



The Minnesota Cattlemans

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

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Volume 25 | Edition 3 | June, 2022

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE 2022 SUMMER BEEF TOUR!

The University of Minnesota Extension Beef Team and the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association have teamed up to host the 2022 MN Cattlemen's Summer Tour, a fun and educational event where attendees can visit UMN St. Paul Campus and the MN Zoo. The event will take place on Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

Stops on the tour include the UMN Andrew Boss Laboratory of Meat Science, UMN College of Veterinary Medicine, and UMN Forage Research plots. Buses leave

bright and early for the event at 7 a.m. from the MN Zoo to arrive on campus at approximately 7:45 a.m.

The Andrew Boss Laboratory of Meat Science has long been a UMN Animal Science Department staple. Dr. Ryan Cox will lead the charge at this stop, where attendees will have the opportunity to compare hanging carcasses, observe cutting demonstrations, and see the Lab's facilities.

The College of Veterinary Medicine will highlight how they educate students and pre-

pare them to enter the world of animal care. The stop includes a tour of the Leatherdale Equine Center and an opportunity to interact with representatives from the different portions of the veterinary school - small animal hospital, equine faculty, food animal faculty, Davis Family Dairy Partnership, and college leadership.

This year's Cattlemen's Summer Tour highlight is visiting the Forage Research Plots. The Extension Forage Team prepared and planted a large set of plots specifically for this event. Over 30 different species of forages will be on display side by side to allow farmers to compare the

options available to them. Extension Educators will walk producers through the pros and cons of each species for the different times of year and weather conditions in MN. Farmers will also have a chance to see the specialized research plot equipment on display used for crop and forage research.

Throughout the time on campus, attendees will have the opportunity to interact with representatives from tour sponsors. These interactions provide valuable information and connections for producers to the companies and resources that support the cattle industry. These same representatives will be

available in the afternoon and early evening portion of the event at the MN Zoo.

After a morning filled with learning, attendees will return to the MN Zoo around 3:30 p.m., enjoying supper and exclusive access to the MN Zoo from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m.

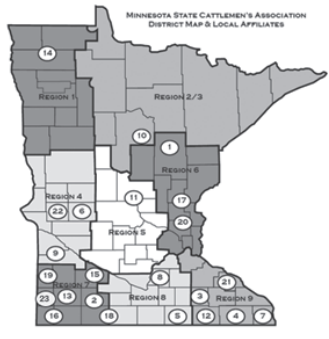
Tickets can be purchased online for \$25 per person until June 15 by visiting z.umn.edu/MNSummerTour. After June 15, tickets may be purchased for \$30 online or at the door. UMN students can purchase tickets online for a discounted rate of \$15 (student ID's checked at the door). Lunch and supper are included for every attendee.

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>



MINNESOTA STATE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
DISTRICT MAP & LOCAL AFFILIATES

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-Hobbs 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. Midwest Cattlemen	20. Tri-County Cattlemen
10. Minnesota Cattlemen	21. Wabasha County Cattlemen
11. Mississippi Valley Cattlemen	22. West Central Cattlemen
	23. Pipestone Cattlemen

Session Ends With Work Unfinished

Minnesota lawmakers convened for the start of the 2022 legislative session at noon on Monday, January 31, with various aspects of COVID-19 continuing to affect the work at the State Capitol. While Senate Republicans conducted hearings and floor sessions in person, House Democrats remained skittish about meeting person and did not open their office building until late March. The vast majority of House committee hearings were held remotely, including most conference committees, making direct access to some House members difficult. The 2022 session was shorter in length than the 2021 session, which was the longer, budget-setting year. In terms of priorities, House Democrats once again focused on race, equity, climate change, and police reform. Senate Republicans focused on public safety, crime, helping businesses as they emerge from the pandemic, and providing tax relief against the backdrop of an enormous projected budget surplus.

Even though this was not the budget year, supplemental

budget bills consumed most of the time. The February budget forecast indicated that at the end of the current two-year budget cycle the State of Minnesota will have a \$9.25 billion budget surplus. The projected surplus is not the equivalent of having money in the bank, but rather represents what the State Economist thinks the books will look like at midnight on June 30, 2023, when the current two-year budget ends, assuming revenue and spending patterns are not changed by the legislature and the Governor. For perspective, the current two-year general fund budget is \$52 billion. Governor Walz and House Democrats preferred to spend most of the surplus while Senate Republicans focused on tax cuts.

By the last week of the session, Governor Walz and legislative leaders announced that a broad framework for a budget and tax deal had finally been reached. The framework calls for \$4 billion in new spending over the next three years, \$4 billion in tax relief over the next three years, and \$4 billion to be left unspent

in the event of an economic downturn. The deal also calls for \$1.4 billion in capital investment projects through a bonding bill. But with only a couple of days to go, most conference committees were still struggling to close the gaps but by then it was too late for most bills. By the final day of the session, agreements had been reached on bills covering agriculture, broadband, higher education, and taxes. Agreements on bills covering the environment, transportation, education, health and human services, public safety, state government, judiciary, economic development, and the bonding bill were not done in time. A special session of the legislature might be called if – and only if – agreements are reached on the above list of outstanding bills. In the meantime, the legislature unceremoniously adjourned the regular session at midnight on Sunday, May 22, with plenty of work left to do.

