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# *Newsletter*

A Quarterly Publication of the UK Beef IRM Team

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## *From Jim's Desk*

This issue would normally have gone out during April. I am not slipping just felt I needed to wait and let all the CPH 45 sales wrap up and have the State CPH 45 meeting before going to press.

It has been a very busy yet rewarding winter season and many of the projects we spent our first year working on have really come together. Master Cattleman, KBN, expanded CPH 45, Cow College and AIM.

Thank you for your interest and cooperation in making these programs such successes.

## *CPH 45*

The season wrapped up with with a very successful sale in Paris on April 18<sup>th</sup>, with 1350 head of cattle selling. This was the second sale, where we used the electronic sorting system exclusively. The system continues to get better each time we use it. Let me reword that and say that we get better

at using the system as we get more experience(The system hasn't changed). At this sale we sorted the 1350 cattle in a little under 14 hours including breaks for lunch and rest. The system allows us to give each consignor individual weights and other data on their cattle. Yes, it is more work. As we get better at operating the system it will improve and allow us to eliminate most of the paperwork involved in a CPH 45 sale and give the producer more information.

Thanks to John Stevenson and the KBN for working with Paris Stockyards, Bane Robertson and United Producers and AgInfolink to help put this system in place.

In the full season of CPH 45 sales we have sold between 25,000 and 30,000 cattle, a huge increase over last year. We see this trend continuing as more sale locations come on line and dates are added to existing sales.

The KCA Stocker Feeder Committee held a statewide CPH 45 meeting in Elizabethtown on May 7. Dennis Walter, Chairman led the meeting, which was attended by over 40

people representing most of the sale groups. Some important changes in CPH 45 sale rules were approved at the meeting:

- All sale locations must have a functioning sale committee of producers, stockyards management and agents.
- All sale dates must be approved at least 90 days prior to the sale
- Cattle will be screened on-farm prior to the sale with the help of KBN facilitators.(Special emphasis on new sales and new consignors).
- All CPH 45 consignment forms and processing maps will be kept at a central location(Kevin Laurant in Princeton)
- All claims or complaints will be processed by John Stevenson.
- A sales management packet will be distributed to each sale location including forms to report tag distribution and sale results as well as shipping forms for the cattle.
- Load lots of one owner cattle are strongly discouraged but will be subject to sorting by the graders.
- OUT cattle will have their CPH 45 tags removed .

The group made the decision to leave all the health and management rules unchanged but did decide to reinforce some of the rules. There will be a zero tolerance for horns and scurrs and the graders were asked to be more strict on out cattle.

Several people attending the meeting expressed how important they felt the CPH 45 program is and the need to make sure we protect the integrity of the program for all producers.

### **Records Program**

Jennifer Hunter has been working on processing the SPA record books that have come in to the office over the last couple of months. We encourage anyone interested in this program of financial management to contact us or one of the KBN facilitators to fill out a workbook.

The CHAPS program is going strong. More CHAPS programs have been distributed to Kentucky producers in the last year than all those prior to this combined. Jennifer has done an exceptional job of supporting this software and helping producers get off to a good start.

We have a large project going on in Washington Co. with 49 producers on the CHAPS program. A couple other areas in the state are looking at starting CHAPS clubs or groups. With these groups it is very easy for us to support the software and provide assistance. It also gives us an avenue to award those, who have top performing herds.

### **Master Cattleman Program**

The Master Cattleman Program is on the move. The Shelby/Henry counties and the Wilderness Trail Area have successfully started their Master Cattleman program. The Shelby/Henry group held their first session in conjunction with their mini-Grazing School. Participants were able to take the classroom knowledge and apply it to a grazing situation on Tom Flowers farm in Shelby County. Also, Shelby/Henry and the Wilderness Trail Area have completed their Management Skills sessions where they discussed several management techniques, set personal/farm goals, and wrote a mission statement that will guide them through the rest of the sessions.

This year the Master Cattleman Program has expanded from three groups to twelve groups across the state with almost 420 participants. Most groups begin their first session in late May or early June and continue the 10 sessions over the next four or five months.

So, what do the participants get out of this program? The Master Cattleman participants receive a resource notebook containing all 10 sessions' materials, a Master Cattleman hat, and a Master Cattleman farm gate sign, which they will receive once they have graduated from the program.

Over the next several months, other groups will be starting their Master Cattleman Programs. Because of the length of the list we cannot publish all the dates in this newsletter. If you would visit the IRM web site at [www.uky.edu/Projects/BEEFIRM](http://www.uky.edu/Projects/BEEFIRM) a complete listing is posted on the schedule of events.

### **Cow College 2002**

Cow College 2002 is almost full. As of this writing only 7 spots remain open, so if you know of anyone wanting to participate they need to sign up ASAP. A preregistration fee of \$100 is required to hold a spot and the balance(\$150) is due at the first session in July.

As you probably know by now, Cow College is the highest level of producer education offered at this time. It is a very hands-on program that goes indepth into the issues that concern our producers. We only allow 30 people at a time to take the course so that we can maintain a high level of one-on-one time with the specialists and producers.

### **Kentucky Beef Network**

John Stevenson, Director of the Kentucky Beef Network has filled almost all of the facilitator positions around the state. Those few pockets that do not yet have service are being looked at very closely.

