



The Minnesota Cattlemans

The Official Newspaper of the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association

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MSCA Summer Tour Highlights Southwestern Minnesota

By MSCA Executive Director Kaitlyn Root

Murray and Pipestone County Cattlemen's Associations hosted the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA) Annual Summer Tour on July 18. The tour brought in 630 attendees who hopped on one of 11 busses that traveled around southwestern Minnesota to various tour stops, and over 800 steaks were served at the evening meal.

On July 17, the MSCA hosted their July Quarterly Meeting at Key Largo on Lake

Shetek, Slayton, followed by the MSCA Political Action Committee (PAC) Event. The MSCA PAC's purpose is to support candidates running for public office who have showed support for MSCA's policy agenda. The PAC Event featured a beanbag tournament and beef brisket dinner.

The tour kicked off bright and early the next morning at the Pipestone County Fairgrounds where folks registered and hopped on a bus to begin

the day. During the tour, attendees were able to network with producers, enjoy onsite tradeshows and tour operations and businesses in southwestern Minnesota.

Tour stops included: a drive through the Heartland Colony (a self-sufficient Hutterite colony with own feed mill); Baustian's Feedlot (covered feedlots with water runoff system); Brinkmeyer Farms (multi-generation open cemented feedlot and sun shades); Chestnut Angus (cow/calf and seedstock displays from southwestern Minnesota); Ford Farms (two different deep pitted slat barns, bunkers with runoff filtration); Schuur Concrete (bunks and precast); Monogram Meats (history of the business and virtual tour, onsite tradeshow); and Verlinde Farms (feedlot-Wagyu cattle, cow/calf and new state

of the art working system.) After an exciting tour, attendees were brought back to the fairgrounds where they enjoyed a steak dinner and entertainment by local musician Myah Schroeder. Multiple fun prizes were given away including a pellet grill, gift cards, coolers and more!

Next year's Summer Tour will be hosted by the Northwestern Stockmen Association

on June 25. Stay tuned for more details on this event.

The MSCA is a membership-based organization representing cattle producers and individuals who are part of the Minnesota beef community. MSCA provides a voice for the cattlemen and women in Minnesota. To join the MSCA or renew your membership, visit [mnsca.org/become-a-member](https://www.mnsca.org/become-a-member).

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 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>



Trade show – Each tour stop hosted trade show booths for attendees to check out. Pictured is a booth at Schuur Concrete, a bunks and precast company located near Chandler, Minnesota.



Networking – Summer Tour attendees enjoyed mingling while learning about innovative operations.



Entertainment – Local musician Myah Schroeder played music for the steak dinner following the tour.



Evening dinner – Summer Tour attendees gathered at the Pipestone County Fairgrounds for a steak dinner, entertainment and giveaways following the tour. Over 800 steaks were served at the evening meal.

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**KAITLYN ROOT**

Executive Director
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Hello Minnesota cattle producers,

I hope you all are having a great summer! It has been a productive summer for the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA).

Since my last article in June, MSCA had our Summer Tour,

July Quarterly Meeting, MSCA Political Action Committee Event, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Summer Business Meeting in San Diego, California, and Farmfest. These events offered opportunities for MSCA leaders and MSCA members to discuss policies affecting the cattle industry, network with fellow producers and learn about different cattle operations.

These past couple of months have highlighted strengths about this association and its members to me. One of these strengths is passion. The passion our members and leaders have for Minnesota cattle producers and the beef industry at large is outstanding, and it shows through the everyday

actions of our members.

Much of this work and dedication for the industry may seem to go unnoticed, but it is this unnoticed, behind the scenes work that is the most important. Although talking about the MSCA with your friend, sharing what the MSCA does for its members with your neighbor or simply representing Minnesota cattle producers by shining a positive light on what cattle producers do during their everyday life may seem unnoticed, it is what this association is built off.

I encourage each of you to remember the small impacts you have on other producers, friends, family members and even strangers you are meeting for the first time are crucial for

the success of this organization. These small impacts may lead to very, very large impacts and possible changes.

This can go either way – negative or positive impacts. So next time you are at the grocery store and someone asks what you do for a living, share with them your passion for farming and raising livestock – it could possibly change the way they view agriculture as a whole. And the next time you are offered the opportunity to brag about the MSCA and our excellent leaders, take it.

You never know what might come out of a simple conversation and how these small conversations may lead to something much bigger.

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**JAKE THOMPSON**

President

Hello fellow cattlemen and cattlemen,

I hope this summer has been a good and productive one for you. I know here at the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association it has been.

If you missed the MSCA Summer Tour in Murry and Pipestone counties in the middle of July, you missed a great time. The tour had around 630

attendees, and over 800 steaks were served that evening. Beautiful operations and industry partners were showcased in southwest Minnesota.

I would like to thank all who attended and tip my hat to the wonderful job the Pipestone and Murry Cattlemen did to facilitate such a wonderful and successful tour. I look forward to what the northwest will have to offer next year. Save the date for next year's tour hosted by the Northwestern Stockmen's Association on June 25, 2024.

August brought Farmfest which was jammed pack full of making sandwiches, radio promotion and talking farm bill with all the legislators that came by the monoslope. There was a good attendance with almost all of our partners

Thompson ... continued on page 3

**JOSIAH EBELING**

Feeder Council Chair

Fair season is here, that means summer is coming to an end. We are only a couple weeks out from the best time of the year – smelling fresh cut silage. Hope everyone has a safe and successful harvest.

The reported spot market volumes remain light last week. Trading prices ended steady to firm for the week. Live prices in the south ranged from \$180 to \$186 with the

bulk of low end cattle selling at \$180. In the north, live prices were mainly \$188-190. Dressed prices firmed selling mostly \$296 in the north.

The slaughter this past week slowed to a new low for the year of 603,000, down 10,000 head from the previous week. The slaughter reduction from last year is 42,000 head.

Packers are determined to reduce the slaughter to the point they can successfully reestablish stability in the box prices and build more numbers in the feedyards. The upcoming weeks will continue smaller slaughter levels, but this may possibly be the bottom weekly level.

Box prices moved higher in early week trading follow-

Ebeling ... continued on page 3

**RACHEL GRAY**

Vice President

Hello from northern Minnesota,

I hope you are starting to get some rain and if not, that you are able to find enough hay for your cattle. I know that in 2021 when we had drought up here, finding hay was tough. If you are having trouble finding hay, look to northern Minnesota, as right now there seems to be a

good supply up here.

I was able to attend Farmfest this year, and of course the beef sandwiches were amazing. As always, the crowds were large and there was a lot to see.

I am so impressed with the new technology that is happening in farming. If you have not had a chance to attend Farmfest, mark your calendars for next year.

