



MISSOURI CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
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April 4, 2008

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### Mexico to Allow Importation of U.S. Breeding Cattle

#### *United States, Canada and Mexico Announce Protocols to Harmonize Standards*

Mexico has agreed to allow importation of breeding cattle from the United States and Canada effective March 28, 2008, Agriculture Secretary Edward Schafer announced today.

Mexico denied access to U.S. breeding stock beginning December 23, 2003, when the United States announced its first-ever case of BSE. Since that time, Mexico has only allowed importation of registered U.S. dairy heifers under the age of 24 months, despite in-depth international negotiations to include breeding stock.

"This is a big win for U.S. cattle producers - and in particular - those in the seedstock community," says Gregg Doud, chief economist for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). "Mexico is currently working to expand its herds, so this decision comes at a critical time."

Traditionally, the United States has shipped approximately \$125 million annually in live cattle breeding stock to Mexico.

When the United States implemented the second Minimal Risk Regions Rule on November 19, 2007, it was widely believed that Mexico would lift the restriction on breeding stock. But the situation between the United States and Mexico on breeding stock remained unresolved until today. Mexico continues to ban the import of beef and beef products from animals over 30 months of age.

"The issue of over-30-month beef to Mexico has always been extremely sensitive politically," says Doud. "However, NCBA's expectation is that once Mexico receives its 'controlled risk' status from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), which is expected in May, then this issue should be resolved as well."

OIE recommendations, which are based on the latest science, provide guidelines for trade in cattle of any age, as well as beef and

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**Missouri Department of Agriculture**

many other cattle products. These guidelines apply to all OIE risk country classifications for BSE with recommended mitigation measures appropriately applied to protect both human and animal health.

"Canada, Mexico and the United States have been engaged in candid, productive talks over the past two days," said Secretary Schafer. "We mutually agreed on the importance of normalizing beef and cattle trade in North America, consistent with the guidelines established by the World Organization for Animal Health." - - *Released by NCBA*

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## **USDA Announces More Than \$16 M in Additional Funding to Eradicate Bovine Tuberculosis in 3 State**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the availability of \$16.8 million in emergency funding to continue efforts to eradicate bovine tuberculosis in California, Michigan and Minnesota. "Working cooperatively with state animal health agencies and U.S. livestock producers, we have made great strides towards eradicating tuberculosis from the nation's livestock population," said Bruce Knight, under secretary for marketing and regulatory programs. "We are another step closer towards eradicating bovine tuberculosis from our Nation, and this should serve as a reminder why the National Animal Identification System is so critical. By participating in NAIS, we protect our livestock and the future of American agriculture."

The emergency funding will be used to depopulate known tuberculosis-affected cattle herds, which is crucial to prevent the spread of the disease and to indemnify producers. The funding also will be used for enhanced surveillance not only to identify affected herds but also to determine the source of infection. This enhanced surveillance will include free ranging white-tailed deer in Minnesota and Michigan, a possible source of the disease.

While USDA and the States have robust surveillance and control measures in place for tuberculosis, outbreaks of the disease are costly to both producers and the government. Outbreaks also affect domestic animal movement and international trade. Programs such as USDA's voluntary National Animal Identification System-a modern animal disease response system that will enhance the country's animal disease tracing capabilities-provide an added opportunity to stop the spread of tuberculosis and minimize the impact of disease outbreaks on producers.

Bovine tuberculosis is a contagious and infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*. It affects cattle, bison, deer, elk, goats and other warm-blooded species and can be fatal. The disease can be transmitted to humans through direct contact with infected animals or consumption of raw milk. It is not transmitted through consumption of pasteurized milk.

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### **Governor Blunt Applauds Senate Approval of B5 Legislation**

Gov. Matt Blunt today commended the Senate for their work on legislation he called for in his State of the State address to require all diesel fuel sold in Missouri to contain at least 5 percent biodiesel, known as B-5.

