



The Minnesota Cattleman

The Official Newspaper of the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association



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Forage Concerns Grow - Prevented Plant Acres in Play

The MSCA has been fielding calls and are aware of severe alfalfa losses around the state coupled with the overall shortage of forage availability. Over the last month, MSCA has been building coalitions and reaching out to officials to see what options may be available to address the situation.

Two early options we have identified are opening up Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for emergency haying or grazing and allowing the planting and harvest of forage crops on prevented plant acres without penalty.

At this time, it appears that the situation will need to further deteriorate before CRP acres might be opened up, but the U.S. Department of Agriculture does have the ability to waive the November 1 restriction on haying or grazing cover crops planted on prevented plant acres.

On June 4, the MSCA participated in a meeting convened by State Conservationist Don Baloun that was attended by the Risk Management Agency (RMA), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Congressman Collin Peterson's office, Minnesota Milk Producers Association, and AgStar Financial Services.

This is what we have learned:

- The USDA is not able to move the June 25 cover crop planting date on prevented plant acres, so farmers will need to wait until after that date if they wish to seed a cover crop.
- The USDA does have the option to waive the November 1 date to allow farmers to hay or graze cover crops at any time without any prevented plant payment reduction. Current policy is that if you hay or graze cover crops prior to November 1, you must surrender 65 percent of your prevented plant payment.
- The USDA-NRCS is exploring options to potentially make cost-share dollars available via the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to help offset the cost of seeding a cover crop.



The MSCA joined other organizations in sending a coalition letter to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack on June 5 requesting immediate action to waive the November 1 date related to RMA and FSA policies tied to prevented planting acres.

Farmers and ranchers should stay tuned over the next few weeks to see what action the Secretary may take, and if the NRCS is able to provide cost-share assistance with seeding. When an announcement is made on either front, your first action should be to contact your insurance agent to inform them of your intentions to plant a cover crop. The next step will be for you to communicate with your local FSA and NRCS office.

Appeals Court Dismisses Wolf Case

The Minnesota Court of Appeals recently dismissed a petition filed by two advocacy groups, Howling for Wolves and the Center for Biological Diversity, aimed at blocking the State's ability to hold wolf hunting and trapping seasons. The appeals judges ruled the groups lacked sufficient legal standing to challenge the state Department of Natural Resources' process for establishing a wolf season, and found that the rulemaking process did not interfere with group's ability to provide comment.

The advocacy groups' efforts during the legislative session to reinstate a five year moratorium on the hunting and trapping of wolves were also unsuccessful. The DNR plans to make a decision about the 2013 hunting and trapping season sometime this summer, after they release their population survey which is currently underway.

On the federal front, the Humane

Wolf . . . continued on page 16



MSCA Delegation Travels to DC

MSCA President Dar Giess, Cow-Calf Council Chair John Chute and Executive Director Joe Martin traveled to Washington DC on April 16-18 to participate in the NCBA Legislative Conference. We were pleased to be accompanied by two national beef ambassadors, Erin Morrison from Belle Plaine, Minn. and her counterpart from Oregon Jacquelyn Brown.

On April 17, the MSCA spent the day visiting with our congressional delegation on a variety of priority issues. In terms of the farm bill, the group



DC . . . continued on page 16

Minnesota Legislative Wrap-Up

The Minnesota Legislature adjourned on Monday, May 20 just before their required midnight deadline, signifying the end of the Legislature's budget setting process. The Legislature will reconvene on February 25, 2014 when they will address many non-financial policy issues, decide how much to borrow for capital bonding projects, and revisit some budget items to address unexpected needs and ensure the budget is in balance, otherwise known as supplemental budgeting.

Following is summary of legislation impacting agriculture and rural Minnesota from the session.



Wrap-Up . . . continued on page 11

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NEWS - TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Green grass is in abundance with a lot of cow/calf operations busy moving the herds out to greener pasture. A significant and welcome amount of rainfall is finally blessing our state with much needed moisture and we can all breathe a sigh of relief. Yearling operations are also moving their feeders out and everyone is hoping for a successful summer. Crop growers are really hitting the fields, getting their new crops in the ground and wrapping up spring planting.



DAR GIESS
President, Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association

Northwest Minnesota has had a good amount of spring rains and we know the Northwest Stockmen are working on a lot of preparations for the upcoming annual Minnesota State Cattlemen's summer tour. Last year, our family was one of the tour stops, so we know first-hand all of the hard work, coordination and preparation that they will have. We hope all of you are making plans to make this year's trip "Up North" to spend a day of education, fun and enjoyment of one of the tremendous agricultural areas in our great state.

The MSCA took two different trips to our state capital this year working on many key issues including; Permitting/Regulations, working to ensure that farms and ranches are not required to obtain National Pollutant Discharge System or State Discharge System permits, unless they are proven to have discharge and also removing the rule that all farms automatically need to obtain NPDES-SDS if they are over 1000 head animal unit operations. We also voiced our support of haying and grazing of state government lands ownership and expanding forage opportunities for our membership.

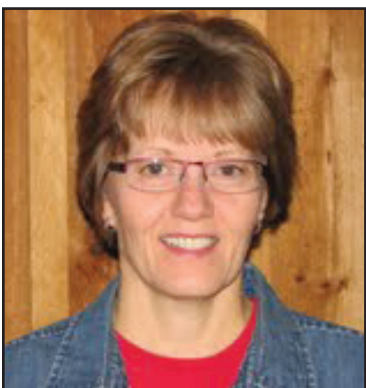
Unfortunately, the Minnesota Ag Department and Legislature cut our wolf depredation funding from \$75,000 to \$25,000 per year. This is not acceptable and we will do everything we can to rectify this shortcoming.

Finally, Joe Martin, John Chute and I, spent 3 days in Washington DC working on many federal issues, and met with several of our

Giess. . . continued on page 16

Well, I actually think summer has arrived (finally) and with that comes a lot of activities that the Minnesota CattleWomen support or are involved with.

With school out, summer is a good time to invite one of our Minnesota Beef Ambassador Team members to speak at your local Cattlemen's meeting. This is an excellent opportunity for our Beef Ambassadors to share all of their "Beef Knowledge". If you are looking for a speaker to address a non-agricultural group (such as Rotary or Lions Clubs); Sara Colombe, our Minnesota CattleWomen's President Elect, is the perfect person for you! She is a member of the National Beef Speakers Bureau and is available for Beef Education talks. You can contact her at sara.colombe@jacks.sdstate.edu.



CAROL HOGE
President, Minnesota CattleWomen

Coming up on June 7th & 8th some of us will be attending the American National CattleWomen's Region III and Region VII meetings in Fargo. This is a good chance to become informed on work that the ANCW is doing regarding Consumer Promotion and Education, legislation issues, and programs such as the National Beef Ambassador Program, the National Beef Cook-off and the National Beef Speakers Bureau.

June 25th to 28th the 2013 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference will be held in Minneapolis. This conference is mainly aimed at educators of all grade levels, and provides many ideas and resources to include agricultural education into school curriculums. The MN CattleWomen and MN Beef Council will be sharing a booth at this conference.

Last but certainly not least is the 2013 Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association Summer Tour, which will be hosted by the Northwest Stockmen's Association in Roseau, MN. Cattlemen's and Cattlewomen's meetings will be held on Monday July 8 and the tour will be on Tuesday July 9. The tour is always one of summer's highlights and a good time to get together with other cattlemen and cattlewomen! Hope to see you there!

What a difference a year makes! As I write this it is raining again. Most of us have been struggling to get the crop in the ground. The hay that didn't winter kill is growing slowly with the cool temps we have been having. Even as we struggle through this spring we can reflect on everything that we have accomplished this winter as an organization and what we have to look forward to this summer.

The summer tour looks to be a great time highlighting some fine operations in northern Minnesota. If you can find the time to get away, there are three days of events that have been planned starting on Sunday, July 7th. A lot of work always goes into the summer tour and this year is no exception. Extra time has been spent this year to extend the tour for those interested in making the trip. Events have been planned for Sunday night and all day Monday. My family and I are looking forward to making this our summer vacation and trying to see as much of northwestern Minnesota as we can.

County fairs and town festivals are also soon upon us. Thank you to all who work hard at these events to promote beef. These are great times to talk with others about what cattle producers do. It is also a good time to promote the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association to non-members and help get them signed up. We have had many victories in recent years with the grazing of public lands and getting the wolf delisted to name a few. These are great talking points when asking for new members.

Just as spring has seemed to drag on August will soon be here and it will be time for Farm Fest. This is always a great fundraiser for MSCA. Many people put lots of hours into making the Beef Booth a success, if you would like to sign up to help this year contact your local organization or just stop in and give someone else a much needed break.

I hope summer treats you well and I look forward to seeing you in Roseau and at Farm Fest.

Hurray! The snow is gone, ice is out and grass is finally here. Yes, it has been a long wait for all of us to get fully into spring work and summer is right around the corner, when we get so busy doing our own things it's nice to know that MSCA & NCBA is still at the table working for their members.