**Session. . .
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NEWS - TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



ALLISON VANDERWAL
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After a long spring, warm weather and sunshine is very welcome at the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association. The MSCA

had a very productive spring. In April, we brought back our Steak on a Stick Event at the Capital. A big thank you goes to the beautiful weather, planning committee, West Central Cattlemen's Association and Cottonwood Cattlemen for the use of their grills and all the members that came out to serve steaks and talk to legislators and staff. We also need to thank the West Central Cattlemen's Association for their generous donation of the steaks for this event. With over 700 steaks served, attendees had the chance to speak to legislators, staff, and department officials about beef production and issues important to their operation. This event continues to draw individuals from both sides of the isle and provide a platform to talk about the importance of beef production in Minnesota. We

have a busy summer ahead of us and we are excited to see all our members at the upcoming events. New this year, our association will be serving steak at the Ray Fagen Memorial Airshow in June, July Quarterly meeting, Summer Tour, PAC event and NCBA Summer Business meeting in July, Farmfest and State Fair in August and our September Quarterly board meeting in September.

All of these events are a crucial part of the MSCA ensuring cattle production stays a viable industry in Minnesota. If you would like to know more about registration, activities or details regarding these functions please contact any of our staff or board members. I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming events and hope you have a wonderful summer!



GRANT BREITKREUTZ
President

Summer is here with all of the weather extremes that come with it. We experienced damage to shed doors and bins but I know that many of our members had much more damage and I hope that you can get everything repaired or replaced timely.

Summer brings with it many different events for us to promote our great product and meet our consumers. The MSCA will be working with local cattle associations to do the grilling and preparations for these events. The first event will be a new one for us at the Fagan Air Show which draws

over 20,000 people. We will be serving steak on a stick like we did for the grilling day at the capitol which was very well received. The next event will be the summer tour hosted by the university of MN with the headquarters at the MN zoo. This will be very interesting as we will get to see all the research that the staff is working on to improve our profitability. Please attend the quarterly meeting on July 11 with the pac event to follow that evening.

Farm fest will be here before we know it and as always we will be calling and asking for help with this event. I would like to thank everyone that has helped in the past and please consider recruiting others to come with you and help this year. It takes a very large crew to complete this event when we are serving 4-500 people per hour at the noon rush. It is also an election year and we have been known to have visits from many of those running for office.

Have a safe summer.
Grant Breitkreutz



MICHELLE MOUSER
CattleWomen President

We have just finished celebrating our daughter Haley's high school graduation and I just have to say amidst all the planning and preparation my heart is full because of all the family and friends that have loved Haley and invested their time and energy into her life. However, if we all just took a moment to step outside of ourselves and look at our lives from the outside wouldn't we see the same? Take a moment today to ponder on all the lives of family and friends over the years who have loved you and gave of their time and energy for you. Would you be where you are today without them?

Well the same is true for our MN CattleWomen. From the CowBelles of 1972 to the CattleWomen of 2022 our organization would not be where it is today without the women who gave of their time and energy into promoting beef and educating the public. On July 30th we are gathering together at the Firefly Event Barn in Nevis, MN to celebrate fifty years. I need each and everyone of you to share this event with everyone. Past members, their spouses, and families are all invited to attend. Please visit our website for more information and to register for this event.

Looking back just one month ago the CattleWomen kicked off the year with our first event on April 28-30 in Rochester, MN. This event was two-fold as Friday was "A Taste of WIRED" Breeding Workshop and Saturday was the American National CattleWomen's Region 3 & 7 Meeting. Fifty-five women traveled from all

Mouser ...
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RACHEL GRAY
Cow/Calf Council Chair

Hello from northern Minnesota. This has been a spring of crazy weather! In our area we moved from drought to flooding in a matter of a few short storms. The temps are finally on the rise, and we are seeing

most people have crops in. A lot got planted at the last minute because soil temps were low, and we had an abundance of rain. I think after last year, none of us wants to complain about too much water.

Most producers up here are finally able to turn cattle out to pastures. That was a major relief here after the winter. I am sure there were a lot of people like me that were running very short of hay. When we finally decided to go to pasture, we had 40 bales in the shed. That's cutting it way too close. So far, the hay crop looks to be com-

Gray ...
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ANGIE FORD
Feeder Council Chair

June 1st, and I would like to say most of you have the crops planted but this year is proving to be a challenge. The cooler temps and wet spring have put many farmers weeks behind. We are seeing record flooding

in the northwest part of the state and very wet conditions here in SW Minnesota. Mother nature has spun 180 from the drought conditions of last year.

