

22nd Annual Heart City Bull Bash

Photos & Story By:
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A bright sunny day with the temperature reaching near 50 degrees was a great opportunity for cattle producers from across Nebraska and South Dakota to attend the 22nd annual Heart City Bull Bash in Valentine Saturday, February 11th.

Eighteen bull and heifer exhibitors, along with one quarter horse display, showed their livestock on three blocks of Valentine's Main Street.

Eleven commercial displays were among the penned cattle. A Riomax Tent was set up for indoor exhibits from five businesses. Stores around town did very well, with the many shoppers taking advantage of the nice weather.

Local rancher and chairman of the ten member Bull Bash committee, Shane Keller was pleased with the crowd and commented - "fabulous day and a great turnout" of ag producers.

Along with the cattle were seven other activities, including a quilt show with 96 entries held

at Nelsen Furniture. A "5K Run/Walk with the Bulls" that started and ended on the south end of the bull displays. Livestock judging was held in the morning at Valentine Livestock with FFA and Jr College teams. A vendor show in the Connot Building near Valentine Livestock, had many unique items and standing room only as shoppers were excited for a day away from snow. 4-H Luck of the Draw was held at the Old City Hall downtown. This is always a great way for visitors to support Cherry County 4-H clubs. It too was standing room only.

Dummy roping and stick horse barrel racing was held on the street in front of Young's Western Wear. Lots of little cowboys and cowgirls showed off their skills. Wine tasting was and is always a popular event. And finally wrapping up the afternoon, winners were announced for the gun raffle, custom hat by Bar None, and the 4-H Luck of the Draw. Committee members were pleased with the day and will soon begin plans for next year.



JAMES DUCEY PHOTO

Exhibitors and visitors were greeted by bright sunny skies and temperatures reaching 50 degrees for the 22nd Annual Heart City Bull Bash held in Valentine on Saturday, February 11.



Harper and Lane Ferris of Valentine enjoyed the opportunity to feed and pet Hereford bulls from Kester Herefords of Clearwater. Mom was overheard to say "Grandpa would be proud of you."



Tenbuck from Old Foundation Quarter Horses of Brownlee, was a big hit with the younger attendees.



This cowgirl is Hayden Hoffman from Thedford. She received a few roping tips from her dad Jason Hoffman.

Enhancing grasslands of Nebraska through generational transition

Family-owned farm and ranch operations make up 96% of U. S. agriculture. Transitioning the operation from one generation to the next, or even from one operator to another can be complicated.

The Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition and Nebraska Extension will host a free Generational Transition Workshop on Tuesday, March 7, in Sidney, NE. This workshop will be held from 10:00am until 2:30pm MST at the South Platte Natural Resource District, 551 Parkland Drive. Registration will begin at 9:30 am.

Attorney Pam Olsen of Pamela Epp Olsen Law, will present on topics related to succession and transition planning including inheritance laws, legal structure of operations, and flow of benefits to on-operation and off-operation beneficiaries. Additionally, a panel of producers who have experienced

transition will discuss what worked and what did not work for their operations and families. Sufficient time will allow for questions from the audience.

Register online at nebraskagrazinglands.org or by calling the Cheyenne County Extension Office at 308-254-4455. A noon meal will be provided, but space is limited so please register no later than Thursday, March 2. This workshop is made available through a grant received by the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition through the Cabela's Bass Pro Outdoor Fund.

McIntosh Benefit

A brunch and silent auction benefit for Michelle McIntosh has been set for Sunday, February 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

Michelle is currently undergoing treatments to battle stage four esophageal cancer. An account is set up at Security First Bank. For more information see the ad on page 9 inside this issue.

FSA Reminds Producers Of Applications Period For Natural Disaster Assistance

Farm Service Agency, University of Nebraska-Lincoln to Host Informational Webinar on ERP 2, PARP

Nebraska USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is reminding producers of the availability of two programs announced by USDA earlier this year that wrap-up and fill remaining gaps in previous natural disaster and pandemic assistance. The Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase 2 and the 2020 Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) are revenue-based assistance programs, and producers who are interested in applying will need to use information from their tax documents or other personal financial records as part of the application process.

The application period is open now through June 2, 2023.

"Producers have faced a host of crises in recent years," said John Berge, Nebraska USDA Farm Service Agency state executive director. "ERP 2 and PARP are different from other FSA disaster programs. They focus on the revenue of the producer in order to fill in gaps previous assistance programs may have missed. It's a holistic approach that will help provide producers with the support they

need to continue feeding our communities.

"Unlike most FSA disaster program applications, those for ERP 2 and PARP rely heavily on a producer's personal financial records," Berge said. "It will require some effort on the producer's part to generate the financial information necessary to determine program eligibility and complete the application or applications."

Nebraska FSA is coordinating with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Agricultural Profitability for an educational webinar on these two programs. It is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. CT on Thursday, March 2. Registration for the webinar is free and can be found at cap.unl.edu/webinars. FSA officials also briefly will highlight other disaster assistance programs during this webinar, including those designed to address the ongoing drought.

To be eligible for ERP Phase Two, producers must have suffered a decrease in allowable gross revenue in 2020 or 2021 due to necessary expenses related to losses of eligible crops from a qualifying natural disaster event. Assistance will be primarily to producers of crops that were not covered by federal crop insurance or NAP, since crops covered by federal crop insurance and NAP were included in the assistance under ERP Phase 1. However, producers who received ERP Phase 1 payments are not prohibited from applying for ERP Phase 2.

To be eligible for PARP, an agricultural producer must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and had a 15 percent or greater decrease in allowable gross revenue for the 2020 calendar year, as compared to either 2018 or 2019, whichever year the producer selects to

use as the baseline year. PARP will help address gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses. When calculating gross revenue, this program will account for previous pandemic-related assistance payments made to producers, such as Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) 1 and 2 payments and Emergency Relief Program Phase 1 payments, among others.

For more information, producers should contact their local USDA service center or reference the ERP Phase Two Fact Sheet, PARP Fact Sheet or the ERP Phase Two-PARP Comparison Fact Sheet. Websites for each program can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-relief and www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/parp.

Reserve Game and Parks viewing blind for sharp-tailed grouse mating season

Come experience the natural wonder of the sharp-tailed grouse mating dance from a new viewing blind at Niobrara State Park near Niobrara.

Reserve the viewing blind between March 15 and April 15 for the best opportunity to see this

sunrise ritual, an ancient and glorious display from one of Nebraska's most famous grassland birds.

The blind holds up to 12 guests. Reserve a spot by calling the park office at 402-857-3373.

Improve your chances of early arrival by staying at

one of the park's fully-equipped cabins or electric campsites. Use promo code "sharp-tail23" on the reservation site - nebraskastateparks.reserveamerica.com - for a discounted rate.

A Nebraska park entry permit is required.