

Cattle producers from throughout the state will gather in Kearney Dec. 9-11 for the Nebraska Cattlemen's Annual Convention and Trade Show at the Holiday Inn Convention Center.

They will receive updates, discuss challenges and opportunities and help shape the organization's positions on pressing issues.

The event will begin Wednesday, Dec. 9 with Cattlemen's College—a short, intensive cattle producer education program designed to address relevant issues and deliver information that will improve production and profitability.

Topics include cattle enterprise succession planning. This session will teach operators ways to eliminate unnecessary hardships and secure their family's future.

The second session will highlight how Pfizer Animal Health's Genetic Profiling Program can positively affect the producer's bottom line.

The third topic will focus on the impact of calving distribution on a producer's bottom line.

The fourth session will involve a panel discussion with producers who have turned "outside the box" thinking into income on their operations.

The final topic will be how animal welfare and animal rights affect the bottom line. The first day of the Convention will conclude with the popular welcome reception at the trade show.

Thursday will begin with the opening general session, featuring Tom Field, executive director of producer education with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, making a presentation titled "The State of the Beef Industry."

Also on Dec. 10, the Nebraska Cattlemen Research and Education Foundation luncheon will include comments from Governor Dave Heineman and Larry Berger, Head of the UNL Department of Animal Science.

Following that program are full agendas in each of the six Nebraska Cattlemen policy committees. Agenda highlights include:

Animal Health and Nutrition: Antimicrobial legislation and the future of antibiotic use; update of the National BQA Program, Dairy BQA Program, and feedyard assessment.

Brand and Property Rights: Update on fence law legislation; brand task force update.

2010 Legislature Preview Education: update on UNL Task Force activities; comments from new UNL Animal Science Department head, Larry Berger; update from U.S. Meat Animal Research Center director John Pollak; update from Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Department head David Hardin.

Marketing and Commerce: Market outlook by UNL beef specialist Darrell Mark; discussion of the 2010 renewal of USDA's Mandatory Price Reporting Program for livestock and meats.

Natural Resources and Environment: Removal of phosphorous from pond water; Nebraska Natural Legacy Project; updates on prescribed burns and riparian vegetation management; report from the NC Wind Energy Task Force and staff updates on Federal Climate Change and Clean Water Act issues.

Taxation: Exploring South Dakota's property tax "formula"; sales tax proposals in the form of LB 385 & LB 386.

The annual banquet will round out Thursday's schedule and will include announcement of the Hall of Fame and industry service award recipients.

Featured speaker at the banquet will be Paul Mabley, an award-winning photographer who traveled for three years photographing farmers and ranchers across America.

As a result of his travels, Mabley published *American Farmer: The Heart of Our Country*.

Mabley will share photographs and stories behind the pictures of many unsung American heroes. The convention will conclude on Friday with the annual business meeting, during which Nebraska cattlemen members discuss and approve the organization's policies for the coming year and elect officers.

Hotel rooms for the convention are available at the Holiday Inn (308) 237-5971. Anyone can register for the convention on-line at www.nebraskacattlemen.org or by calling the Nebraska Cattlemen Lincoln office at (402) 475-2333.