**Stop 1**

**Marshall/Fenner Farm, Malta Bend**

Oliver Marshall and Sam Fenner are brothers-in-law and share in the estate of Winfield Marshall. Three sons, Brian, Todd Marshall and Tom Fenner are also involved in the operation of the farm. The farm consists of 3,000 acres, 2,000 acres in cultivation and 1,000 acres in pasture.

The beef operation is a major enterprise and Brian manages the 300 Angus cow herd along with the annual calf crop. One goal is to use artificial insemination exclusively and to have a registered Angus cow herd.

In addition during a year's time Brian will have 150 bred heifers and 100 or so feeders to care for. His feeders sell well and in a recent sale of steers, 85% graded CAB or better, 23% graded prime, and 100% graded choice or better.

In the feeding operation calves are fed a mixture of two pounds of distillers grain—DG—and corn silage. Cows are given 12 to 15 pounds each of DGs mixed with corn silage during the breeding season.

In other assignments Todd and Tom Fenner have the responsibility for forage harvest while Sam Fenner handles crop planting and harvest. However, clear lines of jobs are forgotten during seasonal rushes and all pull together to get the job done.

**Stop 2**

**Mid-Missouri Energy, Malta Bend**

Bill Gwaltney, general manager, will be on hand to describe the ethanol-producing plant and the volume of production. The plant started operating in January 2005 when 15 trucks of corn were delivered by MME members and has been in full production—day and night—since February 2005 and produces a variety of products of which distiller's grain is of the most value to beef producers.

The plant is owned by 729 Missouri corn producers who purchased at least two shares at a cost of $10,000 per share. Members are also required to supply a certain amount of corn for the plant's operation.

Ryland Utlaut, corn producer at Alma, was selected to be president of Mid-Missouri Energy at the outset and it was his responsibility to get the plant in working order. He continues as president and is a frequent visitor at the plant.

**Stop 3**

**Gregory Farm, Houstonia**

J.D. and Robert Gregory have a herd of 120 purebred Polled Herefords which are descendents of a herd started by their father in the 1940s. The cows are divided into small units between the two farms where they are fed daily.

A few years ago J.D. and Robert selected 10 of their Hereford cows to start a cross-breeding effort using a Red Angus sire. They now have a Red Balancer bull and a larger number of cross bred cows. However, they have kept their Polled Hereford herd intact as well.

The Gregories support the Hereford breed and their community. Their two sons—Kevin and Michael—have owned Polled Herefords as do their children who show their cattle at local events.

In addition, J.D. and Robert are active members of the Hereford Association and take part in the annual Central Missouri Hereford Sale and other related events.

And, not least, Robert devotes much of his time annually to the Beef House at the Missouri State Fair. He is widely known in the central Missouri area for his skill in preparing beef for a variety of events.

**Stop 4**

**MFA Research Farm, Marshall**

Kent Haden, veterinarian and MFA vice president of livestock operations, is the host and he has a variety of beef research projects under way at the farm.
Marshall/Fenner family had a long-standing obligation for late afternoon August 25. As a result they could only take part in the tour by being the first stop.

So, from Mid-Missouri Energy those making the tour should return to Highway 127 and go south to Sweet Springs, cross I-70 and continue on to Southfork Road and turn east and go to Route 00 and continue to Houstonia. Once there take Houston Road four miles east to J.D. Gregory’s farm. A sign marks the Gregory farm on the north side of the road.

Upon leaving the Gregory stop continue east to Chamberlin Road and go north to Route CC. From Route CC go east six miles to U.S. Highway 65 and turn north. Go approximately four miles on Highway 65 after crossing I-70 and turn right on Highway UU to the MFA Research Farm.

At the end of the MFA tour stop return to Highway 65 and go north to the Fair Grounds for the evening complimentary dinner featuring beef.

There will be Beef Tour signs posted at critical points to help tour cars stay on the right road.

The Frederick B. Miller fund, Division of Animal Sciences, University of Missouri, provided support for the 2006 Missouri Beef Tour. Miller, a prominent Chariton County farmer and cattleman, Sumner, willed a 1,042-acre farm to the University. It was his desire that the farm be sold and the income from the proceeds be used to support research and extension programs and the development of livestock.

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