

The 2009 Tri-State Cow-Calf Symposium will be held on Jan. 3 at the Kitzmiller Auditorium in the Wray (Colo.) High School.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. with the presentations running from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ranching can be difficult at times and producers need to be planning for what is to come. That's why the 2009 Cow-Calf Symposium is themed "Planning for the Future."

The beef industry is changing rapidly with new rules, new customer awareness and new scrutiny. It can be difficult and even overwhelming to sort out what a cow/calf producer should pay attention to and what is out of their hands. The symposium speakers will help ranchers sort some of this information.

The first keynote speaker will be Dr. Dean Pringle. Dr. Pringle is a meat scientist from the University of Georgia and recognized throughout the western hemisphere for his work in meat quality.

Dr. Pringle will be sharing the results of the most recent beef cow audit and some ideas on how ranchers can use this knowledge to improve their marketing of cull cows.

The second keynote speaker is Gerald Fry of Rose Bud, Ark., sponsored by the Yuma County Conservation District. Fry has spent years observing cattle behavior and characteristics and comparing the changes that have taken place in these as the industry has evolved over time.

He will be sharing some of his observations on key components that he believes could benefit cattle producers in the future.

The Tri-State Cow/Calf Symposium is known for its breakout sessions and the 2009 Symposium is no different.

Breakout sessions include discussions on heifer/cow health with Dr. Roger Ellis from CSU and cow costs with Dr. Sandy Johnson from KSU. Dr. Matt Spangler from UNL will discuss bull genetics and there will be grazing systems discussion with Doug Anderson from UNL Extension.

The two keynote speakers will also offer breakout sessions.

The symposium will conclude with a current COOL regulations update and how it will affect cow/calf producers. Michael Fisher with CSU Extension will explain what it means.

Registration is \$25 for individuals, \$40 for couples and \$10 for youth. Registration includes lunch, refreshment breaks and copies of the proceedings are included. A \$5 late fee will be assessed to registrations after Dec. 22.

Additionally, ranches and businesses can contact the Yuma County Extension office if they are interested in having a table top display at the event.

Registration forms will be available through Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska extension offices, or contact the Yuma County Extension office at 970-332-4151 for more information.