"Adopting a B5 standard makes sense for Missouri consumers, farmers and our environment," Gov. Blunt said. "Using biodiesel will support Missouri's farm families, improve our air quality, and reduce our nation's dangerous dependence on foreign oil. I applaud Sen. Stouffer for his leadership on this issue and the Missouri Senate for supporting my call for a B5 standard in Missouri."

Senate Bill 759, sponsored by Sen. Bill Stouffer, would require diesel fuel sold in the state to contain no less than 5 percent biodiesel fuel by April 1, 2010. Biodiesel from soybeans is much more environmentally friendly and better for air quality than regular diesel. Research shows it cuts carbon dioxide and cancer-causing emissions by more than 75 percent. A B5 standard in Missouri will reduce particulate matter emissions by 15.4 million pounds and carbon monoxide emissions by 168 million pounds.

The Senate has passed Senate Bill 759 and sends it now to the House. Gov. Blunt encourages the House to pass this important bill and send it to his desk.

### **Farmers Expected to Plant More Beans, Less Corn in 2008**

U.S. farmers are expected to plant about 18 percent more soybeans this year, while their corn acreage could decline by about 8 percent from a year ago, according to a key government report published earlier today.

The Agriculture Department this morning released the results of its March 1 survey of farmers' planting intentions, along with the quarterly grain stocks report of March 1. The planting numbers provide a first look at farmers' plans for this crop year, and they reflect the first official USDA report for the 2008 crop growing year. A follow-up survey of farmers' planting intentions will occur June 1, with subsequent reports later in the summer.

The prospective plantings report suggests U.S. farmers intend to plant 86 million acres of corn this year, which is 8 percent fewer acres than in 2007. Farmers also expect to plant less cotton this year, with the report indicating 9.4 million acres of that crop will be planted, a 13-percent decrease from 2007.

Farmers are turning to soybeans and wheat as they reduce corn and cotton acres. Soybean acreage will increase 18 percent, to 74.8 million acres, and wheat acreage will grow by 6 percent, to 63.8 million acres.

"The corn number is about 1.4 million acres less than pre-report estimates," said Terry Francl, American Farm Bureau Federation senior economist, "and it appears there will be more acres devoted to beans than predicted. A whopping 3.1 million acres more than expected will be planted to beans if this survey is correct."

The significance of today's planting intentions report cannot be underestimated. "Already today, a bushel of corn is up about 10 cents to 15 cents. Beans are down about 70 cents, and wheat is down 40 cents to 50 cents," Francl said.

"We're likely to see additional downward pressures over the next few days on beans and wheat," Francl said. "For corn futures, we're likely to see continued upward pressures, with trading possibly into the low- to mid-\$6-a-bushel range."

The cotton and wheat numbers are close to the pre-report, mid-point acreage estimates, Francl said. When the acreage numbers for the seven major crops (corn, beans, wheat, cotton, sorghum, barley and oats) and hay ground are considered, farmers intend to plant about 4 million more acres in 2008. About half the new acres will come from ground that was in the Conservation Reserve Program, and the rest will be ground devoted to farming for the first time due to higher crop prices.

"History has shown that farmers adjust their planting intentions as these reports come out, and the market reacts," Francl said. "Spring weather is an important factor. The final acreage numbers depend on spring planting weather, and the markets will begin to reflect analysts' thoughts about upcoming weather within a day or two."

In addition, the latest grain stocks report showed an unanticipated surprise with March 1 corn stocks coming in at just under 6.9 billion bushels, more than 200 million bushels less than the mid-point of analysts' pre-report estimates, and 90 million bushels below the low end of the range of pre-report estimates.

"These figures suggest that high corn prices to date have not yet been sufficient to ration demand," Francl said. "A similar reaction occurred after the Dec. 1 corn stocks estimate was published, and many market observers dismissed the higher implied corn disappearance number as a fluke that would be offset in subsequent stocks reports."