In April, some of us were in Washington, DC meeting with our elected officials and listening to presentations by others like Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Senator Debbie Stabenow who reminded us "there is no legislation that affects more people than legislation on agriculture" ultimately everyone eats. We also spent time discussing other priority issues like the farm bill, livestock disaster assistance programs, access to antibiotics, trade, haying and grazing of CRP, and wolf issues - a very busy three days!

Closer to home we all are aware the Minnesota Legislature has adjourned for the year, and the MSCA was engaged in many issues on that front. We saw mixed outcomes, some good and some bad depending on one's perspective. I believe it's fair to say we will all be paying more.

On the brighter side, be sure to come to the summer tour and learn how producers in the "far north" stay competitive in a volatile marketplace. Tips, tricks and management practices thought unique to an area or sector might be the key to helping many of us in these challenging times. Many of us have seen the cattle industry regularly from Iowa looking north. One can get an entirely different perspective from the Canadian border looking south. You will also find that it takes the same amount of miles and time to travel regardless whether you are driving north or south.

Make plans for this year's experience today, and I hope to see you there!



MIKE LANDUYT
Chairman, Feeder Council



JOHN CHUTE
Chairman, Cow-Calf Council

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Since the writing of my last column, a lot has transpired on the legislative front with the state legislative session wrapping up and renewed action on the farm bill. Inevitably after every legislative session we tend to look at wins and losses in terms of how legislation will impact agriculture in Minnesota.

In the win column, we can mark down securing \$600,000 for the DNR to build perimeter fence on state lands to facilitate conservation grazing; protecting sales tax exemptions for agricultural inputs; clarifying that all farms are eligible for the \$5 million state estate tax exemption; securing \$18 million that will be spent via the AGRI fund, which includes livestock investment grants; and blocking efforts to reinstate a 5-year moratorium on wolf hunting and trapping. In the loss column, sales tax was expanded to farm machinery repair; a new gift tax was instated; and \$100,000 was cut from the wolf depreciation account.

Time will tell how all the changes the 2013 Legislature made will pan out, but attention already needs to turn to the 2014 session when the Legislature will focus on several non-budgetary policy issues. As always, the MSCA will be fully engaged next year to ensure no negative policies are enacted, such as restricting use of antibiotics, unnecessary food labeling requirements, and additional permitting requirements.

In the coming months, the MSCA will be awaiting the release of the final proposed amended rule related to 7020 feedlot regulations. We will be paying particular attention to new requirements related to farmers needing to obtain a State Disposal System (SDS) permits, and evaluating provisions relating to pasture-based, winter time feeding and backgrounding operations.

Also over the summer, the MSCA will be following farm bill development in Washington DC and stressing the importance of enacting a long-term farm bill that includes mandatory funding for disaster programs to address the many issues that Minnesota farmers have and are experiencing. As I write this column, we are also in the process of delivering a letter to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack asking him to lift some restrictions that would incent the planting of forage crops on prevented plant acres to assist with our severe forage shortage around the state. I hope to report good news in our next edition.

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership, and remember that without members we could not stay engaged on the critical issues impacting our industry, so please take the time to sign up at least one new member.



JOE MARTIN
Executive Director

Watch for Membership Directory

Watch your mailboxes this month, as you will be receiving the 2013-2014 MSCA Membership Directory. Thanks to the following businesses and organizations for advertising in the directory helping to offset cost of printing and distribution.

- American Angus Association
- Carlson Wholesale/Ritchie
- Central Livestock Association
- Minnesota Beef Council
- Minnesota Corn Growers
- Perham Stockyards
- Purina Animal Nutrition
- New Generation Feeds
- Redwood Metalworks
- Summit Livestock Facilities

Task Force Update

A joint task force comprised of members from the MSCA and Minnesota Beef Council (MBC) has met three times to discuss the prospects of pursuing a referendum vote on an additional assessment on cattle marketed within Minnesota in order to provide the MBC with necessary resources to adequately promote Minnesota beef.

The task force is comprised of the following individuals:

MSCA: Don Schiefelbein, Chair; Dar Giess, Tim Nolte, Dennis Swan, and Mark Pankonin

MBC: John Moon, Mark Malecek, Jay Bakken, Dave Wulf, and Clarence Caraway

Following are the recommendations of the task force:

- Proceed to have a referendum vote in February asking producers to agree to an additional \$1.00 per head assessment on cattle marketed in Minnesota. Due to state rule, the assessment would not apply to feeder cattle sold to out-of-state processors, and would be eligible to be refunded upon request.
- Having the additional resources, estimated to be \$500,000 to \$1 million, dedicated to promoting a positive image of Minnesota beef and Minnesota beef farmers, and engaging in non-advocacy issues management.
- Working with a professional public relations firm to assist in educating producers about the beef checkoff and the referendum. The services of FLM based out of Wayzata have been retained for the initial stages of the campaign.

Over the next several months, the MSCA and MBC will be conducting significant outreach explaining what the additional resources will be used for, and answer questions that producers may have.

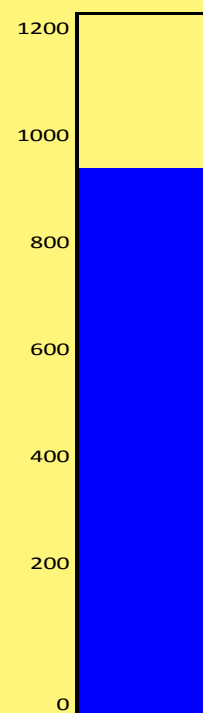
In order to be eligible to vote in the referendum and receive a ballot, you must be registered as a certified producer with the MBC. If you currently receive election ballots from the MBC you are on the list. If you do not, you should contact the MBC to ensure you are included.

Membership Renewal at 950

Membership renewal is at 950 with a goal of reaching 1,200 members by year-end. There are still 267 members who have yet to renew, so if you are one of them, be sure to fill out the membership form on the back of this newspaper to ensure you continue to receive the publication and support the important work of the MSCA.

We also ask that each member reach out to at least one additional person and ask them to become a member to ensure that we continue to grow our membership and resources to tackle the critical issues confronting Minnesota's cattle community.

MSCA Membership Goal



Raffle Tickets Available for New Holland Tractor-Round Baler

Raffle tickets are now available to win a one-year lease on either a New Holland T6 -75 tractor or BR7090 round baler. Tickets will be \$25 dollars each, but only 500 tickets will be sold. There is no limit on the number of tickets you can purchase.

If you planning to attend the Summer Tour, tickets will be available for purchase, otherwise you can purchase tickets via our website, or by contacting anyone on the MSCA leadership team.

As a reminder, if you are an NCBA member and are thinking about purchasing any New Holland equipment, be sure to review the many discounts offered, which can be found on the NCBA website.

MSCA thanks New Holland for their strong support of state and national cattle organizations, and their commitment to providing quality equipment to cattle farmers across the nation.

Thanks to ROTO-MIX and Blue Hilltop for Sponsoring Summer Tour

Thanks go out to ROTO-MIX and Blue Hilltop Inc. for sponsoring pre-summer tour activities on July 8 at Sportsman's Lodge. If you are planning on coming up for the Summer Tour, plan to come a day or two early and take in the pre-tour activities which include: Sunday night shore lunch reception; Monday morning tour of Warroad-Baudette area cattle operations; fishing on Lake of the Woods; steak dinner and good company. You must pre-register to attend, so visit the MSCA website or see the form included in this publication.

Sunday, July 7

7:00 p.m. Reception at Sportsman's Lodge

Monday, July 8

- 8:00 a.m. Morning cattle tour in Baudette-Warroad area
- 10:30 a.m. MSCA Board of Directors Meeting
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00-5 p.m. Fishing or Golf
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner

Tuesday, July 9

7:00 a.m. MSCA Summer Tour, Roseau Fairgrounds





Promotion, Research, Consumer & Producer Education

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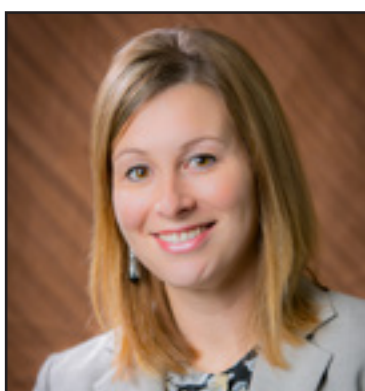
Every Month is Beef Month

Many state beef council's recognize Beef Month in May. Minnesota is no exception. We put additional promotion efforts into play all month long. The results were extremely successful. It made me think about how busy May is for many Cattlemen and women. For us, it was a month of battling frequent rains and yet trying to get pastures ready for calves. There is something quite beautiful about watching calves explore their pasture for the first time.

The reality is that every month is beef month for us. Farmers and ranchers are raising a quality beef product, 12 months a year. May just provides an opportunity to toot our horn a bit louder than normal.

Do consumers really care about our beef story? Yes! All four major Twin Cities news stations jumped at the opportunity to host a beef segment which highlighted grilling and choices at the meat counter. Consumers have a desire to learn all the tips and tricks related to being a grillmaster for friends and family but yet are concerned about stretching their food dollar.

As our customers become more curious about where their beef comes from and how best to prepare our products, let's not be afraid to toot our horn all year long. We have a great story to tell and an outstanding product to sell!