A few updates on the latest regulatory items happening in DC. The past few months have seen Senate and House Ag committee hearings regarding Cattle Markets and the bill introduced by Senators Fischer and Grassley. The Cattle Market Transparency Act of 2021 has several components, including: Regional Mandatory Minimum Levels of Negotiated Trade, 14 Day Slaughter Reporting, Car-

Ford ...
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cass Weight Reporting, Cattle Contracts Library and Clarification to Confidentiality. To read the bill in it's entirety visit www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/543

Industry experts have been predicting a "wall of cattle" that will come early this summer, before the usual August high numbers, from all the calves that went into the feedlots early due to no grass. Then it is expected that inventories

of fat cattle will become tight and stay that way until the cow herd can be built up again. Cow slaughter is up 16% so far this year over last. Feeders are expected to be in short supply as well.

Please be sure to get signed up for the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Tour held at the University of MN on July 12th. This will be a family friendly event, ending the day with a private opening of the MN Zoo.

Gray . . . continued from page 2

ing along nicely. I checked alfalfa today and it looks very good at this point. We are making sure not to over graze and stress our pastures, as we can still see some of the drought stress in areas.

If you have not already checked out the information

for the summer tour, please do so. There is a lot on the schedule. It sounds like a great day and a chance to see the zoo that evening.

I hope your crops are growing well and your pastures and green.

Rachel Gray

Mouser . . . continued from page 2

across Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Arizona to attend. Our guest speakers for Friday and Saturday were: Matthew Dacy, Director of Mayo Clinic Heritage Hall; Dr. Kristina Porter, DVM from Huron, SD; Rhianna Frost, Transova Genetics; Andrew Swanson, Select Sires; Jill Peine, Hubbard Feeds; Gregg White from the American Swedish Institute; and Pamela Griffin, President-Elect American National Cattle-Women.

The breeding workshop day was an outstanding day of interactive learning. All of the speakers shared their passion for breeding cattle, their skill, and expert knowledge in such a way that everyone left that day stronger than when they arrived. However, hearing the history of the Mayo brothers from Matthew Dacy, Director of Heritage Hall, was a surprising complement to our own lives of raising a family, cattle, and the constant push for making the next time better than the last. I wrote down four words with arrows showing the progression; need, ideas, projects, buildings. I smile even now. No matter what season it is on the ranch we have a new need that wasn't there last year, we come up with new ideas, we start the project, and build it. Mayo's constant drive for the best continues today and so do most of our farms and ranches. What a rich heritage we all have.

I am thankful to have met each speaker and woman in attendance. Days and events like these are what the Minnesota CattleWomen are about. Our mission is to promote, support, and encourage women in the beef industry. To every man reading this article, share this with the women in your life. To every woman reading this article, you are invited to attend our events and bring a friend. It's time to gather together, be encouraged by one another, and know that we are not alone in this crazy, beautiful, hard life of being cattle women.

Keep up to date on all our activities by visiting our website, mncattlewomen.org or follow us on Facebook or Instagram @mncattlewomen. See you in July!

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.

Prime

American Foods*
Merck Animal Health*
Minnesota Beef Council
Minnesota Corn Growers Association*

Choice

Roto-Mix

Select

Presidential

* Indicates giving above base level for that category!

Upcoming Events/Important Dates:

