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Feb. 24 dairy steer meeting discusses nutrition, budgeting

Ames, Iowa, 2/4/09 – Dairy steer producers face similar challenges – feed costs and market prices – as beef steer producers. But, there are unique aspects of raising dairy steers. These opportunities and challenges are the focus of a Dairy Steer Meeting on Feb. 24 at the Downtown Orange City Health System.

The meeting, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will focus on four topics. Beth Doran, ISU Extension Beef Field Specialist, will discuss nutrition and management for dairy steers.

“Feeding programs for dairy steers have changed as corn co-products have emerged. Many rations today utilize these newer feedstuffs,” states Doran.

What does it cost to raise dairy beef? Ron Hook, ISU Extension Farm Management Field Specialist, will visit about budgets for Holstein market steers and for backgrounding Holstein feeder cattle.

“With the buy-sell margin for beef cattle now, feedlot producers are wondering about feeding dairy steers,” commented Ron.

“But, carcass characteristics and packer expectations are different for dairy steers,” remarked Doran. She will discuss these differences and available marketing protocols for dairy steers.

Although marketing dairy steers can be challenging, Ron Hook will visit about risk management tools and strategies that are available to dairy steer producers who handle both Holstein steers and Holstein feeder cattle.

The Dairy Steer Meeting is sponsored by ISU Extension, the Iowa Beef Center and the USDA Risk Management Agency. Registration (\$20/person) is requested by February 19. For a flyer or more details, contact Beth Doran (712-737-4230 or e-mail doranb@iastate.edu) or visit the Iowa Beef Center website 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.



Iowa Beef Center

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