



# The Minnesota Cattlemans

The Official Newspaper of the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association ®

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Volume 26 | Edition 4 | June 2023

# All Roads Lead to Pipestone on July 18

## Pipestone and Murray County Cattlemen's Associations to host MSCA Summer Tour

By Kaitlyn Root

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA) Summer Tour and Trade Show will be hosted by Murray and Pipestone county cattlemen's associations on July 17-18. From consumer to cattlemen, all are welcome to learn more about the beef industry and network with producers.

This year's event offers new opportunities to win over \$5,000 in door prizes! Don't miss out on your opportunity to win a new pellet grill, cool-

ers, gift cards and more – register for the event today by visiting MSCA's website at [mnsca.org](https://mnsca.org) and clicking on the Summer Tour tab.

The MSCA Quarterly Meeting will be held at Key Largo on Lake Shetek Monday, July 17 11 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., with the Annual Political Action Committee (PAC) Event to follow. The PAC Event is open to everyone, and attendees are encouraged to participate in the cornhole tournament and

enjoy a delicious beef brisket dinner. Email Kaitlyn at [kaitlyn@mnsca.org](mailto:kaitlyn@mnsca.org) to RSVP for the dinner (\$40) and/or cornhole tournament (\$10).

On July 18, tour registration will open bright and early at 6:30 a.m., with the first group of busses leaving at 7:30 a.m. The tour will showcase experienced cattlemen, innovative techniques and quality beef setups by hosting participants and vendors from around the state and country to tour area farms. Registrants will have access to over 50 agricultural-related businesses featuring new products and services available to cattlemen through the onsite trade show.

This year's tour begins in Pipestone, a small town in southwestern Minnesota, just miles from South Dakota. The tour will feature farm stops in Murray and Pipestone counties, highlighting cutting edge

beef production operations.

Tour stops include: Pipestone County stops – Baus-tian Feedlot – covered feedlots with water runoff system; Chestnut Angus – cow/calf and seedstock, home of many time Champion Angus pen show in Denver; Brinkmeyer Farms – generation open cemented feedlot; Murray County Stops – Schuur Concrete – specializing in bunks and slats; Ford Farms – two different deep pitted slat barns, bunkers with runoff filtration; Monogram Meats – history and virtual tour of plant; Verlinde Farms – feedlot, cow/calf and new state of the art working system.

The tour headquarters will be held in the spacious and well-equipped Cattle Barn at the Pipestone County Fairgrounds. The Cattle Barn is located on the north end of the fairgrounds, just off Highway 30.

Pipestone has several accommodation options including a beautiful campsite at the Hiawatha ground. Learn more about Pipestone at [pipestone-minnesota.com](https://pipestone-minnesota.com). A room block has also been reserved at the Grandstay in Pipestone ((507) 562-1100) and Lake Shetek Lodge ((507) 763-3200). Additional lodging is available in Flandreau or Marshall.

Breakfast, lunch and a steak supper are included with paid registration to the Summer Tour and Trade Show on July 18. Registration is \$40.

To register for the tour, visit MSCA's website at [mnsca.org](https://mnsca.org) and click on the Summer Tour tab. For questions or additional information, contact Angie Ford at (507) 360-7937 or Glenn Johnson at (507) 820-1502. MSCA is excited to see you all at this year's Summer Tour!

## MSCA

**MSCA is a grassroots organization consisting of over 20 local cattlemen's groups, providing the greatest opportunity for producer input and policy recommendations**

MINNESOTA STATE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
DISTRICT MAP & LOCAL AFFILIATES

1. Central Minnesota Cattlemen	12. Murray County Cattlemen
2. Cottonwood Cattle Producers	13. Northwestern Stockmen
3. Three Rivers Cattlemen	14. Redwood Area Cattlemen
4. Fillmore County Cattlemen	15. Rock-Phelan Cattlemen
5. Freeborn County Cattlemen	16. Snake River Cattlemen
6. Glacial Ridge Cattlemen	17. South Central Cattlemen
7. Houston County Cattlemen	18. Southwestern Cattlemen
8. Le Sueur County Area Cattlemen	19. Tri-County Cattlemen
9. Midwest Cattlemen	20. Wabasha County Cattlemen
10. Minnesota Cattlemen	21. West Central Cattlemen
11. Mississippi Valley Cattlemen	22. Pipestone Cattlemen

Minnesota State Cattlemen's members, did you know you can pay your local affiliate dues online? Use the link below to renew your membership for the state and local association!

<https://www.mnsca.org/become-a-member/membership-application>

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NEWS - TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

# 7.17.23

## CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

**\$40 FOR MEAL & DRINK • \$10 PER CORNHOLE TEAM**

**5:00PM – REGISTRATION**

**5:30PM – CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT START**

**5:30PM – SILENT AUCTION**

**6:30PM – DINNER**

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TO RESERVE YOUR TEAM EMAIL [KAITLYN @ KAITLYN@MNSCA.ORG](mailto:kaitlyn@mnsca.org)

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**KAITLYN ROOT**  
Executive Director  
Office: 763-479-1011

Greetings!

These past couple of months sure have been busy for the association. With the help of West Central Cattlemen's Association and the Cottonwood Cattle Producers, we were able to grill out at the Capitol in

April for Steak on a Stick. The grill out was a huge hit – we served 750 steaks in one hour! It was great to see legislators and staff enjoy beef – many coming back for seconds. It reminded me that no matter how the beef industry is being projected from certain environmentalist or anti-ag groups, people love our product. To read more about Steak on a Stick, head to page 11.

Cattlemen had their boots on The Hill April 24-26 for NCBA's Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. We were able to meet with Representatives and staff to discuss issues cattle producers are facing in Minnesota. The meetings were encouraging, with each representative and staff

member seemingly interested in the work cattle producers do. We are proud to represent the cattle industry in Minnesota and share the voice of producers at our nation's Capital.