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

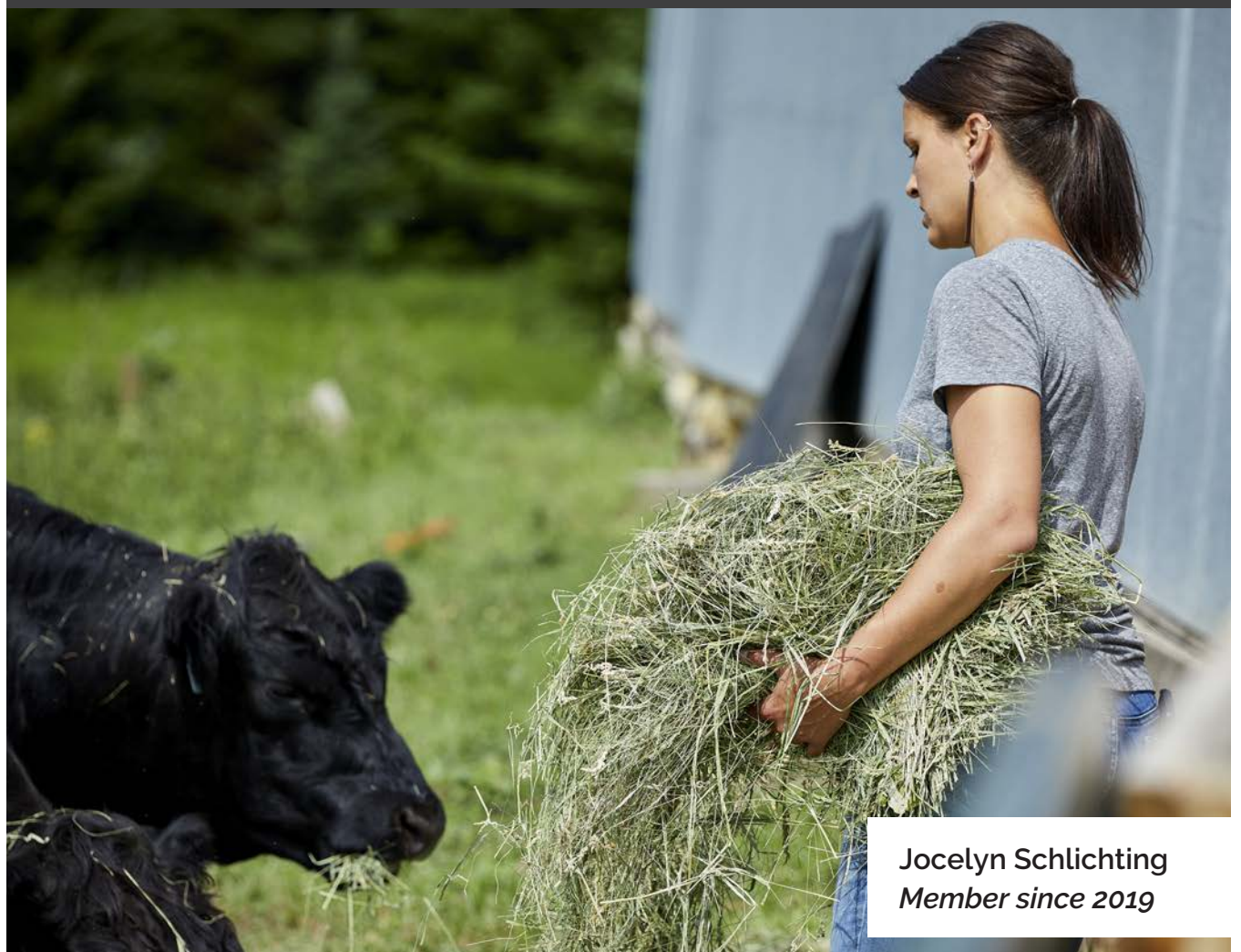
- July 11th, 2022 – **MSCA Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting** – GrandStay Hotel & Conference Center, Apple Valley, MN
- July 11th, 2022 – **MSCA PAC Fundraiser** – GrandStay Hotel & Conference Center, Apple Valley, MN
- July 12th, 2022 – **MSCA Summer Beef Tour**, hosted by the University of Minnesota Beef Team – Minnesota Zoo
- August 2-4th, 2022 – **FarmFest**, Gilfillan Estate - Redwood Falls, MN
- September 15th, 2022 – **MSCA Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting** – Stoney Creek Farm, Redwood Falls, MN
- December 9-10th, 2022 – **2022 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention** - Willmar, MN

JOIN US TODAY



Whether it's in your community or at the Capitol, the Minnesota Corn Growers Association is the essential advocate for corn farmers.

We're stronger with you.



Jocelyn Schlichting
Member since 2019

MINNESOTA BEEF COUNCIL



Beef Promotion, Education & Research
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BBQ Spring Training

The Minnesota Beef Council was at the Minnesota BBQ Spring Training. We also help to sponsor this event. This year's keynote speaker was Jess Pryles, Hardcore Carnivore., who talked about competition versus restaurant style brisket. She is an author, tv personality specializing in all thing smeat and cooks over a live fire. She was born in Australia and now calls Austin, TX her home. She was like most Americans who stand in the meat department trying to decide what to buy and was overwhelmed and didn't want to mess it up, so she educated herself in the field of meat, particularly beef. Now she teaches others about meat science, live fire cooking and how to cook the perfect steak.

This is an all-day event for BBQ enthusiasts and those who enjoy cooking meat. The day featured Beef 101 with Dr. Ryan Cox from the University of Minnesota Meat Lab and Jess Pryles. As a sponsor, we had time to talk to attendees at our booth as well as Duane Munsterteiger, Minnesota Beef Council Board of Director spoke to the group. In the afternoon, attendees could either go to competition BBQ seminars, which included BBQ competition teams and judges or BBQ Basics seminars which included talking about spices, "Demystifying Fuels: The Magic Behind Smoke and Fuels" by Stephen Fisher Kingsford R&D and choosing the right knife.

MBC Board Meeting

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



FACS to the Max

FACS to the Max, a Family Consumer Science Education (FCS) Workshop, was held this year in the Department of FCS at Minnesota State University, Mankato, in Wiecking Center on Friday, April 22nd from 8:30 am to 2:15 pm. Approximately 125 participants, were in attendance. The participants are FCS educators from high schools and middle schools throughout the state of Minnesota as well as pre-professional college FCS students and in-

terested high school students and other related professionals. Minnesota State University, Mankato has the only collegiate level FCS Department in Minnesota.

Royalee Rhoads, Director of Industry Relations for the Minnesota Beef Council had a table at the workshop. This was a great opportunity to interact with FACS (Family and Consumer Science) teachers to talk to them about beef. These are the teach-

ers that are teaching the next generation to cook with beef. We supplied Beef Cookery booklets, Degree of Doneness Magnets, Refrigerator/Freezer guidelines and recipe brochures, sustainability beef fact sheets to the attendees. As a door prize, the Minnesota Beef Council gave a Beef It's What's for Dinner (BIWFD) Apron and canvas bag, thermometer and a BIWFD insulated mug. One lucky teacher took it home.