Several conditions may explain the greater-than-anticipated corn usage numbers for the first half of this

year, Francl explained. First, colder and more extreme winter weather increased the amount of feed going to cattle, especially in the Midwest; second, hog numbers are about 7 percent higher than projected, so more corn is going to feed them; third, ethanol use and exports were strong in the first half of the year; and finally, the 2007 corn crop might have been slightly overestimated.

The soybean stocks number showed just the opposite, Francl said, with about 75 million more bushels of beans in stock. That suggests analysts projected less usage and perhaps a 2007 crop that was slightly underestimated. Likewise, the wheat stocks number came in slightly higher than what was expected prior to the latest report. - - Released by American Farm Bureau Federation

## Membership Drive

Membership is the backbone of a strong Missouri Cattlemen's Association. During the month of April recruit a minimum of 3 new members and MCA will pay for your first year of a personalized Missouri Cattlemen's Foundation license plate valued at \$40.

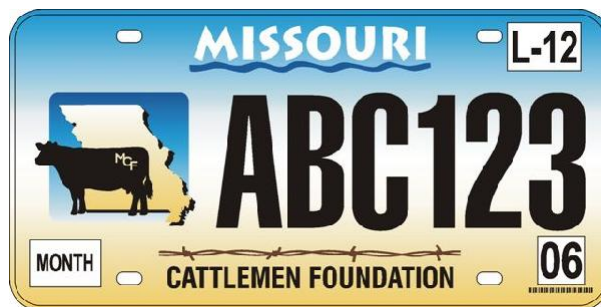
Guidelines:

- 1) Recruit a minimum of 3 new members
- 2) Contact MCA Office at (573) 499-9162 for license plate form
- 3) Mail in license plate form along with the 3 new membership forms

\*\*You MUST mail in the membership forms with your license plate form to be eligible.

Help kids, support your industry, and show pride in your heritage.

***Ask a neighbor, ask a business.***



## Junior Beef Leaders Focus on their Future at YBIC

Young cattle producers accepted the challenge to be "Focused on My Future" during the 2008 Youth Beef Industry Congress (YBIC), March 27-30 at the Purina Research and Conference Center at Gray Summit, Mo. The biennial event allowed 152 young men and women who are the leaders of junior breed and state junior cattlemen associations to interact with one another while exploring their futures through career building exploration. Designed for top individuals in the beef industry, the 2008 YBIC was sponsored by Purina Mills, the U.S. Beef Breeds Council and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA).

"We wanted to make this year's YBIC the most interactive in years with a look into real-world career opportunities," said Chris Stephens, American Hereford Association director of youth activities and the 2008 YBIC planning chairman. "The speakers and tours allowed the participants to learn about themselves and the career opportunities in the beef industry while networking with others."

Young professionals who have extensive experience in the beef industry addressed the attendees in several interactive panels that covered building a career, livestock marketing and human resources. A "Been There, Done That" panel included Angie Denton, Blue Rapids, Kan.; Jarrod Gillig, Hereford, Texas; Kyle McMillan, Ohio, Ill.; and Chad Zehnder, Stanchfield, Minn., all of whom served on junior beef breed boards in the past. The panel discussed their diversified careers and how their involvement in junior breed organizations helped prepare them for their careers and what they look for in hiring individuals. They stressed the importance of setting goals, interning, networking at events such as YBIC, diversifying their experiences, as well as sharing a passion and dedication to the industry.

"People are the most important part to animal agriculture," said McMillan who earlier served on the Polled Hereford Council, as he outlined six key steps to success. "Dedication and a sincere desire are critical to success today and tomorrow," he said.

A marketing panel discussed the importance of marketing livestock in a catchy way through a variety of mediums. Jared Spader, Osborn & Barr and lifelong Angus breeder defined marketing as "the intersection of psychology and commerce." Other panel members included Christy Couch Lee, National Swine Registry; Anita Vanderwert, Brownfield/Learfield Networks; John Zeloski and Brant Gilbert, both with Purina.