I hope you are all making plans to attend the annual convention in December. It should be very educational and a great time to meet friends in the cattle business.

The markets are continuing to look good. I know prices have been very favorable at the auctions I have been watching.

Gray ... continued on page 3

**ERIC ZELTWANGER**

Cow/Calf Council Chair

Dear cattlemen,

Welcome to the dog days of summer. We had the pleasure of attending the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA) Summer Tour, and wow, what a great job!

The tour was run like a well-oiled machine – we were blessed with good weather and great times to visit with fellow

cattlemen. Great Job to ALL that played a part in this wonderful event.

The MSCA Political Action Committee event was also a big success, even if Jenny and I didn't make it to the final round in the corn hole tournament. We had a great time gathering with a fun group of like-minded people that wish to support our way of life.

Thank you to all that helped with this event as well. That being said, I would be in trouble if I didn't send some praise over to the Farmfest committee. These guys did it again, feeding the masses their Big Beef Sandwiches.

I want to say thank you from all the members of the cattle-

Zeltwanger ... continued on page 3



MICHELLE MOUSER
CattleWomen President

cellent group of members who have invested much time and energy into strengthening and renewing our State Beef Ambassador program: Rosemary Gustafson, Amanda Armstrong, Juanita Reed-Boniface, Olivia Tersteeg, Jennifer Scheifelbein and Royalee Rhodes.

As the time and culture of our youth change, it is imperative that we stay focused on training students to lead, to speak and to represent our industry with integrity. Thank you to all who have contributed to our ambassadors' training and experience.

Summer is over and the fall herd work has begun! The CattleWomen and our State Beef Ambassadors are gearing up for a busy fall with our last two CattleWomen 360 events and the Ambassador competition. Here are some details for the fall.

Please join us on Sept. 30 in Aitkin, Minnesota, where we will dive into animal health, safety and biosecurity with "Disease: The One Chain We Need to Break." Neogen's Dr. Nick Wagner, DVM, and Kelly Montgomery will be covering diseases, how they are transmitted and what we can do to interrupt or break the chain. This day will be hands on with cattle as we learn about products and their application methods.

Next, we head to the MN Beef Expo, Oct. 19-22, where we will be hosting our 32nd annual State Beef Ambassador Competition. We have an ex-

cellent group of members who have invested much time and energy into strengthening and renewing our State Beef Ambassador program: Rosemary Gustafson, Amanda Armstrong, Juanita Reed-Boniface, Olivia Tersteeg, Jennifer Scheifelbein and Royalee Rhodes.

On Nov. 4, we head west to Clear Springs Cattle Company in Starbuck, Minnesota, for "Grazing: Cattle's Positive Impact on the Land and How to share it." Our day will begin with a tour of the Wulf family's operation, then we will hear from multiple government agencies that manage public lands and finish the day learning how to share our story of cattle's positive impact on the land.

Join the MN CattleWomen and get connected. It is our heart's desire that cattle women everywhere are encouraged, proud of their life raising beef and supported in their work. See you soon!

For more information, visit mncattlewomen.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.

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Minnesota Corn Growers Association*
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Roto-Mix

Choice

Purina (Land O'Lakes)
Vaxxinova
Artex
Dry Creek Trucking

* Indicates giving above base level for that category!

Zeltwanger . . . continued from page 2

men's for the work you do to make the event what it is! We would be hard pressed to find an event that gives us the chance to connect with all the people Farmfest does. Farmfest offers us a political stage right inside our monoslope barn. How much better could we do?

After every event like this, I have a renewed sense of pride in livestock producers. We continue to do what it takes to get things done, time and time again.

Back to the reason for this article, cows and cowboys. Coming from the cow/calf side of things, I can say things look bright!

As I write this article, calves have now sold in the \$4 a pound range – WOW! Now is the time for the cow/calf guy to make some money.

This group of calves might be

the ones that finally get us to upgrade a feed wagon or tractor or put in some new fences to help things move smoother. All of these things take money but can help make us more productive, which in the long run hopefully makes us more profitable.

With the value of these calves, maybe now is a good time to add even more to them. Are all calves vaccinated, cut or banded and weaned for 30 days? If not, that can take an average set of calves and put them in demand for our cattle feeder partners.

I understand we have to do what works for each of our set-ups, but these things are almost sure to add value to calves.

Something we can't control is the weather. I know I am not alone in wishing we could catch some rain. So, we will do our best to supplement

pastures as we can, add water tanks where we need them and feed if absolutely necessary.

That being said, I can feel sorry for the feedlots that are trying to buy these calves and trying to make money on them. I know some guys that won't be filling some or all of their lots, but with the high demand comes high prices.

Please continue to support the Beef Checkoff as it is proven to pay dividends for the cost invested in it. It is also a way to help fuel the demand for beef in places we don't get to. The Beef Check-off helps promote beef and raise demand for our great product for years to come.

As a good friend says in his voicemail, Drink some Milk and Eat some Beef today – it's good for MY business!

Keep on keepin' on

Gray . . . continued from page 2

Hopefully, that will continue into the fall run.

On our farm, we are looking forward to finishing the haying season and getting started on chopping silage and a new crop of heifers coming in.

I hope you have a wonderful fall season!

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Thompson . . . continued from page 2

in Washington stopping by to talk farm bill. We also had state legislators and government officials stop, and we were able to discuss drought, deer depredation, taxes, etc.

It was a successful fundraiser, and I want to thank all who volunteered their time to come work. A special thank you goes out to Minnwest Bank who graciously supplied us with about 15 volunteers that operated the serving lines

Tuesday and Wednesday.

I am extremely grateful for the Farmfest committee that plans and prepares everything for one of our largest fundraisers of the year. They do a wonderful job, which is very much appreciated.

Another summer event was the NCBA Summer Business Meeting. Kaitlyn Root, Josiah Ebeling, Mark Pankonin, Mike Landuyt and Glen Graff all attended and repre-

sented Minnesota on the policy side. Our presented resolution amendments passed, and it sounded like it was a successful trip.

Our third quarterly meeting is scheduled for end of September at the Minnesota Beef Council office so virtual attendance is an easier option. I hope the end of the summer treats everyone well and harvest goes smoothly.

Ebeling . . . continued from page 2

ing the small slaughter week. Beef has lost ground as mid-summer demand wanes. Primal cuts are attempting to find a balance between premium cuts and the grind that comprises almost half of the beef. Export markets are expected to decline, but the size of the decline might be more severe than many analysts forecast.

China's economy is turn-

ing downward and pork prices in China recently fell 25 percent. Our beef is expensive compared to other sourcing options like South America and Australia. The value of the dollar will influence exports, and no one knows its direction.

