

MISSOURI CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION PRIME CUTS™

Your PRIME Source For Cattle Industry News

Jan. 4, 2008

Nebraska Issues Import Order; Testing Required for Incoming Breeding Stock

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) recently issued an import order to help protect the health of Nebraska's livestock as a result of Trichomoniasis infections in surrounding states. The order took effect on Tuesday, January 1, 2008.

Trichomoniasis is a venereal disease of cattle that is known to cause infertility, open cows, and occasional abortions in cows and heifers.

"The health of the livestock in our state is of upmost concern to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture," said NDA Director Greg Ibach.

"Trichomoniasis is a disease of concern to Nebraska's beef and dairy producers; therefore, it is extremely important to have regulations in place to help safeguard our animals, as well as our livestock production industry."

The import order is in addition to the current Nebraska Animal Importation Act and includes important importation requirements for beef and dairy animals before being imported into Nebraska. Individuals that are planning to import cattle into the state should contact the NDA, Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) at 800-572-2437 for more information.

The complete import order can be found on the NDA website at www.agr.ne.gov, under Animal Health.

- Nebraska Department of Agriculture

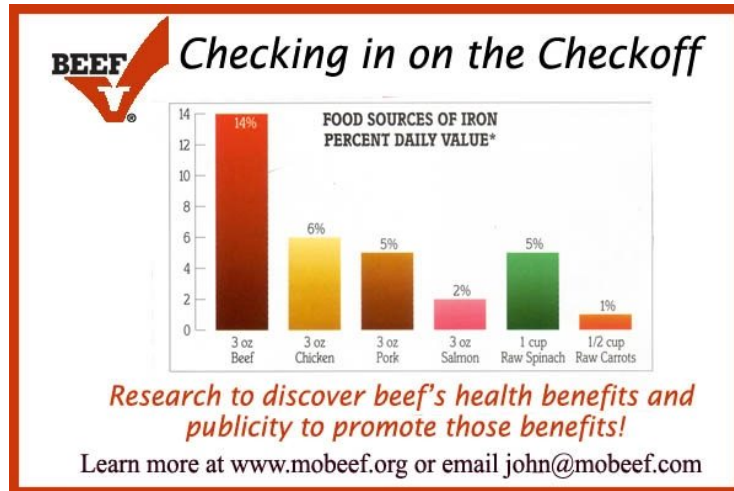
Editor's note: If you are planning to send any breeding cattle to Nebraska, please take time to read the import order and make sure your cattle have the testing and documentation required. A complete list is available on the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's (NDA) website or by calling the NDA at (800) 572-2437.

2007 Energy Bill has Major Implications for Agriculture

President Bush last week signed into law an Energy Bill that will have a larger long-term impact on U.S. agriculture than the pending Farm Bill, says Purdue University Agricultural Economist Chris Hurt. Among other policies, the bill increases the Renewable Fuels Standard to 36 billion gallons by 2022, with corn-based ethanol contributing 15 billion gallons per year of the total. Hurt says it probably will take 2009 before U.S. corn producers can meet the demands of the rapidly expanding corn ethanol plants.

Cellulosic ethanol will dominate growth in biofuels after 2010, with production expected to grow from zero to 21 billion gallons by 2022. Hurt says grazing lands will be targeted to shift to

fuel crops such as prairie grasses, and woodlands could be shifted to energy crops in portions of the country. For more information, go to www.drovers.com. - Drovers
Alert by Drovers Journal



Grants Available through Beef Checkoff Program

The Missouri Beef Industry Council is pleased to announce that starting in January, they will offer grants for local beef promotions. Grant applications will be accepted year-round from county groups or local organizations wishing to conduct a beef promotion. Each grant is capped at \$500 each for reimbursement of expenses incurred while promoting beef to consumers; and organizations are not necessarily limited to one grant per year. There is, however, a maximum of fifty grants available.

Each grant application must be received a minimum of four weeks prior to the event and will be reviewed by a combination of staff and board members. Requests will be awarded based on the amount of consumers reached per dollar spent, if results can be tracked, and how well the promotion falls under the strategies for promotion set forth by the Missouri Beef Industry Council Board of Directors. At the conclusion of the pre-approved activity, an evaluation form needs to be submitted for expense reimbursement.

Activities that will be considered for funding include, but are not limited to effective educational programs that solidify beef's role in a healthy diet, marketing or public relations efforts to expand the product offerings for beef, especially new products or value added products. For groups that wish to apply for advertising dollars, the grant is capped at 50% of the cost of the buy, up to the \$500 cap. **Since the grants are funded through the \$1 per head beef checkoff program, they legally cannot support cattle shows or sales, scholarships of any sort, any legislative activities, or membership drives for dues-funded organizations.**

According to Dawn Thurnau, Marketing Director for the Missouri Beef Industry Council, "These grants are intended to help connect consumers to cattlemen." She added that, "To get the most bang for our buck, staff focuses our efforts on reaching consumers in high population

metro areas, this program helps us cost-effectively reach-out to rural areas with the beef message while educating producers how their checkoff dollars are spent."

