

Dickinson Research Extension Center  
Vo-Ag Student Field Day  
September 6, 2012

Schedule of Events

9:00-9:30 DREC Manning Ranch Headquarters, Refreshments  
9:30-9:45 Welcome and divide students into 3 groups  
9:45-12:00 Student groups will cycle through the 3 concurrent 45-minute sessions described below. (Time allotted allows for group changes and restroom breaks)

**Session 1 –** Beef cattle frame score: What do we mean by the term “Frame Score” and why is it important?– Dr. Kris Ringwall, DREC Director

The dynamics of the beef cattle industry are always changing. Dr. Ringwall will talk about how a given animal’s frame score is determined and ways that frame score measurements are used to describe different types of cattle. Using beef cattle of different frame score, Dr. Ringwall’s demonstration will define the economic importance of frame score as it relates to beef cattle profitability.

**Session 2 –** Forage Quality and Digestibility – Dr. Chip Poland/Mr. Toby Stroh, Department of Agriculture and Technical Studies, Dickinson State University

Forages are the most important feed for both wild and domesticated ruminant animals. Compared to feed grains (corn, barley, oats, sorghum), forages are bulky, fibrous, vegetable material whose nutrient quality and digestibility can vary widely. These two educators will demonstrate the differences in forage quality of several feed samples and students will rank several different forages for their nutrient quality and digestibility.

**Session 3 –** Ultrasound Live Animal Evaluation – Songul Senturklu, Visiting Scholar from Turkey, Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, and Doug Landblom, DREC Beef Cattle Specialist

During judging workouts, have you ever wondered what size ribeye muscle a steer has; or pondered how much fat an animal really has? Or, perhaps, as you looked at a heifer you wondered what her potential for muscling might be as a herd replacement? Ultrasound is a powerful tool that is used extensively in human and animal medicine, and it is used routinely for fetal age determination and live animal evaluation of both steers and heifers. Students will learn about the some of the practical beef cattle applications for ultrasound and they will get oil on their hands collecting their own ribeye and intramuscular fat images. And they will get to trace some of the images they collect.

12:00-12:45 **Lunch will be provided by the Dickinson Chamber of Commerce.**

After lunch the students will be combined and caravan with buses to sessions 4 (Section 22), and 5 (Section 24).

12:45-1:30

**Session 4** – Range Plant Identification – Kevin Sedivec, NDSU Extension Range Specialist

The range plant identification session will be a practice session for the upcoming contest. Kevin will set up the sites, provide instructional training, and judge for the group.

1:30-2:15

**Session 5** – Soil Organisms and Organic Matter: Why are They so Important? – Jon Stika, NRCS Soil Scientist

Soil isn't dirt. Mr. Jon Stika will provide students with an understanding of how organisms in the soil make essential plant nutrients available to the plant and even help plant roots absorb nutrients. Indicators of healthy soils will be demonstrated.

DREC Contact Information:

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