



The Minnesota Cattlemans

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

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Resilience & Reflection

By Don Schiefelbein, NCBA Past President

Over the past year, it's been my honor to serve as president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). It's been a year of trials and triumphs, and I've been proud to represent an industry of cattlemen and women that continue to demonstrate resilience and an understanding that unity is the best way to achieve our mission.

As farmers and ranchers, we often find ourselves fighting the odds physically and mentally to endure the challenges Mother Nature and other factors outside of our control hurl at us. As I write

this column, I'm reflecting on a recent example of rancher resilience as many of us dealt with brutal winter weather conditions before the Christmas holiday, braving windchills and pushing through snowdrifts, hauling hay and caring for livestock.

During the recent NCBA Cattle Industry Convention, I had the opportunity to take in the CattleFax Outlook Session, and I am pleased to report the forecast for the year calls for moisture in many parts of the country that have been facing drought conditions for far too long. This

benefits all of us, regardless of where we live, because it strengthens our industry.

Weather events always present unique challenges for us, but we do everything we can to prioritize the health and well-being of our animals. It's year-round work and something we need to continue to share with consumers and policymakers here in Minnesota and nationally.

This past year was defined by record-high inflation, a frustrating labor market, food supply-chain challenges and regulatory uncertainty. It made our work as a policy organization challenging.

But, the year was also defined by the commitments farmers and ranchers make to conservation, animal welfare, technological innovation and product quality. I'm proud of the story we continue to share and the stance we took on the issues.

The hits from Congress, corporations and regulatory agencies focused on climate policy came quickly at the beginning of the year, but we were ready. NCBA made sure the interests of the cattle industry were

front and center when it came to attempts of regulatory overreach focused on water, the environment and greenhouse gas emissions.

NCBA engaged in several issues related to endangered species and notched a win in federal court when a judge in the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted us intervenor status in a case challenging the delisting of the gray wolf.

We also saw the president of the U.S. sign a National Security Memorandum recognizing that food security is national security. This is an important step by bringing defense, law enforcement, intelligence and national security officials into the conversation with industry to develop ways to protect our food system from the multitude of threats existing in the world.

NCBA has gone toe-to-toe with multinational companies, federal regulators, Congress and deep pocketed animal rights groups. We punch above our weight, but the work will never be done, and we appreciate you having our back by being an NCBA member.

You understand the need to have an association working

on your behalf on the real issues threatening our way of life. Those threats include the potential for a crippling cattle disease outbreak or the looming issue of cell-cultured and fake meat which might soon mimic the look, texture and even flavor of our real beef.

NCBA is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. Since 1898, this organization has been a forum for cattle producers in every sector and region to discuss issues and build consensus. In my family's operation, we all come with different perspectives, but we talk together, debate and move forward with a united front. NCBA policy is set the same way.

We each have vastly different business practices, and we face different regional conditions, but we all come together to drive policy forward. Through collaboration, we send a powerful message to policymakers.

Our industry is strongest when we band together and fight collectively. This year, I was honored to lead that charge and am looking forward to fighting the good fight for years to come!

MSCA

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

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NEWS - TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Chief Executive Officer Colin Woodall shakes hands with current NCBA Past President Don Schiefelbein and thanks him for his service as NCBA president during the NCBA Convention in New Orleans. NCBA photo

See page 11 for more NCBA convention photos



KAITLYN ROOT
Executive Director
Office: 763-479-1011

Greetings cattlemen and cattlemen,

What a busy time it has been! The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Cattle Industry Convention and Tradeshow wrapped up Feb. 3, and the Minnesota State Cattlemen's

Association (MSCA) was well-represented at the event.

After attending the convention and listening to NCBA President Todd Wilkinson speak after being voted in as president, I can confidently say we are in good hands. NCBA's newly elected executive committee is full of folks who are passionate about the beef industry and are ready to put in the work to defend producers like yourselves.

If I have learned anything in these past few months serving as executive director of the MSCA, it is that cattle producers need to come together and serve as a united front. We may not always get along, we may disagree and we sometimes might even feel that it is hope-

less to try and see eye-to-eye, but now more than ever, cattle producers need to unite to fight to protect their way of life.

One strong, unified voice spreads much farther and faster than a separated voice.

I am going to leave you all with a few quotes from NCBA President Wilkinson:

"My philosophy going into this next year is that I'm going to put on boxing gloves, and I'm going to be swinging for the industry," he said. "I'm going to bring the same level of passion that I bring for my own family and business to this organization. I think it's important to fight back and protect this industry from the people who want to put us out of business. I also think this is

something that will unite cattle producers in the future."

"I'm passionate about NCBA, and I won't back up an inch on my commitment to this organization," Wilkinson added. "As long as I am walking this earth, I want to make things a little bit better, and NCBA is one of those ways that I think I can do that."

The NCBA executive committee is ready to work for cattle producers, so put on your boxing gloves and step into the ring, the beef industry needs strong, educated voices to represent this industry full of hard-working, passionate individuals. I am excited to see what this year has in store for the cattle industry and Minnesota producers.

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Minnesota Cattleman

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JAKE THOMPSON
Interim President

Greetings fellow Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA) members and friends from west central Minnesota. My name is Jake Thompson, and I am the president-elect of MSCA. Mark Pankonin has decided to take a leave of absence as acting president until July due to health problems, so I will be filling that role.

As the many great leaders

this association has had in the past, I will focus on what is best for cattle producers in the state, as well as making this association stronger with membership.

My family farms and runs a cow/calf operation outside of Barnesville, Minnesota. I've always had a passion to "tell my story" in hopes to educate consumers and the general population about the lifestyle we live as beef producers. I was part of the first Top of the Class program and soon there after became the cow/calf chair, vice president and now the president-elect.

This association was founded as a grassroots organization to represent our industry publicly and politically. We have an exceptional executive com-

Thompson ... continued on page 10



JOSIAH EBELING
Feeder Council Chair

Greetings,

Being newly elected as the feeder council chair, I have spent the last couple months getting to know the ropes, meeting the wonderful people in our association and sharing the good news about the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA). We have a great team of leaders, and I am very excited for the upcoming year.

Ebeling ... continued on page 7

Beginning in February, I attended the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Convention and Tradeshow in New Orleans. What a great opportunity for anyone to expand their knowledge and networking with like-minded people interested in the cattle industry.

I was able to meet many dedicated people in the industry who have an impact both nationally and globally. As I sat through the meetings, listened and talked with producers and vendors, I was impressed by their optimism and dedication.

I am also very optimistic for the future outlook of our industry. Demand is strong, carcass weights are dropping and as of Jan. 1, the cattle on feed are three percent below



RACHEL GRAY
MSCA Vice President

Hello from northern Minnesota. It is the season where the weather is unpredictable and the calves are being born. We have sure been blessed with some amazing weather in the last couple of weeks, but as I write this waiting for a calf to be born, we are in the beginning of a winter storm.