No one knows how consumers might back away from beef if the price continues to

rise. We already know the premium programs of GAP and never/ever are falling by the wayside and extra costs to consumers without proven health benefits are vulnerable to extinction.

We don't know the tolerance of consumers and at what price they switch to alternative cheaper meats.



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Going to the Meat Market

Jon Dilworth, director of industry relations, and Ashley Kraemer, director of communications, visited B&E Meat Locker in Crookston, Minnesota, for a “Going to the Meat Market” video. When we walked into the meat locker, they have a large board promoting the 1976 burger blend that they make! Make sure to check out our Facebook page to view the video and if you’re in the Crookston area, make sure to stop by and say hi to Brent and his team at B&E Meats.



Minnesota Beef Council Prime Promoter of the Year

The Minnesota Beef Council and the Beef Checkoff Program is seeking entries for its annual Prime Promoter of the Year Award, an award which honors an organization who shows outstanding promotion of beef throughout the year. This promoter must show how they have gone above and beyond to promote beef to consumers. If that is your group, or you know of a group that you would like to nominate, we’d like to hear from you.

Minnesota Prime Promoter of the Year Award Recipients Will Receive:

- Award Plaque presented at the MSCA Convention
- Publicity in state and local media
- Industry recognition and prestige
- \$500 towards promotions for the next year

Who May Enter:

This award is open to any local cattle producer organization, including local breed associations, FFA/4-H or other agricultural organization, and others who promote beef. They may apply directly or be nominated by others.

Awards Presentations:

Announcement of the winner will be made in December at the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association Convention. Publicity will be coordinated by the Minnesota Beef Council. Award winners may be featured during May Beef Month and in other promotional activities throughout the year.

Entry Procedure:

Deadline is Nov. 1, 2023. For more information and to receive an application, email Jon Dilworth at jon@mnbeef.org.

MNBC TAILGATING RECIPE

It doesn’t feel like summer is coming to an end, but the calendar says it is. Fall means tailgating, crisp nights and fall colors. The biggest games of the year deserve the best recipes. Whether the tailgate is in the parking lot, backyard or home kitchen, you’ll be the MVP with these great tailgating recipes.

BEEF MUFFULETTA DIP

A muffuletta sandwich is a Cajun favorite. Try this version in a bread bowl with deli corned beef, pickled vegetables and cream cheese.

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 ounces deli corned beef, chopped
- 1 shepherd loaf, about 8 inches in diameter
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup chopped green olives
- 4 ounces provolone cheese, chopped
- 1/2 cup drained, chopped giardiniera
- 1/4 cup chopped roasted red peppers

SERVING SUGGESTION:

Carrot sticks, celery sticks, crackers (optional)

COOKING:

Cut top 1/3 off loaf. Scoop out middle of loaf base, reserve bread pieces. Place hallowed loaf on shallow-rimmed baking sheet.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine corned beef, cream cheese, olives, provolone, giardiniera and red peppers in large bowl; mix well. Place beef mixture in hallowed loaf. Bake in 350°F oven 35 to 40 minutes or until dip is bubbly. Serve with carrots, celery, crackers and bread pieces, as desired.

Cook’s Tip: You may toast bread pieces by placing on shallow-rimmed baking sheet. Bake in 350°F oven for last 10 minutes of cook time.

You may bake this dip in 8 by 8-inch baking dish coated with cooking spray for 20 minutes until golden and bubbly.

Nutrition information per serving: 192 Calories; 99 Calories from fat; 11g Total Fat (4.7 g Saturated Fat; 0.15 g Trans Fat; 0.4 g Polyunsaturated Fat; 3 g Monounsaturated Fat); 28 mg Cholesterol; 646 mg Sodium; 16 g Total Carbohydrate; 1 g Dietary Fiber; 8 g Protein; 1.4 mg Iron; 33 mg Potassium; 0.1 mg NE Niacin; 0 mg Vitamin B6; 0.1 mcg Vitamin B12; 0.3 mg Zinc; 2.3 mcg Selenium; 6.5 mg Choline.

This recipe is a good source of Protein. For more great recipes check out MNBeef.org!

MBC Board Meeting

The next Minnesota Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 13 in Maple Plain, MN.

Minnesota Beef Council Events

October 19-22 – MN Beef Expo Minnesota State Fairgrounds

October 25-26 – MN Top of Class

November 13 – Minnesota Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting, Maple Plain, MN

December 15-16 – Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention, Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria, MN

8 Facts About the Beef Checkoff: Is Your Information Correct?

The Beef Checkoff is a complex program with multiple efforts, committees and contractors spread across numerous focus areas, including promotion, research, foreign marketing, industry information, consumer information and producer communications. With 12 contractors and sub-contractors, six program committees, 101 Cattlemen’s Beef Board (CBB) producer leaders and countless new and ongoing Beef Checkoff-funded programs, the Beef Checkoff’s roles and responsibilities can be difficult to fully understand.

The Beef Checkoff believes in honesty and transparency in all communications. Below are clear answers to some of producers’ top questions about the Checkoff.

Does the CBB take a stance on governmental or regulatory policy issues?

No. According to the Beef Promotion and Research Act, Beef Checkoff and the Beef Promotion and Research Order, the Beef Checkoff is a national, producer-funded program, and as such, its funds cannot be used to influence or lobby for government policy or action. There are Beef Checkoff contractors that have legislative branches or policy-focused areas within their overall organizations. However, Beef Checkoff dollars cannot and are not shared with that

sector of those organizations. By law, Beef Checkoff dollars are only utilized for promotion, advertising, research, foreign marketing and education.

Who oversees the Beef Checkoff program?

The Cattlemen’s Beef Board facilitates the Beef Checkoff program. There are 101 CBB members who are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and represent nearly every state across the country. Along with importers, these dedicated cattlemen and women take time away from their own cattle operations to voluntarily serve on the board and make informed decisions on behalf of the Beef Checkoff and producers who fund it. There are no packer representatives on the CBB. Meet the CBB members in your state and learn about their industry involvement here: BeefBoard.org/Members

Does the CBB have annually audited financials? Can I see them?

Yes. Every fall, an independent, outside auditing firm thoroughly reviews all CBB and Beef Checkoff financials. The contract for this firm is renewed each year, voted on by producers on the Budget and Audit committee. The CBB’s audited financials are public and can be found here: BeefBoard.org/Beef-Checkoff-Funds

What is the Beef Checkoff doing to dispel notions that beef is bad for the environment?

The Beef Checkoff invests producer dollars into the Beef Sustainability Research Program to learn, understand and strategically communicate beef’s place in a sustainable food system. The Beef Sustainability Research program provides consumers worldwide with proof of beef producers’ commitment to responsibly raised beef. This research provides a basis for most Beef Checkoff-funded advertising campaigns and other initiatives. The Beef Checkoff communicates beef’s sustainability message to many audiences, including consumers, nutritionists, registered dietitians, the scientific community, influencers, chefs and international audiences through a fully integrated marketing approach.

