



# The Minnesota Cattlemans

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

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## Heather DeLong Announced as Minnesota Beef Council Business Manager



The Minnesota Beef Council (MBC) has hired Heather DeLong to serve as the new Business Manager. In this role, DeLong will be responsible for administrative and bookkeeping duties, including the maintenance of the checkoff program

system. Previously, Heather worked for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and has a wide breadth of knowledge about the beef industry being raised on a small cow/calf operation in California. DeLong also spent much of her life involved in 4-H, FFA, Cow-Belles/Cattlemen, and local Cattlemen's Associations.

Most recently, DeLong worked as a school administrator in the Orono school district. She will be able to utilize her knowledge and experience in office management, bookkeeping, and customer relations for this position.

"I was not looking to change careers when I stumbled across the 'Now Hiring' sign in the MBC yard but when I saw it, I knew I had to reach out and apply!" De-

Long said. "I have always been looking forward to getting back into agriculture and what better opportunity than this one at the Minnesota Beef Council. I have spent a lifetime promoting, advocating for, and defending farming and ranching – especially the beef industry – so this opportunity to work at the Council furthers my affirmation of a vital industry I can share with others! Neighbors, co-workers, friends and family alike, regardless of where I have lived, have always known where I stand on 'Beef. It's What's For Dinner.' It's nice to be back home!"

"We are very excited to have Heather join the team at the Minnesota Beef Council," Kelly Schmidt, Chief Executive Officer of MBC added. "Her previous work experience, background, and positive en-

ergy has given her a professional skillset that will be an asset to our organization."

Heather has lived in five different states, carrying her passion of farming and ranching with her to each one. "I bring to the MN Beef Council (and MSCA) table(s) a sincere love of agriculture and all it has to offer," noted DeLong. "I cannot wait to get my hands dirty so-to-speak and meet the men, women, and families that feed Minnesota, America, and the world! Hats off to you!"

DeLong resides with her family of six in Maple Plain, Minnesota, with her husband, two children, and two dogs. Her first day on staff with the council was December 13. She can be reached at [heather@mnbeef.org](mailto:heather@mnbeef.org) or (763) 479-1011.

**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>

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

## Convention

Nearly 200 producers from across the state gathered in Hinkley Minnesota for the 2021 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention. This two-day conference provides networking, policy discussion and educational events for producers to connect, learn and have the tools they need to have a successful 2022.

Kicking off this year's event was Sarah Metzler, 5th generation cattle rancher working for the beef community to promote our great product, beef! Sarah works for the Cattlemen's Beef Board focusing on producer communications for the Checkoff, working to educate cattlemen and women about the Checkoff, and communicating what their dollars are used for to drive beef demand.

During the Cattlemen's Educational series, producers learned about alternative diets and options for Cow/Calf producers during a drought as well as research updated regarding the energetic, economic, and nutritional efficiencies association with bedding cattle in the Midwest. The Cattlemen's Educational Series was sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association and National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

This year's general sessions informed producers about the implications with proposed tax changes, cattle on public lands and an outlook on the feeder and fed cattle markets. This session was sponsored in part West-



Carol Hoge, left, recipient of the Minnesota CattleWomen's Lifetime Achievement Award. MNCW President Michelle Mouser presented award, right.



Blackduck Co-Op received 2021 Beef Industry Service Award. Presented by Rachel Gray, MSCA Cow Calf Chair. Award received by Eric Gustafson, Blackduck Co-Op Board member.

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NEWS - TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Convention . . .  
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**ALLISON VANDERWAL**  
Executive Director  
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Office: 763-479-1011

Happy New Year! The start of a new year means starting over for many. For the Minnesota Cattlemen, that means a new year to work on new goals. Policy priorities set by our members at the annual

Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention are already being worked on by staff and executive committee members. From MSCA board members sitting on the Wolf Management Plan advisory council to staff and members representing the states needs in National offices by serving on their Agriculture advisory councils.

The Minnesota Legislative Session began on January 31st and on the National level, conversations surrounding the Farm Bill have begun. Luckily, the members of MSCA passed their policy priorities for the coming year at our annual convention during the Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention in December. These priorities truly guide our work on the state and national level, and they are as follows:

- Increase availability of drought resources and award producers using best management practices in these resource

practices.

- Develop conservation programs that work collaboratively with cattle producers on preserving grasslands
- Update the Minnesota Wolf Management Plan
- Increase quality of cattle market reporting
- Increase capacity of local processing and develop Minnesota FSIS CIS program
- Work with legislators on problems regarding a proposed Meat Tax
- Equalize interstate trucking standards and increase CDL licensees

If you have questions regarding our stance or strategy as we work on these priorities, please reach out to me or our executive committee. We work on the behalf of the Minnesota Cattle Industry every day and are here to answer your questions and listen to your concerns.