I was able to attend the National Cattlemen's Beef Associa-

tion Convention in New Orleans Jan. 31-Feb. 3. What a great way to connect with producers from around the country. There were many different meetings and informative sessions to attend. I will try highlighting a few things I found to be very informative.

I attended the Cattle Health and Well Being Committee meeting. During the meeting, we heard from Jamie L. Barnabei, DMV, MPH, about the National Vaccine bank. My takeaway from those meetings was that with all the travel of people and goods happening in the world, we need to be more aware of biosecurity on our farms.

Of particular concern is a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak. We are disease-free here in the U.S., but other countries are not, and it

Gray ... continued on page 5



ERIC ZELTWANGER
Cow/Calf Council Chair

Greetings fellow cattlemen,

As I sit down to write this, the weather has taken a turn for the better, let's hope that it continues. Bull sales are in full swing, and for most of us that means calving has started or isn't far off. With that said, I would like to address a few things.

When we get to looking for

our next bull, let's be sure we are taking note of all traits for animals. We might be looking for a heifer bull or a growth bull, but let's not forget he also has to do other things right as well.

He must move on sound feet and legs, have a disposition we can handle and if possible or pertains to your operation, see his mother and the maternal features she presents. I believe there are many good producers of bulls like this in our state and encourage everyone to find a program to help them out.

I also want to touch on a few things for calving. I am as guilty as they come for having a soft spot for certain animals.

Zeltwanger ... continued on page 10



MICHELLE MOUSER
CattleWomen President

“Calving takes grit and grace,” shared Alaina Mousel at our April 2021 “Pulling Thru Calving” CattleWomen event. I have just finished cleaning up after assisting a cow deliver a stillborn calf. As I was walking to the house, Alaina’s words came to mind, and they are true.

We spend so many hours watching, waiting and questioning our decisions; sometimes things just go right and other times not. This is why we need each other.

There is no one else other than a fellow cattlemaster or man that understands what I just experienced; the pressure, the worry, the fear, the strength, the skill, the equipment, the smells. One word and a host of memories come alive in each one of us. This is why we need each other.

My heart for gathering fellow cattlemasters together is very simple; I want to know and be with other women who understand what I do every day.

Our lives are full and getting off the farm or ranch is not an easy decision, but I believe it is necessary. We need each other.

Each and every cattlemaster desires to show up to life on her farm and ranch each day equipped with the knowledge and the tools to make the best decisions she can for her cattle, her farm and her family. The MN CattleWomen 360 Series (CW360) will do just that.

For the next three years, we, the cattlemasters of Minnesota, will gather together all across

the state gaining a comprehensive, in-depth knowledge and skills which will equip us to better ourselves, our cattle and our family.

CW360 kicks off at South Central College in Fairbault, Minnesota as we learn “Foundational Financials in Cattle Production” from Mark Wehe, farm business management instructor. Mark believes every producer can be in the top 20 percent no matter the size of their operation, and he is ready to teach us the skills to get there.

Our second event on June 10 in Tenstrike, Minnesota is “Mineral Nutrition: Small Nutrients that Fuel Cattle Health, Production, and Profitability” with an expert team from Zinpro leading the day.

Next, we head to Aitkin, Minnesota on Sept. 30 for “Disease: The One Chain You Need to Break.” This will be a hands-on day of learning animal health, safety and biosecurity practices with Neogen experts.

Lastly, we head to Clear Springs Cattle Company in Starbuck, Minnesota on Nov. 4, where our focus will be on “Grazing: Cattle’s Positive Impact on the Land and How to Share it.”

Every CW360 event is designed to equip each woman with the knowledge and skills they need to bring what they’ve learned back to the farm and ranch. All events will be one day only and limited to 30 women. Registration is required prior to event and can be found at mncattlemasters.org.

Thank you to all who are members. Your passion for our industry fuels our organization. To those who are not yet members, I’d like to encourage you to join in our efforts as we carry out our mission to promote, support and encourage women in the beef industry.

Stay connected with us, and I look forward to seeing many of you this year!

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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Choice

Purina (Land O’Lakes)
Vaxxinova

* Indicates giving above base level for that category!

Minnesota native wins scholarship

Colorado State University (CSU) graduate students Ashley Schilling of Timnath, Colorado, and Lane Giess, of Pierz, Minnesota, have each been awarded a \$15,000 W.D. Farr Scholarship by the National Cattlemen’s Foundation (NCF). The annual W.D. Farr Scholarship program, established by NCF in 2007, recognizes outstanding graduate students who plan to pursue careers furthering the beef industry.

Schilling and Giess were selected from 21 applicants based on their academic achievements, leadership and commitment to the advancement of the beef industry. They were recognized during the 2023 Cattle Industry Convention and National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) Trade Show, Feb. 1-3, in New Orleans.

Giess grew up on his family’s seedstock cattle ranch in central Minnesota and quickly learned the value of genetics. After earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in animal science from Kansas State University, Giess was accepted to CSU’s animal science doctoral program.

He is studying quantitative animal breeding and genetics with an emphasis in developing genetic evaluations to improve fertility, longevity and the economic sustainability of commercial cattle. Giess is looking forward to contributing to the advancement of genetic technologies making cattle producers more profitable.

“Receiving the W.D. Farr Scholarship will help me become a better researcher, a better leader and validate my commitment to the beef industry,” said Giess.

The scholarship honors the successful career of the late W.D. Farr. Farr, a third-generation Coloradan, pioneer rancher, statesman and banker known for his extraordinary vision.

The NCF advances the future of the beef industry by assisting in the education of the next generation of beef industry professionals. For more information about NCF and the W.D. Farr Scholarship, visit nationalcattlemensfoundation.org.

**CHECK US OUT
ON THE WEB AT
www.mnsca.org**

Minnesota Beef Council Events

March 16-18: MAMP Convention, St Cloud, MN

March 21: Ag Day Gala, St. Paul, MN

April 3: Top of the Class Application Due

April 10&11: MBC Board Meeting, Maple Plain, MN

April 15: BBQ Spring Training

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Jon Dilworth Hired as Director of Industry Relations for MBC

Maple Plain, Minnesota – The Minnesota Beef Council (MBC) has hired Jon Dilworth to serve as the new director of industry relations. Jon's work in this position will include collaborating with beef retail and foodservice partners as well as providing leadership and coordination of the local producer promotion program. He will also serve as a key representative at trade show and retail events.



Jon Dilworth

Jon was raised on a farm in southeast Minnesota with both

dairy and beef cattle along with a crop operation. He grew up showing Hereford cattle and spent many summers at

county and state fairs as well as attending Hereford Junior Nationals.

After graduating from Goodhue High School, Dilworth went on to attend South Dakota State University (SDSU). He was highly involved in the marching and pep bands and enjoyed traveling with the sports teams when they would make the playoffs and tournaments.

In 2018, Jon graduated from SDSU with a degree in agricultural education. After graduation, Dilworth taught as a seventh

through 12th grade high school agricultural teacher in South Dakota. He later moved back to Minnesota where he most recently worked as an Extension educator in Renville County.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to advocate for the beef industry with the MBC and am especially excited to work with Minnesota beef producers," Dilworth stated.

