

1. Iowa Cattlemen's Association to hold educational forums

Each year, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association (ICA) holds free or low-cost educational events around the state to help cattlemen and women improve their operations

The events will also feature an ICA Listening Session. "It's important that we get as much input from our members as possible, so we can ensure that we are working on the issues that matter to them," says JanLee Rowlett, ICA's government relations manager.

Cow/Calf Forum

A free seminar for cow/calf producers in southern Iowa will be held on January 12 in Osceola. The speakers at this year's Cow/Calf Forum will focus on pasture management and commercial bull buying strategies. The events will also include a question and answer session with area veterinarians, an update on state and national checkoff programs, and an opportunity for producers to share concerns with ICA staff.

Any cattle producers or dairy producers are welcome to attend the event, which is free of charge and includes a meal.

Producers need not be members of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association to attend.

Osceola Cow-Calf Forum

Thursday, January 12, 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Clarke County 4-H Event Center

2070 W McLane St

Osceola, IA 50213

RSVP by Wednesday, January 11 to 515.296.2266 or tristen@iabeesf.org

Feedlot Forums

Feedlot Forums, educational events for feedlot operators, will be held in Sioux Center and Carroll the next week.

The Feedlot Forums will cover topics important to Iowa's cattlemen and women. "Producers always want to know what to expect from the cattle markets, so there will be a market outlook at each event," says Merle Witt, Iowa Cattlemen's Association Western Iowa Membership Coordinator. "We'll also talk about international markets, because we know that trade has a big impact on the prices we see for cattle in Iowa."

The first Feedlot Forum, held in partnership with ISU Extension, will take place on January 16 in Sioux Center. Topics covered include a domestic and international markets for beef, how to respond to a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak, and the 2016 National Beef Quality Audits. Registration for the Sioux Center Feedlot Forum is \$25 per person, with a special reduced rate of \$10 for students. Registration includes a steak dinner and \$10 beef certificate. Register at the ISU Extension and Outreach Sioux County Office by Jan. 11. For more information, call the ISU Extension and Outreach Sioux County Office at 712-737-4230.

On January 17, another Feedlot Forum will be held in Carroll at the Carrollton Inn from 9:00 - 3:00. Topics there will also be timely and important to the future success of Iowa's feedlot producers. Markets, trade, the beef checkoff, and cattle buildings will all be discussed, in addition to an ICA listening session.

The Carroll event is free of charge and includes lunch. RSVP by Friday, January 13 to 515.296.2266 or tristen@iabeesf.org.

Later events

ICA will also host three Feedlot Forums in eastern Iowa in March, as well as regional BeefMeets throughout the state this summer. Pasture walks and grazing seminars are also planned. These events are all part of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association's mission to grow Iowa's beef business through advocacy, leadership and education.

2. Stay Warm during the Coldest Months of the Year

Brrrrrr!

Winter is back with a vengeance. Iowans have been and are in store for a week of subzero temps and dangerous wind chills.

If you're headed outdoors, be sure to bundle up. If you don't, you risk hypothermia or frostbite.

Here's a refresher on dressing for cold weather.

The essentials-

It sounds obvious, but those venturing outdoors should wear a hat, mittens or gloves (mittens are warmer), a coat, boots and several layers of clothes. Frostbite most often affects the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers and toes. Watch for symptoms including numbness, skin discoloration or waxy-feeling skin.

What if you're just dashing outside to toss out the trash or running to your car? In most cases, you probably won't get frostbite if you don't put on a jacket or hat, says Robert Quinn, sales associate at Midwest Mountaineering.

But keep this in mind: "People take for granted ... that they'll only be outside briefly," he said. "It's still wise to put on a jacket." Many things could go wrong — you lock yourself out or your car breaks down."

Layering basics

Why layer? Because "each layer has its role in keeping you warm and comfortable and safe," Quinn says.

Start with a base layer, which will help regulate your body temperature by wicking moisture away from your skin. Base layers should be made of merino wool, silk, polyester or polypropylene. They'll hold more body heat than cotton, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The middle layer is all about insulation. Fleece and down vests are good options.

The outer layer protects against rain, wind or snow. Match the degree of protection to your activity level, Quinn says.

When the temperature hovers near zero, risk of frostbite to exposed skin (especially the face, neck, and ears) within 10 to fifteen minutes. Please take the time to carefully prepare yourselves for this cold weather, and always keep an emergency kit in your car as well as blankets. Be smart about it, we are in for a couple more months of this!

3.



Staff from the Iowa Beef Industry Council and the Iowa Cattlemen's Association present the GCSS proceeds to Brenda Miller, Executive Director of the Des Moines chapter of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Iowa.

On behalf of Iowa's beef farmers, the staff of the Iowa Beef Industry Council (IBIC) and Iowa Cattlemen's Association (ICA) presented a check from the 35th annual Iowa Governor's Charity Steer Show (GCSS) to the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Iowa in Des Moines. This year's GCSS event featured the highest selling auction, including breaking the cumulative \$3 million mark. The money raised every year are split and donated to the three Ronald McDonald House Charities of Iowa in Des Moines, Iowa City, and Sioux City. All of the houses are located near hospitals and provide a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill children.