A final panel discussion included tips on organizing a cover letter and resume as well as preparing for a job interview. Panelists included human resources experts Jamie Meyer Rutledge, who works for Rubbermaid, and Karen Howard, Land O' Lakes Purina. Both encouraged the group to have outside and volunteer activities as well as experience. They said that knowing the company and asking questions in the interview process is important.

Diane Johnson, Fort Worth, Texas, also offered tips for preparing for a career. She obtained each participant's resumes in advance and critiqued them and offered advice and showed examples of exceptional work. She demonstrated hand shaking and interview skills to the group as well. Johnson, the executive director of the Livestock Publications Council, offered three words of advice, "Consideration. Honesty. Respect."

In addition to participating with the interactive panels and discussions, the youth had the opportunity to learn more about themselves and others through ice breakers and team building activities. Kim Anderson, University of Georgia Fanning Institute, challenged the group to think about the importance of moving from a "competition" mind-set to a "completion" mindset that works for the best of an organization and the beef industry. She demonstrated that by adding the letter "l" to "compete," an organization can grow to enhance the experiences for all those involved.

Other speakers that addressed the group include Mark Wellman, NCBA field representative; Rod Nulik, Land O'Lakes Purina Feed LLC Cattle Business Group marketing manager, and Craig Huffhines, American Hereford Association executive vice president. Wellman gave a forecast on beef cattle numbers in the U.S. that included purebred cow numbers as well as fed cattle. He said the typical 10-year cattle cycle is a thing of the past. Nulik encouraged the youth to give back to others stating that volunteering and affording others opportunities is very important in today's society. Finally, Huffhines challenged the group to face their fears in life by finding a mentor.

In addition to interacting with speakers, attendees toured segments of Purina's Research Farm, attended a hockey game and networked with others. YBIC strives to bring youth together working in the interest of the beef cattle industry and to provide them with further knowledge and understanding of

all segments of the beef industry.

-- Released by the American Angus Association

**The Missouri Junior Cattlemen's Association was represented by members of the MJCA Board of Directors, including Rachel Bartholomew, Garren Bellis, Lonny Farrington, Tyler Richter, and the Missouri Beef Queen Sarah Jackson.**

## Beef Quality Assurance

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Interested in a county meeting program? Try MCA's Beef Quality Assurance program!  
Contact Ken Disselhorst at (573) 822-3850.

### Researchers Hope to Measure RFI of Cattle on Pasture

Texas AgriLife Research scientists hope to develop a means to select cattle that gain the same weight, or more, on less feed than cattle of the same breed-type and history.

At the heart of the subject is the beef-animal measurement technique called "residual feed intake," or "RFI" in research shorthand. What makes the study different is it is designed to develop a means of measuring RFI of cattle on pastures, David Forbes, AgriLife Research animal nutritionist, said.

"We will test cattle on pasture so that we can use this technique to clarify and validate the residual feed intake data we're obtaining from feedlots," Forbes said.

RFI is not to be confused with feed conversion, a measurement used by animal scientists and agricultural producers for decades to improve net efficiency in poultry and swine operations, Forbes said.

Feed conversion is a relatively simple calculation that measures how much feed an animal consumes to gain a pound, Forbes said. It's simple mathematics: weight of the feed consumed daily divided by the weight gained daily.

The math behind RFI, however, is more complicated. RFI compares the difference between an animal's actual feed intake and its predicted feed intake. Predicted feed intake is the amount of feed the animal is expected to consume based on its weight, growth rate and the performance of its contemporaries. For example, steers that weigh more and gain faster would be expected to consume more than steers

that weigh less and gain more slowly.

