

# Winter Beef Cow Management Seminar

February 6, 2018 • Billings, MT

- 11:00 a.m.**      **Welcome**
- 11:05 a.m.**      **Understanding Genomic Testing in Beef Cattle** – *Callie Cooley, Yellowstone County Extension Agent*  
In the past few years, there has been a huge influx of terms used to describe DNA testing in cattle. We see the terms on bull sale advertisements and hear the terms on the radio, but what do they mean? Callie Cooley will break down the terminology and explain how both seedstock and commercial producers can interpret and use DNA testing on their operations, specifically genomic testing.
- 11:45 p.m.**      **Lunch (provided)**
- 12:30 p.m.**      **Improving forage quality: From field to stack** – *Dr. Emily Meccage, MSU Extension Forage Specialist*  
There are many ways that we can control the forage quality of our hay. Choices in haying equipment balers to rakes, as well as swath width, and storage method can all create both major losses and gains in what your animals will eat. Dr. Emily Meccage will be discussing ways to improve your forage quality, all the way from harvesting to stacking.
- 1:30 p.m.**      **Searching for the Efficient Beef Cow: How Do Nutrition, Environment and Genetics Affect Future Productivity?** – *John Paterson, MSU Emeritus Professor and Extension Beef Specialist*  
This talk will focus on the latest scientific findings on how fetal programming, nutritional conditions and genetics influence the productivity of young beef cows. Although restriction of nutrients prior to calving may not affect subsequent pregnancy, there can be a dramatic effect of productivity of the offspring. We now have the ability to test the DNA of replacement heifers and predict future sustainability, calving ease and carcass traits of their offspring. The science is exploding. Come and learn about what your neighbors are trying.
- 2:30 p.m.**      **Livestock Water Quality Recommendations** – *Mike Schuldt, Custer County Extension Agent*  
Mike Schuldt will present information about livestock water quality issues that we should be concerned about, how livestock water quality changes over time, and some strategies to assess and manage the risk of poor quality water. Information from a 7 year livestock water quality study conducted at the USDA-ARS Fort Keogh Livestock & Range Research Laboratory in Miles City is the basis for the presentation. Attendees will receive information on the application of inexpensive field testing equipment for assessing general water quality as well as a newly developed field test for determining sulfate risk.
- 3:15 p.m.**      **Drought and Rangeland Management** – *Dr. Lance Vermeire, Rangeland Ecologist at USDA-ARS Fort Keogh*  
Lance Vermeire will discuss how the timing and intensity of drought affects rangelands and how grazing management may interact with those effects.
- 4:00 p.m.**      **Questions and Wrap-up**

**When:** February 6, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.  
**Where:** Yellowstone County 4-H  
Building at MetraPark  
**Cost:** \$10 per person (includes lunch)

**RSVP required by February 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
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