



MISSOURI CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
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**August 1, 2008**

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**NCBA CALL TO ACTION**

**Congress Wants to Prosecute YOU for Handling Your Horses**  
**Write Congress TODAY and URGE them to VOTE AGAINST HR 6598**

Congress is aiming to take another stab at the horse slaughter issue with their consideration of H.R. 6598 - the "Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008." Unlike the other bills, that would just ban the sale or processing of horses for human consumption, H.R. 6598 would CRIMINALLY PROSECUTE YOU for knowingly owning, selling, transporting or even possessing a horse with the intent of slaughtering that horse for human consumption.

NEVER before has slaughtering a livestock animal been cause for a criminal prosecution by the U.S. Attorney General. Also, H.R. 6598 requires the U.S. Attorney General to take care of the horses they confiscate - making you the taxpayer responsible for paying the horses' feed bill.

Congress has good intentions with these bills aimed to "protect" horses, but since their last legislation on the subject has prohibited the market from working, more horses have become neglected, abandoned and starved. Is this more humane? NO!

We, as cattle producers, should be able to make our own decisions about the animals in our care. We should be able to make decisions about what is best for our horses.

## Quick Links

[Missouri Cattlemen's Association](#)

[National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#)

[Missouri Beef Industry Council](#)

[Missouri Cattlemen's Foundation](#)

[Missouri Department of Agriculture](#)

[Missouri Lunch and Learn Program](#)

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Not have Congress dictate to us what can and cannot happen.

TAKE ACTION TODAY and tell your member to OPPOSE H.R. 6598.

Click here to [TAKE ACTION](#) and write Congress!

If you have any questions, please call Elizabeth Bostdorff in the Washington, D.C. office at 202 347 0228.

**Editor's note:** *Many of you may be wondering why MCA is involved in the horse slaughtering issue. In addition to having policy encouraging the resumption of humane horse slaughter, many of our members also raise horses. We realize whether it may be slaughter of horses or cattle, this legislation may have far reaching implications on each of our businesses. We believe you are in the best position to care for your animals and not have congress dictate what is best. We hope you will take the time to respond!*

## Court Grants Limited CRP Usage

Both sides of the argument surrounding USDA's release of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage for haying and grazing won a little and lost a little last week.

A court decision Thursday lifted the temporary restraining order issued July 8 that prevented 24 million CRP acres from haying and grazing. The National Wildlife Federation had asked for and received the restraining order against the critical usage feed program announced by USDA.

So, producers with contracts that had already been modified and approved for critical feed use can graze and hay on those acres until Nov. 10 this year - in keeping with USDA's original announcement.

Producers who had submitted applications but hadn't yet received approval will be able to graze and hay if approved, but for less time - haying ends Sept. 30 and grazing ends Oct. 15.

According to National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) officials, producers who can document reliance on the critical usage feed program, as well as the investment of more than \$4,500 to prepare for haying and grazing the ground can submit new applications.

"This was the right decision for America's cattle producers. We're pleased that the court listened to NCBA's arguments and agreed that reversing USDA's decision would place undue hardship on our ranchers," says Andy Groseta, NCBA president, a cattle producer

from Arizona.

Source: *The Beef Blog*

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### **USDA Takes Action on Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued an interim final rule for the mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) program that will become effective on Sept. 30.

The rule covers muscle cuts and ground beef (including veal), lamb, chicken, goat, and pork; perishable agricultural commodities (fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables); macadamia nuts; pecans; ginseng; and peanuts -- as required by the 2002 and 2008 Farm Bills. USDA implemented the COOL program for fish and shellfish covered commodities in October 2004.

Commodities covered under COOL must be labeled at retail to indicate their country of origin. However, they are excluded from mandatory COOL if they are an ingredient in a processed food item.

USDA has also revised the definition of a processed food item so that items derived from a covered commodity that has undergone a physical or chemical change (e.g., cooking, curing, smoking) or that has been combined with other covered commodities or other substantive food components (e.g., chocolate, breadings, tomato sauce) are excluded from COOL labeling.

Food service establishments, such as restaurants, lunchrooms, cafeterias, food stands, bars, lounges, and similar enterprises are exempt from the mandatory country of origin labeling requirements.

