

# Joplin to Host August ARSBC

*Task Force will host symposium in Joplin, Mo.; API will provide online coverage.*

Beef cattle producers from across the nation will gather in Joplin, Mo., Aug. 31-Sept. 1, to learn how to produce high-quality beef through improved reproduction, management and genetics at the Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle Symposium (ARSBC) to be hosted by the Beef Reproductive Task Force. Visit [www.appliedreprostrategies.com](http://www.appliedreprostrategies.com), Angus Productions Inc.'s (API's) online coverage site for the event, to view a schedule and access registration and lodging information.

Although Joplin was hit by a deadly EF5 tornado May 22, the Joplin Holiday Inn Convention Center, the meeting site, was outside the storm's path. Emergency responders using the facility will leave space for the convention by the end of August.

When the ARSBC last came to Missouri in 2006, 300 attendees participated. This time organizers plan for more.

"We have learned a lot about breeding high-quality cattle, which bring the premium prices, in recent years," said David Patterson, meeting host and University of Missouri (MU) Extension beef reproduction specialist.

The opening panel at the meeting will set the theme: "Using AI (artificial insemination) for More High-Quality Beef." Panelists include Patterson of

Columbia; Mike Kasten, beef producer from Millersville, Mo.; and Larry Corah, vice president of Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB), Manhattan, Kan.

Respectively, they represent the scientist, the farmer and the marketer of high-quality beef.

Much of the Missouri program has grown out of the Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer program.

"Producers have learned there are extra profits not only in replacement heifers, but also in the steer mates sent to feedyards," Patterson said. "The steers, especially from the Show-Me-Select Tier Two program, have much higher performance in the feedyard. Tier Two steers hit the premium grids."

Packing plants pay bonuses for calves that attain higher USDA quality grades. Premiums can amount to \$300 per animal.

## Benefits of AI

The reproduction research has until now focused on developing protocols for fixed-time artificial insemination (AI) of cows and heifers. This allows breeding all cows in a herd on one day — saving labor and shortening the calving season. The result is more uniform calves at weaning time.

"But we've found many more benefits," Patterson said. "With AI, producers can use the top-rated bulls in their breed to

gain genetic advantages." Now sires with thousands of offspring have proven accuracy in their ability to improve the herds.

"We've learned that feedyards that once held low regard for Missouri feeder cattle now seek those from top-producing herds. Our speakers will explain that change," Patterson said.

"There are more research achievements coming," he added. "Jerry Taylor, MU researcher who helped decipher the bovine genome, will tell how to use what is known about the genetic map to produce more high-quality beef."

The main reason to do any of this is to make more money from the cow herd. MU economists Scott Brown of MU FAPRI and Joe Parcell from agricultural and applied economics will give the financial prospects from the herd to the national levels.

On the evening of Aug. 31, the group will visit the Joplin Regional Stockyards, Carthage, Mo., to see working demonstrations and hear a panel of producers of Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifers. The local cattlemen's association will serve a steak dinner.

The ARSBC symposium is hosted by an eight-state Beef Reproduction Task Force with representatives from major land-grant universities. The group was

formed to coordinate the many beef breeding protocols being developed, Patterson explained. The group's goal is to increase use of AI breeding.

The program this year will be expanded to include feedyard operators who are finishing Missouri cattle.

Registration costs and details are available on the MU Conference Office website at <http://muconf.missouri.edu/arsbc/Registration.html>. Register by Aug. 10 to receive the lowest rate. To make reservations at the Holiday Inn, call 417-782-1000.

API will provide online coverage of the event — streaming video during the conference and post-conference coverage, including summaries of the sessions, proceedings papers, PowerPoint presentations and archived audio — at [www.appliedreprostrategies.com](http://www.appliedreprostrategies.com). This coverage is made possible thanks to the sponsorship of the the Beef Reproductive Task Force; SEK Genetics Inc., Don Coover, Galesburg, Kan.; and LiveAuction.tv, Brad Fahrmeier, Lexington, Mo.

— Adapted from release provided by the University of Missouri