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The beef cattle welfare symposium is absolutely for producers, July 16-18

You may have heard about the upcoming 4th International Symposium on Beef Cattle Welfare hosted by Iowa State University this year. The topic is relevant to everyone in the beef industry, but many producers may be wondering what tangible value the conference has for you.

I would encourage you to look at the agenda (www.extension.iastate.edu/registration/events/conferences/beefwelfare/agenda.html) and then make time in your busy schedule this summer to attend some of the great sessions that have been put together.

There are two different formats for the symposium. The first session is the afternoon of Wednesday, July 16, at the new Hansen Agricultural Learning Center. This part of the program has been developed to be a hands-on interactive learning session designed primarily for beef cattle producers.

ISU faculty and experts such as Tom Noffsinger, Dee Griffin and Dave Sjeklocha will be facilitating the program. Highlights of the program include not only a cattle handling demo by Tom Noffsinger, but an opportunity for you to work one-on-one

with Tom.

If you are thinking about renovating or adding a working facility to your operation, bring drawings or pictures to obtain advice from design experts to help you build a facility that works for you.

Other hands-on activities include learning how to provide local anesthesia for routine procedures such as dehorning and castrating. These techniques will allow you to provide proactive pain mitigation to fulfill consumer demands for cattle welfare in easy-to-apply practical methods.



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Another vital topic will be compromised cattle and proper euthanasia procedures.

Captive bolts will be available to allow cattlemen/women who are unfamiliar with the tool an opportunity to load and fire the captive bolt. Changes to the current euthanasia guidelines will be covered and case scenarios will be presented to help you determine the proper time for euthanasia.

Another great lab will be lameness diagnosis and treatment practicum. After castration and dehorning, the issue of lame cattle is probably one of the biggest welfare issues that the beef industry deals with.

At the end of the day, join everyone for steak supper sponsored by the Iowa Beef Industry Council.

Thursday's program moves to the ISU Alumni Center for presentations from experts in beef cattle welfare. Even though this portion of the program is called the "scientific" session, don't let that label deter you

from attending. Speakers from across the world and spectrum of welfare issues will be on hand and there is something to learn for everybody.

Packers' welfare policy

Not only can you learn about some of the science of beef welfare, but also how welfare policy may affect your operation. Dr. Lily Edwards from JBS will give a presentation on a Meat Packer's Perspective on Beef Cattle Welfare. Learn what the future may look like as packers deal with demands from retailers and consumers and what welfare practices they may pass on to you.

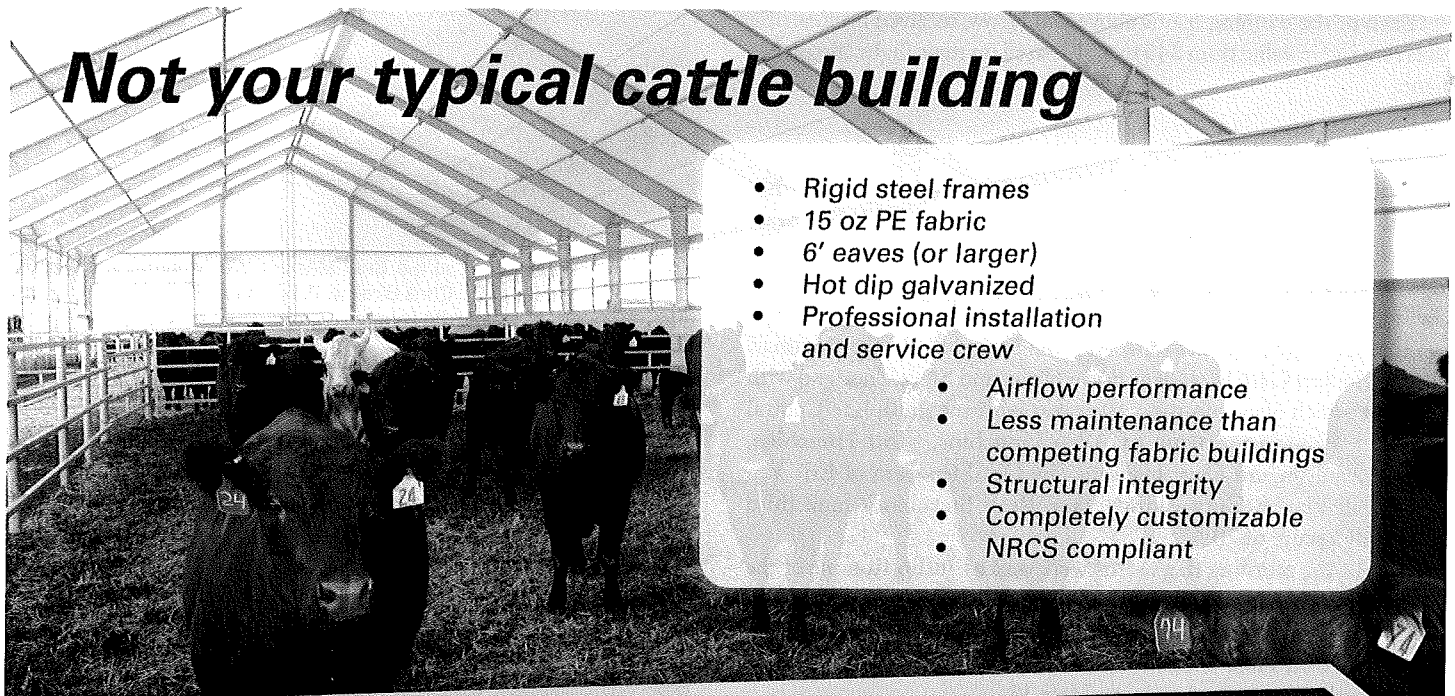
Another great presentation will be from Dr. Dave Daley of Chico State University in California, titled "How to Lose the Argument on Animal Welfare." Dr. Daley deals with these issues every day and has been very proactive to defend animal agri-

cultural in a very intimidating environment.

Another great topic of interest to cattle producers is "Environmental Stress and Animal Welfare Concerns" by Dr. Terry Mader of the University of Nebraska. Although we get the benefit of raising cattle outdoors, we also have to deal with major welfare concerns such as heat stress or massive losses from blizzards or droughts.

Look forward to hearing from other notable speakers such as Temple Grandin, Tom Noffsinger, and Ann Burkholder. A reception on Thursday night in Reiman Gardens will feature Greg Peterson of The Peterson Farm Brothers.

Opportunities to attend programs like this don't happen every day, especially when it is hosted in your backyard. You may not have another opportunity like this to understand the future of animal welfare in your beef operation. We look forward to seeing you in Ames, July 16 - 18.

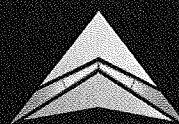


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