What’s the deal with NCBA? Do they run the Beef Checkoff?

No. The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) is solely a contractor to the Beef Checkoff. Contractors to the Beef Checkoff are reimbursed for their work on a cost-recovery basis after the CBB reviews their expenses through its internal financial controls. By law, Beef Checkoff funds cannot be used to influence government policy

or action. Therefore, Beef Checkoff dollars cannot and are not used in NCBA’s Policy Division for lobbying or any political issue or policy interest. NCBA’s Checkoff Division carries out beef promotion through management of the Beef Checkoff brand Beef. It’s What’s For Dinner., research, issues management, producer education and information like the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program.

Why are importers involved in the Beef Checkoff?

By law, beef importers also pay into the Beef Checkoff – approximately \$7 million annually. Therefore, the Secretary of Agriculture appoints a proportionate number of importers to the Cattlemen’s Beef Board.

Can I see how Beef Checkoff dollars are spent on programs?

Yes. Everything from CBB’s annual audited financials, contractors’ yearly authorization requests and monthly Beef Checkoff program updates are available on DrivingDemandForBeef.com. CBB meetings are also open to every producer who pays into the Beef Checkoff. While some meetings involve the entire 101-member board, other meetings consist of smaller committees and groups, and every beef pro-

ducer is welcome to participate in the proceedings. Also, producers can sign up for The Drive print or e-newsletter to see monthly updates on different Beef Checkoff programs and projects currently funded by producer dollars.

Can the Beef Checkoff do anything for low cattle prices?

The Beef Checkoff implements beef promotion, advertising, research, foreign marketing, and education to drive demand for beef because demand is the foundation of a healthy beef industry. However, the Beef Checkoff cannot control or affect short-term prices or ensure individual operation profitability. It cannot single-handedly turn around a down market. Instead, the Beef Checkoff promotes beef on national and international levels and finds new market opportunities to grow demand for beef. Through consumer advertising, marketing partnerships, public relations, education, research and new product development, the Beef Checkoff is designed to stimulate others to sell more beef and encourage consumers to buy more beef.

Can’t find an answer to your question? Visit our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at BeefBoard.org/FAQ to learn more or contact CBB staff directly at BeefBoard.org/Contact.



Do you have cattle battling *Clostridium perfringens* Type A enterotoxemia?

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Farmfest 2023

Thank You From the Farmfest Committee

By Krist, Grant, Dawn, Dick and Mark

Farmfest 2023 is in the books. It was another good year for the big full meal deal. We can't even begin to thank all the people who showed up to help, so as not to miss anyone, I won't try to name you all. But a special thank you to the group that shows up every morning to get us rolling, they are tops at pulling beef!

To the groups that show up year after year, it is always great to catch up with you all. To the new people who showed up, it was great to work with you.

We had a special group that asked to be part of our fun at Farmfest, and they showed up in a big way! Thank you to the Minnwest Bank crew for all you did – you were all awesome!

It has now been 14 years that we have been in charge of this event, and it would not be as fun as it is without all of you showing up, but we can always use more help. Just remember it is always the first Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of August.

As I said, it has been 14 years since this crew met at Ted Reichmann's to try out a possible product to use at Farmfest, and we haven't looked back. We can't go without thanking American Foods Group for supplying us with an amazing product.

It is truly great to see the quality and consistency of the roast beef we get

each year. It gives that good dining experience we want our consumers to have, and we continually hear we are the spot people want to eat at when they are at Farmfest.

Recently, we have had the support of Bonanza Bean at our event. It is wonderful to see the support from these Minnesota companies. Now, if someone has a connection to potato chips....?

Something that has been great to see happening has been producers bringing their kids and grandkids along with them to help. It is so great to see these young people experience the servicing of thousands of people in a short period of time.

It touches close to home as I was once one of those kids there helping at Farmfest, and have had the chance to work beside my own kids through the years. These are great memories which will last a lifetime.

Thank you again for everyone's help and for the trust you put in us as the Farmfest Committee. We truly appreciate and enjoy this event – even if we get a little crabby by the third day!

Thanks to everyone for acting like they enjoy hearing Krist's jokes. Some are good and, well, others might make you wonder what goes on in his head! None the less, we hope to see you all again next year.



Farmfest committee – MSCA Farmfest committee pictured left to right, Grant and Dawn Breitzkreutz, Krist Wollum, Dick Pesek, not pictured Mark Malecek.



MSCA Executive Director Kaitlyn Root, MSCA President Jake Thompson and Senator Westrom pictured at the MSCA Beef Barn.



Policy discussion – MSCA President Jake Thompson discussed issues Minnesota cattle producers are facing with Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach and staff at Farmfest 2023.



Big Beef Sandwiches – MSCA President Jake Thompson and University of Minnesota Extension Educator Joe Armstrong box up Big Beef Sandwiches for delivery at Farmfest. MSCA sold over one ton of roast beef during the three days of Farmfest.



Climate panel – MSCA Past President Grant Breikreutz served on a Farmfest forum titled “Understanding Climate-Smart Practices and Policies” where he was able to share how farmers give back to the environment.



MSCA leaders met with Minnesota congressmen and congresswomen at the MSCA Beef Barn to discuss farm bill priorities and other issues affecting Minnesota cattle producers.



Women in Ag – MSCA Vice President Rachel Gray was recognized during the Women in Ag Forum featuring the naming of the 2023 Farmfest Woman Farmer of the Year. Rachel was in the top five recognized.



Helping hand – Farmfest volunteers worked together to serve thousands of Big Beef Sandwiches to Farmfest attendees. Farmfest would not be successful without MSCA’s dedicated volunteers.



MSCA Executive Director Kaitlyn Root discussed farm bill priorities with Congressman Brad Finstad and Majority Whip of the U.S. House of Representatives Tom Emmer.



MSCA President Jake Thompson, Congresswoman Angie Craig, MSCA Past President Grant Breikreutz and MSCA Executive Director Kaitlyn Root pictured at the MSCA Beef Barn.



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NCBA Slams Presidential Overreach in Latest Antiquities Act Designation

On Aug. 8, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) slammed President Biden's use of the Antiquities Act to put sweeping federal designations on over a million additional acres of land in Arizona, amounting to yet another presidential land grab.

"This kind of use of the Antiquities Act is one of the most appallingly political moves to lock up millions of acres of land across the country. Today's latest designation follows a concerning trend of Washington politicians trampling local communities, land managers, farmers, and ranchers with the stroke of a pen," said NCBA President Todd Wilkinson, a South Dakota cattle producer. "NCBA is strongly opposed to the continued abuse of the Antiquities Act, and we urge President Biden to listen to the local communities that will be hurt by this designation."