I think it is important to remember that we, as an industry, are represented well in Washington D.C. every day by NCBA staff. It is difficult work, and I am grateful to know we have excellent advocates on our side. For more information on the Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., turn to page 6.

As many of you know, deer depredation is a common problem producers share throughout the state. The MSCA has been meeting with MNDNR to identify solutions for the deer

depredation problem. We have discussed the need for reimbursement for producers being affected by feed/forage depredation, and also the significant threat of disease that congregating deer bring to healthy cattle herds. We will continue moving forward with the DNR on this issue and will keep members updated.

Last but not least, I cannot wait to see you all at MSCA's Summer Tour hosted by Pipestone and Murray County Cattlemen's Associations July 17-18! Angie Ford, Glenn Johnson and others from the local associations have been working around the clock to put on an

**Root ...**  
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### Minnesota Cattleman

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**JAKE THOMPSON**  
Interim President

Hello fellow cattlemen and cattlemen,

Hopefully everyone is receiving adequate rain and the grass, corn and alfalfa is growing. I know in west central Minnesota, we could use a drink of water.

Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association has been very active over the beginning part of summer. We have been

taking meetings with the DNR with ongoing talks of ways to minimize the feed depredation issues faced by so many of you this past winter/spring. We are trying to find a solution that they will be willing to come to terms with, but progress is slow.

There are also ongoing farm bill talks on the national level with multiple opportunities to sit in and express the importance of conservation incentive program like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. We had a very productive Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. in the end of April. We were able to meet with all of Minnesota's representatives and/or staffers except one.

Membership has been at the top of the priority list since

**Thompson ...**  
continued on page 3



**JOSIAH EBELING**  
Feeder Council Chair

Greetings everyone!

Hope everyone's spring planting went well. Here in southern part of the state, we had a lot of replanting to do. Hay season is now in full swing.

The cattle market has been following the weather – HOT! In April, we were looking at \$180 cash fats, the cash market fell back to the \$170 to \$173 in May. Then in June, the market

went wild.

Just last week we were looking at record high cash cattle at \$190. Cattle owners released cattle at \$185 live or \$5 lower than last week Thursday. Dressed prices also fell \$5 to \$295. For the packers this was the easy lifting, and the more difficult job of finishing the buy will occur today.

The remaining sellers are not willing to accept the lower prices offered so far. Box prices that appeared to have topped have found some renewed strength. Asking prices in the south are \$185-6. As you are looking to fill pens back up, it would be a good idea to look into a Risk Protection Plan as this market gets top heavy.

The slaughter this past week

**Ebeling ...**  
continued on page 3



**RACHEL GRAY**  
MSCA Vice President

Hello from northern Minnesota.

I hope your cattle are out to pasture and your crops are growing well. Here in the north, we are drier than we would like to be. As with many producers, we are hoping to see some rain soon. The lack of rain has made me think back to 2021 and the drought we ex-

perienced up here.

One thing I discovered at that time is in Beltrami County, we needed more rain monitors. We depend on rain monitors to report the rain, but in our area the rainfall was so spotty that the reports were not accurate.

The more people willing to report, the better the data is. If you have a chance, become a rain monitor. The more collection points we have, the better we can monitor drought or flood conditions. I signed up through my local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Contact your local SWCD to get information about becoming a rain monitor.

As we continue to pray for rain, remember to keep track

**Gray ...**  
continued on page 3



**ERIC ZELTWANGER**  
Cow/Calf Council Chair

Greetings fellow cattlemen,

By now we should all have calving under wraps, cattle turned out to grass, a start on breeding or a plan in place for that. Writing this, I have just finished up the breeding soundness exams (BSEs) for our bulls. BSEs are an important day for most cattle operations. At these feed prices, we cannot

afford to have open cows, or cows that don't give us a valuable calf year in and year out.

Watch these markets and take advantage of getting rid of open dry cows. These animals make up roughly 10 percent of a cowman's income, and prices are good as we look to short dry pastures.

Hopefully, and Lord willing, all of those have gone smoothly and everyone had a good spring. As I write this now, we are looking for rain to keep the grass growing and to grow a crop of corn so we can have some winter feed.

With this being said, what a good time to have calves to market this fall or into the new year. Prices have been out-

**Zeltwanger ...**  
continued on page 3





**MICHELLE MOUSER**  
CattleWomen President

activities and “no” to simply being with others.

But, being with others is exactly what I needed and continue to need. This past Saturday was fantastic. What a joy to be surrounded with other women who know and understand the demands of farming and ranching. Sharing stories, laughing, learning and finding out how much we have in common left me full and ready, longing for more days like these.

My guess is that many of you reading this can resonate with my experience. An event or activity sparks your interest and yet you vacillate; truly having an honest reason to not attend. What will you do? Let me encourage you to register, commit and show up to our next CattleWomen 360 event. You will not be disappointed, and I am already looking forward to seeing you there.

It is good to be together. As Henry Ford said, “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

The MN CattleWomen exist to promote, support and encourage you, me, CattleWomen all across the state. Join, get plugged in, be encouraged and find a beautiful community of women who know what life is like with cattle.

**Upcoming CattleWomen 360 Events:**

Sept. 30 in Aitkin, MN

Nov. 4 in Morris, MN

Learn more and register at [mncattlewomen.org](http://mncattlewomen.org).

It is good to be together.

This past Saturday we hosted our second CattleWomen 360 event, “Mineral Nutrition: Small Nutrients That Fuel Cattle Health.” It was a wonderful day of learning and building and strengthening friendships. Even today, three days later, I am energized by what took place. It is good to be together.

As farmers and ranchers, the work load never goes away. Along with that work load comes a natural and honest reason for staying home. However, staying home isolates us and keeps our thoughts focused on ourselves and our struggles. This is and has been my personal experience and perhaps some of you can relate.

