

## **Tri-State Cow/Calf Conference Pre-conference Tour**

August 15, 2011

### **Rick Keller**

Greene County, Tennessee

Rick runs 140 head of commercial cows of predominately Angus breeding as well as about 750 head of stocker cattle. His operation consists of 90 acres of owned grass and 1100 acres of leased ground. Rick buys cattle for an out-of-state order buyer, and buys cattle for himself. The cattle he buys for himself can be weaned or unweaned, while he has specific requirements on the cattle he buys for the order buyer. He has a unique system for treating sick calves in his stocker program. While Rick buys cattle a few head at a time, he primarily markets truckloads of 48,000 to 50,000 pounds. In the past he has retained ownership to the feedlot, but no longer does this. Rick has taken advantage of the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement cost share program to purchase better bulls for his cow herd. He has also used it to cost share on the purchase of a hay barn. Rick is fortunate to have his son, Steven work with him in the operation.

### **Dr. Mark Alley**

Clinical Assistant Professor North Carolina State  
University College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Alley's primary responsibilities are teaching dairy and beef production medicine to veterinary students. His appointment is 60% teaching, 35% extension, and 5% service. He is a 1996 graduate of Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Alley practiced one year in Charleston and Madison, West Virginia for a 95% small animal 5% large animal (primarily equine) practice. He later practiced in a 2 person 100% large animal practice in Greeneville, TN where he spent 6.5 years. The practice was 80% bovine (split evenly between dairy and beef), 10% equine, and 10% small ruminant. He left TN to join NC State College of Veterinary Medicine as dairy clinical

**Dr. Mark Alley** *continued*

instructor, and has been there for 6.5 years. He completed his MBA from University Guelph with emphasis in agribusiness in 2008. Dr. Alley has received numerous awards including the 2008 Outstanding Extension Service Award, Class of 2010, 2006, and 2004 Bayer Animal Health Distinguished Faculty teaching award. His primary interests are dairy and beef production medicine including: record analysis, economics, pasture/grazing management, parasite control, and animal handling/welfare.

**Jimmy McAllister**

Greene County, Tennessee

Jimmy runs 125 predominately commercial Angus cows on 800 acres of leased ground. He calves in the Spring and markets calves through the Hawkins County Cattleman's Association. Jimmy castrates using a knife and has a scour control program. He weans his calves using the fenceline method and preconditions them at least 45 days before marketing. He works his calves in the spring, vaccinating for Blackleg, respiratory disease, and pinkeye. He vaccinates cows for pinkeye, respiratory disease using a killed vaccine, and de-worms. He feeds a mineral with fly control in it. Jimmy keep cows in the herd until they are about 10 years of age. He also culls cows based on temperament, the calf produced and udder. He calves and feeds his heifers separate from the aged cows where he also creep feeds his first calf heifers. He uses chicken litter for fertilizer and tries to mow pastures once a year. A breeding soundness exam is performed on his bulls, and he pregnancy checks his cows. He selects his bulls based on moderate frame size and growth. Jimmy also produces horse quality hay and pumpkins for sale. Jimmy is also fortunate to have his Father, Maurice, working with him on the farm.