This designation adds insult to injury for communities that are unheard and intentionally removed from land management conversations. Additionally, the Biden administration failed to communicate with the affected landowners prior to the designation and their so-called public opinion meeting and poll failed to gather perspective from the people most impacted by this decision.

The Antiquities Act gives the President of the U.S. broad power establish national monuments from existing federal lands. These designations are especially harmful to rural communities that rely on federal lands for their livelihood, such as public lands ranchers. Public lands ranching has existed since the early days of exploration in the West and is governed today by the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934. Nearly 40 percent of cattle spend their time on public lands and public lands ranchers protect water sources, safeguard open space, promote forage growth, limit invasive species, and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

Beef Quality Assurance Training Online

University of Minnesota Extension, along with the Minnesota Beef Council, will host online Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training opportunities starting in September, 2023. Producers attending any of the free workshops will receive their three-year BQA certification.

Over the past three years, cattlemen and women have been asked to complete the BQA program in order to market their cattle to certain processors. However, BQA certification is still voluntary. Specific companies have chosen to extend their own quality assurance protocol requirements to cattlemen who are a part of their supply chain. A BQA certification is being required by many major industry buyers and processors. When a producer does not have current BQA certification the result is that many packers and feedlots simply cannot purchase those cattle because their company cannot source cattle from a producer who does not meet their certification requirements.

The online BQA trainings that will be offered include:

- **Online Zoom training:** Thursday, September 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m.
o Register at z.umn.edu/BQASept14
- **Online Zoom training:** Thursday, November 30, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m.
o Register at z.umn.edu/BQANov30
- **Online Zoom Training:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m.
o Register at z.umn.edu/BQAFeb20
- **Online Zoom Training:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m.
o Register at z.umn.edu/BQAApril9

The two-hour trainings are free to attend, but attendees must pre-register online at the correct link. Everyone who handles and manages fed cattle is encouraged to become BQA certified. You only need to attend one of the training options to complete BQA certification.

About the ONLINE Zoom trainings: Pre-registration is required. You will not be able to access the Zoom meeting room without first pre-registering and receiving the secure Zoom link from Extension staff. Accessing Zoom is as simple as clicking on the secure link that will be emailed directly to you.

Families are able to view the training on the same computer/mobile device, and all viewers will receive credit for certification. At the time of entering the Zoom webinar, each participant will need to be checked in by UMN Extension staff with their full name, address, and contact information if it was not supplied at the time of registration.

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Choose suspension, paste or one of the formulations your cattle are already used to eating.

¹Stromberg BE, et al. *Cooperia punctata*: Effect on cattle productivity? *Vet Parasitol.* 2012;183(3-4):284-291.
²Merck Animal Health National FECRT Database.



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Young Cattlemen's Conference Attendee Shares Recap

By: Megan J. Webb, Ph.D.
& Beef Industry Consultant,
MJW Cattle & Beef Ventures,
mjbbeef@gmail.com

In June 2023, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC) program reconvened after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The relaunch of the program occurred with incredible success and comprised of 71 young women and men passionate about the beef industry.

The experience is designed to be immersive by including a nine-day beef industry tour with every facet of the beef industry included as well as leadership and advocacy training.

The YCC Program initiated in 1980 and has become a pivotal program for nurturing and connecting leaders within the beef industry. There are over 1,500 persons who have become alumni of YCC and actively contribute to industry in leadership roles.

The YCC Program supports individuals to have a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of the industry, spanning from cattle and beef production to consumer relations, and awareness of the grass-roots processes NCBA provides for cattlemen.

The 2023 YCC program kicked off in Denver, Colorado, where participants delved into comprehensive classroom sessions, acquiring in-depth knowledge about NCBA and its focused work on behalf of members and the beef community. The YCC participants received a warm welcome at the NCBA Corporate Office in Denver, where CEO Colin Woodall and President Todd Wilkinson extended their greetings.

Industry experts such as Kevin Good, the vice president of industry relations at CattleFax, provided valuable insights and a forecast for the direction and influential impacts on the economics of the beef industry. The program encompassed activities, including leadership development sessions, media training and practical demonstrations of NCBA's instrumental role as a contractor for the Beef Check-off program.

The group began their cross-country tour at Five Rivers Cattle Kurer Feedyard near Greeley, Colorado. This 98,000-head feedyard along the front range in north eastern Colorado is a state-of-the-art feedyard. While there, the YCC participants learned about progressive environmental practices at the feedyard to convert manure into power that,

in turn, can operate the flaker mill. The evening ended at Greeley Hat Works, with famous hat maker Trent Johnson and his creative team.

A beef harvest and processing facility was also a part of the tour, which included Tyson Food's Dakota City, South Dakota, beef processing plant. This facility was exceptional, and participants were able to engage with the corporate leadership team. Participants were impressed by the new harvest floor that had a new catwalk and increased rail height to accommodate the growth in carcass size.

Participants then went on to explore the Certified Angus Beef (CAB) in Wooster, Ohio, and engaged with industry leaders at Wendy's Corporate Headquarters in Ohio, gaining firsthand knowledge about beef marketing, distribution and other crucial aspects.

At CAB, participants witnessed the action and results of beef branding and marketing of beef and value-added products and received an impressive tour of their culinary center. We had exceptional discussions about meat palatability and other consumer issues that are on the forefront at both CAB and Wendy's Corporate Headquarters.

Many YCC participants felt



the most impactful stop occurred in the Nation's Capital, Washington, D.C. This is where we witnessed the NCBA Policy Team's adept management of industry policies supporting the beef sector.

To me, this sector was the most eye-opening to see the policies that the NCBA Policy Team manages to support the beef industry. As a dedicated cattlegirl, I had the privilege of sharing my firsthand perspective with members of Congress, passionately advocating for or against proposed policies which would significantly impact my family's operation. This eye-opening experience underscored the importance of policy advocacy and its pivotal role in driving the continued progress of the beef industry.

I appreciated the opportunity

to engage with elected officials, advocating for critical issues impacting America's cattle and beef producers during an exclusive day on Capitol Hill. The entire trip presented attendees with multiple opportunities to gain educational advancement in the beef industry.

The shared common thread among the YCC participants was the realization that when we can come together, share and learn from each other, that is when we all win more. The YCC experience deepened my appreciation for the collective contributions of cattlemen and women across the nation, emphasizing the significance of active engagement and joining NCBA to represent and support the industry.

**Conference ...
continued on page 13**

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NEWS BRIEFS

USDA Announces Funding Opportunities

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is accepting project proposals for the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP) and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). NCBA advocated for this funding in the 2018 Farm Bill as part of an overall strategy to protect the U.S. cattle herd from foreign animal diseases and reduce the spread and impact of potential disease incursions through advance planning and preparedness.

