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Newest Farm Bill Developments

On Thursday, May 22nd, the President announced that he had vetoed H.R. 2419 - The Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007 (2007 Farm Bill). The House (316-108) and the Senate (82-13) both voted to override the President's veto.

However, due to a clerical error, Title III of the 2007 Farm Bill was left out of the versions that was signed by Speaker Pelosi and then vetoed by President Bush. This is the same version that was voted upon yesterday on the House Floor.

Because of this error, the House will be revisiting the 2007 Farm Bill TODAY to try and correct the issue. Below is a summation of what we expect to happen today.

First, the Parliamentarian has indicated that since the Senate has voted to override the Farm Bill, Congress has legally completed 14 of the 15 titles of the Farm Bill. However, procedural and constitutional questions were raised on the Floor during yesterday's debate. To get the trade title back in the bill and remove any lingering concerns about possible court challenges the House is going to take various steps, including:

- Considering a rule allowing for suspensions to be considered today.
- It is likely that a new bill will come up under suspension that will contain all 15 titles of H.R. 2419 with no changes other than three technical items. 1) a slight change to the long title (to distinguish it from H.R. 2419), 2) a provision that deems the conference report of H.R. 2419 to be the legislative history of this new bill, and 3) a provision that nullifies the identical sections of H.R. 2419 upon adoption (to prevent doubled spending if the Senate overrides the veto and 14 titles are in law when this new bill is enacted). Other than that the

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Members will simply be redoing the farm bill to correct the error.

- Lastly, a new suspension will be offered to extend current law to June 6 to ensure that USDA can keep operating programs. This will be necessary in the event the Senate is unable to get unanimous consent to pass a duplicate of our new bill today and to give the President time to consider and probably veto the new bill either during the recess. That would mean another veto override vote shortly after the recess.

--Released by NCBA

Look for the most up-to-date Farm Bill news in future editions of Prime Cuts.

Willard to Attend NCBA's Young Cattlemen's Conference

Steve Willard, 1st Vice President of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association will attend NCBA's Young Cattlemen's Conference May 29-June 5. While in attendance Willard will travel from Denver, CO to Washington D.C. gaining a national perspective of our United States beef industry.

Throughout the conference, Willard will listen to presenters representing all aspects of the industry and tour sites such as feed yards and processing facilities. City stops will include: Denver, CO; Ulysses, KS; Dakota City, NE; Chicago, IL, and Washington D.C.

Willard's attendance will allow him to gain broader industry knowledge in order to better serve Missouri's cattle producers.

USDA Will Ban Slaughter of Downer Cattle

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer is calling for an "end of the exceptions to the 'so-called' downer rule." Schafer announced Tuesday that his department would begin working on a proposed rule to prohibit the slaughter of all disabled non-ambulatory cattle, effectively closing what many have called a "loophole" in the law. Under the current rule, a downed cow can still be slaughtered if a USDA inspector reassesses the animal and determines that it is safe for human consumption. Schafer said the current rule "has been challenging to communicate and has, at times, been confusing to consumers." Schafer's proposal is not likely to meet any resistance from the industry. The American Meat Institute, the National Meat Association and the National Milk Producers Federation had petitioned USDA in April requesting the total ban of downer cattle. In making the announcement, Schafer told reporters the ban would affect "less than 0.003 percent of cattle slaughtered annually." Supporters of the ban note that it will positively improve the humane handling of cattle by reducing the incentives to attempt to market physically weakened cattle. - *Greg Henderson, Drivers*



Checking in on the Checkoff



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Missouri Beef House Schedule Posted

It's that time of year again! The Missouri State Fair is right around the corner and that means it's time to start planning to volunteer at the Missouri Beef House. To see a schedule of assigned county shifts, please visit our website at www.mocattle.com or look for it in the June issue of the Missouri Beef Cattleman.

If your county will be unable to fulfill their shift or bring their allotted number of people please contact MCA as soon as possible at (573) 499-9162.

National Checkoff Budget Down 6.6%

The Beef Promotion Operating Committee has recommended a \$45.8 million Cattlemen's Beef Board budget for Fiscal 2009, reflecting a sharp 6.6 percent decrease from the \$49 million budget for Fiscal 2008.

The 2009 budget for the Beef Board, which administers the national checkoff program, still must be approved by the full Beef Board and USDA, includes the following budget components:

- Promotion (\$19.97 million)
- Research (\$7 million)
- Consumer Information (\$5.4 million)
- Industry Information (\$2.6 million)
- Foreign Marketing (\$5.8 million)
- Producer Communications (\$2.16 million)
- Evaluation (\$335,000)
- Program Development (\$125,000)
- USDA oversight (\$255,000)
- Administration (\$2 million)

"We faced some very difficult decisions last week as we tried to decide what areas to make cuts in," said Cattlemen's Beef Board Chairman Dave Bateman, a producer from Illinois. "This came on the heels

of even steeper cuts last year, and costs keep increasing so it's getting extremely challenging to find more places to cut back without eliminating the checkoff's effectiveness in any particular area."