Dilworth's diverse experience in the agriculture industry makes him well-suited to communicate with producers

and consumers to raise demand for beef.

"We are very excited to have Jon join the team at the MBC," stated Chief Executive Officer of the MBC Kelly Schmidt. "Jon's previous work experience, beef industry background and positive energy make him a valuable asset for our organization."

Jon's first day on staff with the council was Jan. 10. He can be reached at jon@mnbeef.org or the MBC office number, (763) 479-1011.

Minnesota Top of Class

In January, the Minnesota Top of Class travelled to Denver, Colorado, for their third and final session. They were able to hear from several experts from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Topics included history of the Beef Checkoff, beef nutrition, beef promotion and research efforts.

The class enjoyed learning about what the Issues Management team does at NCBA. They monitor all of the information about beef that is being put out on the internet and in the media to see how much attention it is getting within the public, addressing any issues as they arise. The Top of Class group even had the chance to see the digital command center where the management team works and the equipment used to monitor the news 24/7 is located.

On the second day, the Top of Class crew travelled to Cargill Meat Solutions in Fort Morgan, Colorado, for a tour of the packing plant. It was agreed what an incredible experience it was to see the efficiencies of the plant and the number of workers needed to process thousands of head per day.

The group then headed to Five Rivers Kunder Feedlot, a 100,000-head-capacity feedlot in Kersey, Colorado. They were able to hear the inside



Now Accepting 2023 Top of Class Applications!

APPLY BY: APRIL 3, 2023

ABOUT TOP OF CLASS
 Top of Class is a dynamic, year-long educational experience featuring two 2-day in-state seminars along with an out-of-state experience in Colorado to conclude the program.

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 Contact Jon Dilworth at jondilworth@mnbeef.org or call (63) 479-1011.



scoop on the history of the feedlot and how the operation runs, learn about their brand programs and tour around the many pens. It continues to be a highlight for Top of Class groups as large feedlots to this extent are not found in Minnesota.

On the final day of the trip, the Cattlemen's Beef Board, who oversees collection of \$1-per-head on all cattle sold in the U.S., imported cattle, beef and beef products, shared about their organization.

The U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) also spoke to the group,

sharing how their nonprofit trade association works to create new opportunities and develop existing international markets for U.S. beef. They are headquartered in Denver but have offices throughout the world.

Through their worldwide network of offices, USMEF has forged a series of partnerships which have enabled U.S. companies and U.S. products to become an integral part of the international red meat markets.

The mission of the Minnesota Top of Class program is to develop the skills of Minnesota's beef industry leaders so they may maximize their impact and effectiveness in local, state, national and international arenas. This program is a dynamic year-long educational experience featuring a couple two-day in-state seminars, along with an out-of-state experience to conclude the program.

Applications for the 2023 Minnesota Top of Class are now open! If you or anyone you know would be a good fit for this program, please encourage them to apply. Details can be found on the Minnesota Beef Council website under the "About Us" page. Check out mnbeef.org to learn more. Applications are due April 3, 2023.



Minnesota Top of Class pictured at Five Rivers Feedlot in Kersey, Colorado. Pictured left to right, Minnesota Beef Council (MBC) Communications Director Ashley Kraemer, producer Tom Smude, MBC Board Member David Glessing, MBC CEO Kelly Schmidt, MBC Director of Industry Relations Jon Dilworth, Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association Executive Director and MBC BQA Coordinator Kaitlyn Root and producer Jessica Heiden.



The Top of Class group had the opportunity to tour Cargill Meat Solutions in Fort Morgan, Colorado. Pictured left to right, Minnesota Beef Council (MBC) Communications Director Ashley Kraemer, producer Jessica Heiden, producer Tom Smude, MBC Director of Industry Relations Jon Dilworth, MBC Board Member David Glessing, MBC CEO Kelly Schmidt and Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association Executive Director and MBC BQA Coordinator Kaitlyn Root.

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is a risk we need to pay attention to. The vaccine bank is prepared in case of an outbreak, but they stated it would take two weeks for them to get the vaccine bank ready to use. This was surprising to me.

The bottom line of the presentation was, be aware of who is on your operation, make sure shoes are washed if you attend sales and travel to other producers' places and make sure we are respectful of biosecurity there as well.

Of course, there were many topics discussed at convention including sustainability and the state of the cattle herd. Overall, the herd is down about nine percent, as of the date from the third week in February. As we have seen, that has helped calf prices up quite nicely and it seems to be transferring to bull sales.

The early February sales I watched and attended had a higher average than the previous year. It seems the analysts expect the trend to continue.

I hope that if you are calving, things are going well, and you are at least getting a little sleep. I look forward to visiting with many of you at the summer tour. Don't forget to register early!

ESAP regional winners announced

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) recognized seven of the nation's top cattle operations as Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) regional winners for their environmental conservation efforts during the 2023 Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show in New Orleans on Feb. 1. The regional winners will compete for the national award, which will be presented during NCBA's Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., April 24-27.

"Farming and ranching families across the country continue to incorporate practices that protect and preserve land and water resources for future generations," said NCBA Past President Don Schiefelbein. "These regional winners represent the cattle industry's commitment to environmental stewardship."

Regional ESAP winners come from every corner of the country and undertake stewardship efforts unique to their environment, landscape and resources. The 2022 regional winners are: Region I: Lamb Farms, Inc., Oakfield, New York; Region II: Carter Cattle Company, LLC, Pintlala, Alabama; Region III: Huth Polled Herefords and S&H Livestock Enterprises, LLC, Oakfield, Wisconsin; Region IV: Parks Ranch, Goliad County, Texas; Region V: Mannix Brothers Ranch, Helmville, Montana; Region VI: Fulstone Ranches, Smith, Nevada; and Region VII: Jorgensen Land & Cattle Partnership, Ideal, South Dakota.

Established in 1991 by the NCBA to recognize outstanding land stewards in the cattle industry, the ESAP is generously sponsored by U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Corteva Agriscience, McDonald's, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Cattlemen's Foundation. For more information, visit environmentalstewardship.org.

MBC Board Meeting

The next Minnesota Beef Council Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 10 and Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at the council office in Maple Plain.

www.mnbeef.org

Stray Voltage Affects Beef Cattle, Too

I'm sure you have heard of stray voltage and its effects on dairy cattle, but have you ever considered stray voltage effects on beef cattle? I'm guessing many of you have observed several symptoms of stray voltage but didn't realize the symptoms were stray voltage related.

What is stray voltage? Stray voltage is the occurrence of electrical potential between two objects which ideally should not have any (or very little) voltage difference between them.

Many people do not know cattle are 10 times more sensitive to stray voltage than humans (dogs and horses are much more sensitive yet). In other words, nine volts to a human would feel like 90 volts to cattle. In addition, we humans are wearing shoes/boots.