I have had many physical setbacks due to injuries since the fall of 2017. The biggest life change came with a brain injury in May 2018. The physical, mental and emotional challenges of healing and learning to accept the permanent changes has been difficult. This is where staying home on the farm becomes such an easy and acceptable response to say “no” to events,

**Thompson . . . continued from page 2**

Kaitlyn has started, and I am happy to say that we currently are at 861 members as of June 15, which has now grown from last years’ Fiscal Year total of 847. Please share the value of becoming a member to anyone who isn’t currently a member or maybe on the fence about renewal.

Hopefully you have made plans to join us July 17-18 for the MSCA Summer Tour down in Murry and Pipestone counties. The local cattlemen’s groups have been working extremely hard to put on an outstanding tour with some very interesting stops with outstanding food. The PAC event will be held at Lake Shetek the evening of the 17th.

May all your fences stay tight and your hay dry fast!

**Root. . . continued from page 2**

exceptional tour with many new, innovative learning opportunities. Don’t forget to register for the Annual Political Action Committee (PAC) Event Monday, July 17, which will follow MSCA’s Quarterly Meeting. The MSCA PAC’s goal is to support candidates running for public office who have showed support for our policy agenda. You will have the opportunity to donate to our PAC by enjoying a beef brisket dinner, participating in the silent auction and throwing bean bags in the cornhole tournament. Don’t forget to RSVP by emailing me at [kaitlyn@mnsca.org](mailto:kaitlyn@mnsca.org).

**Thank you, 2023 Beef Alliance**

THANK YOU to the following businesses that have committed to support members of the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association as a part of the Minnesota Beef Alliance Program for 2023. If you are interested in learning more about the Beef Alliance program, contact Angie Ford at [mnscamembership@gmail.com](mailto:mnscamembership@gmail.com).

**Prime**

- American Foods\*
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- Artex
- Dry Creek Trucking

\* Indicates giving above base level for that category!

**Zeltwanger . . . continued from page 2**

standing for cattle, and the feedyards look like they can make some money also. Not very often in our industry does everyone get a piece of the pie that works.

This also leads me to wonder, when will the bubble burst? What will be the piece of info that causes it? Who knows, is the answer, but if it makes you nervous thinking about it, look into the protection options out there to lock in some profit on these high value animals.

The MSCA Summer Tour is fast approach-

ing. It is always a great time of year to meet up with old friends and to make new ones. I am excited to visit an area that is new to hosting the tour, and I hear we should expect a good one (no pressure on the hosts).

If you haven’t got your tickets, they will be available right up to that day. Also, plan to make it to the PAC Event the night before. We can always use more people and auction items.

Thanks for reading, and I hope to see you at the Summer Tour!

**Ebeling . . . continued from page 2**

was revised to 610,000, up from holiday restricted 573,000 head the previous week and down 61,000 from last year. Cow slaughter has fallen and will likely continue to decline in the face of generous rains in previously droughted out areas of the country. Packers will attempt to fill the void with fed cattle that continue to be in short supply.

I am participating in the Top of Class program this year. The first round of Top of Class was completed at the Capitol on June 15. We spent two days learning about different ways to advocate for the beef industry. We learned a lot about policy, the Beef Checkoff, sustainability and much more. The next session will be in the fall. We will get the opportunity to tour U.S. Foods distribution center. In January, the class will go out to Colorado to tour Five Rivers Feedlot and JBS packing plant and learn more about the work NCBA does.

Don’t forget to get signed up for the Summer Tour July 17 and 18 hosted by Murray and Pipestone counties. Lots of great operations to see!

**Gray . . . continued from page 2**

of any extra drought-related expenses. That file will come in handy should we progress into D3 or D4. The Minnesota State Cattleman’s Association is monitoring the rainfall in the state and staying in contact with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to update them of the situation.

The past month we have also had meetings with the DNR to try and address the deer/elk depredation issue. I cannot say we have found an acceptable resolution, but we are still trying.

I hope your calves are looking great and the crops continue to grow well.

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## 2023 Minnesota Top of Class

The first session of the 2023 Minnesota Top of Class was held on June 14 and 15. Our 2023 Minnesota Top of Class is comprised of nine people. We also had a member of the Minnesota Beef Ambassadors sit in on this session. The mission of this program is to develop the skills of Minnesota's beef industry leaders so they may maximize their impact in local, state, national and international arenas.

In this first session, participants had a busy two days! Participants heard from members of the Minnesota Department of Animal Health and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

They also learned about food labels, sustainability in the beef industry and the Beef Checkoff/Minnesota Beef Council. We also got to hear what it takes to be involved in the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA) and Minnesota Cattlewomen's. Participants also learned more about MSCA policy with the help of MSCA Legislative Consultant Bruce Kleven and Executive Director Kaitlyn Root. The trip rounded off with a guided tour of the Minnesota State Capitol.

This class will meet again in October and January.

## Minnesota Beef Council Intern Meet Bailee Schiefelbein, Minnesota Beef's Summer Communications Intern

**Maple Plain, Minnesota** – The Minnesota Beef Council (MBC) has added Bailee Schiefelbein to their team for the summer, filling the Communications Intern position. The internship involves an emphasis on expanding communication skills and assisting in the promotion efforts of beef. The main project of the intern is to coordinate the booth the MBC exhibits every year at the Minnesota State Fair along with other beef promotion projects such as blog writing and social media.

Schiefelbein is from Kimball, Minnesota where she was raised on a seedstock operation with her family. Bailee has gained a deep understanding of the cattle industry through her family's involvement along with her active participation in various extracurriculars such as 4-H, FFA and being a Min-



Bailee Schiefelbein will be working as the Minnesota Beef Council Communications Intern for the summer. (Photo courtesy of Minnesota Beef Council)

nesota Beef Ambassador for five years.

"For as long as I can remember, I followed my parents and sisters to various Beef Council and Cattlemen events across the state," Bailee stated. "This

led me to the Beef Council internship, where I am excited to learn about promoting the beef industry, especially at the Minnesota State Fair and learning from those who have always supported me."