APHIS will make available up to \$23.5 million in funds for NADPRP and NAHLN. NADPRP proposals must be submitted by Oct. 20, 2023, and NAHLN proposals must be submitted by Oct. 27, 2023. Learn more about this program by visiting the USDA APHIS NADPRP webpage.

APHIS also has invested more than \$70 million in the NAVVCB from FY 2020 through FY 2023 and will invest an additional \$6 million in NAVVCB purchases in FY 2024 including FMD vaccine and diagnostic test kits.

New Investments in Wildlife Protection Announced

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service is accepting applications for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program. Created two years ago by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, this program is designed to assist at-risk communities with planning for and mitigating wildfire risks. In the first year, \$197 million was awarded to 99 project proposals across 22 states.

These funds will help to achieve the Forest Service's goal to treat up to 20 million acres of national forests and grasslands, and 30 million acres of other federal, state, Tribal and private lands to reduce wildfire risk to communities, infrastructure and natural resources. Learn more and apply by visiting the USDA Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program webpage.

Brazil Receives Letter on Animal Disease Reporting

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack sent a letter to Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock stating Brazil's response time in reporting atypical bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is significantly slower than other beef exporting countries, and they need to streamline their animal disease reporting processes. Secretary Vilsack stressed that timely reporting is critical for the U.S. to remain as a trading partner with Brazil.

For two years, NCBA has been calling for USDA to hold Brazil accountable for their inexcusable, lax animal disease reporting practices. Specifically, NCBA has been calling for USDA to ban Brazilian beef imports until it can be proven that their system is not a threat to the health of U.S. consumers and the U.S. cattle herd.

While the USDA letter acknowledges our science-based concerns with Brazil's inept standards, the burden is on Brazil to prove they can meet our high standards and they will take the necessary steps to prove it. The USDA letter is a warning shot to Brazil, and NCBA will remain vigilant and work with USDA to hold Brazil accountable and further safeguard the U.S. cattle herd.

Rule to Amend User Fee Regulations Finalized

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) finalized a rule which will increase transparency for the user fees charged for veterinary diagnostic services for certain import-related and export-related services for live animals, animal products and byproducts. This rule will go into effect at the end of the month and replaces the lists of fees in the Code of Federal Regulations, which can be cumbersome to decipher, with standardized formulas to calculate fees.

These animal health import and export user fees cover significant activities across the country, including at border port locations and quarantine facilities, without the use of appropriated federal tax dollars. These fees support personnel, brick and mortar facilities, and information technology systems. They also recover the costs of inspection and certification services for imports and exports of live animals, animal products and byproducts and for providing veterinary diagnostic goods and services.

NCBA Welcomes House Passage of Two ESA Resolutions

On July 28, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) welcomed the passage of two congressional resolutions that nullify the Biden administration's Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings of the lesser prairie chicken and northern long-eared bat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's listing of these two species undermines on-the-ground, voluntary conservation work and hugely overextends the footprint of the federal government on cattle operations.

"The Biden administration's listing of the lesser prairie chicken and northern long-eared bat create numerous challenges for cattle producers and fail to consider all of their critical conservation work," said NCBA President Todd Wilkinson, a South Dakota cattle producer. "We appreciate Congress taking bipartisan, bicameral action to nullify these two

listings and I thank the House for passing these two joint resolutions."

S.J. Res. 9 would nullify the lesser prairie chicken listing. This listing is extremely concerning because it grants non-government third-parties the ability to review cattle producers' grazing management plans. The lesser prairie chicken also only survives due to producers' conservation investments, and this rule fails to consider how livestock production supports the birds' habitat.

J. Res. 24 would nullify the northern long-eared bat listing. The northern long-eared bat is declining due to White Nose Syndrome, a naturally occurring disease that is not caused by human activity. This listing disrupts cattle producers' ability to effectively manage their land.

Both resolutions have already passed the Senate and now go to the President for signature.

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Mission: To create and maintain an economic and political climate that provides individual members the opportunity to sustain and grow the cattle industry

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Conference ... continued from page 11

I encourage producers to become engaged in your local, regional and state cattlemen's associations, as our livelihood and continued success as an industry relies on each of us making a positive impact at all levels.

I am very thankful to the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA) for supporting my participation in the 2023 YCC Program. Although I was slated to attend in 2020 due to the pandemic, I appreci-

ate the opportunity to re-convene in 2023.

During my tenure in Minnesota between 2018 to 2019, I greatly valued my time there connecting with cattlemen and the Minnesota beef industry while serving the University of Minnesota as Beef Production Systems Extension Specialist. I hope my experiences with the YCC Program will further inspire the MSCA leadership and cattlemen to continue to support attendees from Minnesota to this novel YCC Program in the years to come.

For me, it was the peer-to-peer networking that was a spe-

cial opportunity and gave me deeper connection with producers and allied industry partners across the nation. The networking also allowed me to appreciate the diversity of beef production practices and provided attendees a common ground to ask questions, battle issues together and pioneer ideas to positively grow our operations and collective industry.

Now, just a few months after the experience, the 71-member 2023 YCC Alumni remain in connection between email, social media and group messaging.

Although I currently reside

on the family operation in West Virginia and still serve academia at Eastern WV Community & Technical College as a Dean, I am able to utilize these experiences to foster growth and leadership for the beef industry. I actively contribute to the development of agricultural workforce training programs, agricultural mentorship initiatives and support advancement of the institution's Foundation to support students.

I hope Minnesota cattle producers and the beef industry think of me as a friend and partner, across state lines. I am very appreciative

to have served Minnesota and am fortunate for those experiences. I greatly value the opportunity to attend the YCC Program with the sponsorship from the MSCA and will be forever grateful.

Other event sponsors included: Corteva Agriscience, Elanco, Farm Credit, Five Rivers Cattle Feeding, John Deere, Tyson and NCBA. The 2024 YCC program is slated to commence from May 30 to June 6, 2024. For more details regarding the selection process, please contact Kaitlyn Root with the MSCA.

Minnesota Cattle Producers Represented in San Diego

By Kaitlyn Root, MSCA Executive Director

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA) Executive Director Kaitlyn Root, Feeder Council Chair Josiah Ebeling, Advisor to the Board of Directors Mark Panonin, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Region III VP Mike Landuyt and MSCA member Glen Graff traveled to San Diego, California, July 24-27 for NCBA's Summer Business Meeting.

Minnesota was well-represented at the event, and MSCA voted on policy resolutions/di-

rectives, attended educational sessions and networked with fellow cattle producers.

