

## Beef Producer Tour Features Facility Designs

Hoop, mono-slope or open beef feedlot – which is the right facility for a cattle producer? This was the big question featured in “Cattle Farming Matters – a Forum and Feedlot Tour” for Northwest Iowa cattle feeders and agri-business staff on August 21, 2007.

“Feedlot producers are looking to expand their feedlots and are wondering what kind of facility to construct,” stated Beth Doran, ISU Extension Beef Field Specialist. “This tour offered the opportunity to visit with producers who have gone through this process and see how their facilities are performing.”



The program was a cooperative effort of ISU Extension, Iowa Beef Center, the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers, Iowa Beef Industry Council and Iowa Cattlemen's Association. Over 120 participants listened to sessions on feedlot expansion, funding for cattle facilities, environmental regulations and how to write a comprehensive nutrient management plan. Noon presentations included “How to Be a Beef Advocate,” and “Beef Quality Assurance and Bio-Security.”

The bottom line was that regardless of the type of facility, management is critical for success. This tour has helped beef producers responsibly grow their business. A number of feedlots have added capacity this past year – either expanding existing facilities or constructing new deep-bedded barns.



“Based upon the turnout, there was a lot of interest in the facilities tour. It was a good tour and a timely program. While I had researched information about some facility designs, the tour allowed me to actually go into buildings that I couldn't have otherwise.”

***Kent Pruismann, President-Elect – Iowa Cattlemen's Association***

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For more information about this program or other Iowa State University Extension resources, contact the Sioux County Office at 712-737-4230. Information is also available on the Iowa State University Extension website at [www.extension.iastate.edu](http://www.extension.iastate.edu).

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