Bailee is currently attending Oklahoma State University (OSU) pursuing a double major in Animal Science and Agricultural Communications with a minor in AgBusiness. She has been actively involved at college as a member of the Oklahoma Collegiate CattleWomen along with competing with the 2022 OSU Meat Judging team that took 3rd place in the International Contest. Bailee will be heading into her senior year at OSU this fall.

Her first day as an intern with the council was May 15 and will be on board through Labor Day. She can be reached at [intern@mnbeef.org](mailto:intern@mnbeef.org) or (763) 479-1011.

### MBC Board Meeting

The next Minnesota Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 17, 2023 in Slayton, MN. Meeting will be held at Key Largo on lake Shetek.



### MNBC GRILLING RECIPE BBQ BEEF BISCUIT SLIDERS

Summer, Father's Day and the 4th of July means grilling season is in full swing. Mix it up and break out of your normal bun routine and try some buttermilk biscuits instead with these BBQ Beef Sliders.

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 beef Tri-Tip Roast (1-1/2 pounds)
  - 1 cup hickory-flavored barbecue sauce, divided
  - 1 tablespoon chipotle peppers in adobo sauce, seeded and minced
  - 18 baked low-fat buttermilk biscuits (about 2 to 2-1/2-inch diameter), split
  - 3/4 cup crushed corn tortilla chips or homemade tortilla strips
- Slaw:
- 1-1/2 cups coleslaw mix
  - 1 red pepper, seeds and stem removed, cut into small dice
  - 1/2 cup green onions, cut in thin, 1-inch strips
  - 1/3 cup coleslaw dressing
  - 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro leaves
  - Salt and pepper

#### COOKING:

1. Combine barbecue sauce and chipotle peppers; reserve 3/4 cup sauce mixture. Brush some of remaining sauce mixture onto all sides of beef Tri-Tip Roast.
2. Place roast on grid over medium, ash-covered coals or over medium heat on preheated gas grill. Grill; covered 25 to 35 minutes for medium rare (135°F) to medium (150°F) doneness, basting roast with remaining sauce while grilling and turning occasionally.  
*Cook's Tip: To prepare roast in the oven, preheat oven to 425°F. Brush sauce mixture onto all sides of roast. Place on rack in shallow roasting pan. Do not add water or cover. Roast in 425°F oven 30 to 40 minutes for medium rare; 40 to 50 minutes for medium doneness. Baste roast with remaining sauce 10 minutes before finished roasting. Remove roast from oven and let stand as directed in step 4.*
3. To prepare Slaw, combine coleslaw mix, bell pepper, green onions, dressing and cilantro in medium bowl; toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Refrigerate until ready to serve.
4. Remove roast when instant-read thermometer registers 135°F for medium rare; 150°F for medium. Transfer roast to carving board; tent loosely with aluminum foil. Let stand 15 to 20 minutes. (Temperature will continue to rise about 10°F to reach 145°F for medium rare; 160°F for medium.)
5. Carve roast across the grain into thin slices. Toss with reserved 3/4 cup sauce mixture.
6. Evenly divide beef slices, coleslaw and tortillas among biscuits. Close sandwiches.  
*Cook's Tip: To prepare homemade tortilla strips, preheat oven to 425°F. Cut tortillas in half, then crosswise into 1/4-inch-wide strips. Place single layer on baking sheet. Spray tortilla strips lightly with nonstick cooking spray. Bake 6 to 8 minutes at 425°F or until lightly brown and crisp.*

**Nutrition information per serving, 1/18 of recipe:** 171 Calories; 54 Calories from fat; 6g Total Fat (1 g Saturated Fat; 2 g Monounsaturated Fat); 21 mg Cholesterol; 507 mg Sodium; 2 g Total Carbohydrate; 1.2 g Dietary Fiber; 10 g Protein; 1.3 mg Iron; 3.1 mg NE Niacin; 0.2 mg Vitamin B6; 0.4 mcg Vitamin B12; 1.6 mg Zinc; 13.7 mcg Selenium.  
 \* Based on a 2,000 calorie diet  
 \*\* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000-calorie diet  
 This recipe is an excellent source of Selenium; and a good source of Niacin, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B12, and Zinc.

### Minnesota Beef Council Events

**June 19-23** – 2023 Young Leaders in Agriculture Conference – Sioux Falls, SD

**July 17** – MBC Board of Directors Meeting – Slayton, MN

**July 18** – MSCA Summer Tour – Pipestone, MN





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# MSCA discusses top priorities with Representatives

By Kaitlyn Root

The Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association (MSCA) was present in Washington D.C. April 24-26 for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association’s Legislative Conference. MSCA Interim President Jake Thompson, Membership and Industry Relations Chair Angie Ford, Mike Landuyt and Executive Director Kaitlyn Root represented Minnesota while attending NCBA meetings and visiting with Representatives.

This was MSCA’s opportunity to meet directly with Representatives to discuss issues Minnesota cattle producers are facing. Topics discussed included:

- Support for the Beef Checkoff and our opposition towards the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act which, if enacted, would substantially undermine our members’ ability to promote U.S. agriculture and natural resource-based commodity products.
- 2023 Farm Bill Priorities: Strengthening Livestock Risk Protection to help producers hedge against price decline and protect themselves from extreme conditions which could detrimentally affect their business; Promoting Voluntary Conservation Programs to help producers continue caring for the land. We support voluntary conservation programs that help producers invest in improvements to the land, water and natural resources; Pro-

tecting Animal Health – support for programs like the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program are important for foreign disease protection – investments into these programs are essential to the economy. We need to have a Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank ready for emergencies; No Livestock Title – A stand-alone livestock title is not necessary to protect our industry and would open the door to overregulation and harmful mandates.