Key directives and policies discussed at the meeting included: a directive to continue NCBA's advocacy efforts on transparent labeling and inspection of cell-cultured protein products; a resolution highlighting support for continuation of emergency haying and grazing allowances as provided under D2 drought conditions when higher intensity drought status is reached; and a

resolution highlighting the importance of the Beef Checkoff.

Aside from policy committee meetings, MSCA leaders were able to participate in the Richard McDonald Leadership Institute Workshop and multiple NCBA educational sessions where they were briefed on key issues the cattle industry is facing and the work NCBA is doing to protect and defend cattle producers.

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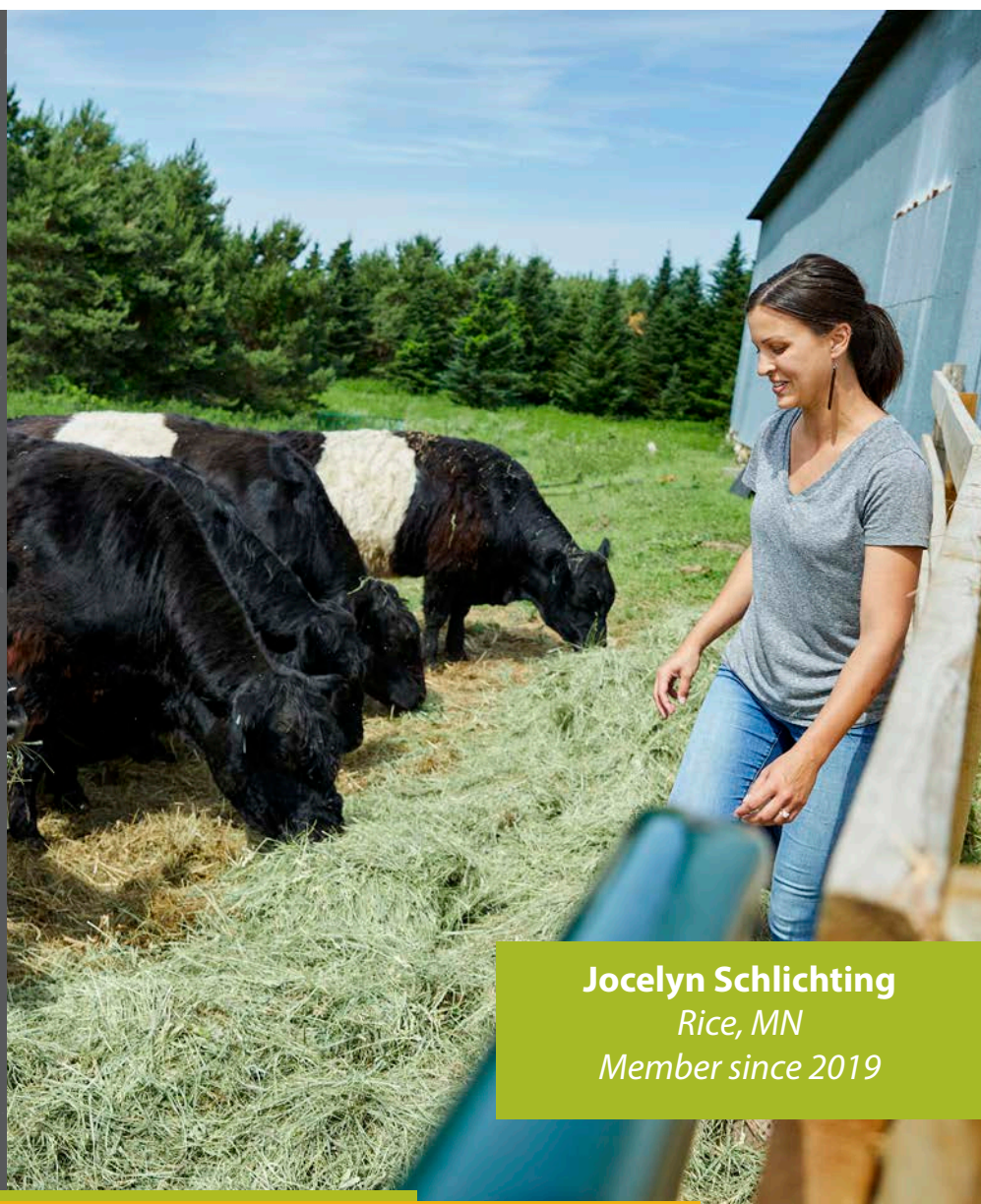
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Runaway Federal Overreach

By Todd Wilkinson, NCBA President

It seems our year thus far in advocating for farmers and ranchers in Washington, D.C., has been fraught with attempts by this administration to end animal agriculture. When I took the helm of NCBA, I had a feeling this would be the case and have made it my mission to fight for all of us as effectively as possible. I'm proud to say we have a few wins under our belt, but we can't turn our backs for a second and must continue to stand up to regulators and activists whose main agenda is to put us out of business.

Let's start with the good news. The Supreme's Court decision on the WOTUS rule in the Sackett v. EPA case cemented a historic victory for cattle producers against shockingly bad federal overreach. We have been fighting against the WOTUS rule for more than nine years and on similar Clean Water Act issues for decades before that. This was a big win in a long-running fight but one of the first things we needed to do after the Supreme Court decision was file a motion in court to force EPA

to rescind their now unconstitutional WOTUS rule. Yes, you read that right, we needed to fight in court just for a federal agency to listen to a ruling from the highest court in our country. What is remarkable to me is that the EPA is so committed to their "woke" agenda that when faced with a 9-0 Supreme Court decision they did not repeal their proposed rule. We are forced to spend producer dollars to protect this government overreach from impacting our property rights.

Just as soon as we set a path forward on WOTUS, the administration decided to propose onerous rules in other areas including the Bureau of Land Management's Public Lands rule which would limit grazing cattle on federal lands. It would also add multiple new Endangered Species Act rulemakings that would significantly increase regulatory burdens on producers. The BLM rule has the potential to limit access to grazing on public lands and set the doors open for radical environmentalists to advance their agendas against

the ranching community. This attempt to elevate conservation to the level of grazing is contrary to established law. Once again, we are going to be back in the courtroom fighting for producers' rights.

Recently, government approval of lab-grown chicken to be sold in grocery stores has received significant media attention but, thankfully, due to NCBA's work during the rule-making process, all lab-grown protein needs to be inspected by USDA before it can be sold. These fake meat companies wanted to be inspected by the FDA because that would mean their products would not be inspected as closely or as often. This stuff being fabricated with live animal cells is subject to the same rigorous USDA inspection protocols as real beef. We won the battle for who inspects these products, but now we must continue our work to ensure these products are labeled clearly. It's vital consumers understand they are buying something that was created in a petri dish and not on a ranch.