**GRANT BREITKREUTZ**  
President

Greetings,

It was great to see everyone who was able to attend our annual convention. Returning to doing things in person is what we all need. The attendees of the convention realize that it is like a big enjoyable family reunion. It is always great to catch up with family events, farm and ranch changes, and with people we only get to see in person once a year. Thank you to all who donate and bring items for the live and silent auction; this is quite a large fund raiser for the MSCA. We

greatly appreciate the vendors who have displayed with us as this gives all in attendance the chance to see the latest and greatest products and technology for our industry.

The winter season finds the leadership of the MSCA traveling to local association meetings to inform members and nonmembers about the work we do to protect the cattle industry in the state and on the national level. If your local association is having a meeting and would like us to speak about the MSCA efforts at your meeting, please contact Allison or myself and we will make sure we are represented at your meeting. The winter season is the time we spend meeting with agencies and elected officials to inform them of our position on topics they are currently working on or are coming up in the near future. We spend a large amount of time doing this type of work because so many

**Breitkreutz ...**  
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**MICHELLE MOUSER**  
CattleWomen President

Legacy, longevity, passion, and vision are all words that easily come to mind as the Minnesota CattleWomen (MNCW) start 2022. This year marks our fiftieth anniversary! On July 21, 1972 eight women gathered together in Walker, MN to adopt the constitution and by-laws of the Minnesota CowBelles and become the 38th state to form a CowBelles unit. This summer, fifty years later, we will return to Walker on July 30 to honor our past and celebrate our future.

Our theme this year is, "Reflect to Grow." As we continue forward with our mission to

"promote, support, and encourage women in the beef industry," we will look back to remember who's behind us, where we have been, and what has been done. The CattleWomen have a rich history and one that is worth remembering. Recently in 2021, we held true to our mission through our five events across the state; our membership increased greatly and relationships and connections were strengthened. Looking to 2022, the events to continue this momentum forward are already taking shape.

Kicking off on April 28-30 in Rochester, MN, we will be hosting the American National CattleWomen Region 3 & Region 7 meeting. Following this we travel north to Walker, MN, on July 30 to celebrate our fifty year anniversary and pay tribute to all the women who have led us here. In October we head to the MN Beef Expo; a weekend that will be packed with

**Mouser ...**  
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**RACHEL GRAY**  
Cow/Calf Council Chair

Hello from Northern Minnesota. If you are like me, you are tired of the cold! We are thankful for the snowpack, and I am hopeful that the deep snow will add to the spring moisture, and we will have

some relief from the drought.

Both February and March are very busy months with many people starting calving and bull sales getting underway. I have been able to attend a few sales and it seems that people are very optimistic. The averages at the sales I have been to are up from last year.

Along with attending sales to find new bulls we have been getting ready for calving season. For us, that includes making sure all our calving supplies are organized and close at hand. I hope that this calving season goes well for you and the calves are born healthy and strong



**ANGIE FORD**  
Feeder Council Chair

Hello from SW Minnesota! The winter seems to be in full swing, but what we are lacking in snow has been made up with the north and south wind competing to see who can blow harder. This lack of moisture

is going to be felt come spring, we can only hope february and march will bring some precip.

I want to thank all the members who attended the MN-SCA convention in December. Much needed policy business was voted on and elections of Chairs and regional directors. We all now look forward to the NCBA convention, the first week in February. MSCA will have great representation this year and it is sure to be exciting to see the policies made, especially in regards to Live Cattle Marketing.

Cattle and beef have been

**Ford ...**  
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### Minnesota Cattleman

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**Ford . . . continued from page 2**

in the news recently, with the Biden administration's focus on the big 4 packers and their control of 85% of the cattle processed in the US. In early January, Biden-Harris rolled out a 4 point action plan for a fairer, more competitive and more resilient meat supply chain. This

plan is quite lengthy and can be found at [www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room](http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room). There are plans to dedicate BILLIONS of dollars to the action plan. We will watch it unfold throughout the year and can only hope it's intentions do help out the farmer and rancher.

**Breitkreutz . . . continued from page 2**

agency/officials do not know what we do on our farms and ranches on a day-to-day basis and how the decisions they implement will affect us every time we walk out our door to produce cattle in this state.

The MSCA is an affiliate of the NCBA and this gives us the ability to guide and direct policy on the national level. We will have representation at the national convention on all the different committees' meetings with our policies in hand to vote according to what the MSCA position is on the different items being voted on. This was a big concern of mine years ago that a lot of what NCBA did was based on the direction of southern state producers and over the years this has changed with many

northern producers stepping up and getting elected to positions in leadership to make sure our voice in the north is properly represented. With that being said, I would like to congratulate Don Schiefelbein on being elected the next NCBA president.