Let's look at some of the signs/symptoms of stray voltage I have observed over the years:

1. Unexplained lower rate of gain
2. Too many dark cutters
3. Hair coats not thrifty (just like they may have worms)
4. Looser stools than normal
5. Urine color quite yellow
6. Lapping water at drinker – very wet or excess ice around drinker
7. Lapping/drinking urine
8. Lower than desired feed intake – lack of rumen fill
9. Cattle more nervous than normal
10. Lack of grooming

11. Unexplained higher rate of illness – immune suppression
12. Not eating well at certain areas of the bunk
13. Pressing their noses against steel
14. Lower than desired conception rate
15. Low bull fertility

Is it always stray voltage? The answer is no. Many of the above signs/symptoms can be caused by not following best management practices which we all know are so very important.

Good water intake is imperative and affects several of the items listed. If cattle are lapping at the water, ice is building up around the drinkers and urine is not light colored, there is high likelihood the cattle are not drinking enough water. There is nearly a 100 percent chance it is stray voltage related.

Unfortunately, most electricians don't understand stray voltage, especially as pertaining to livestock. Many are unaware how to find it, so they are unable to fix it.

The good news is that most of the time, the stray voltage issues can be resolved fairly easily and cost effectively with a stray voltage specialist.

This article was provided by Brant Groen, retired director of dairy wellness at Form-a-Feed and dairy management instructor at Ridgewater College. For more information about stray voltage, visit strayvoltageconsulting.org or call 320-220-1342.

UPCOMING BQA TRAININGS:

In-Person Trainings:

- **March 9** – Pipestone Livestock Auction Market in Pipestone, MN – 3:00 p.m., or immediately following the Special Feeder Calf auction. Contact the Pipestone County Extension Office at 507-825-1190 to preregister.
- **April 15** – Clearwater County Fairgrounds, in the hockey arena – Bagley, MN – 5:30 pm – RSVP by calling Jake Thompson at (218) 329-9293.

Online Trainings:

- **February 21 @ 7:00-8:30pm.**
Register at: z.umn.edu/BQAFeb21
- **March 21 @ 7:00-8:30pm.**
Register at: z.umn.edu/BQAMarch21

Ruminating on That - Commentary from Dr. Joe Armstrong

Horses, Not Zebras, When we Hear Hoof Beats



Joe Armstrong DVM | Cattle Production Systems | University of Minnesota Extension

The temptation when a disease process rears its ugly head is to chase down a complex cause or somewhat rare pathogen. We can also tend to lean towards placing the blame on external factors outside of our control.

In reality, even when a disease process appears complicated, the solution is often under our control and relatively simple. This is the old adage in medicine of hearing hoof beats and training yourself to think horses and not zebras.

Let's consider a common issue between beef and dairy operations – calf scours.

When dairy or beef operations call me with scours issues, the first question is often centered on what to treat with to fix the issue. Treating scours appropriately is important, but the most important question is, what can we do to prevent scours from occurring in the first place?

The next question is often, well then what vaccine should I give? Vaccines are also important, but I prefer to solve on-farms issues without a needle when-

ever possible. Additionally, vaccine protocols, and changes to them, can be complicated and expensive, many times falling in the zebra category.

So where do we look for a solution? How do we establish what is most important to fix when there is limited time and money? Below you will find a list, in order of importance, of where to look first when preventing scours on beef and dairy operations.

1. Colostrum

Colostrum is the single most important piece of calf health and the biggest predictor of lifetime performance for any calf. A proper colostrum management protocol on a dairy is essential for calf success. In a beef operation, producers may think colostrum is outside of their control, but taking care of the dam's health and nutrition has a huge benefit to calf vigor, which applies to their ability to stand and nurse quickly. Dam health and nutrition also contributes to quantity and quality of colostrum.

2. Dam health and nutrition

As many studies have shown, the health of the dam greatly influences the health of the calf. Dam health starts with nutrition and comfort. Nutrition in its simplest form revolves around protein and energy. Feeding the appropriate amounts of protein and energy during the different stages of gestation results in a healthy calf with improved growth. Bunk space, water space, clean and dry bedding and protection from the elements gives the dam the comfort they need to keep stress as low as possible.

3. Calf nutrition

Calves need enough calories to develop a reserve of fat. Fat acts as a vital source of energy to fight off any disease challenge the calf sees. On the dairy, this means at least two gallons of whole milk or a quality milk replacer (26:20) per day, quality calf starter available starting day two of life and water available in addition to milk. In a beef operation, this is largely dependent on dam health and nutrition.

4. Calf environment

Everything the calf comes into contact with needs to be clean. Infectious causes of scours are dose-dependent. More harmful bugs means a higher likelihood of disease. Look at the calf housing and decide what the calves can reach with their mouths. If they can reach it, they will chew on it, and you need to clean it. With beef cows, everything starts with clean and dry cows, which comes back to dam comfort. Calving areas need to start clean and that is a function of keeping animals from contaminating the area prior to the start of calving.

5. Calf stress

Stress suppresses the immune system. We cannot avoid stress entirely, nor should we, but we do need to be careful of stacking stress in calves. Dehorning, vaccination, weaning, handling and pen moves are all examples of stressful events. If we can spread stressful events out, rather than stacking them in a short time period, our calves will be healthier.

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AAA #: 20472131 // ACT. BW: 98 // ACT. WW/RATIO : 834/118
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CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	HP	MARB	\$M	\$C
-1	3.0	90	153	1.96	14.4	0.42	84	280



AAA #: 20380898 // ACT. BW: 85 // ACT. WW/RATIO : 676/ET
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Tips for reducing your risk of nutrient loss due to snow melt

By Kathy Moore, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

February and March trigger the highest percentage of runoff due to melting snow. Snowmelt can carry vital nutrients, such as manure and other fertilizers, off agriculture fields. Factor in the potential for this runoff or flooding when considering the timing of upcoming manure applications.

Manure runoff into ditches, streams and rivers deprives soil of valuable nutrients and threatens water quality. Nutrient loss means an economic loss, so understanding runoff risk and watching the weather forecast will help determine the best time for manure application.

Key factors for runoff

Melting snow: When forecasted temperatures are expected to exceed 40 degrees Fahrenheit, refrain from spreading manure during these periods of rapid melt.

Rain on frozen snow-covered ground: Rain causes snow to melt rapidly, and frozen ground prevents rainfall from absorbing into the soil, so don't apply manure within a few days of a rain event.

Saturated soil: Especially in the spring, when soil is at or near saturation, remember that any additional liquid may trigger runoff. To maximize soil health, wait until field conditions dry before applying manure.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast tool can help determine the best time to apply manure to a field. Visit mda.state.mn.us/protecting/cleanwaterfund/tool-technology/runoffrisk to access the tool.

Avoid runoff

Stockpiling solid manure, short term, may be the best option to avoid runoff. Identify areas on your property suitable for manure stockpiling when spreading is not viable. Look for the flattest field area and be sure to take into consideration upslope areas which could allow water to flow into the pile and carry nutrients away.

Be sure this flat region is more than 300 feet from any water area, such as a lake, stream, ditch, grassy waterway or near a tile intake zone.

