



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PHONE	INTERNET
February 1, 2012	Regional Pulse Meeting	Swift Current, SK	306-728-0533	<a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar">www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar</a>
February 2, 2012	Farm Succession Planning Workshop	Manitou Springs Hotel, Watrous, SK	306-946-3214	<a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar">www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar</a>
February 6, 2012	Bull Selection Workshop	Alameda, SK	1-866-457-2377	<a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar">www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar</a>
February 8, 2012	Bull Selection Workshop	Maple Creek, SK	1-866-457-2377	<a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar">www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar</a>
February 12 - 15, 2012	Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) 35th Convention	Calgary, AB	403-912-3998	<a href="http://www.wbga.org">www.wbga.org</a>
February 15, 2012	Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) Setting Goals and Taking Action Workshop	Humboldt, SK	306-728-0534	<a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar">www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar</a>
February 15, 2012	Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) Beef Market Outlook	Swift Current, SK	306-728-0533	<a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar">www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar</a>

## BREEDING FOR PROFIT - BULL SELECTION WORKSHOPS



by Bob Springer, PAg  
Regional Livestock Specialist, Swift Current  
Regional Services Branch

The most important decision a cattle producer makes is in the selection of bulls to breed his cow herd.

The influence of these bulls, be it positive or negative, will be seen in the quality of the calf crop sold the next year and in the heifers retained in the herd as replacements. One bull will contribute 50 per cent of the DNA for 30 or more calves. Given the large impact of a few bulls on their calf crop genetics, their selection warrants some thoughtful consideration.

Looking through bull sale catalogues these days can seem pretty confusing with all the EPDs for traits from birth weight to calving ease. This information, combined with growing access to genomic information and physical characteristics, is taken into account when producers make the decision to purchase their bulls.

To help cattle producers sort out this information overload and make better herd-sire selection decisions, a series of bull selection

workshops have been offered throughout the province for the last two years. They include presentations by well-respected experts on proper bull conformation, EPD interpretation, breeding soundness evaluation, application of genomic research and use of live animal ultrasound.

This year the workshops are taking place in Alameda, SK, on Feb. 6 and Maple Creek, SK, on Feb. 8, 2012. Registration is limited to 60 producers per session and the past workshops have filled quickly due to strong producer interest. Reserve your place today.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your Regional Livestock Specialist; or
- To pre-register for the Breeding for Profit bull selection workshops, call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377. Registration is \$40.

AGENDA	
12:00 – 12:30	Registration, trade show booths.
12:30 – 12:35	Welcome.
12:35 – 1:00	<b>There's Jingle in Genes – The Future of Genetic Selection - Using Genomics.</b> Dr. Kim McLean, PhD, AAg – Regional Livestock Specialist, Tisdale.
1:00 – 2:00	<b>EPDs and Other Genetic Mysteries</b> Sean McGrath, PAg. - Creo Episteme Limited.
2:00 – 3:00	<b>Serving Your Sire - Bull Nutrition</b> Dr. John McKinnon, Professor and Beef Industry Research Chair, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, University of Saskatchewan.
3:00 – 3:15	Break, trade show booths.
Concurrent Sessions (participants divided into 3 groups of 20)	
3:15 – 4:00	<b>What's Hiding Under the Hide - Live Animal Ultrasound Demo</b> Teresa Binetruy, Beef Unit Manager, University of Saskatchewan and Dr. John McKinnon, Professor and Beef Industry Research Chair, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, University of Saskatchewan.
4:00 – 4:45	<b>The ABCs of What's Between His Knees - Breeding Soundness Evaluation</b> TBA
4:45 – 5:30	<b>Ribs, Nuts and Butts - Physical Characteristics of a Good Bull</b> Garner Deobald, Hodgeville SK, 2009 Canadian Western Agribition Bull Pen Alley Judge
5:30 – 5:35	Thank you and Sponsor Recognition
5:35 – 7:30	Steak Supper and Trade Show



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