The biggest cuts came in the areas of promotion (down 12.4 percent from 2008) and consumer information (down 13.3 percent), while producer leaders did recommend increasing checkoff investments in foreign marketing by 11.2 percent as overseas opportunities expand.

Before making their recommendation on May 15, members of the Operating Committee - which includes 10 members of the Cattlemen's Beef Board and 10 directors from the Federation of State Beef Councils - spent several days with state beef council executives and leaders of the checkoff's joint checkoff committees, as those groups developed strategies for investing the limited checkoff dollars in the most efficient manner possible in Fiscal 2009. Members of the Joint Budget Committee and the Beef Board Executive Committee also weighed in on the week's discussions and recommendations.

At the core of sometimes-emotional debates during the planning sessions was funding for consumer advertising, which has become increasingly difficult in recent years because of growing costs for all media advertising, at the same time that checkoff collections have decreased.

"We struggled to figure out how to maintain a strong enough promotion budget to support a viable print and radio advertising campaign without cutting other important programs beyond recognition," said Beef Board Secretary/Treasurer Dan Dierschke, a producer from Texas. "While consumer advertising is definitely the most visible area of checkoff investments, we also understand that areas such as research and foreign marketing are extremely important if we are to stay ahead of disease and pathogen challenges and tap international markets, where the majority of our growth potential lies."

In the coming stages of the fiscal 2009 budgeting process, the full Beef Board will be asked to approve the budget at its meeting in Denver in July. Joint industry advisory committees and subcommittees also will meet in Denver to prepare recommendations for specific program proposals that are funded with that budget. Those proposals will be considered by the Operating Committee in September, before the Oct. 1 beginning of the fiscal year, and must finally be approved by USDA before any checkoff dollars may be spent.

Funds from the Beef Board for national checkoff programs in Fiscal 2009 will be augmented by about \$10.5 million in voluntary contributions from state beef councils to their national Federation of State Beef Councils, a division of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.--*Released by Drover's Newsource, from the Cattlemen's Beef Board*

Korean Lawmakers Threaten Lawsuit over U.S. Beef

South Korean lawmakers opposed to the fuller reopening of beef trade with the U.S. are threatening a lawsuit to stop the plan. The JoongAng Daily reports three opposition parties - United Democratic, Liberty Forward and Democratic Labor - planned to file a constitutional suit this week to stop the government from implementing the terms of a Korea-U.S. agreement on imported beef.

"We want to protect the people from harm to their lives, health and safety. This cannot be done if the Minister of Agriculture legally implements the agreement," the lawmakers said in a draft of the lawsuit. The lawmakers also want the government to go back to the bargaining table with the U.S. to hammer out key changes to the agreement before the beef imports are approved, among them is tougher feed regulations, the article says.

"Without a renegotiation on the beef deal, there is no point in discussing the ratification of the free-trade agreement," said Kim Hyo-seuk, the United Democratic Party floor leader. --*Released by Beef Cow-Calf Weekly, by Joe Roybal*

Cattlemen in Newton County Seek Assistance

On Saturday, May 10th at around 6:00 pm tornados struck Newton County, MO leaving numerous members of the Newton County Cattlemen's Association in need.

We encourage cattlemen from surrounding counties and across the state to assist our fellow cattlemen. Volunteers are needed to help round up cattle. Any donated supplies are greatly appreciated. The most needed items are panels, fencing materials, and feed. If you would like to help or would like more information please contact Estella Osborn, Newton County Cattlemen's President at (417) 624-0415 or Newton County Extension Agent Dave Whitson at (417) 455-9500.

MCA Members Receive Discount at Dungarees.net

MCA members will receive a 5% discount on all online purchases. Dungarees.net offers a wide variety of Carhartt and Filson products. To take advantage of this membership benefit visit www.dungarees.net, add your order to the cart and when proceeding through check out process there is a "Comments" box under the "Bill to" information. In the "Comments" box be sure to note: *5% discount per Missouri Cattlemen's Association membership along with your membership number.* You must provide your membership number to receive the discount.

Take Steps to Limit Damage to Muddy Pastures

Not only has frequent rain slowed spring planting, but many pastures are getting muddy and damaged by hoof traffic, says Bruce Anderson, University of Nebraska (UNL) Extension forage specialist, in his latest "Hay & Forage Minutes."