KAREN SCHAEFER
Minnesota Beef Council
Executive Director

Checkoff Launches New Consumer Advertising Campaign

Thought Provoking Campaign Sizzles with New Voice

The new "Beef. It's What's For Dinner." consumer advertising campaign is premiering this month, bringing the recognizable tagline to older millennials and Gen-Xers. The new campaign, funded by the beef checkoff, will feature sizzling beef recipes, juicy details about essential nutrients and the voice of one of Hollywood's most promising new talents.

"This campaign builds upon the core benefits that only beef offers -- its great taste and 10 essential nutrients. While most folks just look at beef for its sizzle or great flavor, it's made up of more than that. Its nutrients are what make it the most powerful protein and what makes beef above all else," says Cevin Jones, chair of the checkoff's Domestic Consumer Preference Committee and producer from Eden, Idaho. "It doesn't hurt that the voice delivering the message on the other side of the radio epitomizes health and sizzle too."

New Voice for a New Target

The new "Above All Else" campaign aims to reach the next generation of beef eaters -- the older millennial and Gen-Xer, aged 25 to 44 -- who care about food and nutrition.

While keeping many brand mainstays, such as Aaron Copeland's "Rodeo" music, the new beef campaign is switching up the voice behind the famous words, "Beef. It's What's For Dinner." Sparking a new interest for the older millennial and Gen X target, Garrett Hedlund's voice will take a starring role in the campaign's radio spots. Garrett personally represents healthful living, and his strong, warm voice is perfect for provoking new understanding about beef.

"I'm proud to represent America's farmers and ranchers," Hedlund said. "I grew up on my father's cattle operation, so I'm right at home as the new voice of beef."

Born in Roseau, Minn., Garrett spent his early years on a cattle operation. He

was just 18 when he landed a role in the epic film Troy (2004) playing opposite Brad Pitt. Following his debut in Troy, Garrett went on to Friday Night Lights (2004) and Tron Legacy (2010). His latest roles include Country Strong (2011), in which he plays a rising young country star opposite Gwyneth Paltrow, as well as On the Road, in theaters now.

What's Your Dinner Made Of?

Research has shown that 45 percent of the target demographic said they would choose beef more often if they knew about how its nutrients compared to chicken. The new campaign helps set the record straight about beef's essential nutrients in an engaging and educational way.

That's the question each "Beef. It's What's For Dinner" print advertisements asks. It's answered with bold copy highlighting the nutritional benefits of Beef along with tantalizing food photography reminding the consumer that delicious can, and does go right alongside nutritious. Each advertisement calls out an individual essential nutrient, like protein: "The Strip steak has lots of protein... and your appetite's attention." Another ad reminds you that a dinner with beef "has iron. The most lean, delicious and tender iron known to man."

The print advertisements will appear in monthly national magazines with an emphasis on food, health/fitness, parenting, lifestyle and men's sports. In addition

Checkoff . . . continued on page 5



WHAT'S YOUR DINNER MADE OF?

OURS HAS

PROTEIN YOU NEED

AND ALL THE SIZZLE YOU CAN HANDLE.

ABOVE ALL ELSE

BEEF

IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER.

Get protein and 9 other essential nutrients all in one delicious recipe at BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com

Funded by The Beef Checkoff

93% Lean Ground Beef • Recommended 3 oz. serving
154 calories • 44% of the daily value of protein

May Beef Month Activities

The Minnesota Beef Council in partnership with the South Dakota Beef Industry Council and the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, teamed up to promote beef to the Minneapolis/St. Paul consumers.

Drive Beef Sales through Retail Partnership

The MBC worked with Lund's/Byerly's to promote beef sales during May. Lund's/Byerly's is an upscale retail grocery chain in the Twin Cities with 22 retail locations, and offered a coupon for \$1 off any fresh beef product between May 16-29. The coupon reads, "Brought to you by your local beef and corn farm families." Radio, TV and social media promotions were used, along with a Lund's/Byerly's app, to reach consumers about this promotion.



Position Beef as the Choice for Grilling through Media

The Minnesota Beef Council's Beef Backer John Schiltz of the Lake Elmo Inn and MBC's Colleen Zenk taped segments with Twin Cities Live, WCCO Saturday Morning and KARE11 Afternoon. Their messages targeted the health benefits of beef, grilling tips and cost saving strategies for consumers.

MBC was also featured on FOX9 News Saturday morning while out at Grillfest. Colleen Zenk prepared some tasty beef for the audience and encouraged viewers to attend Grillfest.



Strategic Radio Advertising

Radio advertisements were placed strategically on Twin Cities station MyTalk 107.1. The advertising was also joined by five, daily give-aways for \$50 in beef bucks. The ad directed listeners to "choose beef" for May and for grilling season.

Minnesota Monthly Grillfest Participation

MBC worked in partnership with The Art Institutes International Culinary program to promote beef at the Minnesota Monthly's Grillfest on May 18-19 in Minneapolis. Grillfest hosted nearly 4,500 grilling and food enthusiasts in the Twin Cities. As attendees entered the event, they were given a reusable "Beef. It's What's for Dinner" shopping bag. Booth visitors were able to taste some delectable beef creations prepared by the culinary students from the Art Institute.

Checkoff . . . continued from page 4

to traditional print placements, the campaign will appear across a wide range of digital platforms, such as 22 tablet versions, online radio stations (e.g., Pandora), video websites (e.g., Hulu), social networking sites (e.g., Facebook) and popular recipe websites (e.g., AllRecipes.com). State Beef Councils will extend the campaign through print, radio, digital, in-person promotions, sporting events, outdoor advertising and more. Public relations, health professional outreach, social media and other promotional efforts round out this integrated effort.

NCBA Statement on Results of USDA's Office of Inspector General Audit

National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Chief Executive Officer Forrest Roberts, issued the following statement regarding the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audit of the Beef Checkoff Program for the years 2008-2010. The audit identified no issues and reported full compliance by the Beef Board and its contractors, including NCBA.

"NCBA takes its role as a contractor to the Beef Checkoff Program very seriously and we have cooperated fully with the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) and USDA throughout this audit. As part of an extensive investigation OIG examined the accounting, compliance and oversight procedures implemented by CBB and adhered to by contractors, including NCBA. The OIG audit found there have been 'no exceptions' to strict Government Accounting audit standards. The report also states that the relationships between CBB and other industry-related organizations, including NCBA, complied with the legislation and funds were collected, distributed and expended in accordance with the law."

"Although the audit determined NCBA and CBB have been in compliance with the Act and Order, we continue to work on new ways to safeguard producer investments. NCBA has already strengthened our internal controls and implemented new standards that ensure compliance with the regulatory firewalls. NCBA is a proud contractor to the checkoff and is committed to the highest internal control standards. As a result, we will continue to work closely with USDA and CBB to implement any suggestions for improvement put forward in the OIG report."

Looking down the road: Megatrends and beef industry shifts

Looking ahead, there are further significant changes in the marketing landscape that the industry must successfully adapt to in order to keep beef as the premier center of the plate protein.

Households composed of one or two persons now represent 62% of total households. In addition, some families are now eating more a la carte meals, where individual entrees are needed to meet each person's desires.

There is strong consumer interest in packages of small, 4-5 ounce expertly trimmed steaks in the meat case ... as well as on the restaurant menu.

Hispanics are anticipated to grow from 16% to 30% of the U.S. households from 2010-2050. The percentage of Asian consumers in this country is expected to nearly double, from 5% to 9%.

Millenials are the market of the future as this cohort moves through society it is changing everything.

Nearly one-third of consumers believe that 40 minutes is too long to wait for their meals, from start to table, and 70% say an hour is too long. Add to the fact that 70% of women now are working and it is easy to see that convenience is critical.

While ground beef has been the 'fall-back' product for time-conscious, more convenient whole muscle cuts, including microwavable roasts, could boost demand.

Beef Issues Quarterly: Rick McCarty, Vice President, Issues Analysis & Strategy – NCBA & John Lundeen, Senior Executive Director, Market Research – NCBA

Retail Beef Prices are on the Rise - What Can Consumers Do?

With beef prices on the rise, we have some suggestions for keeping your budget and your waistline in check this summer with great beef recipes and shopping tips.

Value of beef – 5 tips for your body, bank account and grill

Evaluate purchases based on the cost per serving, not just the price per pound - The amount of beef to buy varies with the cut selected. Beef per pound cooked is related to the amount of bone, fat trim and cooking method. Cuts such as T-bone, ribeye and tenderloin are great on the grill, but are going to be the most expensive. Look to cuts that come from the shoulder or round to save dollars. A serving of lean, cooked beef is three ounces, so serving a healthy portion can save your waistline and money.

Match the cut with the cooking method - This is a key to moist, tender and flavorful beef. For instance, less-tender steak cuts from the chuck, round, plate and flank are more affordable, but all require a tenderizing marinade before cooking on the grill, broiler or stove top. Tangy Lime Grilled Top Round Steak is tender and juicy thanks to a tenderizing marinade, cooking to medium rare (145°F) and carving across the grain into thin slices.

Plan ahead to cook once and dine twice - Preparing a little extra ahead of time is an easy way to create dishes that are ready to serve without breaking the bank. A grilled steak tonight easily becomes a key ingredient for tomorrow's protein-packed salad. Or crumble leftover burgers into chili, pizza or pasta dishes.