- Modernizing the Endangered Species Act (ESA); 2023 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment of the ESA. This well-intentioned process has become a broken one. We encourage voluntary conservation, reducing frivolous litigation and support ESA’s ability to demonstrate success when implemented correctly (delisting animals once they have recovered). Specifically, MSCA discussed our desire for the grey wolf to be delisted and our support for a grey wolf hunting and trapping season.
- Value of Grazing: Grazing on federal rangelands, grasslands and forest is an essential tool which helps conserve and improve landscapes. Grazing is a critical environmental tool, and there needs to be more grazing of federal lands.



MSCA Interim President Jake Thompson, Membership and Industry Relations Chair Angie Ford and Executive Director Kaitlyn Root pictured at our nation’s capital.



MSCA team members pictured with Representative Brad Finstad (right).



Representative Angie Craig (middle) pictured with MSCA team members.



MSCA team members pictured with Representative Michelle Fischbach (middle).





MSCA team members pictured with Representative Pete Stauber.



Senator Tina Smith (middle) pictured with MSCA team members.



MSCA team members pictured with House Ag Committee Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson.

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# 2022 National Beef Quality Audit Shows Efficiency Improvements

By National Cattlemen's Beef Association, a Contractor of the Beef Checkoff

Since 1991, the Beef Checkoff-funded National Beef Quality Audit (NBQA) has delivered a set of guideposts and measurements for cattle producers and other stakeholders to help determine quality conformance of the U.S. beef supply. Results from the 2022 NBQA indicate that the beef cattle industry is producing a high-quality product that consumers want more efficiently and the industry's primary focus across the supply chain remains food safety.

"The NBQA is an important tool for the industry to identify where improvements are being made and where there are opportunities to capture more value," said Josh White, senior executive director of producer education and sustainability at NCBA. "The good news is, overall, the beef industry is providing a quality product to consumers that they enjoy."

Early NBQAs focused on the physical attributes of beef such as marbling, external fat, carcass weight and carcass blemishes. These cattle industry concerns have evolved to include food safety, sustainability, animal well-being and the growing disconnect between producers and consumers. As a result, over the past 30 years, NBQA researchers have made significant changes to the research, leading to an increasingly meaningful set of results.

Based on individual interviews with

stakeholders from across the cattle industry as well as in-plant research, key learnings for fed cattle from the 2022 NBQA include:

- Market segments no longer consider food safety as a purchasing criterion, but an expectation.
- When comparing 2016 and 2022 NBQAs, the largest improvement was overall increased efficiency across the beef supply chain.
- Market sectors indicated that their companies strive to increase their sustainability, and work with the entire beef supply chain to do so.
- The entire industry felt the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, nonetheless, beef proved to be a choice of consumers, and the industry persevered to provide products.
- Due to pandemic pressures, more cattle over 30 months of age were harvested.
- The beef industry's image improved within fed cattle market sectors.
- Foreign materials continue to present a problem, but the industry is making strides to decrease incidence.
- There was an increase in usage of electronic identification.
- There was an increase in the frequency of Prime and Choice quality grades, while Select de-

creased drastically.

- While the industry is improving the quality of beef being produced, that quality is being accompanied by an increase in carcass weight and fat thickness, as well as large increases in percentages of Yield Grade 4 and 5 carcasses.

The NBQA, conducted approximately every five years, provides an understanding of what quality means to the

various industry sectors, and the value of those quality attributes. This research helps the industry make modifications necessary to increase the value of its products. The efforts of the findings from the 2022 NBQA serve to improve quality, minimize economic loss and aid in advancements in producer education for the U.S. beef industry. For more information about the 2022 National Beef Quality Audit, visit [www.bqa.org](http://www.bqa.org).

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- July 17 – **MSCA Quarterly Meeting** – 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m – Key Largo on Lake Shetek, Slayton, MN
- July 17 – **MSCA PAC Event** – Key Largo, 5:30-10 p.m.
- July 18 – **Summer Tour** – hosted by Murray County Cattlemen's Association and Pipestone County Cattlemen's Association
- July 24-26 – **NCBA Summer Business Meeting** – San Diego, California
- Aug. 1-3 – **FarmFest**
- Sept. – **MSCA Third Quarterly Meeting** – Date/Time/Location TBD
- Dec. 14-16 – **2023 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention** – Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria

For more details on events listed above, visit [www.mnsca.org](http://www.mnsca.org)

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Minnesota Commissioner of Ag Thom Petersen (right) was able to attend the event and enjoy steak on a stick.



Senate members pictured with MSCA Executive Director Kaitlyn Root (right).

## Legislators and cattle producers gather at Minnesota's Capitol

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA) hosted another successful Steak on a Stick event at Minnesota's Capitol on April 20. Thanks to the help of the West Central Cattlemen's Association and Cottonwood Cattle Producers grillers, we were able to serve 750 steaks to legislators and staff within one hour! The event was a huge success, and it offered the opportunity for MSCA staff and members to network with legislators and discuss policy. Huge thank you to everyone that came out to help with the event!



MSCA staff and members gathered together to grill steaks at Minnesota's Capitol on April 20.



Due to the rainy day, steaks were served in the basement of the Capitol. The weather didn't stop Steak on a Stick from being another successful event!



West Central Cattlemen's Association and Cottonwood Cattle Producers worked together to grill 750 steaks for Minnesota legislators and staff to enjoy.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### 2023 ag education interns announced

The Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council (MAELC) is excited to announce its newest group of Agricultural Education interns. Four students majoring in agricultural education at the University of Minnesota-Crookston, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and North Dakota State University with an interest in teaching agricultural education in Minnesota have been selected and paired with current Minnesota agriculture teachers for the summer.

MAELC is pleased to work with the following interns and their supervising teachers this summer:

Intern	Supervising Teacher(s) School
McKayla Carlson-Hughes North Dakota State University	Mary Hoffmann Sleepy Eye
Karli Knopf University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	Eric Sawatzke & Ben Johnson West Central Area
Amara Livingston University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	Joe Ramstad Rockford
Laney Swiers University of Minnesota-Crookston	Stacy Fritz Chatfield

This internship was made possible by generous donations from AgCountry Farm Credit Services, CHS Foundation, Christensen Farms, Compeer Financial and MAELC.