Minnesota Beef Council Events

June 16 – MNFACS Conference – Shakopee High School, Shakopee, MN

June 15 & 16 – MN Top of Class – Maple Plain, MN

June 20-22 – 2022 Young Leaders in Agriculture Conference
Sioux Falls, SD

July 11 – MBC Board of Directors Meeting Maple Plain, MN

July 12 – Cattlemen's Summer Tour – University of Minnesota
St Paul Campus

Performance FoodCentric Show

Royalee Rhoads, Director of Industry Relations at the Minnesota Beef Council was asked to be a part of the Center of Plate booth at the Performance Food Service FoodCentric Show for restaurants and chefs on April 5th at the River Centre in St. Paul.

Chef Bill Frost cut and served prime rib, while Royalee spoke with attendees. Beef It's What's for Dinner recently did a collaboration with Performance Food Service and she was able to take the product information sheets they did for the Braveheart Breaded Angus Steak Bites and the Braveheart Breaded Popcorn Beef Bits to share with attendees. Royalee also had 8 1/2 x 11 and poster size beef cut charts for the food service and food service booklets with all the cuts in it with their numbers and specifications in it. She had many great

conversations throughout the day with attendees and they took all her resources she had brought. What a great day to promote beef!!



Minnesota Beef Council Intern

Hello! My name is Grace Olinger, and I am the 2022 Minnesota Beef Council Summer Communications Intern.

As a mountain dweller with a background in raising sheep, I recognize that I am probably what some may refer to as a “non-traditional” intern for the Minnesota Beef Council. That being said, I hope to offer a unique perspective and look forward to collaborating with the rest of the council by immersing myself in industry relevant issues in order to promote the long-term viability of the beef industry as a whole.

I grew up in Yampa Colorado, where my family and I run a flock of primarily purebred Southdown ewes, equipping me with a strong livestock background. In addition to being actively involved in both 4-H and FFA throughout my participation in activities such as



showing (pigs and sheep) and livestock judging, being from the mountains meant that I could often times be found outside enjoying hobbies like skiing, paddle boarding, or fishing.

Upon graduating from Soroco High School, I was certain that my career path was to become a high school agriculture teacher, so in accordance with that, I began to pursue my degree in agriculture education at Northeastern Junior

College. Now, three years later, as a student at South Dakota State University, my career goals have once again evolved and are maybe as unrefined as ever. That being said, my Ag Ed coursework continues to supplement my desire to be involved in education, while my animal science focused coursework and travelling across the country with a collegiate livestock judging team has allowed me to explore career opportunities beyond the classroom, opportunities such as the Minnesota Beef Council Summer Communications Internship. It is positions like this, that in my opinion, offer the best of both worlds by combining industry and educational experiences.

Once again, I am greatly looking forward to the opportunity and am extremely grateful for the knowledge I hope to gain throughout this summer!

MNBC GRILLING RECIPE BBQ Beef Biscuit Sliders

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

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 beef Tri-Tip Roast (1-1/2 pounds)
- 1 cup hickory-flavored barbecue sauce, divided
- 1 tablespoon chipotle peppers in adobo sauce, seeded and minced
- 18 baked low-fat buttermilk biscuits (about 2 to 2-1/2-inch diameter), split
- 3/4 cup crushed corn tortilla chips or homemade tortilla strips

Slaw:

- 1-1/2 cups coleslaw mix
- 1 red pepper, seeds and stem removed, cut into small dice
- 1/2 cup green onions, cut in thin, 1-inch strips
- 1/3 cup coleslaw dressing
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro leaves
- Salt and pepper

COOKING:

1. Combine barbecue sauce and chipotle peppers; reserve 3/4 cup sauce mixture. Brush some of remaining sauce mixture onto all sides of beef Tri-Tip Roast.
2. Place roast on grid over medium, ash-covered coals

or over medium heat on preheated gas grill. Grill; covered 25 to 35 minutes for medium rare (135°F) to medium (150°F) doneness, basting roast with remaining sauce while grilling and turning occasionally.

Cook's Tip: To prepare roast in the oven, preheat oven to 425°F. Brush sauce mixture onto all sides of roast. Place on rack in shallow roasting pan. Do not add water or cover. Roast in 425°F oven 30 to 40 minutes for medium rare; 40 to 50 minutes for medium doneness. Baste roast with remaining sauce 10 minutes before finished roasting. Remove roast from oven and let stand as directed in step 4.

3. To prepare Slaw, combine coleslaw mix, bell pepper, green onions, dressing and cilantro in medium bowl; toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

4. Remove roast when instant-read thermometer registers 135°F for medium rare; 150°F for medium. Transfer roast to carving board; tent loosely with aluminum foil. Let stand 15 to 20 minutes. (Temperature will continue to rise about 10°F to reach 145°F for medium rare; 160°F for medium.)

5. Carve roast across the grain into thin slices. Toss

with reserved 3/4 cup sauce mixture.

6. Evenly divide beef slices, coleslaw and tortillas among biscuits. Close sandwiches.

Cook's Tip: To prepare homemade tortilla strips, preheat oven to 425°F. Cut tortillas in half, then crosswise into 1/4-inch-wide strips. Place single layer on baking sheet. Spray tortilla strips lightly with nonstick cooking spray. Bake 6 to 8 minutes at 425°F or until lightly brown and crisp.