Anderson says special grazing techniques are needed to limit the damage in soft, muddy pastures. One way is to graze all your cattle together in one small area until the ground gets solid again. This protects most of your pasture acres from trampling losses, but can virtually destroy the area grazed and force reseeding. Perhaps it's a small price to pay, however, to protect the rest of your acres.

The worst option is to graze a pasture for several days until it's all torn up and then move to a new area. The trampling that occurs repeatedly over several days greatly weakens plants; and doing this across a wide area can reduce production for months, even years.

In contrast, pastures muddied up only briefly by grazing usually recover quickly; perhaps not as quickly as when the ground is solid, but fast enough to minimize yield or stand loss.

Take advantage of this rapid recovery by moving animals frequently, at least once a day, to a new area. If this involves walking animals long distances, it might be better to subdivide pastures with temporary electric fences so you don't increase trampling during the moving process. The fencing supplies you use around corn stalks during winter should work well for this temporary use.

Once the ground firms up, you can return to your normal grazing rotation. -- *Released by Beef Cow-Calf Weekly, by Bruce Anderson, UNL Extension Forage Specialist*

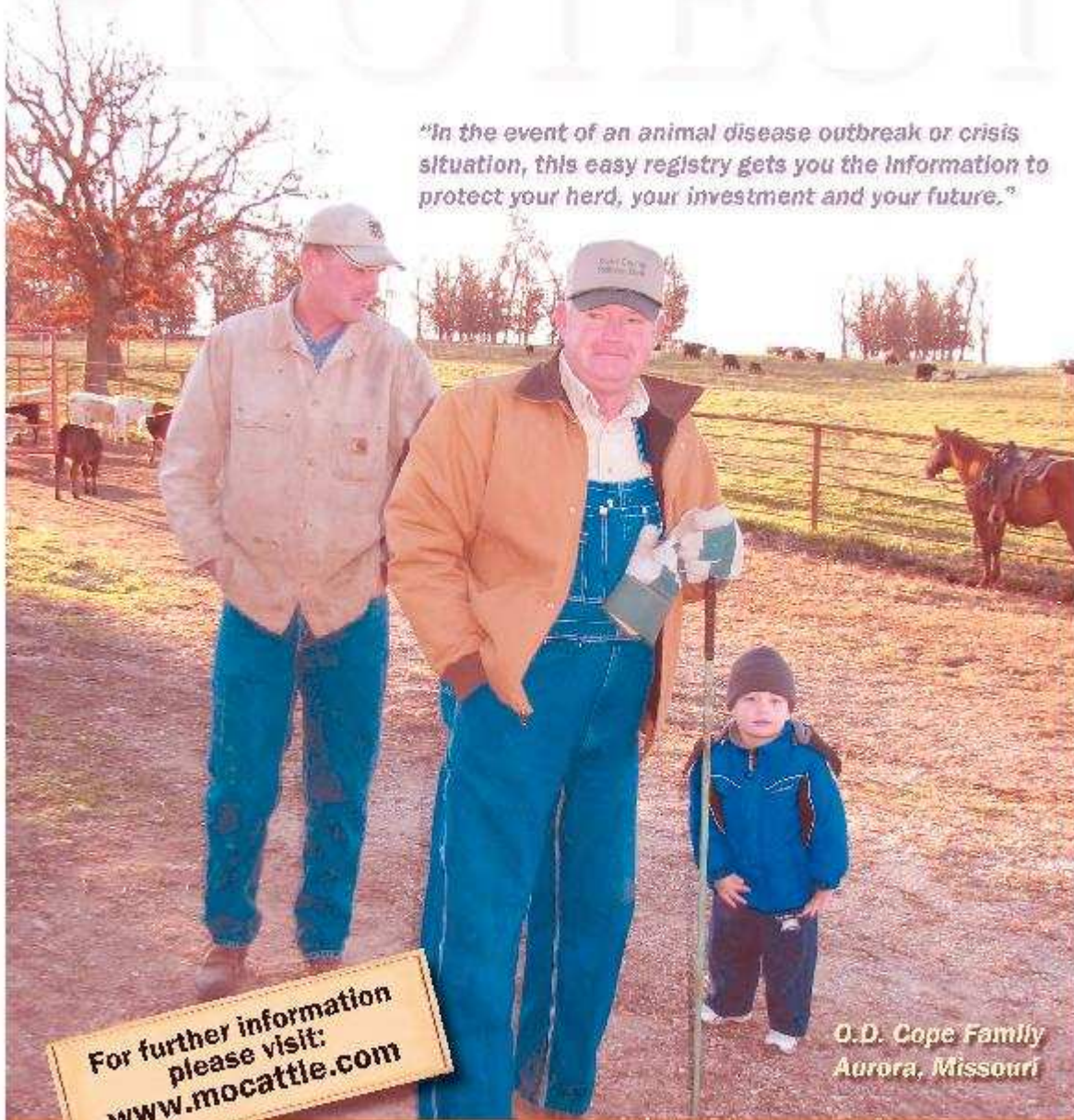
Steak Fry Approaching - Auction Items Needed!

