



Beef Reproductive Strategies Conference Set

BROOKINGS — Cattle producers should mark their calendars for the 2012 Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle Conference to be held in Sioux Falls Dec. 3-4.

The conference will focus on how cattle producers can utilize advancing technologies to improve reproductive efficiencies, profitability and the product we all enjoy so well beef.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to hear 27 speakers from across the U.S. and Canada discuss topics including how to profit from implementing these technologies, and the latest research in the fields of Reproduction, nutrition, and genetics," said event coordinator, George Perry, associate professor and SDSU Extension Beef Reproduction Specialist.

This conference is geared to veterinarians and producers. All speakers will address how to implement what is discussed on your cattle operation.

For more information, visit <http://igrow.org/events/category/live-stock-beef/>.

In addition to the outstanding speakers, there will also be a large tradeshow with booths from all sponsors. To register for the conference, visit the conference website or contact Perry at (605) 688-5456 or e-mail George.Perry@sdstate.edu.

Growing Ag CEO's Program Takes New Focus

BROOKINGS — Like the Chief Executive Officer of any corporation, an Ag CEO is a manager and visionary for their agricultural enterprise, says Heather Gessner, SDSU Extension Livestock Business Management Field Specialist.

Growing Ag CEO's will be held statewide in 2013 with locations in Aberdeen, Watertown, Alcester, Winner, Eagle Butte and Belle Fourche.

SDSU Extension's Growing Ag CEO's program focuses on teaching beginning farmers to use a systems approach to farm business planning. The program will be held on four to five consecutive evenings depending on the location and the topics presented during the sessions. Sessions run from 5:30-8 p.m.; allowing those with an additional job to participate during the evening.

"Ag CEO's is a program geared toward beginning farmers," said Gessner, a program organizer. "This group of producers is being charged with feeding 50 billion people by the year 2050. With the changes to agriculture during the past 20-40 years, their skill set needs to change in order to accomplish that goal and remain a viable and sustainable operation."

To address these changes the general topics for the sessions include: farm vision, resource inventory and management (family, land, crops, and livestock), and financial record creation, budgets development and analysis and production topics (personalized to the group).

More date and location information can be found online at www.igrow.org or by calling Heather Gessner 605-782-3290 or Adele Harty 605-394-1722 or by contacting an Extension Regional Center: Aberdeen, 605-626-2870, Lemmon, 605-374-4177, Mitchell, 605-995-7378, Pierre, 605-773-8120, Rapid City, 605-394-1722, Sioux Falls, 605-782-3290, Watertown, 605-882-5140 and Winner, 605-842-1267. For location addresses, visit iGrow.org.

Fruit, Vegetable Growers Symposium Dec. 7

BROOKINGS — Fruit and vegetable growers are invited to the Tri-State Fruit and Vegetable Growers Symposium Friday, Dec. 7, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Bev's on the River Conference Center in Sioux City, Iowa.

The 2012 drought covered a large band of the United States and will likely rank as one of the most intense events of the past 120 years. Hear Nebraska State Climatologist Al Dutcher explain these recent temperature and precipitation trends across the United States and the possible results on short and long term climate signals for agricultural production.

The symposium features new horticulture and viticulture research from South Dakota State University, Iowa State University, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension specialists. Session topics include irrigation, fertigation, frost protection, soil nutrient management, plasticulture and harvesting wine grapes. Attendees also learn from other experienced local growers about successful farm and orchard production and marketing strategies.

To register call Iowa State University Extension Woodbury County at (712) 276-2157. See www.extension.iastate.edu/woodbury for this and more educational research-based resources and events.



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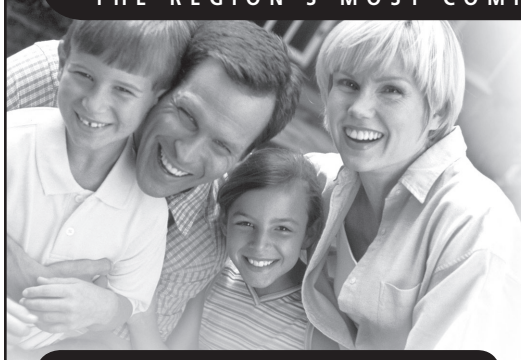
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PHOTO: RITA BRHEL

There's A Business Value In Planting Trees, And Farmers Should Match Trees To The Soil Environment For Best Results

BY RITA BRHEL
P&D Correspondent

Trees are as much a mainstay of farmsteads as home lawns and city parks. They work well for giving shade, sheltering livestock and crops from the wind, reducing soil erosion, buffering noise, and providing lumber and other products for sale.

