

BEEF DAY
TOPIC DESCRIPTIONS

Please find below the presentation descriptions that we have to date.

Dr. Stephen P. Miller Ph.D. , *Strategies For Genetic Improvement in the Cow Herd:*

Practical genetic improvement strategies for the cow-calf producer will be discussed. Producers appreciate the power of genetics, this presentation will discuss how producers can apply basic principles to improve the profitability of their herds. The focus will be on applying basic principles, such as selection, culling, and crossbreeding.

Christoph Wand, *Seven Fabulous Cow Rations for 2012:*

Using the commodity and forage resources at hand after the 2011 crop season, Christoph will whip up some recipes to help keep beef cows fed and contented this winter, while saving cattle producers some cash.

Jack Kyle, *Economics of Pasture Fertilization:*

Pasture response to additional fertility – cost vs response. Methods of providing additional fertility and making effective use of the additional growth.

Robert Tremblay, *Should Beef Producers Care About The Impact of Pain As They Manage Their Cattle?:*

Consumers may be concerned about the welfare of animals that produced the food they eat, but they are often not willing to accept increased prices when livestock producers' costs increase if they change how they manage their animals in response to consumer's concerns. Are there ways to address pain and welfare issues in routine management of beef cattle while getting a benefit to the producers themselves or are their ways to addressing welfare concerns by making changes without increasing costs?

Mark Schatzker, *"Raising the Steaks – How to Raise Tastier Beef and Sell It For Big Money":*

Everything you think you know about beef quality is wrong. It's not about grain, and it's not about marbling. Or so says the author of "Steak: One Mans' Search for the World's Tastiest Piece of Beef", by Mark Schatzker. The Globe and Mail columnist and shares his secrets on raising better tasting beef after visiting – and eating plenty of steak – in such countries as Japan, Argentina, Scotland and France. But be warned – flavour comes at a price. Anyone hoping to produce better beef needs to find more discerning customers. Schatzker think he knows where tjeey can be found. (Hint: Not at the Cargill plant.)

Paul and Dorien De Jong, *Unexpected Farm Accidents:*

Paul will be speaking about his farm accident with the seeder packer in the Spring. He will describe what happened, his recovery and his advice for other farmers. Dorien will be giving her perspective 'as a farmer's wife' about the whole experience and what it has done for the farm and the family.

Panel: *Practical Set-ups for Handling: To Build, Buy or Modify*, Participants - **Nancy Noecker**, Facilitator, Beef Cow Calf Specialist, OMAFRA ; **Chris Freiburger**, Chimed Farms Ltd.; **Darrell Saunders**, Saunders Charolais; **Pat Mitchell**, Annanvale Farm.

This panel will highlight what producers should think about as they are looking into purchasing/building/revamping a livestock handling system. Each panellist will review the livestock systems that they use on their farms. The features, strengths and drawbacks of each system will be reviewed.