Nutrition information per serving, 1/18 of recipe: 171 Calories; 54 Calories from fat; 6g Total Fat (1g Saturated Fat; 2g Monounsaturated Fat; 21mg Cholesterol; 507mg Sodium; 2g Total Carbohydrate; 1.2g Dietary Fiber; 10g Protein; 1.3mg Iron; 3.1mg NE Niacin; 0.2mg Vitamin B6; 0.4mcg Vitamin B12; 1.6mg Zinc; 13.7mcg Selenium.

*Based on a 2,000 calorie diet

**Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000-calorie diet

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



Session ... continued from page 1

Below are some of the issues the MSCA was supporting, opposing, or monitoring this year:

Drought Relief Bill. A total of \$18.4 million was allocated for the drought relief bill under the deal reached by the Governor and legislative leaders. The original Senate bill contained \$10 million for farmers while the House bill contained \$10 million for farmers plus \$13 million for the DNR for a total of \$23 million. The conference committee agreed to make the following specific allocations for agriculture in the final package:

- \$8.1 million for grants to livestock and specialty crop farmers in drought-designated or contiguous counties (capped at \$7,500, or pro-rated if necessary). The eligibility threshold for the disaster program was reduced from 50% of annual income from farming over three years to only 20% of annual income during a single year;
- \$2.5 million for Rural Finance Authority revolving loans for livestock and specialty crop farmers;
- \$1.5 million for the ag emergency response account; and
- \$1 million to purchase equipment for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

The MSCA supported this bill.

Ag Finance Bill. The agreement on the supplemental ag finance bill totals \$15 million over the next three years. The original Senate bill spent \$5 million in the area of agriculture while the

House bill spent \$60 million, meaning the House members had to reduce their spending by 75%. The final bill contains the following fiscal provisions of interest to the MSCA:

- \$1.5 million for animal disease preparedness and response;
- \$750,000 to expand capacity for meat, egg, and poultry processing;
- \$500,000 to purchase equipment for the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab;
- \$350,000 for meat cutting and butchery training;
- \$141,000 to administer the beginning farmer tax credit program;

The bill also requires the commissioner of agriculture to convene a grain advisory group to develop recommendations to better protect farmers who sell grain, with a report due to the legislature on February 15, 2023. The MSCA supported the ag finance bill.

Environment Finance Bill. The agreement for the supplemental environment finance bill totals \$20 million over the next three years. The original Senate bill spent only \$1 million while the House bill spent \$240 million, meaning the House members had to painfully reduce their spending in the environment finance bill by over 90%. Under the conference committee agreement, the DNR was allocated \$8.848 million, of which \$500,000 is to expand the elk herd in Northeastern Minnesota. The only policy provision of interest to agriculture adopted by the conferees is language allowing the non-lethal hazing and chasing of deer and elk damaging crops. Language requiring financial assurance for clo-

sure of feedlots over 1,000 animal units brought by House Democrats was scuttled by the Republican Senate conferees. On the other hand, language requiring legislative approval of MPCA fee increases, supported by the MSCA and passed by Senate Republicans, was dropped due to opposition by Governor Walz and House Democrats. Even though an agreement was reached on this bill, it was not adopted during the regular session because the clock struck midnight before it could be passed by both bodies.

Tax Bill. An agreement was reached on a tax bill the day before adjournment. Generally, the agreement exempts social security from state income tax, cuts the first-tier income tax rate from 5.35% to 5.1%, expands eligibility for the renter's credit, and increases the child dependent care tax credit. Notably absent from the final agreement are the one-time rebate checks proposed by Governor Walz in January. The provisions of interest to agriculture in the final deal:

- Increase the first-tier agricultural homestead value from \$1.14 million to \$2.5 million;
- Increase the agricultural school bond credit from 70% to 85%; and
- Expand eligibility for the beginning farmer tax credit program to include family members.

Unfortunately, the bill does not contain any funding for buffer tax credits passed by the Senate and does not contain language exempting fencing materials used in farming from sales tax brought by the House, both of which were supported by the MSCA.

Despite reaching an agreement on the tax bill in time, House Democrats held the bill hostage. House leaders said the spending bills must first pass the House before a tax bill will be voted on, giving the House leverage over Republicans (the reason is that tax bills must originate in the House). Because the spending bills were not completed before adjournment there was not a vote on the tax bill before the midnight deadline.

Unemployment Insurance Fund. As a result of massive layoffs during the pandemic, the unemployment insurance trust fund depleted its reserves and the State of Minnesota had to borrow more than \$1 billion from the federal government in order to continue paying claims. Senate Republicans passed a bill on February 14 to replenish the fund so that employer insurance rates would not go up. But House Democrats sat on the bill until the end of April, finally passing a compromise bill on April 30. Each day the House sat on the bill cost Minnesotans \$50,000 per day in interest. The final agreement fully restores the fund (and its reserves) and pays back all debt and interest in the amount of \$2.7 billion. In exchange, the Senate agreed to provide \$500 million for frontline worker bonuses at the request of House Democrats. Frontline workers include nurses, long-term care employees and others who continued to go to work in person at the height of the pandemic. The MSCA supported the bill.