Minnesota water quality rules

Minnesota rules to protect water quality require that manure applied onto frozen or snow-covered soil maintain a 300-foot setback from surface waters and open tile intakes. Feedlot operators with a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) should review the manure application guidelines for NPDES permitted feedlots for specific application requirements by month.

Be sure to monitor fields to verify runoff is not occurring. If runoff does happen, report it to the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798. Keep the information basic and give the officer your location. The duty officer will contact local authorities.

Visit the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website for additional information about manure management, or contact your county feedlot officer.

Ebeling . . . continued from page 2

inventory in Jan. 1, 2022. Due to drought and high input costs, we are seeing a record number of cows being slaughtered.

The U.S. beef cow inventory is at 28.92 million head as of Jan. 1 and is down 1.065 million head from a year ago. Beef cows are now at the lowest inventory in 61 years.

I think it is our turn as cattle feeders to sit in the driver's seat for a while. Now is the time to dig our boots in the ground and make packers pay for our quality cattle.

Thank you to each member of the MSCA. Your investment in membership gives the MSCA the opportunity to support cattle producers.

Our goal is to continue increasing memberships from last year. With your help in spreading the word about the importance of our great organization, we will be able to increase funds which enable us to benefit Minnesota cattle producers.

Important Dates:

- **July 17** – MSCA Quarterly Meeting – Key Largo on Lake Shetek, Slayton, MN
- **July 17** – MSCA-PAC Event – 5:30-10 p.m.
- **July 17-18** – Summer Tour – hosted by Murray County Cattlemen's Association and Pipestone County Cattlemen's Association
- **Dec. 14-16** – 2023 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention – Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria

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

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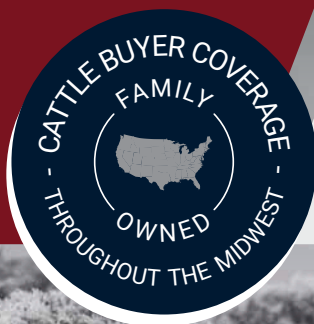
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Cow Inventory and Rain Will Set the Pace for Cattle Markets This Year

By Eric Mousel, University of Minnesota

The cattle market complex has seen strong gains of over 12 percent in the last year, and the fundamentals seem to support the possibility of additional gains going into spring and summer. Widespread drought, a declining cow inventory and subsequent declines in feeder cattle supplies are all contributing to the likelihood of stronger cattle markets into the near- to mid-term.

However, there are several factors which could temper the bullish fundamentals and create a temporary standoff between perception and reality.

The current U.S. drought monitor shows nearly the entire western half of the country currently at some level of drought with the most intense conditions centering in the western half of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle. There is little doubt that the softer than expected bred female prices this fall have been precipitated by producers concerned

about summer grass.

Additionally, much of the grass cattle market falls right where droughty conditions are the worst leaving feeder cattle markets unable to discern actual demand. Although things look pretty dire in these areas right now, a single shot of rain, particularly in the Southern Plains, would change the math in the feeder markets very quickly.

Another issue which has been creeping up on us for some time is cow inventory. Cow numbers in Cow Country USA have been in a decisive downward trend over the last several years; falling two percent or more each year since 2019.

Cow slaughter was well above the five-year average in 2021, with the thinking being drought conditions driving much of the market and slaughter numbers were expected to abate significantly in 2022. That, however, did not happen.

In fact, cow slaughter increased dramatically in the first half of the last year and finish well over 2021 and the five-year average. This has put the U.S. beef cow inventory at 28.9 million head, down four percent over 2022; the smallest U.S. cow herd in 60 years. This has created some overall concern as to what is driving this sell-off of beef cows.

Subsequently, U.S. feeder cattle supplies are dropping precipitously, obviously due to falling cow numbers, but also as a result of several really tough years environmentally for U.S. producers. Feeder cattle supplies fell over three percent from 2021 to 2022 and although a four percent drop was predicted for 2023, with cow inventory numbers declining at a rate twice of predictions and tough drought conditions which typically lead to more calf losses, it is conceivable we could see feeder cattle supplies drop five to seven percent in 2023.

Inflation

The downside of all this, which may be tempering some market enthusiasm, is of course the specter of inflation.

Topping out over the summer at slightly over nine percent, inflation has cooled some going into 2023, but not nearly as much as economists had hoped (or predicted). December 2022 inflation was still a stubborn 6.5 percent.

Inflation, of course, tends to hit high-end products like beef the hardest. The concern is that as commodity cattle prices rise and prices in grocery stores and restaurants rise, how will domestic demand for beef respond?

Although beef prices are cyclical in nature, the structural inflation we are experiencing as a result of printing and spending \$5 trillion in the last two years and the continual shrinking of the U.S. labor force has led some to speculate the possibility of a prolonged contraction of the U.S.

(and global) economy. Rising interest rates to combat inflation endanger the short-term economy overall.

U.S. labor supplies

However, historically speaking, rates are still quite low and although much higher than the last 20 years, fed rates are unlikely to go much over six or seven percent. The bigger concern might be the fact that as the Boomer Generation retires, subsequent generations are not large enough to fill those gaps.

Thus, we structurally have a 300,000 to 400,000 person annual short-fall in U.S. labor supplies which some estimate could reach over 900,000 annually in 10 years. At this rate, it is inconceivable that the current economy size can be maintained, let alone grow.

Of course, automation and artificial intelligence will fill some of those gaps; however, it appears the sketchy view on our nation's economic future might stay with us for awhile.

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Zeltwanger . . . continued from page 2

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The old show heifer, the one that had the nice bull three years ago, etc. If you don't know what I am talking about, congratulations, you are a FAR better cow guy than I am.

Just putting it out there – life is too short to put up with the mean cow at calving, or helping her get going on a bad udder just one more time. BE SELECTIVE!

Move on from any problem animals that we can. These cattle can add a lot of stress to our days and waste time that I know most of you don't have.

With that being said, I will get off my soap box and leave you with the encouraging news that the time for the cow/calf guy looks good! We are all going to battle inflation and our own daily problems, but the future looks good for the cowboy.

Last, but not least, go out and get memberships! Get renewals. We need to get back to knocking on doors and going to visit our neighbors and businesses we support. We all need each other.

Thanks for your time, and may God bless you this spring!

Thompson . . . continued from page 2

mittee and regional directors, and I hope you do not hesitate to reach out to them or myself.

A strong association takes active membership, and now it is as important as ever to unify to have one strong voice for the protein of choice in the state of Minnesota.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you as interim president of this great association. I will do all I can to represent the great cattle producers of Minnesota.

"Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man." – George Washington

Lawsuit against Biden administration announced

On Jan. 19, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) filed a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) challenging the Biden administration's final Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule.

"The Biden administration's WOTUS definition is an attack on farmers and ranchers and NCBA will be fighting back in court," said NCBA Chief Counsel Mary-Thomas Hart. "The rule removes longstanding, bipartisan exclusions for small and isolated water features on farms and ranches and adds to the regulatory burden cattle producers are facing under this administration. We look forward to challenging this rule in court and ensuring cattle producers are treated fairly under the law."

