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Clean genes top topic of concern for breeders Seedstock onference speaker to tackle tough issue

Ames, IA, 11/11/2009 – Genetic-defect free bulls are the expectation of the commercial cow-calf industry, but are they being supplied?

“I believe for the most part our bull breeders are doing their level best to accomplish this mission,” said Daryl Strohbahn, Iowa State University Extension beef specialist. “Yet many of the breeders don’t know all the facts behind the current status of genetic defects in our breeds of cattle. We all need to be up to speed in this area so we can do our best to reduce the impact genetic defects can have on our commercial customers.”

Whether it be osteopetrosis, fawn calf syndrome, or neuropathic hydrocephalus, each has its own challenges, its own gene frequency in the cattle populations, and its own intricacy when it comes to managing the problem.

“This management challenge is so important to our bull breeders that the Iowa Beef Center deemed it vital to bring the leading expert here to address them and answer questions their questions,” Strohbahn stated.

Dr. Jonathan Beever from the University of Illinois will cover this topic at the upcoming seedstock conference developed by the Iowa Beef Center. “Dr. Beever is the leading geneticist in the United States on genetic defects and has developed several DNA diagnostics currently available for testing and managing breeding stock for exactly these types of problems,” Strohbahn said. “This is a session our bull breeders should not miss if they are serious about being a producer with the highest integrity.”

The Iowa Beef Seedstock Conference, “Applying Old Rules to New Technology Production,” will be held in Ames, IA, at the Quality Inn on December 10, 2009, starting at 12:30 p.m. For additional information on the conference, including how to register, go to 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 them online at www.iowabeefcenter.org or <http://blogs.extension.iastate.edu/iowabeef>.

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