Explore the versatility of ground beef - Nothing says beef like a great burger on the grill. Using 93% (lower fat) ground beef is a great way to keep those burger calories down. Make sure to look for a recipe that has ingredients that will help keep your burgers moist and flavorful, such as Spicy Cheeseburger Sliders. For food safety purposes, always make sure to cook burgers to 160°F.

Buy in bulk to realize cost savings - Instead of buying pre-cut meat, save money by buying steaks or roasts and cutting into meat cubes or strips. Those meat cubes, whether you cut them yourself or buy them ready to go, are great for kabobs on the grill. Another approach is to purchase boneless roasts to cut into steaks. You can plan ahead and freeze cut beef for 6 - 12 months.



COLLEEN ZENK
Minnesota Beef Council Director of
Nutrition & Consumer Information

2013 MSCA Summer Tour



Hosted by:

NORTHWESTERN STOCKMEN'S ASSOCIATION



The NWSA invites all cattlemen and women, vendors, and ag industry leaders to
Roseau, MN July 9, 2013
 to experience what our area has to offer in the livestock and agriculture industry.

Stops Include:



Bear Creek Ranch: Steve and Deon Haugen own and operate a Commercial Angus cow-calf/backgrounding operation.



Central Boiler: Privately owned corporation is a premier manufacturer of quality outdoor furnaces.



Waage Farms: This family owned and operated feedlot is one of the largest in the area.



Berts Livestock Water Systems: Darin Bertilrud designs and installs cattle watering systems that accommodate rotational grazing.



Carlson Angus: Chuck and Cathy Carlson are one of the premier Angus seedstock producers in Northern MN.



Isane Farms: The Isane family own and operate a cow/calf operation.
Skime Ranch: Roger and Bernice Skime own and operate a Commercial Angus/Tarentaise fall-calving herd.



Burkel Grain Service Inc: Family owned and operated supplier of mineral and feed, including their Northern Feeds brand products.

****Tour buses start from the Roseau County Fairgrounds**

Registration Form

Name: _____

Register before June 15, 2013:

Address: _____

\$25 per adult # _____ x \$25 = _____

City/State/Zip: _____

\$20 per student # _____ x \$20 = _____

Email: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Phone: _____

No Refunds.
 After June 15, 2013 registration will cost \$35 ea.
 Send Checks Payable to:

For more information contact:
 Steve Haugen (218) 242-0547 or
 Matt Ulwelling (218) 469-2710.

NWSA
 P.O. Box 901
 Warroad, MN 56763



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Jerry Barthel 218-639-2888

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www.perhamstockyards.com*

Upcoming Sale Schedule
Sales Start at 11am

June Sales

Monday, June 3, 2013

Feeder, Bred Cow & Pair Sale

Monday, June 10, 2013

Feeder, Bred Cow, Pair

& Dairy Sale

Monday, June 17, 2013

Feeder, Bred Cow & Pair Sale

Monday, June 24, 2013

Dairy Sale

July Sales

July 1, 2013

Feeder, Bred Cow & Pair Sale

July 8, 2013

Feeder, Bred Cow, Pair

& Dairy Sale

July 15, 2013

Feeder, Bred Cow & Pair Sale

July 22, 2013

Feeder, Bred Cow & Pair Sale

July 29, 2013

Dairy Sale

45240 Cty Hwy 80
Perham, MN 56573
218-346-3415

Feeder Bulls					
BROOTEN MN	9	Red	573	129.00	C
FRAZEE MN	5	Char	343	122.00	C
PARKERS PRAIRIE MN	1	Blk	600	121.00	C
BROOTEN MN	8	Red	675	119.50	C
SEBEKA MN	1	BWF	640	110.00	C
HENNING MN	1	Blk	750	95.00	C
EVANSVILLE MN	3	Hol	336	94.00	C
PERHAM MN	1	Blk	440	93.00	C
VERNDALE MN	1	Hol	840	74.50	C
RICHVILLE MN	3	Hol	625	67.00	C
CLITHERALL MN	1	Mix	630	45.00	C

Feeder Heifers					
DEER CREEK MN	3	Blk	433	140.00	C
PERHAM MN	9	Blk	353	139.00	C
PERHAM MN	18	Blk	438	139.00	C
HACKENSACK MN	2	Blk	397	135.50	C
DEER CREEK MN	13	Blk	536	132.00	C
VERGAS MN	4	Blk	443	130.00	C
VERNDALE MN	2	Blk	535	130.00	C
HACKENSACK MN	1	BWF	375	125.00	C
BLUFFTON MN	6	Blk	501	121.00	C
BLUFFTON MN	3	Red	530	121.00	C
SEBEKA MN	2	Blk	545	120.00	C
SEBEKA MN	5	Blk	668	119.50	C
WADENA MN	8	Blk	625	119.00	C
WADENA MN	1	Blk	625	119.00	C
DEER RIVER MN	2	Mix	512	115.00	C
TWIN VALLEY MN	2	Blk	635	115.00	C
RICHVILLE MN	3	Blk	508	114.00	C
PARKERS PRAIRIE MN	1	Blk	645	112.00	C
LAKE PARK MN	3	Red	330	111.00	C
WADENA MN	1	Blk	385	110.00	C
VERGAS MN	2	Mix	312	109.00	C
OSAGE MN	2	Red	435	107.00	C
CLITHERALL MN	5	Mix	475	107.00	C
DEER CREEK MN	3	Blk	681	107.00	C
RICHVILLE MN	4	Blk	672	105.00	C
SEBEKA MN	1	Char	575	100.00	C
LAKE PARK MN	1	Herf	470	99.00	C
DEER CREEK MN	1	Blk	950	96.00	C
LAKE PARK MN	3	BWF	381	95.00	C
RICHVILLE MN	1	Blk	815	95.00	C
FELTON MN	2	Char	815	91.00	C
ERHARD MN	1	Blk	690	91.00	C
FELTON MN	2		1000	90.25	C
NEW YORK MILLS MN	4	Blk	567	90.00	C
BLUFFTON MN	1	Blk	715	90.00	C
LAKE PARK MN	1	Blk	875	85.50	C

Feeder Steers					
RICHVILLE MN	55	Blk	611	154.40	C
RICHVILLE MN	34	Blk	613	154.40	C
LAKE PARK MN	7	Blk	342	154.00	C
VERNDALE MN	4	Blk	452	151.00	C
RICHVILLE MN	9	Blk	492	150.50	C
HENNING MN	1	BWF	330	150.00	C
WADENA MN	1	BWF	455	150.00	C
VERNDALE MN	3	Blk	376	146.00	C
WADENA MN	3	Blk	435	145.00	C
VERNDALE MN	7	Blk	556	145.00	C
RICHVILLE MN	7	Blk	552	143.50	C
HENNING MN	2	BWF	545	143.50	C
DEER CREEK MN	15	Blk	560	143.50	C
CLITHERALL MN	1	Blk	525	143.00	C
WADENA MN	1	Blk	470	142.00	C
HACKENSACK MN	1	Blk	505	142.00	C
RICHVILLE MN	70	Blk	723	141.50	C
RICHVILLE MN	4	Herf	655	141.00	C
FRAZEE MN	1	Blk	450	141.00	C
BLUFFTON MN	3	Red	525	141.00	C
VERNDALE MN	9	Blk	610	141.00	C
WADENA MN	3	Blk	656	141.00	C
VERNDALE MN	2	Blk	560	141.00	C
SEBEKA MN	1	Blk	445	140.00	C
SEBEKA MN	4	Blk	623	140.00	C
RICHVILLE MN	3	Blk	466	138.00	C
PERHAM MN	3	Blk	368	138.00	C
HACKENSACK MN	2	Mix	480	138.00	C
VERGAS MN	4	Blk	587	138.00	C
HACKENSACK MN	2	Blk	590	135.00	C
NEW YORK MILLS MN	3	Blk	520	134.00	C
FRAZEE MN	1	BWF	665	132.00	C
WADENA MN	2	Red	675	132.00	C
BLUFFTON MN	2	Red	580	131.00	C
CLITHERALL MN	2	Red	675	131.00	C
VERNDALE MN	5	Blk	695	131.00	C
PERHAM MN	4	Blk	552	130.00	C
LAKE PARK MN	2	Herf	470	122.00	C
BLUFFTON MN	2	Blk	662	121.00	C
BLUFFTON MN	3	Blk	646	121.00	C
WADENA MN	10	Blk	818	120.25	C
OSAGE MN	1	Red	465	120.00	C
NEW YORK MILLS MN	2	Red	600	119.00	C
VERNDALE MN	2	Blk	662	117.00	C
LAKE PARK MN	1	Red	660	117.00	C
DETROIT LAKES MN	9	Blk	904	114.00	C
RICHVILLE MN	1	Blk	685	110.00	C
PERHAM MN	2	Mix	645	107.00	C
FRAZEE MN	3	Mix	623	107.00	C
WADENA MN	3	Blk	995	106.50	C
MENAHGA MN	1	Herf	1035	97.00	C
LAKE PARK MN	1	RWF	370	94.00	C
NEW YORK MILLS MN	2	Mix	410	89.00	C
FRAZEE MN	5	Mix	648	82.00	C