Regulatory overreach at the

federal level is only increasing because these agencies want to widen the scope of their authority, and the bureaucrats who write these regulations have never set foot on a ranch with no clue about the negative impact these decisions will have on our industry. As we have seen again and again, the regulations they draft will almost always filter down to hurt cattle producers and rural communities the most. That is why we fight so hard against these rulemakings.

Federal overreach is made worse by radical environmental groups and animal activists who have weaponized the federal rulemaking process. They know it is their best chance to have the federal government exert more control over our operations, which will help them meet their goal of ending animal agriculture. This strategy is on full display with the listing of wildlife under the Endangered Species Act. The science has shown many species that are listed as threatened have long since recovered but due to the fact it is easier

to list a species than delist one, producers are left to deal with increasing numbers of apex predators, like grey wolves, on their operations. Those radical groups celebrate this problem and fight against any attempts to delist a recovered species. Despite the goal of listing a species to help recovery, these activist groups will never admit a species is recovered. They are in the business of putting us out of business, and they see our government's broken rulemaking process as a tool to reduce the amount of cattle on working lands.

Ultimately, we find success in fighting constant overreach by the federal government because of NCBA members submitting public comments, signing onto letters, and calling their elected officials. This grassroots action is always the first point our team mentions when they meet with agency officials and members of Congress to advocate for producers. When thousands of NCBA

Wilkinson...
continued on page 15

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Calf Scours Treatment Decision

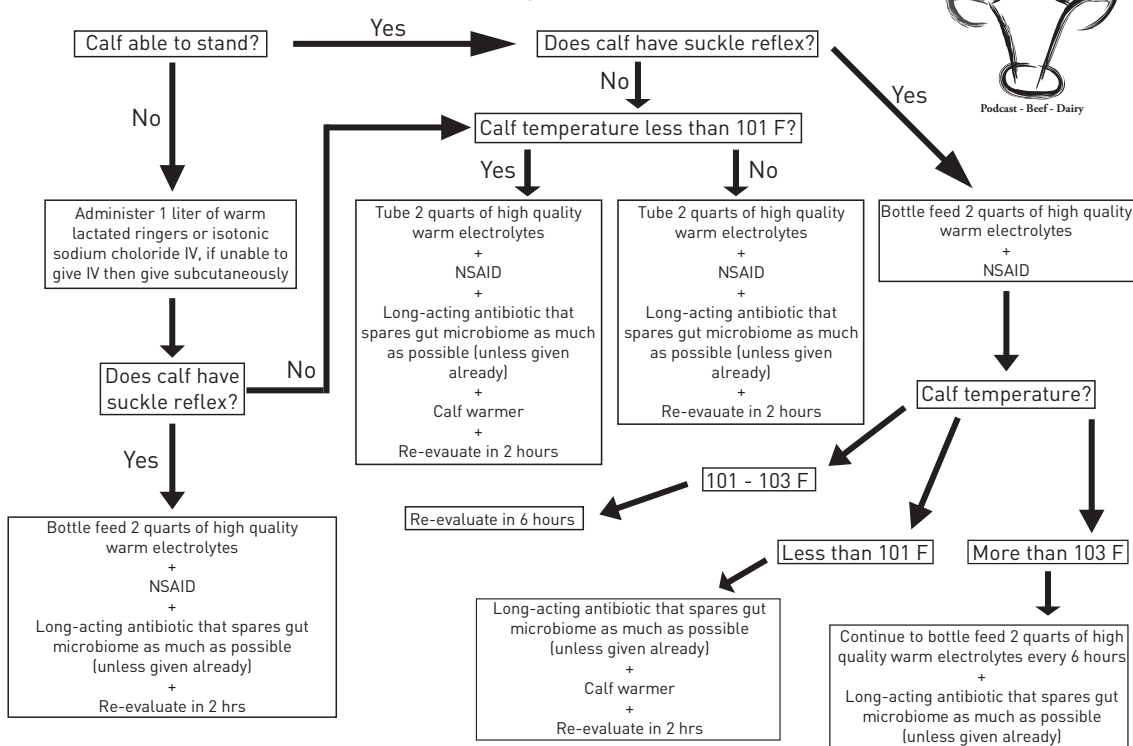
By Joe Armstrong DVM, UMN Cattle Production Systems Extension Educator

Calf scours can be a major problem for any cow/calf operation. Controlling the disease is a complex issue and has many variables. While we can identify specific agents of disease that cause scours, it is important to remember that the control of the disease often requires a system-wide approach to prevention, rather than individual treatment to solve the problem. That being said, you will need to treat scours at some point, and correctly identifying what to do and what not to do can save you time and money.

Most cases of scours are caused by pathogens that are not bacteria, meaning antibiotics are not always necessary. Below you can find a decision tree for treating calf scours. Please remember this is not intended to replace the advice of your veterinarian, and you will need to consult them for specific product recommendations. More information is available in Episode 183 of The Moos Room and can be accessed by visiting z.umn.edu/themoosroom or searching for The Moos Room wherever you listen to podcasts.

Calf Scours Treatment Decision Tree

Joe Armstrong DVM, Eric Mousel PhD



Veterinary Statement: This protocol is not intended to replace the advice of your veterinarian. Please consult your veterinarian about this protocol and for specific product recommendations.

Milk Statement: At no time should milk be withheld from calves. Treatments in this protocol are intended to be in addition to milk feedings - not instead of milk feedings. Beef calves should be left on the cow and observed to ensure they are nursing.



Wilkinson . . . continued from page 14

members from across the country make their voices heard, policy makers in Washington listen. I am proud of the work we have done in pushing back against this runaway federal overreach, and I want to thank everyone who answers NCBA's calls to action when one of these rules gets introduced. It can be tiring to constantly push back against the federal government, but we can never give up. The silver lining to all this is that for each regulation we are successful in beating back, we take one step closer to ensuring the cattle industry will live on for many generations to come. That is all the motivation I need to keep moving forward in this fight against overreaching federal regulations.

IMPORTANT DATES:

September 27 – MSCA Quarterly Meeting – 11 a.m., Minnesota Beef Council Office, Maple Plain, MN

Dec. 15-16 – 2023 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention – Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria

Jan. 31- Feb. 2 – NCBA Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show – Orlando, Florida

For more details on events listed above, visit www.mnsca.org

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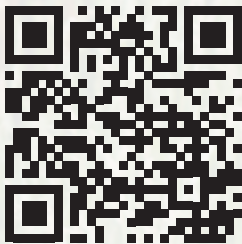


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Mark your calendars! Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association Annual Cattle Industry Convention is just around the corner!

DEC. 15-16

Arrowwood Resort
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Individual - \$150

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Student (24 or younger) - \$50

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