We have been working closely with John to train and support these facilitators in the field. They will be a tremendous help to agents and in some of the growing efforts like CPH 45 and our records program.

A complete listing of the facilitators and contact information is available on the KCA web site at [www.kycattle.org](http://www.kycattle.org).

Along with John, Charles Miller, Larry Clay and Dr. Jack Kimbrough have been visiting prospective cooperators in the custom weaning program. They hope to expand this program and make it available to more small producers around the state in the coming year.

### **Beef Quality Assurance**

Kentucky is the star of the BQA world right now. No state has ever, as best we can tell, certified as many producers in as short a period of time. This has been a very successful program so far.

Our challenge is to get this program out there to all those producers, who may not be getting Phase I Facility cost share money. Anyone who sells cattle needs to go through the training.

Several of the CPH 45 sale groups have decided to include BQA certifications as a requirement to sell cattle. This can only help to add more value to the cattle in this premium marketing system. We know that it opens up doors for new customers to at least bid on the cattle.

To date over 4500 Kentucky producers have BQA certified since late October 2001. There are big cattle states that have been working for 4 or 5 years and don't have that many people. This says to the rest of the country that Kentucky takes the cattle business seriously and adds credibility to our efforts.

### **Grazing School**

The format and location of the central Kentucky grazing school was changed this year. Lincoln County hosted the spring school and the program was condensed into 2 days instead of the traditional 3.

Very apparently these were positive changes as the school was at full capacity. Weather was good and according to Dr. Jimmy Henning the only problem was they had too much grass and not enough cattle.

This fall the west Kentucky grazing school will be held in Owensboro in October. Contact your local extension agent for more information.

### **Value Added Study Tour** **"The Biltmore Trip"**

The 2002 addition of the IRM Value Added Study Tour visited the Biltmore Estate in mid March. Teams from Cumberland, Carroll, Fayette, Ohio, Washington, Hardin, Monroe counties along with a team from the Homeplace on Green River and several of the KBN facilitators.

This was a unique experience, having so many different groups represented. The KBN facilitators were able to see how local leadership groups can work together to

identify problem areas and formulate a plan to address them.

Several of the counties that attended have gone home and enacted their plans. We will be working very closely with each of these counties over the next year to assist them in setting these plans into action.

Plans are already being made for next year, let us know if you are interested in attending.

### **Five States Beef Initiative**

Interest in the Five States Beef Initiative (FSBI) continues to increase as over 4,000 calves from Kentucky have enrolled in the project during the 2001-2002 season. These cattle were identified with electronic ear tags and will be tracked through processing. This project is part of a large USDA grant that also includes Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. Producer requirements for participation in this project include BQA certification, completion of an ag. water quality plan, and education in genetics, marketing, IRM/SPA, and data management that will be included in FSBI training meetings this year. Producers will be asked to provide records on their calves including sire and dam information. All Kentucky FSBI cattle must receive a uniform health and pre-conditioning management program, CPH-45. Benefits of this project include 50% cost sharing on carcass data collection for the next two years and producers will be provided feedlot performance and carcass data on their calves.

Last year's database included over 1,700 cattle and represents a broad sample of Kentucky feeder cattle from various geographic, genetic and pre-weaning management backgrounds. Results from the first year's data collection were very positive. Our cattle are better than we have been led to

believe. We encourage you to consider participating in the FSBI project. Please feel free to contact Jessica Gentry (859)278-0899 or Kenny Burdine (859)257-7273

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*Our web site continues to grow and provide more information at:  
[www.uky.edu/Projects/BeefIRM](http://www.uky.edu/Projects/BeefIRM)*

For more information on any of these programs or events contact the UK Beef IRM office staff at (859) 278-0899.

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## IRM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### July 2002

- 8-9 Cow College 2002 – Economics and Marketing
- 18 All Commodity Field Day – UK Research Station – Princeton

### August 2002

- 2 CPH 45 Sale – Irvington
- 9 CPH 45 Sale – Irvington
- 15-25 Kentucky State Fair
- 16 CPH 45 Sale – Owensboro
- 27-28 Cow College 2002 – Herd Health and Facilities

### September 2002

- 10-11 Cow College 2002 – Forage and Nutrition

### October 2002

- 8-9 Cow College 2002 – Reproduction and Genetics
- 15-16 Grazing School - Owensboro
- 23 Cow College 2002 – End Product

### November 2002

- 4 Elite Heifer Sale - Paris
- 10-22 North American International Livestock Exposition
- 23 Bred Heifer Sale - Owensboro

December 2002

- 2 CPH 45 Sale – Glasgow
- 3 CPH 45 Sale – Springfield
- 6 CPH 45 Sale – Owensboro Heifers
- 9 CPH 45 Sale – Glasgow
- 10 CPH 45 Sale – Springfield
- 11 CPH 45 Sale – Russellville
- 13 CPH 45 Sale – Owensboro Steers

January 2003

- 15 CPH 45 Sale – Russellville

February 2003

- 7 CPH 45 Sale – Owensboro Heifers
- 14 CPH 45 Sale – Owensboro Steers
- 21 CPH 45 Sale – Owensboro Steers