

## Beef Producer Tour from Franklin, TN

A group of eight producers and extension leaders from Williamson County Tennessee flew into Omaha to tour feedlots and the cattle industry in SW Iowa August 23-25. The tour was hosted by Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity Cooperative (TCSCF) They were lead by DeWayne Perry, county agent, and his assistant Matt Horsman. Producers attending were Jeff Gosset, Jeff Holt, Jimmy Jones, George Lamb, Tyrone Ridley, and Nathan Perry representing Farm Credit services. Franklin is in the middle of the state just south of Nashville. Many of the producers are neighbors with the likes of Ashley and Wynonna Judd, Nicole Kidman and other rich and famous. They perceived that as a mixed blessing since land values are increasing because of the new money.

The first stop was Bruce and Ruby Bentley's Bentley East Feedlot where producer George Lamb has cattle on feed through Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity. Bruce gave a tour of the feedlot and spent considerable time viewing and discussing Lamb's steers on feed. The steers had just been re-implanted and the first sort is scheduled for October 1. Like many of our Southeastern producers Lamb was very impressed to see his calves this close to harvest. Of course it would not be an official tour without some goodies from Ruby. This time it was fresh baked brownies.



Bruce Bentley discusses his feedlot operation

With an extra 30 minutes in the schedule because of an early arriving flight, the tour also had an opportunity to drive through and visit with Brian Bentley, S&B Feedlots, Inc. Brian explained the corn by-products he utilizes in rations.

The final stop of the first day was Warden Angus Farms. Doc's is a popular stop with tours from Tennessee. He always comes highly recommended by TN Livestock Specialist Dr. Emmit Rawls. We toured the pasture and got to see his 2010 calf crop. Doc explained his goals for both feed efficiency and residual feed intake.



Some of the Warden Angus cows on our pasture tour

DeWayne and the group then left to spend the evening in Sioux City with a planned tour of Tyson's Dakota City plant first thing Tuesday morning. Unfortunately, on the way to Sioux City, DeWayne was told the tour was moved back to Wednesday morning. The TCSCF feedlots came to the rescue and before the evening was over we had filled the Tuesday morning agenda.



Larry Kay answering windmill questions

First was Kay Farms where Larry and Brad explained their operation and of course answered windmill questions. Nilan was the next stop. Gary discussed his experience with feeding for TCSCF. His grandson and partner in the operation helped with the tour. Next Carson Feeders, Jeff Clausen, discussed his interesting feed ingredients and the type of cattle he likes to feed.



Jeff Clausen discussing feedstuffs

David Trowbridge joined the group for lunch in Malvern before touring Gregory Feedlots where he is a manager. David explained that most of the cattle they feed are Age and Source Verified and are in the lot on a retained ownership format.



David Trowbridge discusses processing



Discussions at the Lewis Farms

We arrived at the ISU Armstrong Research Farm in the late afternoon where Dallas Maxwell discussed the recent research project at the feeding facility. Darrell Busby then answered numerous questions about Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity. The producers seemed impressed with what the futurity was doing to help cow/calf producers across the US. Several of the feedlots joined the group for a steak fry and potluck and of course more discussion.

The group did get a tour of Tyson on Wednesday morning and flew home that afternoon.

TCSCF always enjoys having the producers we serve take time to visit. Our new friends from Williamson County Tennessee are no exception.