The rule outlines the requirements for labeling covered commodities. It reduces the recordkeeping retention requirements for suppliers and centrally-located retail records to one year and removes the requirement to maintain records at the retail store. The law provides for penalties for both suppliers and retailers found in violation of the law of up to \$1,000 per violation.

The rule will become effective on Sept. 30, 2008. To allow time for covered commodities that are already in the chain of commerce -- and for which no origin information is known or been provided -- to clear the system, the requirements of this rule will not apply to covered commodities produced or packaged before Sept. 30, 2008.

The rule prescribes specific criteria that must be met for a covered commodity to bear a "United States country of origin" declaration. In addition, the rule also contains provisions for labeling covered commodities of foreign origin, meat products from multiple origins, ground meat products, as well as commingled covered commodities.

USDA plans to conduct education and outreach activities during the six months following the rule's effective date to help the industry comply with the law.

The full text of the interim final rule will be published in the Aug. 1, 2007, Federal Register.

Copies of the interim final rule and additional information can be found at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/COOL> .

*Released by: USDA; Source: The Beef Blog*

### **COOL Recordkeeping Burdens & Costs**

The proposed rule published on October 30, 2003, estimated the recordkeeping burden at \$124 million in first year for development and operation; \$458 million in subsequent years for maintenance and operation.

Presently under the interim final rule, the recordkeeping burden for the first year for development and operation is estimated at \$126 million; \$499 million in subsequent years for maintenance and operation;

Primary reasons for the increases in recordkeeping burden estimates:

--While firms and establishments have decreased, costs increased due to increases in the costs of labor (wage rates are higher based on more recent data).

--The addition of new covered commodities; chicken, goat meat, macadamia nuts, pecans, and ginseng.

Recordkeeping - Records and other documentary evidence relied upon at the point of sale by the retailer to establish a covered commodity's country(ies) of origin must be maintained for one year from the date the origin declaration is made at retail. Upon request, these records must be provided to any duly authorized representatives of USDA within 5 business days of the request and may be maintained in any location. For pre-labeled products, the label itself is sufficient evidence on which the retailer may rely to establish the product's origin. Retailers must maintain records that identify the covered commodity, the retail supplier, and for products that are not pre-labeled, the origin information, for 1 year after a label claim is made. Retail suppliers must maintain records to establish and identify the immediate previous source (if applicable) and immediate subsequent recipient of a covered commodity for a period of 1 year from the date of the transaction. Upon request, these records must be provided to any duly authorized representatives of USDA within 5 business days of the request and may be maintained in any location.

The supplier of a covered commodity that is responsible for initiating a country of origin declaration, which in the case of beef, lamb, pork, chicken, and goat is the slaughter facility, must possess or have legal access to records that are necessary to substantiate that claim. In the case of beef, lamb, chicken, goat, and pork, a producer affidavit shall be considered acceptable evidence on which the slaughter facility may rely to initiate the origin claim, provided it is made by someone having first-hand knowledge of the origin of the animal(s) and identifies the animal(s) unique to the transaction. In addition, slaughter facilities that slaughter animals that are part of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) compliant system or other recognized official identification system (e.g., Canadian official system, Mexico official system) may also rely on the presence of an official ear tag and/or the presence of any accompanying animal markings (i.e., "Can", "M"), as applicable, on which to base their origin claims. This would also include such animals officially identified as a group lot.

For an imported covered commodity, the importer of record as determined by CBP, must ensure that records: provide clear product tracking from the United States port of entry to the immediate subsequent recipient and accurately reflect the country(ies) of origin of the item as identified in relevant CBP entry documents and information systems; and maintain such records for a period of 1 year from the date of the transaction.

*Released by: Cattle Network*



**MCA Would Like to Thank Sydenstricker's of Missouri  
for Their Donation of Gators for Use at the  
2008 Missouri State Fair!!!**

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| Columbia: (573) 446-3030   | Moscow Mills: (636) 366-9400 |
| Kirksville: (573) 665-1500 | Curryville: (573) 594-6493   |

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## July 1 Cattle Inventory

The USDA Released the July 1 cattle inventory report, and for the second straight year in a row the July 1 total cattle inventory declined, totaling 104.3 million head, down 500,000 compared to a year ago. This is the fourth smallest total cattle inventory since 1990.