MAELC is a 16-member legislative council providing leadership to promote and expand agricultural education in Minnesota. The state legislature, agricultural educators, and agriculture industry leaders are all represented on the council.

### Haying opportunity announced

The Morris Wetland Management District is offering, to all eligible applicants, an opportunity to enter into a Cooperative Agricultural Agreement (CAA) to conduct haying on 16 WPAs in the following five counties of west central Minnesota: Big Stone (7 Units), Lac qui Parle (1 Unit), Pope (2 Units) Stevens (5 Units) and Swift (1 Unit). Haying will be used to manage the grassland habitat and improve conditions for nesting waterfowl. Hay units range in size from approximately 14 acres to 87 acres. Deadline for sealed bids is 1 p.m., Friday, June 30. Sealed bids must be mailed or hand delivered to the Morris WMD, 43875 230th St., Morris, MN, 56267. Bidders will be notified of results by C.O.B. July 3

For more information about specific sites and to request a bid, stop in at the office or contact J.B. Bright at 320-589-4970 or [jb\\_bright@fws.gov](mailto:jb_bright@fws.gov)

### Minnesota FFA association names Rada executive director

The Minnesota FFA Association has named Dr. Lavyne Rada as its new executive director. Rada assumed the role of executive director on June 5. She brings experience in FFA and agricultural education to this role where she will be working with Minnesota FFA members, agriculture teachers and numerous stakeholders.

With Dr. Rada being an integral part of the association staff since 2014, this new role is a testament to her outstanding dedication, expertise and exceptional performance. Throughout her tenure, Rada has consistently exhibited exceptional leadership qualities, strategic thinking, and a remarkable ability to drive results.

In her previous role as Regional Supervisor and Program Manager, Rada played a crucial role in organizing, developing, and implementing new and existing training for student growth while strengthening Minnesota FFA's growing membership of nearly 16,000 students. As Executive Director, Rada will assume broader responsibilities and play a pivotal role in shaping Minnesota FFA's future.

### Cattle industry groups strongly support the Foreign Animal Disease Prevention, Surveillance, and Rapid Response Act

Leading national and state cattle industry organizations have announced their support for the Foreign Animal Disease Prevention, Surveillance and Rapid Response Act introduced by Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), John Cornyn (R-TX) and Joni Ernst (R-IA), and Reps. Ronny Jackson (R-TX), Angie Craig (D-MN), Jim Costa (D-CA), Don Bacon (R-NE) and Don Davis (D-NC).

**National Cattlemen's Beef Association President Todd Wilkinson:** "The threat of a foreign animal disease outbreak in the United States represents an existential threat to every cattle producer. It would also threaten this nation's food and national security. We must act now to ensure we are prepared to combat a potential crisis before it happens. As a cattle producer, it is reassuring to see bipartisan support for legislation like the Foreign Animal Disease Prevention, Surveillance, and Rapid Response Act, which will help our industry prepare for, and ultimately prevent, a national crisis."

**California Cattlemen's Association President Steve Arnold:** "The wellness and care of cattle is not taken lightly by California ranching families and cattle producers throughout the U.S. We thank California Rep. Jim Costa and Congress for also making animal health a priority with the bipartisan support of the Foreign Animal Disease Prevention, Surveillance, and Rapid Response Act. These proactive investments to ensure the stability of our cow herds and ranching lifestyles amid a future foreign animal disease outbreak are invaluable steps forward."

**Iowa Cattlemen's Association President Bob Noble:** "It is not a matter of if, but rather when the U.S. cattle industry will face a foreign animal disease outbreak. We should take what we learned from the COVID-19 pandemic response, such as the need for enhanced vaccine manufacturing, improved precautionary planning, and disease mitigation practices and apply those key learnings to protect cattle production so as to not find ourselves in a situation of trying to play catch up. It is crucial that the new Farm Bill continue to support and expand animal disease prevention and management with proactive measures to not only protect the livelihoods of cattle producers, but more importantly to sustain a food supply reliant on the high-quality protein beef cattle provide for a growing world population."

**Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association Executive Director Kaitlyn Root:** "Support for foreign disease prevention and response programs is crucial for ensuring Minnesota cattle producers can continue operating safely and efficiently. A foreign animal disease could destroy the U.S. cattle industry, so financial support for these programs in the Farm Bill is necessary and appreciated."

**Nebraska Cattlemen President Steve Hanson:** "Food security is national security, which makes additional investments vital for prevention, preparedness, and response capabilities in the case of a foreign animal disease outbreak. Our producers rely on these programs to protect their livelihood in the case of an outbreak."

### Cattle producers rejoice in Supreme Court ruling on WOTUS case

On May 25, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of the Sackett family in *Sackett v. EPA* – the court's most recent consideration of which features are subject to federal Clean Water Act jurisdiction. In its holding, the court soundly rejected the contentious "significant nexus" test. National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) strongly supports this ruling and is currently engaged in a litigation against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the Biden Administration's WOTUS definition.

"Cattle producers across the country can breathe a sigh of relief today. Since EPA's adoption of the 'Significant Nexus' test, cattle producers have had to retain costly legal services to determine if water features on their property are federally jurisdictional," said Todd Wilkinson, South Dakota cattle producer and President of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. "Today's Supreme Court opinion refocuses the Clean Water Act on protecting our water resource through regulatory clarity. We look forward to working with the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as they implement the Court's new Continuous Surface Connection standard."

NCBA submitted an amicus brief in the Sackett case, encouraging elimination of the Significant Nexus test in exchange for a more practical standard. "In its brief to the Court, NCBA highlighted the unconstitutionality of imposing criminal penalties for violations of vague standards under the Clean Water Act. The Court recognized and reversed the Significant Nexus test, in part due to the constitutional due process risk that it created," said Mary-Thomas Hart, Chief Counsel for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

NCBA has been heavily involved in litigation surrounding the WOTUS rule since 2015. NCBA filed suit against the Obama-era WOTUS definition, defended the Trump-era definition that brought more clarity to what water features are included under WOTUS, and filed suit against the Biden administration's WOTUS rule that did not include critical agricultural exemptions.