The current status in St. Paul is not going to allow us to do our normal cattlemen at the capitol but be watching for potential smaller events with state elected officials. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for March 15th so watch the policy pen message that comes every week for details on meeting place and time as things keep changing.

Thank you for being a member and I hope you find all your watering facilities ice-free.

**Thank you, 2022 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 2022. If you are interested in learning more about the Beef Alliance program, contact Allison VanDerWal at 763-479-1011 or [allison@mnsca.org](mailto:allison@mnsca.org).

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- Roto-Mix
- Artex Manufacturing

**Select**

**Presidential**

- Phileo Lasaffre\*

\* Indicates giving above base level for that category!

**Upcoming Events/Important Dates:**

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

**MSCA Quarterly Meeting** March 15th, 2022, 10:00 am - Minnesota Beef Council

**MSCA Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting** July 11th, 2022 - Rosemount, MN

**MSCA PAC Fundraiser** July 11th, 2022 - Rosemount, MN

**MSCA Summer Beef Tour** hosted by the University of Minnesota Beef Team - July 12th, 2022 - Rosemount, MN

**FarmFest** August 2-4th, 2022 - Gilfillan Estate, Redwood Falls, MN

**Mouser . . . continued from page 2**

opportunities from a Freezer Beef Workshop on October 20, a hospitality tent during the trade show, and the MN Beef Ambassador Competition on October 22.

The year will conclude at the Cattle Industry Convention in December with our President's Social and Annual Meeting.

In order for our members to stay up to date on these events,

know how and where to get plugged in, and so they know who is leading them, we have published the inaugural issue of "MN CattleWomen News" which will be mailed quarterly.

We encourage women of all ages to join the MN CattleWomen. Our youngest member is three years old and knows her cows just as well as her grandma. As a member

you will receive our quarterly newsletter, discounted registration at events, and be part of an amazing group of cattle women ready to continue the rich heritage that began fifty years ago.

To keep up with all that is happening visit our website, [mncattlewomen.org](http://mncattlewomen.org) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram @MNCattleWomen.

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# Chef's Roll Sustainability Videos

Beef. It's What's for Dinner. on behalf of the Beef Checkoff partnered with Chef's Roll, a leading social network for chef's and food consumers, to create a series of videos focusing on sustainability in the beef industry. The final of the four videos was shot in Minnesota, highlighting an "institutional" local restaurant, and

a multi-generational family farm, each bringing their own stories of what sustainability means, and how they use sustainable practices every day in the beef industry and in the restaurant world. This video features Schiefelbein Farms (Kimball, MN) with multi-generational Operator Don Schiefelbein welcom-

ing Lake Elmo Inn restaurant (Lake Elmo, MN) Executive Chef and Owner John Schlitz to the farm; following the day on the farm, Don visits Chef John for a day at Lake Elmo Inn restaurant.

The video can be found on the Minnesota Beef Council Facebook and Instagram pages.

## MBC Board Meeting

The next Minnesota Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11& 12, 2022 in Maple Plain, MN

## Minnesota Beef Council Events

- Feb. 1-3: Cattle Industry Convention, Houston, TX
- March 17-19: MAMP Convention, St. Cloud, MN
- April 2 – BBQ Spring Training



## Minnesota Top of Class

In January, the Minnesota Top of Class went to Denver for their final session. They were able to hear from many experts about the history of the Beef Checkoff and National Cattlemen's Beef Association, beef nutrition, promotion and research. One of the teams, they heard from was the Issues Management team, who monitors all the information about beef out on the internet and in the media to see how much traction it is getting with the public. They have a digital command center that is monitored 24/7 and if there is an issue that comes up, they address it. They also heard updates about what Beef it's What's for Dinner strategy and the things they are doing to promote beef and even gave some examples of things they have done with Minnesota specific producers.

They also got to visit a 100,000 head feedlot in Kersey, CO. They heard the history of the feedlot, and how the operation runs and their brand programs, tour the feed mill, processing center and tour the pens. It is always a highlight with the classes since we do not have that large of feedlot in Minnesota.

The U. S. Meat Export Federation also

came and spoke to the group about 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 in Seoul, Tokyo, Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, Taipei, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Mexico City, Monterrey and Brussels. Through their worldwide network of offices, US-MEF 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 two two-day in-state seminars, along with an out of state experience to conclude the program.

We have opened applications for the 2022 Minnesota Top of Class, see application here in the newspaper. You can also find it on the Minnesota Beef Council website under the about us page.