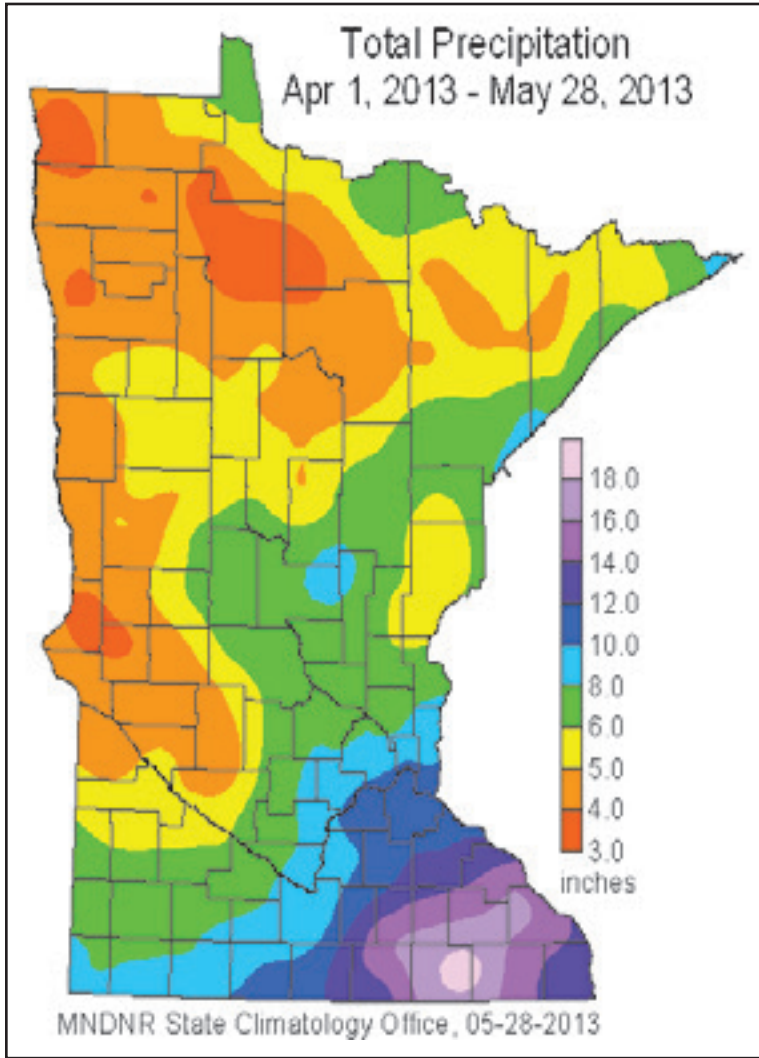
Slaughter Cows					
HENNING MN	1	Hol	1360	85.00	C
HENNING MN	1	Hol	1260	84.00	C
BACKUS MN	1	Blk	955	83.75	C
BERTHA MN	1	Blk	1310	83.50	C
BACKUS MN	1	BWF	905	83.00	C
MENAHGA MN	1	Hol	1345	82.75	C
CALLAWAY MN	1	Hol	1785	82.50	C
WADENA MN	1	Hol	1895	82.00	C
HEWITT MN	1	BWF	1460	82.00	C
DETROIT LAKES MN	1	Blk	1500	82.00	C
CALLAWAY MN	1	Blk	1605	82.00	C
MENAHGA MN	1	Herf	1070	81.50	C
DETROIT LAKES MN	1	Blk	1530	81.00	C
WADENA MN	1	Hol	1385	80.50	C
NEW YORK MILLS MN	1	Hol	1675	80.00	C
PINE RIVER MN	1	Hol	1095	80.00	C
DETROIT LAKES MN	2	Blk	1340	80.00	C
DETROIT LAKES MN	1	Blk	1500	80.00	C
NEW YORK MILLS MN	1	BWF	940	80.00	C
WADENA MN	1	Hol	1600	79.50	C
NEW YORK MILLS MN	1	Hol	1375	79.25	C
MENAHGA MN	1	BWF	1280	79.25	C
DETROIT LAKES MN	1	Blk	1840	79.00	C
DETROIT LAKES MN	1	Mix	975	79.00	C
PERHAM MN	1	Hol	1585	79.00	C
WADENA MN	1	Hol	1470	79.00	C
PERHAM MN	1	Hol	1500	79.00	C
BERTHA MN	1	Herf	1465	79.00	C
UNDERWOOD MN	1	Hol	1915	79.00	C
WADENA MN	1	Hol	1965	78.50	C
EVANSVILLE MN	1	Hol	1180	78.50	C
WADENA MN	1	Hol	1325	78.50	C
BAGLEY MN	1	Blk	950	78.50	C
HACKENSACK MN	1	Red	1535	78.50	C
NEW YORK MILLS MN	1	Hol	1245	78.50	C
PINE RIVER MN	1	Hol	1245	78.50	C
MENAHGA MN	1	Hol	1390	78.50	C
DETROIT LAKES MN	1	Blk	1555	78.50	C
DETROIT LAKES MN	1	Blk	1730	78.00	C
MENAHGA MN	1	RWF	950	78.00	C
DETROIT LAKES MN	1	Blk	1520	78.00	C
DETROIT LAKES MN	1	Blk	1930	78.00	C
MENAHGA MN	1	Hol	1425	78.00	C
SEBEKA MN	1	Hol	1805	78.00	C
CALLAWAY MN	1	Hol	1540	78.00	C
RICHVILLE MN	1	Blk	1345	78.00	C
OTTERTAIL MN	1	Hol	1695	78.00	C
VERGAS MN	1	Blk	1105	77.50	C
PARK RAPIDS MN	1	Red	1255	77.50	C
PERHAM MN	1	Hol	1250	77.50	C
BACKUS MN	1	BWF	950	77.50	C
PERHAM MN	1	RWF	1470	77.50	C
DEER RIVER MN	1	BWF	1060	77.50	C
DETROIT LAKES MN	2	Blk	1447	77.50	C
BACKUS MN	1	Blk	795	77.50	C
BACKUS MN	1	BWF	1085	77.50	C
KENSINGTON MN	1	Blk	1515	77.50	C
WADENA MN	1	Hol	2290	77.25	C
NEW YORK MILLS MN	1	Hol	1710	77.00	C
UNDERWOOD MN	1	Hol	1660	77.00	C
PELICAN RAPIDS MN	1	Hol	1565	77.00	C
SEBEKA MN	1	Hol	1350	77.00	C
BAGLEY MN	1	Herf	1140	76.75	C
WADENA MN	1	Red	1255	76.75	C
ERHARD MN	2	Blk	952	76.50	C
BAGLEY MN	1	Herf	1315	76.50	C
SEBEKA MN	1	Hol	1585	76.50	C
VERGAS MN	1	Blk	1250	76.50	C
SEBEKA MN	1	Hol	1515	76.50	C
SEBEKA MN	1	Hol	1370	76.50	C
NEW YORK MILLS MN	1	Red	1160	76.50	C
SEBEKA MN	1	Hol	1755	76.25	C
SEBEKA MN	1	Hol	1280	76.00	C
VERNDALE MN	1	Hol	1480	76.00	C
PERHAM MN	1	Hol	1145	76.00	C

Feeder Hol. Steers					
WADENA MN	3	Hol	440	103.00	C
NEW YORK MILLS MN	5	Hol	420	101.00	C
OGEMA MN	6	Hol	375	100.00	C
NEW YORK MILLS MN	2	Hol	315	99.00	C
WADENA MN	4	Hol	525	99.00	C
OGEMA MN	4	Hol	311	97.00	C
NEW YORK MILLS MN	3	Hol	595	97.00	C
NORTHOME MN	20	Hol	604	94.25	C
PERHAM MN	21	Hol	621	94.25	C
BERTHA MN	2	Hol	532	91.00	C
BERTHA MN	4	Hol	350	90.00	C
BERTHA MN	2	Hol	567	87.00	C
NEW YORK MILLS MN	2	Hol	765	86.00	C
PERHAM MN	7	Hol	615	85.00	C
LAKE PARK MN	1	Hol	490	85.00	C
MENAHGA MN	2	Hol	735	82.00	C
SEBEKA MN	3	Hol	711	81.00	C
PERHAM MN	4	Hol	782	81.00	C
BERTHA MN	1	Hol	445	81.00	C

Slaughter Bulls					
PELICAN RAPIDS MN	1	Hol	1175	76.00	C
KENSINGTON MN	1	Swis	1280	76.00	C
SEBEKA MN	1	Hol	1215	75.50	C
SEBEKA MN	1	Hol	1410	75.50	C
WAD					

Drought Conditions Improve

The U. S. Drought Monitor, released on May 30 places a small portion of southwest Minnesota in the Severe Drought category. Only three percent of Minnesota's landscape is in Severe Drought, a substantial improvement over early April when 67 percent of Minnesota was experiencing Extreme Drought or Severe Drought. This is quite an improvement from fall 2012 when over 83 percent of the state was rated in the Extreme Drought or Severe Drought categories.