Unless a special session is called sometime in the next few weeks to process the remaining outstanding bills, the next session is scheduled to begin at noon on Tuesday, January 6, 2023.



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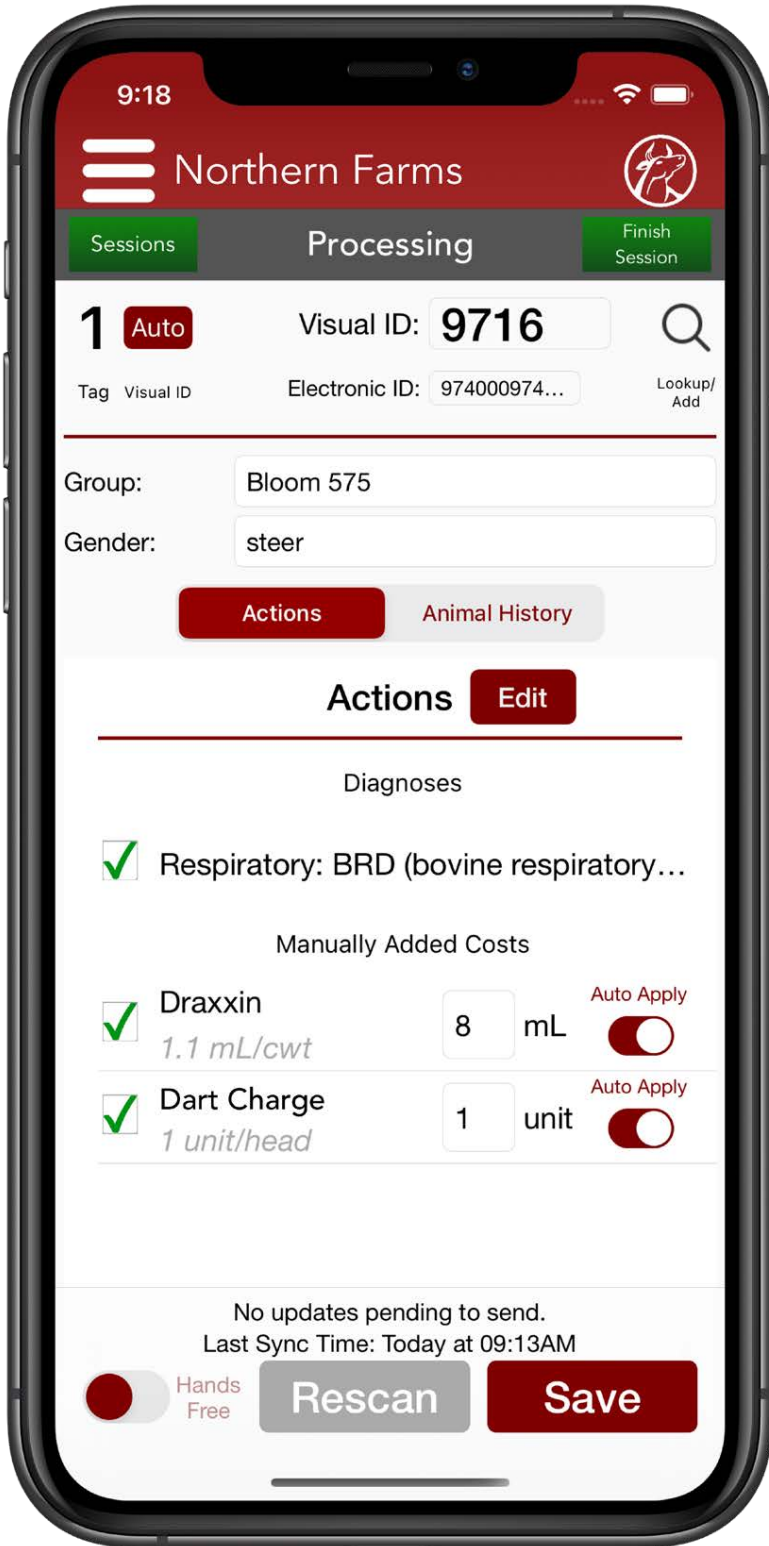
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THE 2023 FARM BILL: What is it and Why Does it Matter to Cattle Producers?

Every five years, Congress is tasked with reauthorization of the Farm Bill, the multi-million-dollar bill that funds numerous agricultural and food programs governed through the United States Department of Agriculture. Farm Bill reauthorization is a critical priority because without it, the continuation of some agricultural-related programs would cease and much needed policy updates to Farm Bill programs would not be made. In fact, failure to reauthorize the Farm Bill would result in reverting to versions of the Bill passed in the first half of the 19th century that simply will not work for today's producers.

As the deadline for the 2023 Farm Bill approaches, preliminary conversations around Farm Bill priorities are underway between Congress and industry groups. While the Bill does not need

to be reauthorized until next year, Congress will engage with stakeholders in the agricultural and food industry for months to determine the components of the Farm Bill. Writing this Bill is a huge undertaking as it encompasses 12 titles spanning from nutrition to crop insurance to conservation.