NCBA previously filed technical comments on this rule, highlighting the importance of maintaining agricultural exclusions for small, isolated and temporary water features,

like ephemeral streams which only flow during limited periods of rainfall but remain dry the majority of the year. Regulating these features at the federal level under the Clean Water Act disrupts normal agricultural operations and interferes with cattle producers' abilities to make improvements to their land.

"Farmers are stewards of the land and understand the importance of clean water. Unfortunately, this rule lacks common sense and makes our lives more complicated," said NCBA Policy Vice Chair Gene Copenhaver, a Virginia cattle producer. "My cattle operation in southwest Virginia has a creek that only carries water after large storms. Under this WOTUS rule, we could be subject to complex federal regulation. I'm proud of NCBA's work fighting back against this rule and I hope the uncertainty created by WOTUS will soon be a thing of the past."

Last year, over 1,700 indi-

vidual cattle producers sent messages to the EPA opposing the administration's overly broad definition of WOTUS. Producers once again shared their views with the EPA at an agency roundtable last June and even the EPA's own Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Advisory Committee urged the EPA to consider a more limited rule. Unfortunately, EPA failed to incorporate the cattle industry's recommendations, and NCBA will be suing to stop this rule from harming cattle producers.

"NCBA is also concerned that the EPA charges headfirst on a controversial rulemaking while this very issue is currently before the Supreme Court. We look forward to a decision in *Sackett v. EPA*," said Hart.

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the Sackett case on Oct. 3, 2022, and is expected to release a decision in early 2023.

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National Cattlemen's Beef Association Convention



Minnesotans gathered to prepare for convention after arriving in New Orleans on Jan. 31.



Minnesota team members enjoyed exploring the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Tradeshow. Pictured left to right, Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA) Executive Director Kaitlyn Root, Minnesota Beef Council (MBC) Director of Industry Relations Jon Dilworth, MSCA Feeder Council Chair Josiah Ebeling and MBC Communications Director Ashley Kraemer.



Minnesota native Don Schiefelbein welcomed his wife Jennifer onto the stage as he gave his final goodbye as National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) president during the NCBA Board of Directors meeting on Feb. 3. Don will now serve as NCBA past president. NCBA photo



Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association Executive Director Kaitlyn Root thanked current National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Past President Don Schiefelbein for his service as NCBA president during the NCBA Board of Directors meeting on Feb. 3. NCBA photo



Minnesota was well-represented at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Cattle Convention in New Orleans. Pictured is NCBA Past President Don Schiefelbein with his family and fellow Minnesotans.

NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. exports set record

The American agricultural sector posted its best export year ever in 2022 with international sales of U.S. farm and food products reaching \$196 billion, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on Feb. 10. Final 2022 trade data released by the Commerce Department shows U.S. agricultural exports increased 11 percent, or \$19.5 billion, from the previous record set in 2021.

The value of sales increased in all of the U.S.' top 10 agricultural export markets – China, Mexico, Canada, Japan, the European Union, South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Colombia and Vietnam, with sales in seven of the 10 markets (China, Mexico, Canada, South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines and Colombia) setting new records.

“While we remain committed to our established customer base around the world, we are also setting our sights on new growth opportunities in places like Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. Overall, there were 30 markets where U.S. exports exceeded \$1 billion in 2022 – an increase from 27 markets in 2021 – demonstrating the broad global appeal of American-grown products,” Vilsack noted.

The top commodities exported by the U.S. in 2022 were soybeans, corn, beef, dairy, cotton and tree nuts, which together comprised more than half of U.S. agricultural export value. International sales of many U.S. products – including soybeans, cotton, dairy, beef, ethanol, poultry, soybean meal, distilled spirits and distillers' grains – reached record values.

“At the end of the day, agricultural trade is all about opportunities – for America's farmers and ranchers, for our rural communities, for the U.S. economy and for our global customers. We extend our gratitude to the Americans across the agricultural industry who create and support those opportunities by growing, processing, selling and shipping our farm and food products to the world,” Vilsack said.

DNR opens application period

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages well owners, high-capacity water appropriators and water suppliers to apply for reimbursement of costs associated with the resolution of well interferences which occurred during the 2021 drought.

As part of a relief package to address impacts of the 2021 drought, the Minnesota Legislature provided funding to the DNR to reimburse people who paid for costs associated with restoring a water supply as a result of a well interference. A well interference happens when a high-capacity water user causes the water level in an aquifer to fall to a level adversely affecting the availability of water to shallower wells. Dry conditions in 2021 caused some high-capacity water appropriators to pump groundwater more frequently in some areas of the state, resulting in numerous well interferences.

The DNR received \$300,000 from the 2022 legislature to reimburse eligible expenses for domestic well owners, high-capacity water appropriators and public and private water suppliers. Those who wish to apply to the DNR for reimbursement will need to provide copies of receipts for work performed. The DNR will review the applications and determine eligibility for reimbursement.

The well interference situation must have happened between May 1, 2021 and Dec. 30, 2021 to be eligible for reimbursement.

Minnesota Statute 103G.265 requires the DNR to manage water resources to ensure an adequate sup-

ply to meet long-range seasonal requirements for domestic, agricultural, fish and wildlife, recreational, power, navigation and quality control purposes. The Water Appropriation Permit Program exists to balance competing management objectives including both development and protection of Minnesota's water resources.

The application period is now open. Applications should be submitted by 4:30 p.m. May 1, 2023. If applications for reimbursement exceed the total funding available, the available funds will be allocated proportionately to all eligible applicants based on their receipts submitted.

For more information, including how to apply, visit the well interference resolution process page of the DNR website at dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt/section/appropriations/interference.html.

New NCBA president announced

Todd Wilkinson, a South Dakota native, cow/calf producer and cattle feeder became the new NCBA president during the 2023 Cattle Industry Convention, held Feb. 1-3 in New Orleans. Wilkinson, along with his son, operates Wilkinson Livestock in De Smet, South Dakota. He has also practiced law for almost four decades and specializes in business transactions, estate planning and probate, real estate matters and agricultural law.

“If you run into me across the country, one thing that I will say time and time again is if you're going to be in the industry don't just talk the talk, you need to walk the walk. My philosophy going into this next year is that I'm going to put on boxing gloves and I'm going to be swinging for the industry,” Wilkinson said.

The 2023 NCBA officer team, approved by the NCBA board of directors, took office at the end of this year's convention. Mark Eisele of Wyoming was named president-elect and Buck Wehrbein of Nebraska was elected vice president.

Brad Hastings of Texas was named NCBA treasurer. Virginia cattleman Gene Copenhaver was elected chair of the NCBA Policy Division. Tim Schwab of Indiana was elected policy vice chair. Clark Price of North Dakota and Dan Gattis of Texas were elected as chair and vice chair of the NCBA Federation division, respectively.