Prevented Plant Overview

In order to receive full crop insurance coverage, corn needed to be planted by May 31 in most of Minnesota. However, corn can still be planted up to June 25 with corresponding reductions in coverage of one percent per day. For those choosing the prevented plant option and not plant a crop, they will receive 60 percent of the original insurance guarantee. For soybeans, the final planting date was June 10 with a planting allowance to July 5.

If farmers choose take a prevented plant payment, options include: not planting and leaving ground bare; planting the planned crop and receiving the 60 percent prevented plant after the late planting period has passed; planting a second crop and receiving a reduced payment; or planting a cover crop and not being penalized if you wait until November 1 to harvest or graze. The penalty is 35 percent of the prevented planting guarantee.

NASS Planting Report

As of June 3, the USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) reported that statewide temperatures averaged 1.1 degrees below normal. There was a statewide average of 2.2 days rated suitable for fieldwork.

Corn planting was estimated 87 percent complete, compared to 100 percent last year, and short of the national average of 91 percent. However, these figures do not account for drowned out acres. Corn emergence remains well behind last year's 97 percent and the average of 86 percent. The first corn condition rating of the year showed the crop at 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.

Pasture condition improved to 59 percent good to excellent, compared with 46 percent the previous week.

May 10 USDA Crop Report

The USDA released their Crop Production and World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report on May 10. The next report will be released on June 12, with most anticipating that USDA will adjust corn yields down due to wet conditions in key corn growing states.

Summary of Report

- 2012-2013 ending stocks estimated at 759 million bushels (up 2 million). Corn use at 11.14 billion bushels (down from 12.65 billion in 2011-2012).
- 2013-2014 ending stocks projected at 2

billion bushels (the highest since 2005-2006). Corn use at 12.92 billion bushels.

- 2013 total corn production at 14.1 billion bushels, compared to 11.1 billion in 2012 (record production was 13.1 billion in 2009). Corn acreage at 97.3 million acres, up from 97.2 million acres in 2012 (record acreage was 102 million acres in 1936).
- Lowered national average corn yield to 158 bushels from 163.6 bushels per acre (2012 was 123.4 average yield due to drought).
- Estimated average price for 2013-2014 marketing year to range from \$4.30 to \$5.10 per bushel (2012-2013 average was \$6.90).

U.S. Drought Monitor

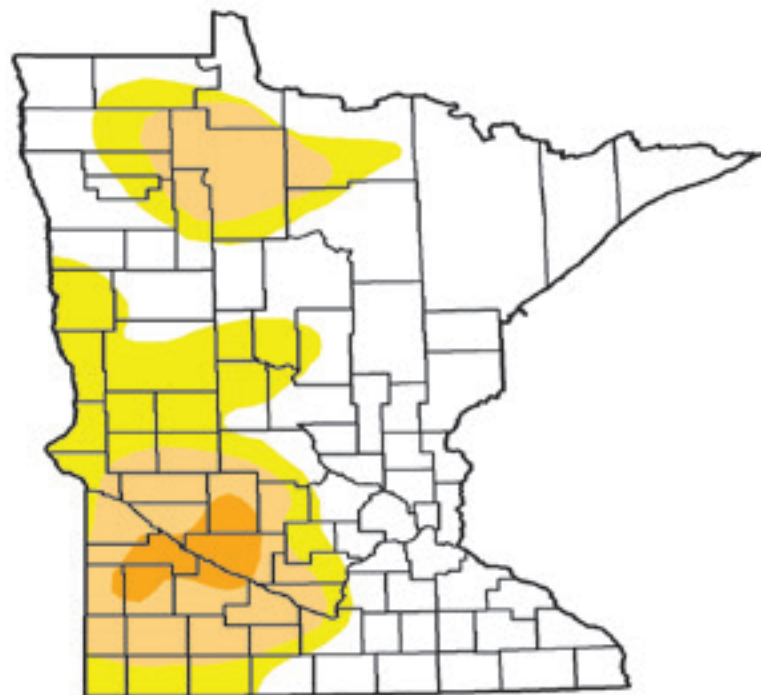
Minnesota

May 28, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	59.82	40.18	19.72	3.15	0.00	0.00
Last Week (05/21/2013 map)	19.96	80.04	23.00	6.53	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (02/26/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	97.90	69.79	25.02	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	97.84	83.44	25.17	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	1.92	98.08	77.45	35.36	18.51	0.00
One Year Ago (05/22/2012 map)	18.52	81.48	32.59	0.29	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, May 30, 2013
Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

New Board of Animal Health Rules Now in Effect

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health recently announced that its new rules related to animal identification are now in effect. The main change is that if you are selling any breeding animal you are required to place an official identification in the animal and keep detailed records which are subject to inspection by the Board of Animal Health. You will also be required to have identification placed in all animals moving out of state for exhibitions.

Breeding cattle moving within Minnesota do not need official ID if they are consigned to a state/federal approved market or moving directly to slaughter or a slaughter-only handling facility.

There are no identification requirements on feeder cattle.

OIE Upgrades BSE Status

The Scientific Commission for the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has officially upgraded the United States' status from 'controlled' to 'negligible' risk for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The announcement is positive news for U.S. cattle producers as it will assist in bolstering exports to Asian markets. Exports of U.S. beef are nearly \$6 billion annually.



FDA Publishes List of Licensed Feed Mills

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently published a list of licensed feed mills that are allowed to sell medicated feeds. The seller of any animal drug must have a written statement from the buyer that they are an approved feed mill. This announcement comes in concert with the FDA's plan to phase out production uses of antimicrobials important in human medicine, and phasing in additional veterinary oversight and prescribing therapeutic uses. There are 51 mills in Minnesota on the approved list.

Congress Reauthorizes Animal Drug User Fee Act

Both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have passed the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA), which authorizes the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to collect fees for animal drug applications. The bill now awaits signature of President Obama.

Passage of ADUFA is important as it will allow the FDA to conduct timely and thorough reviews of new animal health products and allow the transfer of use to cattle producers and veterinarians to prevent, control and treat diseases to maintain a healthy herd. Most importantly, the bill stayed free of amendments that were aimed at further restricting access and use of important animal health products.



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Richard Vanderhoff - (320) 760-7632
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Tim Schiefelbein - (320) 398-2700
Kimball, Minnesota



Lean Cows & Bulls

Jim Ryan - (605) 668-4275
Yankton, South Dakota



Fed Cows, Lean Cows & Bulls

Mike Baczwski - (800) 445-0042
Gibbon, Nebraska



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Feedlot Rule Amendments under Review by Governor's Office

The proposed amendments to the 7020 feedlot rule are currently under review by Governor Dayton's office. Once approved, the amended rules will be published in the State Register and be open 30-days for official public comment. The MSCA will be reviewing the rule changes closely, submitting comments, and will most likely request public hearing to further vet the rule.

The main change in the rule would be to offer the option to obtain a State Disposal System (SDS) permit to replace the current requirement in rule to obtain a federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, which is required for any livestock operation over 1,000 animal units, or any sized livestock operation that is in a sensitive area and is likely to discharge to surface waters.

The MSCA will also be closely evaluating potential changes to permitting requirements for pasture-based, winter time feeding, and backgrounding operations, as there has been some disagreement related to exemptions provided for those types of operations.

Number of Open Lots Needing Fixes Declines

A survey in 2012 of county feedlot officers indicates the number of open lots needing environmental fixes has declined by nearly 50 percent since 2008. In 2008, it was estimated that around 3,700 open lots needed fixes. Those numbers declined to around 1,800 and are focused in 6 counties.

Of the 4,223 operators that signed the open lot agreement, 1,348 had no problems, 1,157 were fixed, 1,029 remain to be fixed, and 655 have closed.

DNR Study Shows Stable Wetland Acreage

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has released a study providing the state's first scientific assessment of wetland gains and losses. The study finds that the state is meeting its no-net-loss of wetlands goal, but there are ongoing concerns about the quantity and quality of wetlands in the state. From 2006 to 2011, the study revealed a net statewide gain of 2,080 acres of wetlands.

Maintain Records on Calf Losses

Due to the unusually cold and wet weather this spring, there have been reports of higher than normal calf losses. It's important to remember that you may be eligible to claim those losses via the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) or the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP).

Unfortunately, the program is not currently funded due to inaction by the U.S. Congress. However, it is expected that once Congress passes a new farm bill, the program will again be active and able to accept claims via the Farm Service Agency. In order to be eligible for compensation, it is critical that you maintain detailed records of losses.

Disaster Declaration in the Works for Winter Kill of Alfalfa

Due to widespread winter kill of alfalfa, the Minnesota Farm Service Agency (FSA) is seeking a disaster declaration for counties that experienced significant winter kill. If USDA Secretary Vilsack grants the declarations, farmers may be eligible for the: Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP); Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE); low interest emergency loans; and deferment of payments on current FSA loans.

HSUS/UEP Agreement Kept Out of Farm Bill

After announcing that it planned to include language in the draft farm bill legislation that would codify an agreement between the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the United Egg Producers (UEP) to seek federally mandated production practices for the egg industry, the Senate Agriculture Committee decided to not include the proposal in the farm bill. The NCBA made it clear they would oppose the farm bill should the HSUS/UEP agreement be included in the legislation, and stated the proposal would have been devastating to all of agriculture by opening the door for the federal government to mandate on-farm production practices.