The MCA Past President's Steak Fry is right around the corner! As part of the annual event, we are seeking donations for the auction. We encourage each county to supply at least one auction item. Counties submitting items can send them to MCA at

2306 Bluff Creek Drive, Columbia, MO 65201. If you prefer to bring an item with you to the Past President's Steak Fry please contact MCA at (573) 449-9162 by June 1st.

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Missouri Beef Industry Council Director Election Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Director of Agriculture will be conducting an election to fill three positions on the Missouri Beef Industry Council Board of Directors. One regional council member is to be elected in each of Regions 2, 3 and 4. Terms of office are three years.

Any cattle producer within the specified regions of the State of Missouri who is producing cattle for

market and the legal owner of one or more head of cattle becomes eligible to vote in the election by registering at his/her respective Farm Service Agency (FSA) office prior to July 18, 2008. It is not necessary to register if you have participated in MBIC elections within the previous five years.

The Missouri Department of Agriculture will mail ballots to registered producers by August 15, 2008. Ballots must be postmarked no later than August 29, 2008, to be valid.

Any qualified producer may be nominated and have his/her name placed on the ballot provided the independent nomination is accompanied by petition of not fewer than 100 producers in the nominee's region and written permission of the candidate. Petitions must be delivered to the Director of Agriculture on or before July 18, 2008. Petition forms are available from the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Nominees include:

<i>Region 2 (Northeast)</i>	<i>Region 3 (Southeast)</i>	<i>Region 4 (Southwest)</i>
Blue Geier (incumbent)	Jim Freeman (incumbent)	Jay Stahl (incumbent)
Sally Angel	Mike Kasten	Howard Hardecke
		Chris Cloud

Contact Dawn Thurnau at dawn@mobeeff.com or (573) 817-0899 ext. 223 with questions.

Beef Quality Assurance

Beef Quality Assurance is every cattle producer's responsibility.

For more information on Beef Quality Assurance, visit:

<http://mocattle.com/BQA/bqa.htm>

or <http://www.bqa.org/>

To get certified online, visit:

<http://mocattle.com/BQA?certification.htm>

Interested in a county meeting program? Try MCA's Beef Quality Assurance program!

Contact Ken Disselhorst at (573) 822-3850.

County Cattlemen's Meetings

June 5 - MCA Board of Directors

Beef House, Missouri State Fairgrounds - 10:00 am

June 5 - MCA Past President's Steak Fry

Beef House, Missouri State Fairgrounds - 4:00 pm

June 5 - Missouri CattleWomen's Association

Comfort Inn, Sedalia (off Hwy 50) - 1:00 pm

June 13-15 - MCA All Breeds Junior Show

Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia

June 30-July 3 - 2008 Beef Improvement Federation

Annual Research Symposium & Annual Meeting

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Looking for a program to present to your members during a county meeting?

MCA provides Beef Quality Assurance training programs for county cattlemen. More more information contact (573) 499-9162.

MCA Summer Events

Past President's Steak Fry

MCA will host the Past President's Steak Fry on June 5th. As in the past the Steak Fry will be held in the Missouri Beef House at the Missouri State Fairgrounds. The steak fry will be preceded by a MCA Board of Directors meeting that will take place the morning of the 5th. Also, as in previous years we ask that each county association donate an item for the auction that will take place that evening.

MCA All-Breeds Junior Show

The 2008 Missouri Cattlemen's All-Breeds Junior Show will be held June 13-15th at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia. Registration information went out last week, so you should have received your packet. Be sure to check out our new event for this years junior show; the Design a T-shirt Contest. Please note the schedule changes from in previous years. ****Also, the entry fees are listed incorrectly in the Angus Journal. The entry fee is \$15 per head (\$30 for late entry).** For more information on the MCA All-Breeds Junior Show please visit the Junior page on the [MCA website](#) or call the office.

BIF Annual Research Symposium & Annual Meeting

The 2008 Annual BIF Conference will be June 30-July 3 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The Canadian Beef Breeds Council will host the event. Leading-edge Canadian genetic advancements will be showcased and discussed by industry leaders and innovators. In addition, United States industry leaders will discuss additional progress and current developments. More than 500 attendees will travel to Calgary, representing all aspects of the beef industry. For more information visit www.canadianbeefbreeds.com or www.beefimprovement.org.

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Do you have questions, comments, or suggestions?

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If so, please contact Rachel Bartholomew at (573) 499-9162 or intern@mocattle.com