This program has taken the place of the Beef Month grants offered to County Farm Bureau offices and Cattlemen's Associations because of feedback we have received from beef producers across the countryside. It is important to note that producers that have done a particular promotion that has been approved and funded through MBIC in the past, it must be approved as part of this program to be reimbursed in Fiscal Year 2008.

For more information about this year-round grant program to promote beef on a local level, contact Dawn Thurnau at the Missouri Beef Industry Council at 800-441-6242 ext. 223 or dawn@mobeef.com. Grant applications and evaluation forms can be downloaded from www.mobeef.org.

IRS Announces 2008 Standard Mileage Rates

Rate for Business Miles Set at 50.5 Cents per Mile

The Internal Revenue Service recently issued the 2008 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 50.5 cents per mile for business miles driven;
- 19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes;
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The new rate for business miles compares to a rate of 48.5 cents per mile for 2007. The new rate for medical and moving purposes compares to 20 cents in 2007. The rate for miles driven in service of charitable organizations has remained the same.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile; the standard rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs as determined by the same study. Runzheimer International, an independent contractor, conducted the study for the IRS.

The mileage rate for charitable miles is set by law. A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS), after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle, for any vehicle used for hire or for more than four vehicles used simultaneously.

[Revenue Procedure 2007-70](#) contains additional information on these standard mileage rates. - IRS

National Cattlemen's Beef Association News

2008 Cattle Industry Annual Convention, Feb. 6-9!

The 2008 Cattle Industry Annual Convention and Trade Show will be held February 6-9 in Reno, Nevada. The meeting will feature joint and individual meetings by NCBA, Cattlemen's Beef Promotion & Research Board, American National CattleWomen, Inc., Cattle-Fax and the National Cattlemen's Foundation.

This is the time of year when NCBA's producer-members gather to discuss our industry's priority issues at issue forums and committee meetings. On February 9th, members will vote on policy for the coming year at NCBA's Board of Directors Meeting.

Looking for a great way to get top-notch education? Register for the 2008 Cattlemen's College entitled, "Charting your Course." With three different tracks including Marketing, Resources Management and Production, there's sure to be a session fit for you and your operation's needs.

The pre-registration deadline is approaching. Don't miss this most important meeting for the cattle industry. Register by January 11th to receive significant discounts off of the onsite registration fees. For more information and for a complete schedule of events visit our website at www.beefusa.org.

Don't Miss *NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen*

On this week's edition of *NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen* airing January 1-5, we head to Pennsylvania to learn more about grassland and rangeland management and how good management plays an important role in grazing beef cattle for the 21st century.

On next week's episode airing January 8-12, we look back at some of our favorite stories from our first season on the air. We'll return to Nashville and the 2007 Cattle Industry Annual Convention where we follow a first time attendee. Then, join us as we travel cross country with the 2007 class of the Young Cattlemen's Conference. We'll also remember cattle industry legend W.D. Farr and learn more about a scholarship offered in his honor. Finally, we visit the state of Maine to learn more about the IRM Red Books and how they're produced (The 2008 IRM Red Books are available now. To order yours, call 1-800-525-3085).

NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen on RFD-TV provides weekly news and features for cattle producers across the country. The show airs Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. and is rebroadcast Wednesdays at 3:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and Saturdays at 9 a.m. (Central time). Make sure YOU tune into *NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen* on channel RFD-TV. For more information or to check out past episodes, visit www.cattlementocattlemen.org.

American Angus Association Releases Docility EPDs

The American Angus Association® recently released a new research docility genetic evaluation. Differentiating cattle temperament is a likely topic of discussion for many producers. In Angus cattle, a factual means to describe temperament variation is now a reality.

The research report includes sire docility expected progeny differences (DOC EPDs). These EPDs are a tool to increase the chance of a sire's calves having calm behavior compared to calves of other sires. "Docility EPDs can be used as part of a complete selection program in the event that a producer needs to make improvement in a herd's cattle temperament. Angus breeders have submitted nearly 40,000 yearling temperament scores to allow genetic differences to be identified in sires for docility," says Sally Northcutt, genetic research director for the Association.

The Spring 2008 docility research report contains DOC EPDs and accuracies for 554 sires in this first listing. The release of DOC EPDs is in the form of a web-based research report found at www.angussiresearch.com containing sire EPDs with a minimum .20 accuracy and at least 10 progeny and two groups. Printed copies are available on request. If you have questions,

contact the Performance Programs Department at 816-383-5100.
- American Angus Association

Calendar of Events

- Jan. 7** **Macon County Cattlemen**
Lolli's Cafe, Macon, 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 8** **Southwest Cattlemen**
MU Southwest Ctr., Mt Vernon, 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 8** **St. Clair County Cattlemen**
Smith's Restaurant, Collins, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 10** **Polk County Cattlemen**
Smith's Restaurant, 7:00
- Jan. 15** **Cass-Jackson Cattlemen**
Elk's Lodge, Harrisonville, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 17** **Henry County Cattlemen**
Golden Corral, Clinton, 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 20** **Warren County Cattlemen**
Progress Bank, Warrenton, 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 26** **Howard County Cattlemen**
Fayette High School Commons, 6:00 p.m.

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Do you have questions, comments or suggestions?

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If so, please contact McKenzie Disselhorst at (573) 499-9162 or mckenzie@mocattle.com