Wilkinson's focus during his time as president will be pushing back on issues threatening the livelihoods of cattlemen and women across the country, while bringing people together to stand as a united front. Wilkinson will make sure NCBA works to protect its members from regulatory attacks under Waters of the U.S., the Endangered Species Act and emissions reporting, to name a few.

The farm bill will be a large focus for NCBA in the coming year as the organization works to secure reauthorization of animal health provisions, expanding the accessibility and funding of risk management and disaster relief programs while protecting voluntary conservation programs. Tax issues are also top of mind in the coming year and Wilkinson's expertise in this area was critical to backing down harmful tax proposals from the Biden administration last year.

“Part of the reason I'm doing this is to make sure that this industry is here for my grandchildren and their grandchildren. I want them to have the opportunity to come back on this piece of ground and run cattle 100 years from now. I'm passionate about NCBA and I won't back up an inch on my commitment to this organization. As long as I am walking this earth, I want to make things a little bit better and NCBA is one of those ways that I think I can do that,” Wilkinson said.

For more information, visit ncba.org.

Deputy secretary shares updates

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) welcomed U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Secretary Dr. Jewel H. Bronaugh to the 2023 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show on Feb. 3.

As a part of the third general session of the 2023 Cattle Industry Convention, Deputy Secretary Bronaugh spoke on a wide variety of topics including rural broadband access, foreign animal disease, international trade and sustainability. Deputy Secretary Bronaugh discussed the implementation of broadband improvements across rural America under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Additionally, Bronaugh highlighted USDA's foreign animal disease response strategy and the importance of the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank, the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). Finally, the deputy secretary reaffirmed the critical role of USDA in opening new markets for U.S. beef exports and countering non-science based, subjective trade barriers hampering the sale of American beef worldwide.

“I'm grateful for the opportunity to participate in this year's Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show to highlight the important work we're doing at USDA to support hardworking farmers and ranchers across the country,” said Bronaugh. “From creating more, new and better markets that allow producers to increase their bottom line, to mitigating the spread of foreign animal disease, to deploying every tool in our toolbox to enhance competition in agricultural markets, to investing in the rural communities many farmers and ranchers call home, USDA is committed to ensuring farmers and ranchers have every opportunity to succeed.”

USDA designates natural disaster areas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently designated six Minnesota counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas.

This Secretarial natural disaster designation allows the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through emergency loans. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

To learn more about emergency farm loans, visit fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans/index.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of one) D2 Drought-Severe for eight or more consecutive weeks or two) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional. Primary counties eligible include: Blue Earth, Chisago, Goodhue, Meeker, Sherburne and Watonwan.

On farmers.gov, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet and Farm Loan Discovery Tool can help determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/service-center-locator. For more information about the U.S. Drought Monitor, visit droughtmonitor.unl.edu.

NEWS BRIEFS

Cattlemen's College draws big crowd

Cattle producers from across the country gathered in New Orleans for the 30th annual Cattlemen's College, which was held prior to the 2023 Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show. Cattlemen's College, sponsored by Zoetis, is one of the cattle industry's premier educational events and features live animal handling demonstrations and sessions with industry leaders tackling innovative topics.

Cattlemen's College sessions highlighted trending hot topics, the latest in grazing as well as live cattle handling demonstrations. Six educational tracks and 18 sessions provided attendees with valuable information about reproduction technology, herd health, practical nutrition management, better beef business, sustainable grazing and the latest in genetics. The event concluded with a keynote presentation from Ray Starling, executive advisor for Aimpoint Research.

Starling discussed the power of knowledge and how producers should remain informed about current issues impacting the industry. He also talked about the value of teamwork and the importance of being involved with state and national cattle organizations.

Cattlemen's College educational sessions included perennial favorites as well as innovative trends. A brand new topic this year was silvopasture, a grazing practice integrating livestock, forages and trees. Dr. Rocky Lemus and George Owens shared the science behind this sustainable grazing method and real-world perspectives of managing a silvopasture system.

On-demand videos of Cattlemen's College sessions will be available online for registered attendees, and for a fee for non-attendees, following the 2023 Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show at convention.ncba.org/events-meetings/cattlemens-college.

CattleFax forecasts producer profitability

The popular CattleFax Outlook Seminar, held as part of the 2023 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show in New Orleans, shared expert market and weather analysis on Feb. 2.

Prices and profitability will again favor cattle producers in 2023. The cattle industry is entering 2023 with the smallest cattle supply since 2015 as drought caused the industry to dig deeper into the supply of feeder cattle and calves. While the exact path to drought relief is unknown, improvements are also expected to translate to moderating feed costs, especially in the second half of 2023.

Combined with increased cattle prices, cattle producers, especially the cow/calf operator, will continue to see an improvement in margins for the next several years, according to CattleFax.

Meteorologist Matt Makens said the latest forecast for La Niña has only a 14 percent probability of existence this spring and down further by the summer, which means a pattern change comes our way this year. A neutral phase will take control of the pattern as La Niña weakens and may last several months before giving El Niño a chance to grow this summer and into the fall.

Makens said putting this latest La Niña episode in the rearview mirror suggests improving drought conditions, more favorable growing seasons and healthier soils.

Kevin Good, vice president of industry relations and analysis at CattleFax, reported that U.S. beef cow cattle inventories have already fallen 1.5 million head from cycle highs. The 2023 beef cow herd is expected to be down about another million head to nearly 29.2 million.

"Drought affected nearly half of the beef cow herd over the last year, exacerbating the liquidation in 2022. Drought improvement and higher cattle prices should drastically slow beef cow culling through 2023," Good said.

Feeder cattle and calf supplies outside of feedyards will be 400,000 to 450,000 head smaller than 2022 at 25.1 million. After being full for most of the past three years, cattle on feed inventories are expected to begin 2023 at 300,000 to 400,000 head below last year, at 14.3 million head, and remain smaller. Commercial fed slaughter in 2023 is forecast to decline by 750,000 to 800,000 to 25.6 million head.

Good forecast the average 2023 fed steer price at \$158/cwt., up \$13/cwt. from 2022, with a range of \$150 to \$172/cwt. throughout the year. All cattle classes are expected to trade higher, and prices are expected to continue to trend upward.

The 800-lb. steer price is expected to average \$195/cwt., with a range of \$175 to \$215/cwt., and the 550-lb. steer price is expected to average \$225/cwt., with a range of \$200 to \$245/cwt. Finally, Good forecast utility cows at an average of \$100/cwt. with a range of \$75 to \$115/cwt., and bred cows at an average of \$2,100/cwt. with a range of \$1,900 to \$2,300 for load lots of quality, running-age cows.

NCBA announces 2023 policy priorities

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association's (NCBA) executive committee approved the organization's policy priorities at the 2023 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show, with a focus on advancing animal disease preparedness, protecting voluntary conservation programs and defending producers from regulatory overreach.

"Our focus is helping to create opportunity for America's cattle producers and fighting to make sure the federal government does not damage our industry," said NCBA President Todd Wilkinson. "Cattle producers have been caretakers of the land and livestock for decades and are committed to conserving this country's natural resources while producing high-quality beef."

