Farm Show Season in Full Swing!

As we have shared in earlier columns, the conventional wisdom is that this is a slow time on many of our area’s farms. I tend to think that the short days and cold temperature actually speed up the farm day or at least reduce the optimal working hours so that if there was a slow period, it goes largely unnoticed. Most precisely, I think that the work on the farm continues at the same speed, just in different directions.

On chore that should not go overlooked is the time spent in reflection of past challenges and victories as well as investigation of future needs. A great place to get this done is at one of the many farm shows that are going on this weekend or in the weeks to follow.

In nearby Raleigh, North Carolina, the Southern Farm Show kicks off January 31st and runs through Feb 1. The Southern Farm Show is the largest annual agricultural exposition in the Carolinas and Virginia. Filling the NC State Fairgrounds, the show hosts over 400 exhibitors, agricultural meetings, workshops and training, and everything farmers need to prepare for the coming growing season.

For the more adventurous, the National Farm Machinery Show will again be coming to Louisville, Kentucky. Held indoors in the Kentucky Exposition Center (which among other things contains the University of Louisville’s Freedom Hall Arena) the NFMS marks its 59th year on February 14-17 and is the nation’s largest indoor farm show. Besides the farm show, the NFMS hosts the National Tractor Pulling Championship which is an interesting compliment to the over 1.2 million square feet of exhibits. Professional seminars and experts on all subjects are on-hand to discuss your needs.

If you are truly looking for a long vacation with an agricultural slant, the World Agricultural Expo in Tulare, California is a once in a lifetime opportunity to take in west coast agriculture. Over 1,600 exhibitors descend on the Central San Joaquin Valley on February 13-15, 2024 for the world’s largest farm show. The Central Valley is worth the trip for its farms alone. Highway 99 bisects the valley’s floor and you have to know you are in farm country when you see billboards for calf milk replacer and eartags! If you go, plan a day trip to Yosemite or Kings Canyon to see a Giant Sequoia tree …. amazing!

Winter also holds opportunities to meet with fellow farmers attending one of the many Extension led workshops and lectures. Whether you travel thousands of miles or just a few minutes, your time will be an investment of immeasurable value.

Upcoming Events

Jan 27 Beef Cattle Health Conference, Alphin Stuart Arena, VA Tech

Jan 31- Feb 1 Southern Farm Show, Raleigh

Feb 9 Deadline to consign claves to the March VQA Sale

Feb 10 Forest Landowner Conference, Wytheville

Feb 13-15 World Ag Expo, Tulare CA

Feb 14-17 National Farm Machinery Show, Louisville KY

Mar 19 VQA Sale

Mar 25 VQA Steer Take Up

Mar 27 VQA heifer Take Up

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Andy Overbay or Pam Testerman at (276) 783-5175/TDD (800) 828-1120) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

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