Wrap-Up . . . continued from page 1**Omnibus Agriculture & Environment Finance Bill**

HF976 was signed by the Governor on May 23 and appropriates over \$788 million over the next two years to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (\$478.2 million), Pollution Control Agency (\$168.5 million), Department of Agriculture (\$81 million), Board of Water and Soil Resources (\$25.5 million), Board of Animal Health (\$9.7 million), and Agriculture Research Utilization Institute (\$5.3 million).

Bill Summary

- Cuts wolf depredation program by \$100,000, program will now only receive \$25,000 per year.
- \$20 million to MDA for the Agriculture Growth Research and Innovation Fund (AGRI), of which livestock investment grants will be funded. However, \$2 million of this amount was earmarked for county fair arts programs, so there will only be \$18 million for grants.
- \$3.9 million to the MPCA for county feedlot program, and \$400,000 dedicated to issue permits for farms over 1,000 animal units.
- \$520,000 for BWSR to distribute feedlot water quality grants for feedlots under 300 animal units located in impaired watersheds.
- No increased water usage fees, but DNR receives additional authorities to require groundwater permits and establish management areas. The DNR also received an additional \$6 million for increased groundwater monitoring.
- The MDA receives authority to develop agriculture water quality certification program, and received \$3 million in funding via the dedicated sales tax (legacy) bill.

Wolf Depredation Funding Cut...Hunting and Trapping Preserved

Despite efforts by some legislators and activist groups, no legislation was passed to eliminate the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) ability to hold hunting and trapping seasons for wolves.

Unfortunately, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), in conjunction with conference committee members, decided to single out the wolf depredation program for a \$100,000 cut in order to pay for increased groundwater monitoring around the state. This cut was made in the last hours of the conference committee in behind-closed doors meetings between top ranking MDA officials and conferees. The MSCA is extremely disappointed in the MDA and conferees for singling out this important program for cuts when other MDA programs and appropriations went unscathed or received increased funding. Furthermore, there was never any open discussion of cutting this program throughout the session, so these cuts came at a great surprise.

The MSCA does not believe \$25,000 per year in wolf compensation is adequate to pay for cattle losses due to wolf attacks, especially when there is already a backlog of claims waiting to be paid by the MDA. The MSCA will be working next session to restore and enhance funding. In the coming months, you are encouraged to contact MDA Commissioner Dave Frederickson and your State Representative and Senator and encourage them to support restored and enhanced funding.

LCCMR Grazing Provisions Signed by Governor

Despite efforts earlier by some state legislators to strip out language to invest in perimeter fencing of state lands, Governor Mark Dayton signed HF1113 which appropriates \$600,000 to the DNR to develop plans and provide infrastructure to support conservation grazing on 10,000 acres of targeted wildlife management areas.

The overall bill appropriated around \$38 million for several natural resource projects recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). Money for these projects comes from the Natural Resources Trust Fund, which was created by constitutional amendment in 1988 using money generated by the Minnesota State Lottery.

Also included in the bill is \$190,000 to U of M to evaluate woodland grazing and \$52,000 to DNR and Hiawatha Valley RC&D to develop BMPs to control invasive species through planned grazing.

Tax Bill...New Tax on Farm Equipment Repair

With little time to spare, the Senate passed HF677 the final tax conference committee report in the closing hours of the session. The bill was signed by the Governor on May 23. The final bill generates \$2.1 billion in new revenue via increased taxes, primarily by establishing a new 9.85 percent income tax rate for taxable income of more than \$150,000 for singles and \$250,000 for couples. The new revenue is anticipated to close the \$627 million projected deficit, provide \$735 million in new education funding, and \$441 million in property tax relief.

Bill Summary

- Expands sales tax to farm equipment repairs (equipment purchases and parts are still exempt), and expands sales tax for warehousing and storage. It is unknown at this time if storage of agricultural commodities will be subject to the sales tax.
- Starting July 1, a new state 10 percent gift tax will be levied against individuals who gift more than \$1 million in their lifetime.

- Clarifies that all farms in Minnesota, regardless of how they are organized, are eligible for the \$5 million state estate tax exemption.
- Exempts cities and counties from paying state sales taxes and increases local government aid by \$130 million, and limits local property tax levies to 3 percent.

Considering all the tax changes that have been made, the Minnesota Department of Revenue will release new information every Thursday. If you are interested in receiving email alerts on changes you can sign up via the Department website.

Minimum Wage and Overtime

Despite efforts to raise the minimum wage and lower the hours when overtime must be paid, the House and Senate were unable to reconcile their differences (House was at \$9.50 and Senate at \$7.75 per hour). Note: If you are employing an individual on your farm on an hourly basis, you are currently required to pay overtime after 48 hours.

Legacy Bill (Dedicated Sales Tax)

HF1183 was signed by the Governor on May 23 and appropriates \$496.1 million to fund four funds endowed by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment passed by voters in 2008. The appropriations, by fund, are: Clean Water Fund - \$194.9 million; Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund - \$115.9 million; Outdoor Heritage Fund - \$100.05 million; Parks and Trails Fund - \$85.1 million.

Bill Summary

- \$14.8 million to MDA, of which \$5 million is earmarked for water monitoring of nitrates, \$3 million to establish and implement a water quality certification program, and \$2 million for research.
- Over \$100 million to BWSR, of which over \$53 million is to acquire conservation easements, and \$47.7 million for a variety of grants primarily to local governments.
- Over \$71 million to DNR for 24 land acquisition or restoration projects.
- \$15.2 million for the MPCA to complete 20 percent of the statewide assessments of surface water quality and trends and \$18.8 million to develop total maximum daily load plans.
- \$4 million to DNR for stream flow monitoring, and \$3 million to designate groundwater management areas

Legislative Audit Commission

The Minnesota Legislative Audit Commission has directed the Minnesota Legislative Auditor to examine the state's 13 agricultural commodity councils. Possible evaluation issues include: how much money has been collected through the agricultural commodity check-off program; how has the money been spent; what types of oversight and accountability are provided relative to these funds; what extent do the commodity councils measure their effectiveness; and how effective have the councils been in meeting their goals?

Farm Bill under House and Senate Consideration

There have been several actions by both the House and Senate over the last several weeks which have greatly improved the prospects of enacting a 5-year farm bill within the next few months (current law expires September 30). Both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees have approved their versions of the bill, with the full Senate scheduled to conduct a final vote on June 10, and the House planning to complete their work by July 4.

There will be significant differences between the House and Senate versions which will make for an interesting conference committee. The major difference between the bills is level of spending cuts (House version cuts around \$40 billion, Senate version cuts around \$23 billion).

Senate Bill Summary

- Achieves \$23 billion in savings via a \$17 billion cut to commodity/insurance programs and \$4 billion cuts from conservation and nutrition programs respectively.
- Reauthorizes and provides mandatory funding for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), the Livestock Forage Program (LFP), and Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP).
- Eliminates direct payments, Average Crop Revenue Election program (ACRE), Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) and the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC).
- Creates new Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO), Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC), Adverse Market Program (AMP), and Dairy Market Stabilization Programs.
- Ties conservation compliance with eligibility to purchase subsidized crop insurance, and reduces crop insurance premium subsidy rate by 15

Bill . . . continued on page 13

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Bill . . . continued from page 11

percent for farmers with adjusted gross income greater than \$750,000. Requires the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to carry out research and development regarding a crop insurance program for alfalfa.

- Caps Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) at 25 million acres.

House Bill Summary

- Achieves over \$40 billion in savings via a \$20 billion cut to nutrition, \$18.6 billion cut to commodity/insurance, and \$4.8 billion cut to conservation programs.
- Reauthorizes Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Program (LFP), and Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) and provided with mandatory funding with payments also being made for 2012 and 2013.
- Eliminates Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payments, ACRE, SURE and MILC.
- Preserves marketing loans and creates Revenue Loss Coverage (RLC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments and establishes the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO).
- Crop insurance subsidy is reduced by 50 percent the first four years of planting on lands that have never been tilled.
- Caps CRP at 24 million acres.

Key Similarities

- Reauthorizes emergency assistance programs and provides mandatory funding.
- Eliminates direct payments, ACRE, SURE and MILC.
- Reforms current dairy policy to create the Dairy Market Stabilization Program (DMSP) with a supply management component.

Key Differences

- Senate ties eligibility to purchase crop insurance with conservation compliance provisions and reduces crop insurance premium subsidy from 62% to 47% if farm has over \$750,000 in adjusted gross income.
- House calls for \$20 billion in cuts to nutrition programs, compared with \$4 billion in Senate. Note: Nutrition programs make up nearly 80 percent of the Farm Bill and cost the federal government \$80 billion per year, which has doubled since 2008.
- House included language preempting states from enacting laws that regulate the production and manufacture of agricultural products in other states that are offered for sale in interstate commerce.
- Senate creates Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO), and Adverse Market Payment programs, with the House creating Revenue Loss Coverage (RLC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs.