# MNBC ST. PATRICK'S DAY RECIPE

## RUSTIC CORNED BEEF & POTATO BAKE



### INGREDIENTS:

12 ounces Corned Beef Brisket, coarsely chopped  
1 tablespoon butter, divided  
1/2 cup chopped onions  
2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme

### HORSERADISH BUTTER:

1 tablespoons grated, jarred horseradish  
1 tablespoon butter, softened  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

### POTATO WEDGES:

1 cup shredded Swiss cheese  
1/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese  
2 cups potato wedges

### OPTIONAL GARNISH:

sliced green onions

### COOKING:

1. Heat oven to 375°F. Prepare Horseradish Butter; set aside. Melt 2 teaspoons butter in large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add onion and thyme; cook and stir 3 to 4 minutes or until onion is tender. Remove from heat; stir in Corned Beef and horseradish-butter mixture. Meanwhile, coat bottom and sides of 9-inch glass pie plate with remaining 1 teaspoon butter; set aside.

2. Arrange 1/2 of potato wedges in

single layer over bottom of pie plate; stick remaining potato wedges upright around the edge of the pie plate. Combine cheeses in small bowl. Sprinkle potatoes with 1/2 of cheese mixture. Top with corned beef mixture and remaining cheese mixture. Press firmly with spatula to compact layers; cover with aluminum foil.

3. Bake in 375°F oven 25 to 30 minutes or until heated through. Uncover; continue baking 3 to 5 minutes or until cheese is melted and edges begin to brown. Let stand 5 minutes. Cut into wedges.

*Cook's Tip: If using deli Corned Beef and frozen prepared roasted potatoes, increase covered baking time to 35 minutes.*

### Nutrition information per serving:

445 Calories; 252 Calories from fat; 28g Total Fat (13 g Saturated Fat; 11 g Monounsaturated Fat;) 121 mg Cholesterol; 1130 mg Sodium; 121 g Total Carbohydrate; 1.5 g Dietary Fiber; 27 g Protein; 2.5 mg Iron; 2.6 mg NE Niacin; 0.3 mg Vitamin B6; 2.3 mcg Vitamin B12; 5.1 mg Zinc; 33 mcg Selenium.

*This recipe is an excellent source of Protein, Vitamin B12, Zinc, and Selenium; and a good source of Iron, Niacin, and Vitamin B6.*

# Drought Management for Beef Producers

Beltrami County was one of the hardest hit by the drought last year. Pastures and hayfields were not in good shape and got worse throughout the summer. We still haven't regained our water losses from last year and have the potential to enter another drought this summer. The key to successful drought management lies in executing a plan before the situation becomes absolutely critical. This workshop will give our local producers ways to mitigate drought and points to consider for their operation before another drought happens.

**Meeting Details**

Date: March 5th  
 Time: 9 am-3 pm  
 Location: Blackduck High School  
 No-cost to producers  
 Registration by February 25th

**Workshop Agenda**

8:30am-9:00am Sign-in, coffee/rolls  
 9:00am-12:00pm Pasture Management – Jeff Duchene, NRCS Grazing Specialist  
 Drought Management - Eric Mousel, UM Extension  
 12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch  
 1:00pm-2:00pm Ranching For Profit – Kelly Klinkhammer, Northland College  
 State of Minnesota Programs - (TBD) Department of Ag  
 2:00pm-3:00pm Q&A panel

*\*titles subject to change*

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The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association  
**The Policy Pen**  
 MSCA E-BULLETIN

With the fast changing times, it's important to stay up to date on industry news.

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# INFRASTRUCTURE: A Necessary Investment for the U.S. Cattle Industry

After months of gridlock in Congress, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 was signed into law by President Biden. In the midst of partisan politics, NCBA stayed committed to being the trusted leader and definitive voice of the U.S. cattle and beef industry. In this case, that meant sifting through rhetoric and fighting for policy that served the best interests of U.S. cattle and beef producers.

## How did we get here?

Like most things in Washington, the process that led us to passage of this legislation was extremely convoluted and lengthy. Democratic leadership in Congress created a two-track process where they debated on a “human infrastructure” bill, often referred to as the Build Back Better Act, and a “hard infrastructure” bill that included more traditional infrastructure investments, such as broadband funding and investments in roads and bridges.

While NCBA continues to oppose the Build Back Better Act as certain provisions could harm the business climate for producers, throughout the broader conversation we worked with Congress to ensure the bipartisan infrastructure bill focused on “hard infrastructure” investments and included provisions beneficial to the cattle industry.

## How does this legislation benefit U.S. cattle and beef producers?

Infrastructure investments are an important step toward ensuring that American cattle producers and their communities have access to necessary resources to be successful in the 21st century.

“A lot of these provisions [in the bipartisan infrastructure bill] are things that we have been pursuing for well over a decade, and in some cases over two decades,” said NCBA Policy Division Chair and Wyoming cattleman Mark Eisele. “I know there’s concern about there being a lot of ‘hogs at the trough’ for this deal, but that’s not the case.”

