



Ranch Management Field Day

Downey Ranch Inc., Wamego

Thursday, August 15, 2024

Downey Ranch Inc. (DRI), established in 1986 by Joe Downey, is a cow-calf operation producing Angus and SimAngus seedstock as well as feeder calves. DRI's goal is to manage their grassland sustainably while maintaining a working ranch. Their practices create a balance between the economics of ranching and the intrinsic values of the prairie, allowing the ranch to support a productive beef operation, maintain prairie health and promote wildlife species found in well-managed tallgrass ecosystems. Today, Joe's daughter Barb and her husband, Joe Carpenter, along with their two daughters, Anna and Laura, own and operate the ranch, which spans 6,500 acres in the Kansas Flint Hills.

» Innovative Strategies to Address Water Resources

Hear about the ideology and successes of DRI's partnership with the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands & Streams on a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS). What began as a single project to move the ranch's bull development lots away from an intermittent stream just six miles from the Kansas River now has grown into continued efforts from DRI to expand beyond the original project parameters.

» Managing Invasive Species

Learn about DRI's participation in the Kansas Great Plains Grassland Initiative (GPPI) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Through participation in these programs, the ranch is working to address the encroachment of invasive species, such as eastern red cedar and old-world bluestem, to help further preserve their grasslands.

» Utilizing Technology for Cattle Management

Explore the different technologies in use at DRI. The ranch has added Bluetooth-enabled ear tags over the past few years that provide pasture location and information for the calves and herd bulls. DRI also has implemented a virtual fencing project this year. Hear about the successes and challenges DRI has experienced as they apply developing technologies to their management strategies.

Location

Pasture entrance is at the intersection of Wabaunsee Rd and Stone Barn Rd. For those arriving at the beginning of the event, parking is 1/2 mile west of the intersection. Those arriving later will see the tent near the intersection.

Field day directional signs will be posted.

From Wamego: Travel south from Wamego on K-99 for 3 1/2 miles to K-18. Turn west (right) onto K-18 and travel 2 1/2 miles to Wabaunsee Rd. Turn south (left) onto Wabaunsee Rd and travel 1 mile to Lines Rd. Turn west (right) onto Lines Rd, then south (left) at the jog in the road to continue on Wabaunsee Rd. Travel 1 mile south to the intersection with Stone Barn Rd. **For those arriving at the beginning of the event, turn west (right) and go 1/2 mile for parking.**

Schedule

3:30 p.m. CT Registration
4:00 p.m. CT Welcome & Introductions
4:15 p.m. CT Educational Sessions
7:00 p.m. CT Dinner

From I-70: Take exit 324 (Wabaunsee Rd) and travel north 2 1/2 miles. When the road comes to a T, turn east (right) and go 1/2 mile east. At the intersection, turn north (left) and go 1 mile to the intersection of Wabaunsee Rd and Stone Barn Rd. **For those arriving at the beginning of the event, turn west (left) and go 1/2 mile for parking.**

Questions about the field day?

Contact KLA at (785) 273-5115 or email taylor@kla.org.

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Downey Ranch Inc.
Wamego, Wabaunsee Co.



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