The GCSS started in 1983 as the Iowa Beef Industry Council and the Iowa Cattlemen's Association partnered with then Governor Terry Branstad to organize and sponsor the event. At the Governor's request, the designated charity for the first-time event was the Ronald McDonald Houses of Iowa. Since its inception in 1983, the GCSS has generated over \$3.2 million (equivalent to over 320,000 nights stays) in support of Iowa's Ronald McDonald House Charity chapters. During that same time, more than 44,237 Iowa families have been served. Additionally, another 8,000 families coming from all 50 states and more than 60 foreign countries have used the three Iowa facilities. These facilities house the family members of seriously ill children being treated in area hospitals.

"The Governor's Charity Steer Show highlights the best of the beef community where our Iowa beef farmers care about the families and local communities where they live," stated Doug Bear, Director of Industry Relations for IBIC and GCSS Co-Coordinator. "During the thirty five years of this event, we have impacted families from all of Iowa's ninety-nine counties, all fifty states, and even other countries to serve families in their time of greatest need."

This past summer, the RMHC of Des Moines went through a complete transformation as Hubbell Homes rebuilt the entire house within eleven days with the help of a significant number of volunteers. With the new transformation – the new

RMHC house of Des Moines has eighteen rooms, each with at least two queen beds and two of the rooms have space to sleep six people comfortably.

“It was really neat to see the new Ronald McDonald House in Des Moines. It now can serve a larger number of families each night, which allows the GCSS to reach a greater number of families on a daily and yearly basis,” stated Casey Allison, Eastern Iowa Membership Coordinator for ICA and GCSS Co-Coordinator.

The Governor’s Charity Steer Show is possible every year by the support and involvement of the steer show buyers, sponsors, youth, community members, and IBIC and ICA volunteer producer leaders. The next event will take place Saturday, August 11th, 2018, 4:00 pm in the Pioneer Livestock Pavilion at the Iowa State Fair.

4.

Polk County Board - Setting the Bar High for 2018

By Jen Myers, Polk County Office Administrator

The Polk County Board of Directors sat down in January and had a brainstorming session for upcoming goals in the year 2018. The groups and ideas that the board looked at fall right into place in what the grassroots organization is all about. What can we do in our community to help? Unfortunately, the press has ‘attempted’ to place the farmer in a negative light with many issues. It is very sad and also very untrue. I (this author) have personally seen these men and women volunteer a LOT of time and effort to things in our community that are outside and have nothing to do with their own personal farm operation.

We offer Ag in the Classroom to introduce students to different aspects of agriculture. In 2017, hundreds of students were able to interact and be taught by our very bright Coordinator, Gretchen Voga. Our board gives on a regular basis to programs that help feed the needy right here in central Iowa, they gave away thousands of blue lights and had a breakfast/blue light day to support those who protect our lives everyday. Our farmers are coming up with innovative ways to keep their farm clean and water clean. Please, do not judge a book by it’s cover! I have personally known these people for well over a year and they are the kindest, most giving, most dedicated people I have EVER met. It is a privilege and a blessing to work with them.

We will continue our efforts into 2018 with another scholarship program (offered every year), more community service efforts, reaching out to those in need, and having a strong voice in Policy in the legislative session. We strive to get into more classrooms and teach students about how agriculture has an impact on every single one of our lives. If you have questions about our AITC program, please contact Gretchen Voga at gvoga@ifbf.org. I know that any one of our board members would be happy to talk to you if there are things you don’t understand.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please contact Jen Myers, Office Administrator, at the Polk County Farm Bureau office. 515-964-5354 or jen.myers@ifbf.org

5.

2018 AFBF Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show January 5 - 10, 2018 | Nashville, TN

The 99th Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show

The 99th consecutive American Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show is January 5-10 in Nashville. Members are going to participate in educational workshops to expand leadership skills, business acumen, impactful policy discussions and more. Celebrations will occur regarding the accomplishments of leaders in agriculture. Participants are going to witness powerful keynote speakers in the general sessions. They will explore the IDEAg Trade Show floor to gain a stronger industry network, shop featured products, learn about innovative technologies, and enjoy TED-style talks on the Cultivation Center stage.

Polk County Farm Bureau has a representative attending, former President of the Board Brad Moeckly. He will give the Board of Directors a full report upon his return. If you have to miss the opportunity to gather with the agriculture community, and make your impact on the future of the industry, make plans to go next year!

Reba McEntire Named Farm Bureau Keynote Speaker



Iconic entertainer Reba McEntire is no stranger to agriculture—she grew up in rural Oklahoma on her family's 8,000 acre ranch. Now, this multi-media mogul and mom is a household name with a successful career that spans across music, television, film, theater and retail.

Reba will join AFBF President Zippy Duvall during the Closing General Session on Monday, January 8, 2018, for a Q&A Keynote touching on her rural roots, family, career, and, of course, country music.

Calendar:

AFBF Annual Meeting, Nashville – January 5-10, 2018

January Board Meeting – January 9, 2018

Young Farmer's Conference – February 2-3, 2018 Prairie Meadows Conference Center

Exchange Ad Deadline: Tuesday at noon for placing Spokesman ads for the following week