In accordance with our grass-roots policy, NCBA worked hard to ensure that the following provisions were included in the final legislation:

- An additional 150 air-mile exemption on the destination

of livestock hauls;

- \$127 billion for roads, bridges, ports and waterways that are crucial to farmers and agriculture exporters;

- \$40 billion to states to build out broadband internet infrastructure — \$2 billion for the Agriculture Department to expand broadband in rural areas through the ReConnect program;

- \$3.3 billion to the Forest Service and Interior Department to fight wildfires through controlled burns, mechanical thinning, and firefighting resources; and

- congressional commitment to the improvement of the federal permitting process for critical water-related investments through the codification of One Federal Decision.

## Livestock Transportation

NCBA has long fought for the ability for livestock haulers to transport livestock safely and efficiently. The ability for haulers to do this depends on the existence of modernized, reliable roads and bridges as well as regulatory flexibility.

“Livestock are a perishable commodity. For humane animal management and the proper handling of that commodity, it needs to be timely,” Eisele said. “You can’t be diverted around a river and have an extra hour added to your haul — which happens frequently. And you can’t pull into a truck stop and wait eight to 10 hours to get back on the road.”

Since cattle are often hauled from remote areas of the country to areas where feedlots and processing plants are located, without flexibility in hours-of-service requirements, some cattle and beef producers could very easily lose their ability to be competitive in the marketplace. While the cattle industry is currently operating under an emergency declaration that allows for exemptions to hours-of-service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the inclusion of the backend 150 air-mile exemption in the bill provides an added flexibility that is permanent.

While flexibility during livestock hauls is critical, it means nothing unless the roads and bridges haulers are utilizing are accessible and can accommodate heavy cattle and trailers.

“We’re watching some of our infrastructure crumble and

erode under our feet — literally,” explained Eisele. “As you drive the backroads, you realize haulers can’t always access them with trucks because the bridges aren’t able to handle the larger weight loads.”

Hauling livestock is different than hauling other commodities. Flexibility in regulations and reliable infrastructure, especially in rural areas, is key to the health and safety of cattle in transport. In fact, the investments made in transportation infrastructure through this bill will have a direct effect on the ability for grocery store shelves to remain fully stocked with beef.

## Rural Connectivity

For cattle and beef producers to be competitive in a global marketplace they must have access to reliable, high-speed internet.

“In this day and age, you’ve got to be connected — high tech is where it’s at,” Eisele said. “People want timely information at the speed of commerce to run their businesses.”

The funding for rural broadband included in the bill will be critical for the cattle industry as we continue to innovate and improve operations. When producers have access to high-speed rural broadband it opens

doors to increased efficiency, economic growth and environmental sustainability.

“If you’re in the business, you understand. You need access to your markets; you need to stay aware of commodity prices and you need to have precision technology for spraying or location of crops — you can’t wait for this stuff,” Eisele said.

Eisele went on to describe how farmers and ranchers don’t have time to run to the top of a hill to get service when they need to quickly check something on the internet or make a timely purchase. While this may just seem like an anecdote to some, cattle producers know the reality of this, and the challenges lack of connectivity impose on business owners when they are working on their operations.

## Fire Mitigation and Water-Related Infrastructure

On the heels of one of the most severe droughts in recent history, coupled with a devastating wildfire season — the investments for fire mitigation and water-related infrastructure included in the bill will be critical, especially for ranchers in the west.

“Lots of our producers had enormous burnouts. They lost

livestock. They lost property — some of which will never be rebuilt in a lifetime. Those losses were unacceptable,” Eisele said.

Eisele explained that to mitigate these catastrophic losses the Forest Service needs to work with farmers and ranchers on the ground, invest in ground management tools and address urgent issues.

In addition, for generations, ranchers have been subject to burdensome government red tape to complete critical water-related infrastructure projects. The codification of One Federal Decision will increase efficiency in the permitting process, thus allowing producers to continually invest in water and natural resource management.

“Everyone is critical of public lands ranchers because they don’t think we’re paying our fair share and that sort of thing, but we’re the ones putting water developments in, we’re the ones that are helping wildlife,” Eisele said. “We want clean water. We want clean air. We want all those things. And when we have fires of enormous magnitude, the environment loses, the watershed loses — everyone takes an enormous hit. So, in my opinion, this is money well spent.”

**DONT FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

Thank you for being a member of the Minnesota Cattlemen's Association. Membership matters and allows our collective voices to be heard on issues in St Paul and Washington DC.

Remember to renew your membership for 2021 and help us to monitor issues affecting Minnesota cattlemen



# Calving kit preparation for cow-calf producers

Authors: Troy Salzer and Joe Armstrong

Calving season, whether it is in the spring or the fall, is a critical time for every cow-calf operation. Being prepared is essential for success when assisting cows and calves when they need help. Having everything you need together in a kit can save precious time and prevent frustration in a stressful situation.

## Calving essential components

These lists include essential items to have on hand for going into the calving season. Collect them at least four weeks prior to the date the first calf is expected.