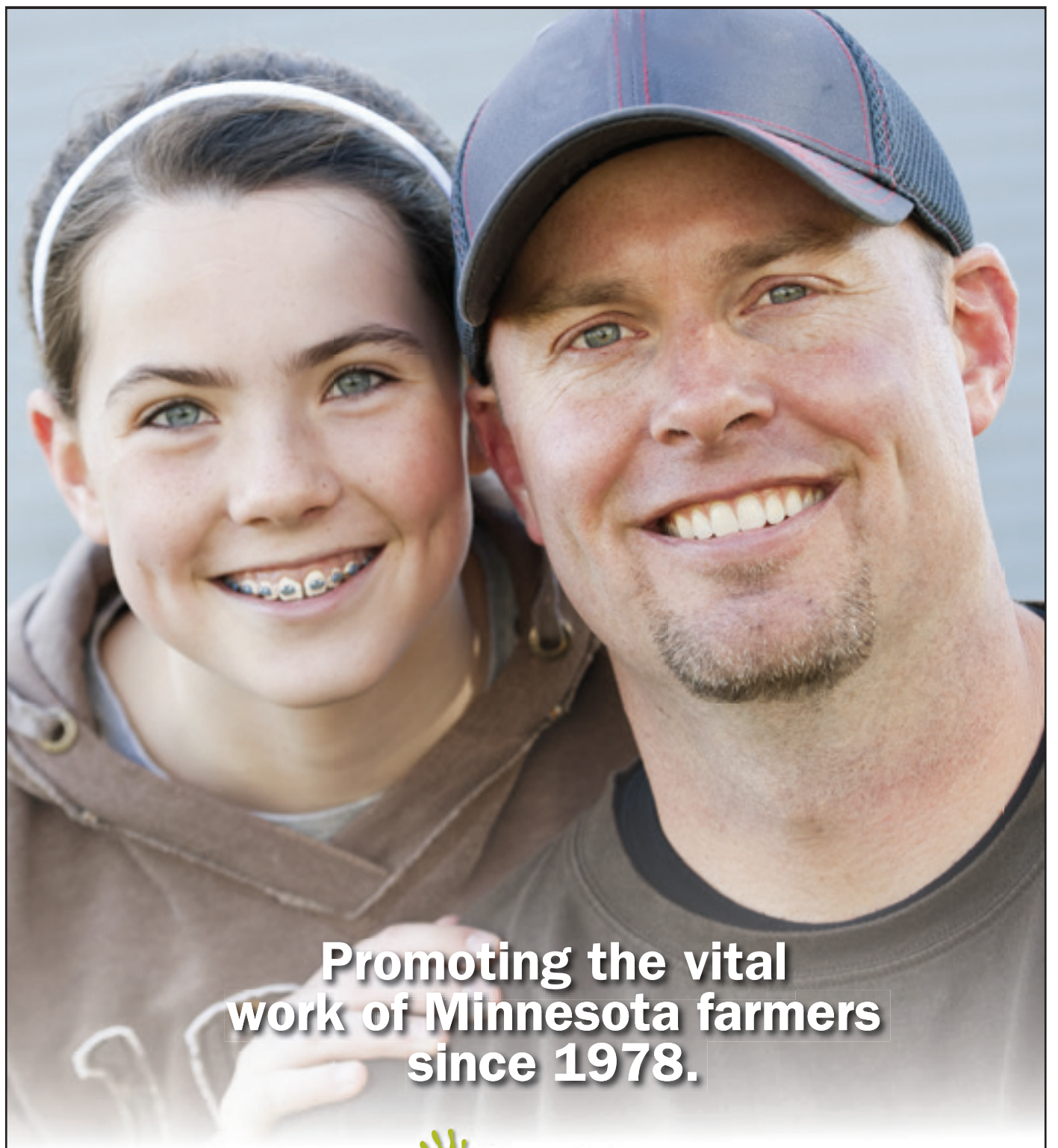
Appropriations Process Underway

The federal government is expected to spend around \$3.8 trillion in fiscal year 2014, with around 64 percent of that amount classified as mandatory spending which does not involve Congressional or White House action. The majority of this funding is for Social Security and Medicare, however agriculture and food programs do comprise 5 percent, mainly via nutrition, commodity, and conservation programs.

The other 30 percent of the federal budget is classified as ‘discretionary’ funding and is subject to annual approval by Congress and the White House via 12 individual appropriations bills totaling around \$1 trillion. Of this amount, 6 percent is dedicated for debt service, 57 percent for military spending, with agriculture and food funding only representing around 1 percent.

House appropriators have released their draft 2014 agriculture spending bill, which governs the operating budgets of the USDA, FDA and related agencies. The bill proposes to hold spending mostly flat at the current post-sequester level of \$19.5 billion. That reflects the automatic cut of \$1.3 billion from the 2013 level that went into effect on March 1, and \$516 million less than requested by the President. Unfortunately there is no appropriation for livestock or forage disaster programs, which makes it critical that mandatory funding is provided via the farm bill. The Senate has yet to release a detailed version of their bill.

The prospects of actually passing individual appropriations bills seem slim due to wide differences between the House and Senate, and the White House already issuing veto threats. This will most likely lead to another stop-gap extension of current spending levels.



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Senate Approves Amendment Changing SPCC Requirements

The U.S. Senate recently passed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Included in the bill is language that significantly changes the current Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) rules related to containment around fuel tanks. The House has yet to act on the bill.

The current rule, which is in abeyance until October 1, requires farms with over 1,320 gallons to have plans developed. However, the Senate bill would exempt farms with less than 6,000 gallons of aboveground petroleum storage from the requirements; require farms with 6,000-12,000 gallons of storage to have a self-certified plan; require farms with over 20,000 gallons or has any single tank over 10,000 gallons to have a plan developed by a professional engineer.

New Rules on mCOOL go into Effect Canada and Mexico Move to Retaliate

In response to a ruling by the World Trade Organization (WTO) that U.S. meat labeling laws were not compliant with international trade law, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has implemented a rule update calling for new labels on muscle cuts to say where the animal was born, raised and slaughtered (does not apply to ground meat).

The prior rule only required that countries of origin to be noted, so a package might say "Produce of U.S. and Canada." Now, the label will specify "Born in Canada, raised and slaughtered in the United States".

The governments of Canada and Mexico (who brought the original complaint against the U.S.) have officially responded that the changes are not satisfactory and they will now move to impose retaliatory tariffs on a variety of U.S. products exported to their countries. Reports have been that Canada and Mexico plan to inform the WTO in August that the U.S. has not complied, and begin action to levy tariffs, which will take around two years to finalize. Beef will most likely be on tariff list, which will negatively impact markets.

NCBA President Scott George remarked, "...as cattlemen and women, we do not oppose voluntary labeling as a marketing tool to distinguish product and add value. However, USDA is not the entity that we want marketing beef."

A recent study by Kansas State University conducted in November of 2012 found that mere country-of-origin information has not impacted consumer demand for beef or other covered products, and in fact, that many consumers are unaware labeling information exists.

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Wolf . . . continued from page 1

Society of the United States (HSUS) continues to pursue legal action against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to return the wolf to the Endangered Species List. If the wolf is returned to the list, no hunting and trapping will be allowed, nor will ranchers be allowed to protect their livestock from wolf attacks. If HSUS is successful in securing federal protection for the wolf, the only solution left to settle the controversy will be for Congress to require delisting and blocking additional lawsuits as they have done in western states.

DC . . . continued from page 1

stressed the importance of the passage of a new 5-year farm bill that includes permanent disaster assistance, and making it retroactive for the last several years to assist cattle producers who have dealt with drought, flooding and cold weather losses. The group also advocated for additional flexibility for managed haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands, which would provide contract holders additional incentives to work with cattle producers, and ensuring that at least 60 percent of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) cost-share funding remain dedicated to livestock. Lastly, the importance of allowing new eligibility to claim livestock losses from wolves in the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) was stressed.

Outside of the farm bill discussion, the group also visited with offices about the looming problem with Country of Origin Labeling (COOL). The delegation encouraged members of Congress to seek an immediate 'fix' to the current COOL program to prevent \$1 billion in retaliatory tariffs that Canada and Mexico are readying to implement on U.S. farm products, including beef.

The group also discussed the importance of maintaining access to critical animal health products, as there have been threats to restrict access and use of antibiotics in animal agriculture. We shared that over 70 percent of the antibiotics used in animal agriculture are never or rarely used in human medicine.

Lastly, the delegation discussed the importance of not allowing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to expand their jurisdiction over all surface and groundwater which would lead to increased requirements to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and/or section 404 permits for normal farming and ranching activities.

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Giess . . . continued from page 2

federally elected officials. I am sure if any of you have heard about our plane ride home, all three of us are in complete agreement that landing in rain or a blizzard is a joy, compared to a side-winding carnival ride in shear force winds, attempting to land several times in Lansing, Michigan. After being diverted to Detroit, delayed nine hours awaiting a new plane, to replace the physically damaged plane we left behind in Detroit, we were never so glad to be home.

Thank you to Joe and John and hoping our efforts can help all of us here in the state. I would also like to thank the MSCA membership for your dedication and support. The MSCA works every day of the year protecting and serving all cattlemen here in Minnesota.

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