"Residual feed intake is better than feed conversion as it (residual feed intake) is independent of growth and body weight," Forbes said. "Residual feed intake measures the variation in feed intake that remains after the requirements for maintenance and growth are accounted for, and is calculated as the difference between an animal's actual feed intake and the feed an animal is expected to consume based on its body weight and average daily gain."

For either measurement, keeping track of an animal's feed intake in a confined feeding operation is relatively simple. Computerized equipment tracks an animal's intake by various measures, usually involving feeding stations that are keyed to an electronic device either hung around the neck or clipped to the ear.

All such measures used to date have been done in some kind of confined feeding operation or another, Forbes said.

But unlike chickens and swine, beef cattle spend more time in pastures than in confinement. As valuable a research tool as RFI is for feedlots and researchers, questions remained: Can RFI of cattle on pasture be measured? And if it can be measured, how would pasture RFI match up with RFI data collected in feedlots?

Forbes and his research partners are trying to find answers to both questions. If the data compare, then the easier-to-acquire feedlot data can be used to select animals that perform better in the pasture, fellow researchers note.

The project is an example of research only an agency such as AgriLife Research is equipped to do, Forbes said.

"A private individual, if he knew half his animals were more efficient, he'd get rid of the others pretty quickly," Forbes said. "But as scientists, we're interested in the less efficient animals too, because we want to understand the biology."

Through understanding the biological processes behind residual feed intake, it may one day be possible to identify less efficient animals via a simple test, Forbes said.

"But that's a long way off," he said. "Right now, we are just trying to solve basic measurement problems."

The researchers are near to having solved the first problem, that of developing the methodology of measuring residual feed intake of animals on pastures.

Twice a day, the animals are fed a corn gluten supplement containing alkane, a waxy substance similar to paraffin. Forages also contain alkanes. Using an instrument called a gas chromatograph, fecal samples from the test animals can be analyzed for amounts of the different alkanes.

"Using the ratio of those two different alkanes, we can determine how much (grass) the animals have eaten," Forbes said.

Forbes is confident that the methodology he and his research team have chosen will work, he said. There are details yet to be resolved, however, before the actual test can proceed.

"What we don't know yet is how many fecal samples we need to get to adequately describe intake over these long periods. We'll dose these animals for periods up to 70 days, which is an incredible undertaking in itself," Forbes said.

- - Released by Angus Productions Inc, as an adaption from Texas AgriLife Extension Service release



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**Grazing School to be held April 9th & 10th**

Are you interested in increasing the plant diversity and quality of your pasture, and possibly increasing the number of cows per acre that you can graze? Rotational grazing could be the answer that you have been looking for! The Montgomery and Warren County SWCD's and NRCS in cooperation with University of Missouri Outreach and Extension are holding grazing school April 9th and 10th at the Lions Building in Montgomery City. The cost of the two day school is \$40 per person or \$50 for a couple, if registered by April 4th, 2008. If registration is paid at the door it will cost \$50 per person or \$60 per couple. This fee includes the cost of the needed materials and lunch for two days. Morning refreshments and beverages throughout the two days will be provided by the Montgomery City MFA, Rhineland MFA and Warrenton MFA. This event is sponsored by the Charrette Creek, Bear Brush and Loutre AgNPS project areas. This school is limited to the first 25 paid people. This two day seminar is an approved school for the DSP-3 cost share practice. If you are interested in receiving more information contact either the Montgomery or Warren County office at 573-564-3715 ext.3 or 636-456-3434 ext. 3.

## **MU College of Veterinary Medicine to hold Open House**

On Saturday, April 19th, the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine will host its annual Open House with the theme "Come. Sit. Stay." The free event will feature information on student courses and clubs, performances by Purina Incredible Agility Dogs, a petting zoo, mule rides by the Missouri Mules, Equine breed shows, the Anheuser-Busch Clydesdales, Ralph Duren's Call of the Wild and much more! All activities will take place on Saturday, April 19th, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on the campus of the MU College of Veterinary Medicine. For more information, please call (573) 884-6239 or visit [www.cvm.missouri.edu/openhouse](http://www.cvm.missouri.edu/openhouse).