### Items to include for pre-calving

- The farm veterinarian's phone number: Don't be afraid to use it if needed!
- Warm clothing: Bibs and a coat are recommended so you can take off the coat and have your arms free to assist with calving but still be warm.
- Headlamp - A great light is often underappreciated. Don't skimp on this one. A hands-free light is preferred.
- A restraining device: This is for the cow's safety and yours. A halter works well. Tie it down low so that the cow can lie down. A chute is good for examinations but awkward if the cow goes down.
- Disinfectant: Use udder wash diluted in warm water or a suitable iodine preparation to wash the plastic gloves and cow's vulva. Cleanliness is critical to prevent post-calving complications for the cow and the calf.
- Long plastic gloves (OB sleeves): Wear these when examining the cow to protect you and the cow. If these are not available, be sure to wash your hands and arms thoroughly, keeping all materials as clean as possible.
- A pail for warm water.
- Clean towels and paper towels.
- Lubricant: Use a veterinary OB lubricant. Don't let it freeze. There are also dry types of lubricants available. This might be the most important item in your kit. You will use this liberally when you need to, so keep plenty of it available.
- Calf puller (calf jack) to assist with difficult births. This can be a dangerous tool if used incorrectly. Make sure to talk with your veterinarian about the best way to use a calf jack.
- OB chains plus two handles: Put one loop above the dewclaw and the other below the dewclaw. Use one chain for



Joe Armstrong DVM, UMN Cattle Production Systems Extension Educator



Troy Salzer

each leg. Put the large link on top of the foot, so the pull is on the topside.

- Iodine (7%) and scissors for the navel cord.
- Dental floss to tie off navel cord if it won't quit bleeding.
- Clean straw to tickle the nose.

### Items to include for post-calving

- The farm veterinarian's phone number.
- Calf warming box (make sure it is clean!) or coats.
- Colostrum: Have a supply of fresh, frozen, or commercial colostrum available for calves: You may need to give colostrum to calves from heifers, thin cows, cows with large teats, cows with twins, cows with uterine prolapses, or from cows who have difficult or cesarean deliveries.
- Nipple bottle and esophageal feeder to ensure that the calf gets colostrum. Try the nipple bottle first but make sure that at least 2 to 4 quarts of colostrum are given to the calf within 6 hours after birth.
- Calf claim products in case the cow or heifer is reluctant to claim the calf.
- Syringes and needles: 3, 6, and 12 cc syringes. 18 gauge x 1" for calves, 16 gauge x 1.5" for cows (IM).
- Tags and marker, tagger, record book, and pencil.
- Castration bander or clean scalpels and a handle for knife castration.

### Items to include in your medicine cabinet

These items are recommended in every medicine cabinet

- Thermometer: One of the best tools for diagnostics. If you call your veterinarian, their first

question likely will be: what is the calf's temperature?

- Oxytocin: for milk let down\*.
- Penicillin: Penicillin given at any dose other than the labeled dose of 1 ml/100 lbs. requires a veterinary prescription\*.
- Long-acting systemic antibiotic\*.
- Medication to reduce inflammation and pain (Meloxicam, flunixin meglumine)\*.
- Sulfamethazine tablets for treating coccidia in calves at least 3 weeks old\*.
- Electrolytes: Dehydration is the biggest enemy for calf scours and oral electrolyte products are our best defense. Make

sure to mix them according to the package instructions. We recommend always mixing a whole pack, if you don't need all of the electrolytes, extra can be stored in the fridge for up to one week.

- Probiotic.
- Vitamin B complex.

### Discuss with your veterinarian

Ideally, you would discuss these items with your veterinarian as some of these medications can be specific to certain regions or operations based on history and nutrition. These items are not necessary for all cattle operations.

- Vitamin E & Selenium\*
- Iron
- Vitamin A & D

The following items should be included for producers who are comfortable with IV administration of medications and epidural administration.

- 2% Lidocaine: local anesthetic\*
- CMPK Solution for IV use\*
- 50% Dextrose
- Hypertonic saline\*
- 0.9% Sodium chloride or lactated ringers
- IV setup

\*These items require prescriptions from your Veterinarian of Record who holds your Veterinary client-patient relationship (VCPR).

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# Asian Longhorned Tick Spreads into the United States

The Asian Longhorned Tick (ALT) has officially spread to 17 states according to October 2021 data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Unlike other ticks the cattle industry has experienced, the ALT may easily evade detection and has the potential to rapidly spread to new areas of the country.

“Stopping the spread of the ALT requires a strong control program,” said Dr. Kathy Simmons, chief veterinarian of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. “Unfortunately, the federal government currently lacks the budget or a plan to enact an eradication program, so state animal health authorities and individual cattle producers must remain vigilant to control the spread of this invasive, exotic tick.”

