Keenan Switzer, a member of SeedStock Plus, has a herd of Balancer-Gelbvieh cows that he handles separately. They are bred to a purebred Angus bull and he markets both the males and females through SeedStock sales. John Burbank, chief executive officer of SeedStock, Saint Catharine, will discuss how S+ operates and its goals. S+ is the largest supplier of Balancer—Gelvieh X Angus genetics—in the nation according to Burbank.
The father-son operation has a herd of 200 Angus divided into spring and fall calving herds. Keenan is an independent sales representative for Accelerated Genetics, Baraboo, Wis., and breeds the herd artificially.

Galen backgrounds some 700 head of cattle for local and out-of-state owners. At times he feeds up to 21,000 pounds of feed a day.

Keenan has a herd of 60 Balancer-Gelvieh cows and uses an Angus bull for breeding. He is a member of SeedStock Plus—S+—and markets his bull and females through the S+ sales.

There will also be additional speakers at the second stop. John Burbank, Saint Catharine, chief executive officer of Seed Stock Plus will discuss how S+ operates and its goals. S+ is the largest supplier of Balancer—Gelvieh X Angus genetics—in the nation according to Burbank.

Bob Weaber, Commercial Agriculture beef specialist at MU, will be on hand to talk about the advantages of properly cross-bred cows.

In the sale of his most recent pot load of 54 steers born in the spring of 2006 his Angus brought a premium of $68.63 per head over the Kansas top. In addition 45% of the consignment sold as Certified Angus Beef.

The steers feed efficiency was 5.95 pounds of feed per pound of gain and the Switzer steers gained an average of 4.2 pounds a day. Brian also takes part in the Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program and sells his heifers at various Show-Me-Select sales across the state.

Vern Pierce and Joe Horner, Commercial Agriculture beef economists at MU, will also speak at Brian’s stop. They have been asked to talk about tax credits and their impact on backgrounding related to feeding ethanol.

Justin Sexten, newly hired Beef Nutrition specialist has recently joined the Commercial Agriculture program. He has been asked to talk about dry and wet distillers grains.

From the three stops the tour will travel to the MU Forage Systems Research Center near Linneus. There, David Davis, the Center’s superintendent, will discuss their goals in working with beef cattle and forage systems.

Also included to speak is Jim Brinkley, Milan, who will talk about his use of timed artificial insemination in his purebred herd of 260 Angus cows. Brinkley also inseminates 1,000 or more cows for his neighbors.