters, who will offer a presentation on women's roles in agriculture; and Gary Goehring, who will discuss using dogs when handling cattle.

Industry professionals and extension specialists from Iowa State University and other universities and organizations will offer additional insight into issues faced by cowherd operators, including information on herd health programs and useful reproductive strategies.

Additional information about the 2010 Cornbelt Cow-Calf Conference is available through Iowa State Extension beef specialist Byron Leu at 641-472-4166 or bleu@iastate.edu, as well as online at www.iowabeefcenter.org.

The Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, was established in 1996 with the goal of supporting the growth and vitality of the state's beef cattle industry. It serves as the university's extension program to cattle producers and is comprised of faculty and staff from ISU Extension and the colleges of agriculture and life sciences and veterinary medicine. Together, the Iowa Beef Center's members work to develop and deliver the latest in research based information regarding the beef cattle industry. For more information about the Iowa Beef Center, visit www.iowabeefcenter.org.

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