NCBA's policy priorities include: securing reauthorization of animal health provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill and advocating for expanded funding of the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank to protect against foot-and-mouth disease; protecting and funding Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program and other voluntary conservation programs which incentivize science-based, active management of natural resources; protecting the cattle industry from regulatory attacks under Waters of the U.S., the Endangered Species Act, emissions reporting and more.

Learn more about NCBA's 2023 Policy Priorities by visiting ncba.org/Media/NCBAorg/Docs/2023-ncba-policy-priorities.pdf.

Petersen reconfirmed as ag commissioner

The Minnesota Senate reconfirmed Thom Petersen as commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) on Feb. 6. The vote was 63-0. This marks the second term for Petersen, who was first appointed in 2019 by Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan to serve as agriculture commissioner.

"Thom Petersen understands how policy directly affects farmers' daily lives," said Gov. Walz. "I look forward to continuing our work to support our farmers – from new farmers to the leaders of food and ag companies – while ensuring Minnesota remains a

global leader in food and agriculture."

"It has been an honor to serve as commissioner these past four years, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside Gov. Walz, Lt. Gov. Flanagan and all the dedicated MDA employees to strengthen and improve our ag economy," said Commissioner Petersen. "Agriculture drives and shapes Minnesota, and I'm proud to represent our farmers, producers and food makers in the four years to come."

Soil health grant available

Applications are now open for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) new Soil Health Financial Assistance Pilot Program soil health equipment grants.

These grants are available to individual producers, producer groups and local governments to purchase or retrofit soil health equipment. Grant awards will provide up to 50 percent cost-share, with a minimum award of \$500 and a maximum award of \$50,000. A total of \$475,000 is available for the Soil Health Financial Assistance Pilot Program soil health equipment grants.

"We recognize that building soil health is important to water quality and our other natural resources in Minnesota," said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. "Implementing soil health practices on farms, however, often requires specialized, expensive equipment and machinery. The Soil Health Financial Assistance Pilot Program will help offset equipment costs, helping to expand the number of farmers and acres engaged in soil health activities."

Examples of eligible new or used equipment include, but are not limited to, no-till drills, air seeders, highboys, variable-rate equipment, retrofit projects to allow no-till planting and more. Parts and materials used to retrofit existing equipment are also eligible.

The Request for Proposals and application link can be found at mda.state.mn.us/soil-health-grant. Applications are due March 20.

USDA seeks public comment

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to amend animal disease traceability regulations and require electronic identification for interstate movement of certain cattle and bison.

APHIS is also proposing to revise and clarify record requirements. Interested stakeholders may view the proposed rule in the Federal Register at federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2023-00505/use-of-electronic-identification-eartags-as-official-identification-in-cattle-and-bison. Members of the public may submit comments. All comments must be received by March 22. APHIS will review all comments and address them in a final rule.

NCBA seeks fall interns

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is seeking public policy interns for the fall 2023 semester. This internship program is conducted in conjunction with the Public Lands Council (PLC) and offers interns an opportunity to support the advocacy work of NCBA and PLC in Washington, D.C. Successful applicants should have a minimum GPA of 3.0, be available for the duration of the internship (September 2023-December 2023) in Washington, D.C. and have excellent research, writing and communication skills.

Applications are available at jobs.keldair.com/ncba/jobs/53984/public-policy-internship-fall-2023 and are due by March 24. Questions about the internship program may be directed to Justyn Tedder.



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²FTR 96-2 Analysis of Post-Vaccinal Injection Sites Using Ultrasound.
³FTR 96-4 Evaluation of Injection Site Blemishes Using Ultrasonography Following Administration of Two Commercial Multivalent Clostridial Vaccines.
⁴Technical Services Field Trial Report 93-9. 1993. Weaning weight comparison of Vision 7 and Ultrabac 7 in a Wyoming beef herd.
⁵Technical Services Field Trial Report 93-14. 1993. Vision Weaning Weight Trials.
⁶Veterinary Services Field Trial Report 93-15. 1993. Weight comparison at weaning in 5 beef herds comparing Vision (2 mL) to 5 mL 7-way administered at spring branding.
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Trailblazers Announces New Cohort of Beef Spokespeople

The Trailblazers program, developed by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, takes advocacy to an unprecedented level by giving participants the tools and training they need to promote beef to new audiences while addressing and correcting myths. After a competitive application process, 10 Trailblazers from eight states have been selected for the program's second cohort of beef community spokespeople, including: Tucker Brown, Texas; Colton Coffee, Montana; Sam Cossio, Washington; Allison Fender, California; Rocky Forseth, Montana; Macey Hurst, Missouri; Joe Lowe, Kentucky; Erin Perkins, New York; Paige Schmidt, Kansas; and Ally Spears, Texas.

"We received more than double the number of applications compared to last year from interested spokespeople in 18 states," said Chandler Mul-

vanev, director of grassroots advocacy and spokesperson development at NCBA. "The newly selected cohort will join efforts with previous Trailblazers, building community, providing opportunities for mentorship, and collaborating with other experienced grassroots advocates."

The new Trailblazers will receive training to become expert communicators, excel in media interviews and understand how to build confidence in beef-related practices when talking to consumers. Throughout the year, Trailblazers will receive advanced training from subject matter experts, learning how to effectively engage on various social media platforms, interact with the media, and enhance public speaking skills.

Shaye Koester of North Dakota, participant in the inaugural class of Trailblazers, said the following about her experience:

"The Trailblazers program increased my confidence to share the truth about beef in my own unique way while providing the resources, experiences, and network to do so. This professional yet fun program is like no other."

Trailblazers will meet online and in person to foster constant growth and refinement of skillsets when speaking about beef. Upon joining the advanced advocacy program, Trailblazers serve as industry spokespeople and inform beef advocates at the local and state levels on advocacy, media,

and spokesperson best practices. Every year, 10 new Trailblazers are accepted into the program.

For more information on the Trailblazers program and other beef advocacy efforts, contact Chandler Mulvaney at cmulvaney@beef.org.



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Type Ops: Feeder Cow-Calf Seedstock Stocker Dairy Associate

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Make Checks Payable to: "MSCA" (No Cash Please)

Return Form & Payment To: MSCA Treasurer

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Recruited By: _____

Questions Call: (763) 479-1011 or email: mnsca@mnsca.org

MN State Cattlemen's Association Dues \$50

Junior Dues \$25

Local Cattleman Association Dues (Optional)

Local = _____ (Local Dues →) _____

NCBA Membership Dues (Optional)

(Select the appropriate classification and add to MN State Cattlemen dues)

1-100 - \$150 Stocker/feeder - \$150 + \$0.38/head

101-250 - \$300

251-500 - \$450

501-750 - \$650

751-1000 - \$900

1001-1250 - \$1150

1251 - 1500 - \$1400

1501 - 1750 - \$1600

1751 - 2000 - \$1900

Associate Dues

Individual - \$150

Business - \$200

Student (24 or younger) - \$50

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