The ALT poses a particular challenge for management and control due to the tick’s small size, ability to reproduce without a mate, and resiliency to live in the environment without a host for up to a year.

At about the size of a sesame seed, the tick is difficult to see and may avoid the drag nets used by veterinarians and health officials to inspect pastures for insects. One female tick can singlehandedly create a new tick

population by quickly reproducing. If a single tick attaches to an animal, it may produce 1,000 to 2,000 offspring at a time and create a large infestation that covers the animal and leads to fatal blood loss.

Health authorities are also concerned that the tick is a carrier of theileria, specifically theileria orientalis, a disease that results in bovine infectious anemia, or an insufficient number of red blood cells. Without enough red blood cells, cattle may experience weakness, reluctance to walk, fever and abortion. Currently, there is no approved treatment in the United States for theileria orientalis, and recovered cattle usually remain persistently infected.

USDA is aware of the spread of the ALT and has begun holding monthly surveillance calls between officials at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and state and industry stakeholders. While procedures are in place to report tick sightings to APHIS, there is no federal program for tick control or eradication currently in place.

While surveillance is a step in the right direction, Dr. Simmons pointed out that controlling and managing the tick is important because of its mobility.

“The tick is found on over 25 host species including cats, dogs and birds,” she said. “The tick can easily hitch a ride on a wide variety of wild, agricultural and domestic animals to spread quickly into new areas.”

Although officials remain concerned about the tick, producers can protect their herd by frequently inspecting their cattle and reporting any sightings of ticks to their veterinarian or local animal health officials.

“USDA and state animal health officials have a procedure for veterinarians to identify and report ticks,” Dr. Simmons said. “If a veterinarian sees a tick that looks different from the common domestic tick, they can contact APHIS or their state animal health officials to identify it.”

First recorded in the U.S. in 2017, the ALT is native to eastern China, Japan, eastern Russia and Korea. The tick previously spread to Australia and New Zealand, where the spread of theileria caused economic disruptions to those countries’ agricultural production. It is currently unknown how the tick first entered the U.S., and it is rare for a new tick species to be established so quickly. The tick has never previously established a population in the U.S. and

is considered an exotic species.




NCBA has recognized that the ALT represents a challenge to the cattle industry. Through the grassroots policy process, the NCBA Cattle Health and Well Being Committee adopted policy on the ALT at the 2021 Cattle Industry Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Having policy on the books allows NCBA’s Government Affairs team to begin working with policymakers to find ways to control and eradicate the tick.

As chief veterinarian, Dr. Simmons will play a leading role in NCBA’s engagement on the tick.


“Typically, NCBA works with members of Congress or government officials who are unfamiliar with our industry, and we are educating them on the realities our producers face out in the country,” Dr. Simmons said. “On cattle health and well-being issues, we engage in highly technical, scientific discussions with veterinary organizations, researchers and animal health professionals with the goal of keeping U.S. cattle safe and healthy.”

To maintain the health of your herd,

**Asian tick ...  
continued on page 11**


**Jake Thompson 218.329.9293**




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# Knowledge Is Power

By Colin Woodall, NCBA CEO

After living and working in our nation's capital for 20 years, I saw it all. What I loved to watch, though, were those senators and representatives who knew the ins-and-outs of U.S. Senate and House of Representatives procedure. Knowledge of the rules and of what is really going on behind the scenes in the Senate and House means that you can use your knowledge to confuse your opposition and win the day. Not every senator or representative takes the time to become an expert on the rules, so those who do quickly realize that knowledge is power.

The same applies to the cattle business. Those with knowledge of the facts and figures have the advantage, and my hope is that each edition of *National Cattlemen* imparts more of that knowledge. For almost six years, NCBA has been engaged in the R-CALF lawsuit against USDA challenging the Beef Checkoff and targeting the Montana Beef Council. The decision issued this past July by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals vindicated the Checkoff and dealt another legal defeat to Bill Bullard's R-CALF, but do you know who was really behind Bill Bullard's effort?

The group doing Bill Bullard's bidding is called Public Justice, which was founded in 1982 as Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, and the company they keep is not looking out for the best interests of America's cattle producers. In October, Bill Bullard's R-CALF filed a petition with the U.S. Supreme Court asking for an extension on the time they have to decide

whether they want to appeal the 9th Circuit's decision to the highest court in the land. Upon reading the filing, their main reason for needing the extension was that their Public Justice attorneys were just too busy representing other clients to be able to get their R-CALF work done. Those other clients were PETA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

No, your eyes are not deceiving you. Bill Bullard's attorneys are the same ones representing groups that want to put us out of business. PETA's mission statement says they oppose a human-supremacist world view called speciesism, and that they focus their attention on areas, including food animals, in which they believe the largest number of animals suffer the most intensely for the longest periods of time. They routinely use shock tactics and celebrities to draw the media's attention to their efforts in eliminating animal agriculture, hunting and animal research. They have been behind hidden camera efforts on farms, dairies and ranches, in which they get animal extremists to gain employment under false pretense in order to secretly film what they believe is cruelty to animals. They have also defended the terrorist acts of groups like the Animal Liberation Front. In addition, they support a "sin tax" on meat and have actively promoted the production and consumption of fake meat products.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), much like PETA, supports plant-based diets and has lobbied for moratoriums on CAFOs and large-scale dairies. They

criticize us for greenhouse gas emissions and pollution. ALDF spends its resources trying to defeat "ag-gag" laws because they interfere with their targeting of animal ag operations via undercover videos.

