Multi-state beef tour adds more interesting stops!

Join Mike Baker, Cornell Beef Specialist, and fellow farmers as we embark on a 5-day bus tour of cattle operations in Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. We will be leaving Ithaca on **Tuesday, September 24th** and return **Saturday, September 28th**.

Our first stop will be **Young Cattle Company**, Belmont, OH. Rick and Jayne are winners of the 2014 Stocker of Year and the NCBA Environmental Stewardship awards. They’ve taken a re-claimed strip (coal) mines and turned them into some of the most productive farmland in the tri-state area. The bread and butter at Young Cattle Company is selling steers and heifers at 750-850 lbs. to Midwestern feedlots. One way they build supply is by selling straightened out 4-weight and 5-weight calves to retired farm couples in the area, who graze them through the summer and then sell them back to the Youngs.

Two other features will be visiting regional stockyards. The first is **Bluegrass Stockyards** in Lexington, KY. This is one of the premier stockyards in the U.S. We will get a back stage tour of the livestock facilities. In addition to selling livestock, the Blue Grass Stockyards a Regional Marketplace with dining, retail and education spaces. Their new facilities are a show-place of innovation, information, environmental stewardship and sustainable business partnerships, nestled right in the heart of Central Kentucky's historic and thriving agricultural community.

The second stockyard is a bit more traditional, **Cattlemen’s Livestock Exchange** in Lewisburg, WV. While traditional, this doesn’t mean low tech. They have installed a state of the art Silencer chute system to process incoming cattle and utilize ViewTrack Technology to clerk the auction from start to finish. Veterinarians offer on-site services which includes preg checking, breeding soundness exams and processing of calves. Feeder calves are farmer grouped and graded weekly by certified West Virginia state graders. We will be there for their Friday feeder and yearling sale.

According to one past participant, “these are the best vacations I ever take – everything is taken care of – all I have to do is sit back, learn and relax”! There will be approximately 2-4 stops per day, with ample opportunity to network with each other and local producers.

Cost is $750/person based on double occupancy. Cost includes transportation (coach bus with free Wi-Fi) from Ithaca, lodging, and some meals. If interested, please contact **Mike Baker, Beef Cattle Extension Specialist: mjb28@cornell.edu, 607-227-6320**.