



Livingston Parish
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Chewing the Cud

July 2, 2008

Louisiana Value Added Beef Seminar

Current challenges face our beef industry. Rising cost are unparalleled for inputs such as fuel, fertilizer and feed.

Dr. Jason Rowntree has put together a program to discuss several initiatives that can add value to our cattle and improve our bottom line.

Topics for the Seminar include:

- **Market/Cull Cow Programs**
- **Stocker Cattle Opportunities**
- **Finishing Program and creation of a Louisiana Branded Beef Product line**

A lite dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. with the program following.

Our meeting will be at the Hammond Research Station at 21549 Old Covington Hwy., Hammond, LA on Monday, July 28, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. The ad in the LA Cattlemen magazine reported the wrong date, this date in July is correct.

For more information contact Dr. Jason Rowntree at 225-578-3345.

Cow Cost

Cattle Fax sends out a survey across the country to cattle producers each January to get a picture of the cattle business from the producers perspective.

One very interesting item I noted was the cow cost for 2007. Average cash cow cost across all regions was \$391/cow, which was up 7% from

last year. The lowest cash cost was in the Southeast at \$338/cow.

Note those cost do not reflect the cost increases of 2008. I would speculate that the actual cost here is well above \$400 now.

KSU Feedlot Update

According to a Kansas State University survey, the cost of gain for May steers in the feedlot was \$83.68 per cwt, well above the \$76.64 per cwt last year and the highest reported since the survey began in 1990. May heifers had a cost of gain of \$91.65 per cwt., \$10.75 per cwt higher than a year ago.

Kansas feedlots reported the average price of corn in mid-June at \$6.12 per bushel. Based on feed cost, feedlots project the feeding cost of gain for steers placed on feed in June at \$102.33 per cwt.

Calf To Carcass Results

The Louisiana Calf to Carcass program recently sold the Louisiana Cattle being fed in Guymon, OK.

Pen 544 with 60 head sold for \$94.00/cwt with a cost of gain at \$82.79/cwt.

Pen 543 with 56 head also sold for 94.00/cwt with a cost of gain at \$79.36.

Pen 548 sold for \$94.50/cwt but received an additional \$35/per head premium for having a source and age verification. Their cost of gain was \$76.06 per cwt.

Sincerely,

**Kenneth W. Sharpe
County Agent
Livingston Parish**