### USDA announces availability of low-interest physical loss loans for producers affected by natural disasters

Physical loss loans through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) can help producers repair or replace damaged or destroyed physical property essential to the success of the agricultural operation, including livestock losses. Examples of property commonly affected include essential farm buildings, fixtures to real estate, equipment, livestock, perennial crops, fruit and nut bearing trees, and harvested or stored crops and hay. Eligible Minnesota counties include: Clay, Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Polk, Traverse and Wilkin. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center. Visit [farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator](https://farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator) to find your local service center.

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# Making Strong Statements in Washington This Spring

By Todd Wilkinson, NCBA President

Thank you to everyone who came out for NCBA's 2023 Legislative Conference in April. We had a strong showing of more than 300 cattle producers in attendance, directly advocating for the cattle industry in Congress and at federal agencies. This was our first Legislative Conference since 2019, and I was proud to see all the cowboy hats blanketing our nation's capital. Having that many cattle producers in Washington at one time makes a big statement and is a testament to our strength as an industry.

A major issue we tackled during our time in Washington, D.C., was the deceptively named "Opportunities for Fairness in Farming" or OFF Act. Well, let's call it what it really is: the Obliterating Family Farms Act. Bottomline, this is a bad bill which would cripple beef research and promotion efforts that are critical to our livelihoods and the beef industry as a whole. The unholy alliance that's supporting this

legislation includes a laundry list of animal rights groups like PETA and HSUS. It's being pressed by Senators and Representatives who have track records of trying to tear down our industry. I continue to be shocked, but not surprised, that R-CALF has even joined this dubious group, hoping again to use an alliance with animal rights activists to tear down the Beef Checkoff. How can anyone who raises livestock or eats meat put their name next to groups that dream about seeing our farms and ranches shut down for good? Having producers tell their own members of Congress they support the Beef Checkoff is the best defense against bad bills like the OFF Act.

Cattlemen and women also visited federal agencies such as the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of the Interior. NCBA members shared powerful stories about the negative impact government overreach creates for

their operations. With the new WOTUS rule in place for half the country, producers talked about having to hire lawyers to make sure they are compliant and cut back in other areas to afford legal bills. Producers had meetings with Interior Department officials about the Endangered Species Act and said they have watched the lesser prairie chicken population fluctuate over the years based primarily on the amount of moisture available on the range. They told these officials cattle production only helps create good habitat for the species and listing the prairie chicken would only hurt populations further and stop producers from doing what they do best, preserving habitat on working lands. This grassroots advocacy cannot be replicated because it takes all of us to take precious time away from our operations and spend a week in Washington fighting for the future of our industry.

I echoed many of these producer sentiments shortly after

Legislative Conference when I testified before the House Agriculture's Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry on the state of the U.S. cattle industry. This hearing was an opportunity for us to help Congress understand the issues of importance to our businesses. I also drove home the message that unintended consequences and over-regulation have a drastic and negative impact on cattle producers and rural communities.

The subcommittee asked questions on a variety of topics. They also showed interest in the ways Congress can help cattle producers. I thanked Congress for creating and funding programs like the Livestock Forage Disaster Program and the Livestock Risk Protection Program which greatly help producers deal with severe weather conditions and unexpected disasters. I called on Congress to robustly fund programs combating foreign animal disease outbreaks through the 2023 Farm Bill. I

made it clear to lawmakers that a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak on U.S. soil would not only be detrimental to America's farmers and ranchers, but it would also be a huge hit to the U.S. economy and our export markets.

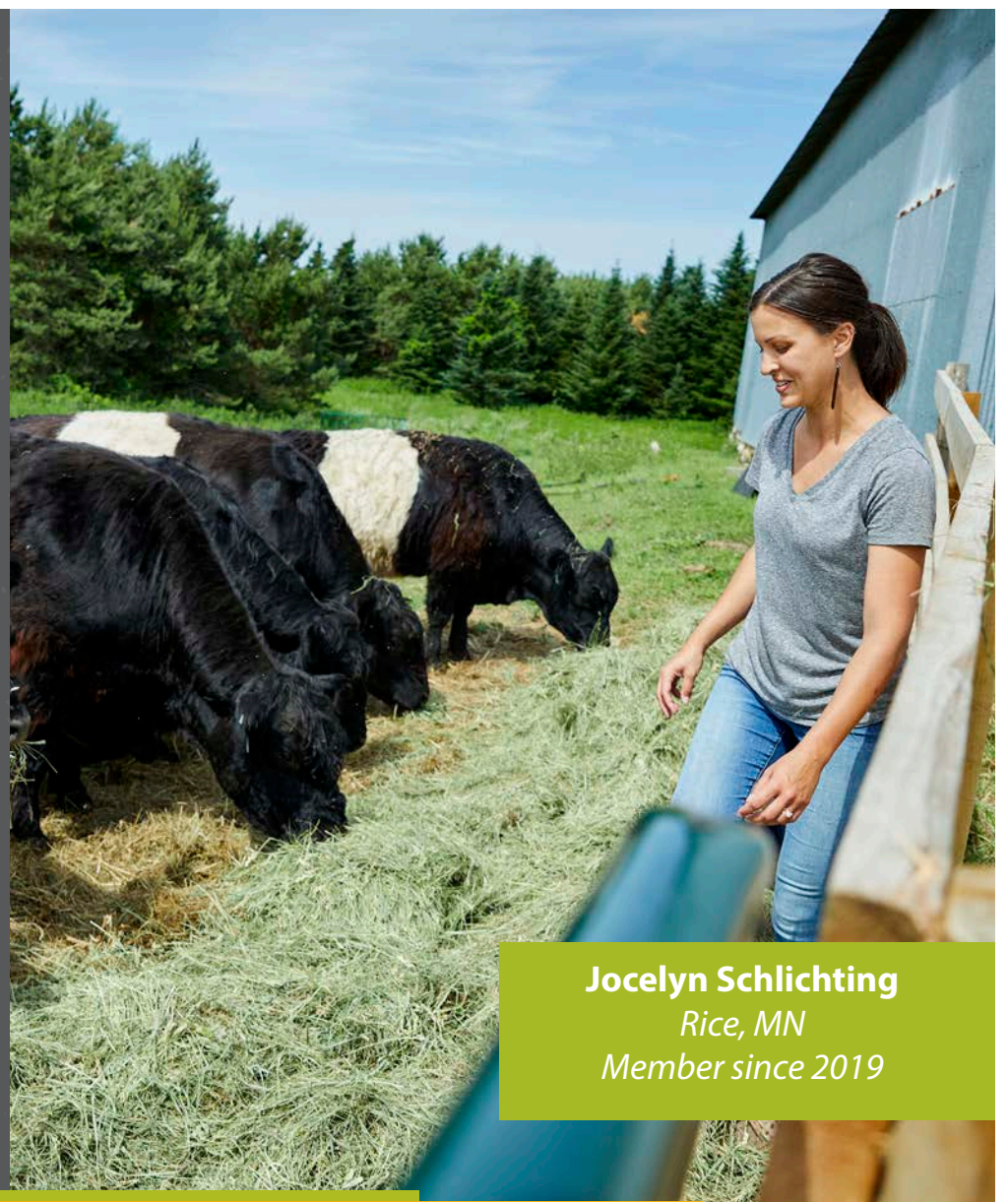
I was asked multiple times by committee members about federal regulations and their impact on cattle producers. And, to put it bluntly, I said regulatory overreach from the federal government makes farmers and ranchers feel attacked. I know you're pushing back on bad regulations in your home states; it takes all of us to make sure legislators understand the consequences of government overreach. That is why the advocacy work we do in Washington, D.C., is so important, and it is why I was proud to be able to speak before this committee to fight for producers and the future of our industry.