"Farmers don't have to take a lot of land out of production to achieve wind protection of their crops and soils," said Jim Brandle, windbreak ecologist at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

Even though corn and soybean production continues to compete for open land, many producers see the value in trees in the rural landscape today, said Nebraska state forester Scott Josiah: "It just takes one dust storm to make us realize in a very short time that we can lose a lot of topsoil. We don't want to go back to the Dirty '30s."

But it's not as easy as putting a tree in the ground — so much depends on growing conditions, from moisture availability to disease resistance, per tree species.

Increasingly, horticulturists have been honing in on one success variable — that of soil environment, specifically matching soil type with the tree species that best grows in it. And as the drought continues, with talks of a climate change to warmer, drier patterns, soil suitability will only become more important, Josiah said.

Rather than providing a list of tree species for each soil type possible in the Midwest, soil grouping is more a matter of considering individual soil groups' characteristics when selecting trees to plant. For example, some soils are more prone to droughty conditions and trees planted on these soils should be selected for drought tolerance or given special consideration. This creates guidelines that can be tailored for each state, their growing

conditions, and their available tree species.

Here are soil suitability groups, assembled by their tendencies in growing conditions, as defined by the Natural Resource Conservation Service:

1. These soils tend to be the deep, well-drained to somewhat poorly drained, soils that receive beneficial moisture from favorable landscape positions, flooding, runoff from adjacent land, or a seasonally high water table. What to be careful of: These soils tend to have a high pH and establishing trees will have tough competition from grass and weeds. Occasionally, some of the poorly drained soils will be too wet for some species.

2. These soils tend to be the deep, poorly drained or very poorly drained, soils that become excessively wet or ponded during the spring or overflow periods. What to be careful of: These soils tend to be challenged by wetness, high pH, and drainage issues. Establishing trees will have difficulty with grass and weed competition. Wind erosion can be a problem with the sandier soils.

3. These soils tend to be the deep, well-drained, loamy textured soils with moderate to moderately slow permeability on uplands. What to be careful of: Competition from grass and weeds is the major concern of these soils. Water erosion can be an additional concern on gently sloping to moderately steep areas.

4. These soils tend to be the moderately deep to very deep soils, usually a loamy textured surface layer paired with clay subsoil, with slow to very slow permeability, and usually on uplands. What to be careful of: High clay content is a limiting factor. Establishing trees will have competition from grass and weeds. Water erosion can also be a concern on gently sloping to moderately steep areas.

5. These soils tend to be deep with a loamy and sandy texture, and an adequate

soil moisture. What to be careful of: Competition from grass and weeds is the major concern of these soils, as is wind erosion.

6. These soils tend to be well drained, loamy textured, with low to moderate available water capacity, and moderately deep over sand, gravel, bedrock, and other layers that restrict root growth. What to be careful of: These soils will be greatly affected by drought, although in all weather conditions, competition from grass and weeds will be high. Irrigation as well as weed control is a must. Water erosion is a concern for gently sloping to moderately steep areas.

7. These soils tend to be deep, excessively to moderately well drained, sandy textured, with low to very low available water capacity, and do not normally have adequate moisture. What to be careful of: These soils are prone to droughty conditions as well as wind erosion. Only specialized plantings will be successful, such as irrigation and weed control except in-between rows where vegetation will serve as an erosion control.

8. These soils have a high calcium content and do not receive beneficial moisture from any natural source. What to be careful of: Tree species need to be selected to grow with these calcium levels. Competition from grass and weeds will be a threat. Also, water erosion will be a problem on gently sloping to moderately steep areas.

9. These soils are affected by salinity or sodicity, which refers to restrictive layers of sod that prevent root growth. What to be careful of: Very few trees will be successful in these soils.

10. These soils are basically inhospitable to tree plantings for any reason not covered in other soil groups. The problem may be soil depth, texture, drainage, available water capacity, slope, or salinity. What to be careful of: Plantings are generally not recommended; any that occur will require special treatments.

CORRECTION

In last week's Neighbors story ("Humane Touch: Nebraska Farm Group Is The First To Form HSUS State Ag Council"), it was reported that Martin Kleinschmidt of Hartington, Neb., who is serving on the Nebraska Agricultural Council of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), was a member of the Center for Rural Affairs (CRA). According to Chuck Hasebrook, executive director of the Center of Rural Affairs, Kleinschmidt retired from the CRA a few years ago and his involvement with the HSUS-tied group is not related to the CRA.