

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Headline: The SW MO Spring Forage Conference will be held February 25th in Springfield, MO

Stockton, MO-The SW MO Spring Forage Conference will be held Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at the Oasis Hotel and Convention Center, 2546 N. Glenstone Ave., Springfield, Missouri.

“Keynote presenter Dr. Gary Bates, Department Head of Plant Science at University of Tennessee, will address the conference on “looking back at advancements in forage production” from his numerous years of research, extension and educational experience,” says Patrick Davis, MU Extension Livestock Field Specialist. Prior to his current job Bates has served as the director of the University of Tennessee Beef and Forage Center for 12 years and a forage extension specialist for almost 30 years. His research and educational program during this time focused on forage management to improve the economic, environmental, and social sustainability of livestock production. Besides Bates’s keynote presentation Davis urges conference attendees to listen to his Q&A following lunch.

“For further education conference participants can attend several breakout sessions,” says Davis. Breakout session topics include grazing cover crops, cow cocktail mix, sun hemp, soil fertility, native warm season grasses, clover the silver bullet to fescue toxicosis, matching beef cows to environment through genetic selection, ins and out of custom grazing, importance of minerals in herd health, ideal stock density/adjusting stock density, and toxicity in annuals.

“This conference also provides educational sessions specific to sheep and goat producers,” says Davis. These session topics include forage for sheep and goats, solar grazing, and market outlook. In addition, there will be a panel of speakers discussing leasing goat and sheep for brush management.

“A trade show is held in conjunction with the conference,” says Davis. Agricultural businesses and organizations will have exhibits and representatives available to discuss

their products and services. If interested in becoming an exhibitor or sponsor, contact Jody Wade at the Webster County MO SWCD office at (417) 468-4176 ext. 3 or by email at jody.wade@swcd.mo.gov.

Conference check-in begins at 8 a.m., with sessions running from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A banquet luncheon is included with the registration. The cost is \$55 per person. To attend register by February 13th online at www.springforageconference.com. **No walk-in registration allowed.** For additional questions contact Jody Wade at the Webster County MO SWCD office at (417) 468-4176 ext. 3 or by email at jody.wade@swcd.mo.gov.

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