How desperate do you have to be to think that a group with ties like this really wants you to succeed, especially since they make it known that they really do not have time for you until they help their animal activist friends? Is Bill Bullard's hatred of NCBA and the Checkoff so great that he is willing to sell his membership to the very people who want to put them out of business? In watching activist groups work in D.C., I know that part of their strategy is to divide industries in order to get them to fight each other. While these intra-industry fights are going on, attention is diverted from the activist efforts to weaken the targeted industry. Is that what Public Justice is doing?

In case that was not enough, Bill Bullard utilized the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) to get his Public Justice attorney's fees reimbursed because they won an earlier step in their Checkoff lawsuit. EAJA allows people who sue the Federal government and win to get their fees covered. Bill Bullard's R-CALF received \$150,000 from USDA, but the money came from the Checkoff. Instead of your valuable Checkoff money going to promotion and research, it is now flowing to a group that attacks it every chance they get. Knowledge is power, so be sure to share this with your friends.



Royalee Rhoads was the recipient of the Minnesota CattleWomen of the Year Award.



Mark Malecek, pictured with his grandchildren was the recipient of the 2021 Minnesota Cattlemen of the Year Award.

## Asian tick . . . continued from page 10

Dr. Simmons recommends knowing some information about tick behavior and the diseases that ticks may carry for cattle and humans. While the tick can be found anywhere in the environment, according to USDA, the tick prefers tall grasses and wooded areas. Asian Longhorned Ticks are light brown and when they feed, they can increase to the size of a pea.

To prevent the spread of the tick, cattle producers should

frequently monitor their livestock and report any ticks to their veterinarian or animal health authorities. The tick prefers warm places on both humans and animals, so producers should pay extra attention to cattle's ears, groin and underbelly. On humans, ticks may hide under the armpits, behind the knee, in hair or around the groin. The tick may also spread through contact with wildlife, especially deer. Maintaining distance between

livestock and wildlife is important for avoiding both the spread of diseases and insect pests. If ticks are a problem in your area of the country, then consider discussing with your herd veterinarian the use of tick control products for cattle and the environment.

For more information on the Asian Longhorned Tick, please visit the USDAAPHIS website ([aphis.usda.gov](http://aphis.usda.gov)) or contact the NCBA Washington, D.C., office at 202 347-0228.

## Convention . . . continued from page 1

way Feed Products and Kent Nutrition Group. State and National policy updates were presented by MSCA Legislative Consultant Bruce Kleven and Kaitlyn Glover with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Public Lands Council.

Our final speaker at convention was Evan Burt with the Consulate General of Canada sponsored by Minnesota Farm Bureau. As Council and Trade Commissioner, Evan talked about the value of the USMCA Trade agreement and how that agreement benefits

Minnesota.

During the 'Best of the Beef Banquet' Blackduck Co-Op was awarded the 2021 Beef Industry Service Award for the work they did to provide aid to producers suffering from last year's drought. The 2021 Cattlemen of the Year Award was presented to Mark Malecek for his continued leadership in the beef industry on the state and national levels as well as local through his radio program. The banquet concluded with entertainment by Tim the Dairy Farmer sponsored by Purina Nutrition.

# UPCOMING EVENTS/IMPORTANT DATES:

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

## MSCA Quarterly Meeting

March 15th, 2022, 10:00 am - Minnesota Beef Council

## MSCA Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting

July 11th, 2022 - Rosemount, MN

## MSCA PAC Fundraiser

July 11th, 2022 - Rosemount, MN

## MSCA Summer Beef Tour

*Hosted by the University of Minnesota Beef Team*

July 12th, 2022 – Rosemount, MN

## FarmFest

August 2-4th, 2022 - Gilfillan Estate, Redwood Falls, MN

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Questions Call: ☎ (763) 479-1011 or email: ✉ [mnsca@mnsca.org](mailto: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

**Associate Dues**

501-750 - \$650

Individual - \$150

(NCBA Dues →) \_\_\_\_\_

751-1000 - \$900

Business - \$200

1001 -1250 - \$1150

Student (24 or younger) - \$50

1251 - 1500 - \$1400

1501 - 1750 - \$1600

1751 - 2000 - \$1900

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