

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association 2009 Annual Convention is Approaching

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association 10th Annual Convention and Tradeshow will be held Feb 6 & 7, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Salina – I-135 & Crawford in Salina, KS. The association's 2009 annual meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for attendees to meet and interact with representatives from various entities in the cattle industry. Registration begins at 11:30 am on Friday, February 6, 2009 and the convention will begin at 12:30 p.m., with John Harangody from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange discussing the markets and speculative effects. .

Friday's convention events will include discussion on the benefits of red meat and nutrition. Kansas State University Dean of Agriculture, Fred Cholick will address the National Bio & Agro-Defense Facility coming to Manhattan, KS. Also, resource information on carbon credits will be offered. And, the evening will wind down with the banquet featuring a USA beef supper, a rollover heifer auction, and R-CALF USA President, Max Thornsberry will provide an update on national issues. . This year's heifer originated from the Pike Family Ranch in Minneola KS and has been graciously donated by Pfrang Farms of Goff, KS. The Pike-Pfrang heifer is an Angus and will be at the convention for all to view.

On Saturday, registration will open at 8:00 a.m. From 8:30-9:30 a.m., there will be a seminar on cattle processing and welfare by Dr. Dan Thomson. Following the seminar Deborah White of the Food Marketing Institute and Gary Fike of Certified Angus Beef, will give attendees a view of retail and producer marketing trends. The annual luncheon will begin at 11:45. Following lunch, there will be a rollover saddle auction; the saddle is being donated by Walco International. Radio personality and common sense man Derry Brownfield will provide a common sense look into the future of the agriculture industry at 1:30 p.m. KCA is hosting an entertaining Japanese cooking demonstration by Daimaur Steak House owner and executive chef, Jason Cao and a computer tutorial in the afternoon, and the convention will close with the annual meeting which will allow producers to provide direction for the Kansas Cattlemen's Association in 2009.

A silent auction fundraiser will take place during the convention and items auctioned off are donated by area individuals and businesses. If someone is interested in bidding on a silent auction item or bidding on the heifer or saddle during the live auction, item photos will be available on the KCA website and bids will be taken by calling 785-238-1483.

In conjunction, a tradeshow will be held throughout the convention and will offer demonstrations from various vendors. The tradeshow is free and open to the public. Trade Show hours are Friday, February 6, 12:00 noon - 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 am - 11:45 and 1:30 - 3:00 pm. This year, the Kansas Cattlemen's tradeshow has a variety of vendors that will appeal to both men and women. Exhibitors will offer cattle equipment, feed supplements, environmental services, livestock insurance, outreach programs, animal health products and many other services. Kansas Cattlemen's Association will offer demonstrations from Pampered Chef, Mary Kay and a special Japanese cooking demo from executive Chef Jason Cao of Daimaur Steak House. Bar S Tack and Farrier will be on hand with boots, clothes and home décor to spruce up any home. As well, several companies geared to women will be participating in the tradeshow as well. Everyone is welcome to come out and see what there is to offer both producers and consumers.

Brandy Carter, KCA CEO says, "Producers and consumers alike should come and be a part of the convention. For cattle producers, there is a lot of good resource information. But also, consumers can take advantage of learning about the good and bad calories in various foods; they can learn what retailers and producers are doing to offer them USA beef, and no one will be disappointed with the exciting demonstration of Jason Cao. This is a great time to come together as producers and visit with friends, make new ones, and create a positive impact on the future of cattle production in the state of Kansas."

The registration cost to attend the convention is \$85 for full registration or \$60 for single day registration (either Friday or Saturday) and includes the banquet meal. Pre-registrations are strongly encouraged; however, registrations will also be taken at the door. Registrations can be done by calling the Kansas Cattlemen's Association office at 785-238-1483, and forms can be found on the KCA website at www.kansascattlemen.com. The tradeshow is free, and the public is encouraged to stop by the Holiday Inn to visit with participating vendors.