While a large portion of the overall Bill is allocated toward nutrition assistance programs, cattle producers benefit from the Bill through a variety of ways. As a result, NCBA's Government Affairs team is already engaging with key members of Congress to ensure cattle producers benefit from both new and existing provisions in the Bill.

Even in early conversations, our team stressed the importance of continued funding for the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB)

to protect against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), secured in the 2018 Farm Bill. This is an important tool as the cattle industry works toward proactive preparedness in the case of a foreign animal disease outbreak.

As part of our 2022 Policy Priorities, NCBA is focused on the financial sustainability of farms and ranches. One way we can promote that is through ensuring the continuation of USDA risk management and disaster assistance programs. It is critical to protect these programs for producers, and make sure they meet producer needs as severe weather conditions, including snowstorms, hurricanes and drought continue across the country.

In addition, conservation is anticipated to be a key focus for many. As discussions around conservation drive the focus of the Bill, we are

working to ensure that conservation measures included are voluntary and allow cattle producers across the country to do what they do best – conserve the land and natural resources in a way that is suitable to their region of the country and the type of operation they are running.

While there are several provisions NCBA will advocate for, the Government Affairs team is also working to ensure certain provisions are not included, such as a separate livestock title. Cattle producers across the country benefit from programs administered through other titles in the Farm Bill, but efforts to create a separate livestock title would not be beneficial to the industry as it could increase government oversight and regulations on certain programs and business practices, and it opens the door to unwanted policy initiatives.

As debate ramps up between industry groups and Congress, NCBA has already been engaged in conversations to ensure decision makers understand how cattle producers benefit from this legislation. In addition, the team is working to ensure we have the critical relationships to help secure beneficial provisions.

However, like any other NCBA policy, our official priorities will be determined by membership. State affiliates will have the opportunity to present policy recommendations to our current Farm Bill Directives, and members will vote to determine NCBA's official next steps at Summer Business Meeting in July. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your state affiliate or NCBA staff with questions you have regarding this process and how you can get involved.








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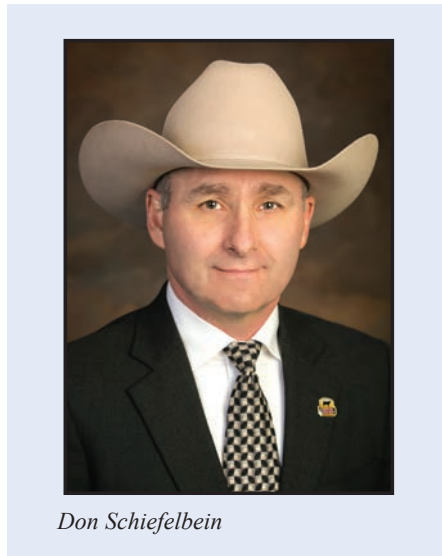
Your Voice in Washington

By Don Schiefelbein, NCBA President

Volatility in the cattle markets has been a challenge for all of us over the past few years. Cow-calf producers, stockers, backgrounders and feeders alike all benefit when the market is transparent, and all participants play by the rules. The challenges in our markets have also captured the attention of Congress.

A few weeks ago, I was invited to testify before the House Agriculture Committee at a hearing on meatpackers and market conditions. Currently, we face a shortage of beef processing capacity at a level not seen in several decades. I emphasized the importance of financial support for small, regional processing facilities to increase hook space and return leverage to the side of the producer. I also urged Congress to press the Department of Justice to complete their investigation into the four major meatpackers that was first launched in 2020. After two years, we have yet to hear the results of the investigation, but we need answers before considering new regulations. In the meantime, our industry is facing new challenges from inflation, rising input costs, and labor shortages, and I asked Congress to focus on these concerns too.

One of things that stood out to me when I visited Washington, D.C., is how NCBA commands the attention of lawmakers and their staff. There is an organization ready to lobby Congress



Don Schiefelbein

on every imaginable issue, but NCBA is different — not only because people enjoy seeing our hats — but because of our time-honored policy process rooted in a diverse membership.

Since 1898, NCBA 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.

As a member, I'm honored that you invested in NCBA, and I thank you for trusting us to represent your interests. Testifying before Congress is only one example of how NCBA works to improve conditions for cattle producers, but every day we are notching victories on policies that keep the government out of our way or make our jobs a little easier. I know that being a cattle producer is not an easy life, but it's a rewarding one steeped in heritage and tradition. That is why NCBA fights for you.

You have important work to do running your farm or ranch, which is why we have a dedicated team in Washington to advocate for you. Every day,

NCBA monitors hours of debate on Capitol Hill, meets with agency staff, and reviews the hundreds of rules churned out by regulators each week. It's an overwhelming workload for one person, but your membership in NCBA supports this crucial work that protects the entire cattle industry.

Next month you will have an opportunity to add your voice to the policy process at NCBA's Summer Business Meeting in Reno, Nevada. I am always encouraged when members have thoughtful conversations about our future policy priorities, and I look forward to connecting with you in Reno. Thank you for your continued involvement in NCBA!



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Business - \$200

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