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# Success Breeds Contempt...and Attacks

By Colin Woodall, NCBA CEO

Why do animal activist groups care about reforming the Checkoff? They don't, but they do care that the Checkoff has been hugely successful over the years in building consumer demand for beef. While each day another unsuspecting American is duped into giving just "\$19 a month" to help the dogs and cats, the reality is most of these groups are focused on their anti-meat political agendas and not animal welfare. Groups like these want to slow down and eliminate meat consumption, and they have figured out the best way to do that is to make it harder to do what we do. Animal activists support things such as EPA's WOTUS rule because it will make it harder on us as producers. Their latest effort is around promoting the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act, better known as the OFF Act, because it would dismantle the Checkoff as we know it and destroy the great work this program has done for decades.

More specifically, this bill would prohibit the Checkoff from contracting with any organization that lobbies on ag-

ricultural policy. Since NCBA employs federally registered lobbyists, this legislation would prevent us from being a contractor even though we have a firewall in place prohibiting Checkoff dollars from being spent on policy advocacy efforts. Our firewall is audited by the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) and USDA, and we have our own internal accounting and compliance controls to ensure we comply with the Checkoff regulations. The firewall is a sacred line that we just won't cross. If NCBA was prohibited from being a contractor, the future of programs like Beef. It's What's For Dinner advertising campaigns and the work we do in nutrition research would be in jeopardy. The Checkoff works on a cost-recovery basis which means we must front all the expenses for the work we do. We then submit these expenses to CBB for review to make sure we have met all the requirements we agreed to in order to be a contractor. If we pass the review, then we can

get reimbursed for the expenses we incurred. NCBA was designed by the cattle producers who developed the first Beef Industry Long Range Plan to serve the role of a Checkoff contractor. This was the will and intent of cattle producers, and we don't believe Congress has a right to trump that.

The OFF Act goes further to prevent the Checkoff from engaging in unfair or deceptive acts or from disparaging other agricultural commodities. The current Checkoff regulations already prevent that from happening. The legislation also requires the Checkoff to publish their financial information and allow for compliance audits by USDA's Office of the Inspector General. You can find the Checkoff financials on the CBB's website today, along with the authorization requests each contractor submitted outlining the scope of work and the expense required to execute the programs. Furthermore, the Office of the Inspector General can audit Checkoff contractors when-

ever they want. These provisions of the bill clearly illustrate that the sponsors have no idea how the Checkoff works, and more importantly, have no respect for the producers who volunteer their time to help lead and direct the Checkoff.

So, who is behind this legislation? The Senate bill is led by Senator Cory Booker who is a vegan Democrat from New Jersey. His co-sponsor is Senator Mike Lee who is a beef eating Republican from Utah. This is a great example of where you get so far out on either side of the political spectrum that you meet up again. On the House side, South Carolina Republican Nancy Mace is joined by Democrat Dina Titus from Las Vegas. The one thing tying them all together is animal activist groups. Senator Booker is a known animal activist and receives support from groups like HSUS. Representative Mace has made animal activism a hallmark of her time in Congress, and Representative Titus is part of the Congressional Animal Protection Cau-

cus. We can now put Senator Lee in the animal activist category given his willingness to join this group and ignore the will of his constituent cattle producers in Utah. As all our mothers warned, be careful who you hang out with. These Members of Congress are nothing but puppets of these activist groups.

The Checkoff belongs to you. Cattle producers fund it, lead it, and direct its efforts. An effort was undertaken in 2020 and 2021 to gather enough producer signatures to force a referendum on whether the Checkoff should continue. After 15 months of collecting signatures, the petitioners failed to get 10% of the producers needed for the vote. However, that failure was a de facto vote and showed the vast majority of producers know the value the Checkoff brings. NCBA will continue to expose that this legislation is not really about the Checkoff, it is about the activist agendas of the groups supporting it.

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1501 - 1750 - \$1600

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