## **Scholarship Opportunities**

### **Apply Now for Legacy Scholarships**

The National Cattlemen's Foundation and Fort Dodge Animal Health announced a new scholarship program at the 2008 Cattle Industry Annual Convention held last month in Reno, Nev. The Fort Dodge Animal Health Legacy Scholarship Program will consist of five scholarships of \$5,000 each. Three scholarships will be directed to veterinary school students that have designated an emphasis in bovine practice. Two scholarships will be directed to junior or senior undergraduate students enrolled full-time in an animal science program with an emphasis in bovine production. The deadline for scholarship applications is April 30, 2008. For more information, visit [www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org](http://www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org) or [www.fortdodgelivestock.com](http://www.fortdodgelivestock.com).

### **W.D. Farr Scholarship Ready for Applicants**

Applications are being accepted for the W.D. Farr Scholarship program, presented by the National Cattlemen's Foundation. Two \$12,000 graduate scholarships will be awarded to outstanding students pursuing graduate degrees in animal science, environmental science or agriculture. All applications must be postmarked by April 30, 2008. The scholarship application and criteria can be found online at [www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org/scholarship.aspx](http://www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org/scholarship.aspx), or by calling 303-694-0305. The scholarship winners will be introduced at the 2008 Cattle Industry Summer Conference, to be held in Denver July 15-19.

### **Westchester Foundation Ag Scholarship Applications Due April 30**

College students as well as high school seniors looking for help in funding college expenses need to complete an application for the Westchester Foundation scholarship by April 30. Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors accepted for enrollment or students already enrolled at an accredited college, university or community college in a course of study related to agriculture or agribusiness. The Westchester Foundation was established by Murray Wise, founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Westchester Group Inc., with a mission to enhance the future of American agriculture by helping to ensure a steady supply of bright, dedicated, well-educated leaders. Students are selected by the Foundations Board of Directors based on academic qualifications, community and school involvement, leadership potential and financial need.

Provided the students maintain acceptable grade point averages, the scholarship can be renewed annually for up to four years. While the amount awarded for each scholarship varies by individual and economic need, successful applicants may anticipate a minimum of \$1,000 per year to fund any expenses related to attendance at the college of their choice.

Applications can be downloaded at [www.westchester-group.com](http://www.westchester-group.com) and must be completed and submitted no later than April 30 in order to be considered for scholarship funds for the fall semester of the 2008-2009 school year.

## **MCA All-Breeds Junior Show to be held June 13-15th**

The 2008 Missouri Cattlemen's All-Breeds Junior Show will be held June 13-15th at the Missouri State

Fairgrounds in Sedalia. Registration information will be mailed out by the beginning of April. A new event for this year's junior show will be the Design a T-shirt Contest. Junior members from across the state are asked to submit creative designs for this year's t-shirt that will be worn by all the exhibitors. Look for more information in the registration packet!

### **County Cattlemen's Meetings**

**April 6 - Warren County**  
**First State Community Bank, Warrenton - 5:00 pm**  
**April 7 - Macon County**  
**Lolli's Livestock Market - 7:00 pm**  
**April 8 - St. Clair County**  
**Boy Scout Building, Lowry City - 7:00 pm**  
**April 8 - Bates County**  
**Mo-Kan Livestock - 7:00 pm**  
**April 10 - Polk County**  
**Smith's Restaurant, Bolivar - 7:00 pm**  
**April 10 - Monroe County**  
**Senior Center, Paris - 6:30 pm**  
**April 25 - Johnson County**  
**Johnson County Fairgrounds - 6:30 pm**

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Do you have questions, comments or suggestions?

Would you like to advertise in our newsletter?

If so, please contact Maureen Hamill at (573) 499-9162 or [maureen@mocattle.com](mailto:maureen@mocattle.com)