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May 11, 2021

### **BIF Research Symposium Early Registration Due May 14;** **BIF Tour Stops Announced**

**MANHATTAN, Kan.** – Register by May 14 and save \$50 for the 2021 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Research Symposium and Convention. This year’s event will be hosted in person June 22-25 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Online registration is available at *BIFSymposium.com*.

Following the Symposium, two industry tours are scheduled for Friday, June 25. “Our team has developed tours that cover the beef value chain, unique production systems, new technology and a bit of the culture and history in Iowa,” says Dan Loy, Iowa Beef Center director and 2021 BIF Symposium chairman.

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Tours will depart at 7:30 a.m. and return by 6 p.m., and both tours include lunch. The Eastern Iowa Tour will feature stops at the Olympic Genetics Center and Amana Society. Amana farms includes a cow-calf enterprise, feedlot and anaerobic energy digester. The tour will include lunch at the Ronneburg Restaurant for historic, family-style dining. The Western Iowa Tour will cover everything from breeding to the consumer with stops at Hy-Vee Inc., Wilkerson Farms, Wiese & Sons Herefords and Lauritsen Cattle Co. Tours will include a limited capacity with masks being required on the tour buses. For details about each stop visit *BIFSymposium.com*.

This year’s BIF Symposium features two and a half days of educational programming and a full day of tours. The first morning’s general session – “Beef Industry: Where is it Going?” – will feature Michael Uetz, Midan Marketing managing principal, Jim Pillen, Pillen Family Farms owner, Dr. Dan Thomson, Iowa State University Department of Animal Science chair, Troy Marshall, American Angus Association director of industry relations; and a panel discussion with the morning speakers, moderated by Troy Marshall.

The second day’s general session, “Precision Livestock Technology,” will include presentations by Dr.

Alison Van Eenennaam, U.C. Davis Animal Genomics and Biotechnology; Justin Sexton, Vice President of Strategy at Precision Livestock Analytics, Applying Precision Technologies: Panel Discussion including Pat Wall, ISU extension specialist, Reiss Bruning, Bruning Farms, and Cody Jorgensen, Jorgensen Land and Livestock; and Scott Greiner, Virginia Tech University extension beef and sheep specialist.

The afternoon breakout sessions both days will focus on a range of beef production and genetic improvement topics. The conference also features a Young Producer Symposium on Tuesday afternoon, designed for networking and to equip young cattle producers with essential knowledge as they grow their role in the business. Tuesday evening attendees will also enjoy an opening reception followed by the National Association of Animal Breeders Symposium at 7 p.m.

For more information on the tour stops, registration information, a complete schedule and hotel information, visit *BIFSymposium.com*. Prior to and during this year's symposium, be sure to follow the event on social media channels using the hashtag #BIF2021.

Each year the BIF symposium draws a large group of leading seedstock and commercial beef producers, academics and allied industry partners. The attendance list is a “who’s who” of the beef value chain, offering great networking opportunities and conversations about the issues of the day. Program topics focus on how the beef industry can enhance value through genetic improvement across a range of attributes that affect the value chain.

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*The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) is an organization dedicated to coordinating all segments of the beef industry — from researchers and producers to retailers — in an effort to improve the efficiency, profitability and sustainability of beef production. The organization was initiated almost 70 years ago to encourage the use of objective measurements to evaluate beef cattle. Continuing the tradition, BIF is now the clearinghouse for developing standardized programs and methodologies for recording of performance data for all traits, from birth weights to carcass traits. Its three-leaf-clover logo symbolizes the link between industry, extension and research.*