The report indicated the liquidation of beef cows continues. The beef cow inventory was down 200,000 cows totaling 33.15 million head. This is also the smallest July 1 beef cow inventory since 1990. In addition to drought still having a significant impact on much of the country, rapidly rising feed costs and strong utility cow prices are contributing to the increased beef cow slaughter. Year-to-date, beef cow slaughter is up 9 percent, and this trend is not expected to change much for the remainder of 2008. At this rate, beef cow slaughter in 2008 is on pace to be the largest in over 10 years. Some of the increase can be attributed to slaughter cow imports from Canada, but domestic cow slaughter only is still well above a year ago.

Another major component impacting the beef cow herd is the number of replacement heifers. The July 1 beef replacement heifer number was down for the second consecutive year totaling 4.6 million head, which is tied for the smallest in at least 35 years. On the dairy side, replacement heifers were steady with last year at 3.9 million head. As a result, the dairy cow herd continues to expand, as there were 100,000 more dairy cows on July 1 compared to 2007.

The feeder cattle and calf supply outside of feedlots was up 300,000 head and totaled 39.6 million. The biggest reason for the increase is due to the significant drop in placements into feedyards since March. Total cattle-on-feed (all sizes of feedyards) was down 600,000 head at 11.7 million versus a year ago, which is the smallest since 1999. Through the remainder of the summer and through the fall, the additional cattle outside of feedlots will be placed on feed and likely at heavier weights, and as a result available fed supplies in the first half of 2009 will likely be larger than in 2008.

*Source: Tod Kalous, July 25th Cattle Fax Update*

## Dept. of Agriculture Extends Beef Tax Credit Deadline

The Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA) recently extended the pre-qualifying deadline for the Qualified Beef Tax Credit program to Oct. 1, 2008. The program's qualifications were also expanded in order to give current beef backgrounders a greater opportunity to participate encouraging economic activity in the state. In January, Gov. Matt Blunt announced this economic incentive to beef producers to put more pounds on their cattle in Missouri rather than sending them to out-of-state feedlots.

"We have some of the best beef cattle genetics in the country and want to keep high quality cattle in Missouri," said Don Steen, director Missouri Department of Agriculture. "By extending the deadline for applicants for this program, we are ensuring that more producers will have the opportunity to apply."

The Qualified Beef Tax Credit program offers an incentive in the form of tax credits to cattle producers who begin backgrounding and/or finishing their calves in Missouri. The

expanded qualifications will allow beef producers who are already backgrounding calves to also participate in this program by allowing them to increase the number they are currently backgrounding. The program allows producers to earn tax credits by keeping their calves for at least 200 pounds past an established baseline weight, and in some cases, adding additional cattle to their current backgrounding or finishing operation.

For more information on this program, please contact MASBDA at (573) 751-2129 or by email at [masbda@mda.mo.gov](mailto:masbda@mda.mo.gov). For complete guidelines and application, visit [www.mda.mo.gov](http://www.mda.mo.gov). -- released by Missouri Department of Agriculture

*\*\*The third approved change to the Missouri Qualified Beef Tax Credit Program states that in lieu of 3 years financials the beef producer may give MASBDA permission to review their QSA or PVA customer profile.*

### **Take Time to Beef Up Your Calves**

Beef cattle producers can during the summer boost the weaning weights of calves born in late winter or early spring, according to Eldon Cole, a livestock specialist with University of Missouri Extension.

"Mid-summer is not a very desirable time to work cattle, but some practices sure pay off with extra weight this fall," said Cole.

Among the economical practices Cole recommends for nursing calves are deworming, growth-promoting implants for non-breeding animals and external parasite control.

"The benefits from these could add 40 to 50 pounds additional weight come weaning time," said Cole.

Unfortunately, hot weather, hay-making and fescue or wheat harvest usually hit about the ideal time to work the calves.

Cole says that it is also a good time to check for other herd problems such as eye infections and lameness. In addition, the bulls can be removed from the herd in many cases at this time.

"The way this summer has gone, there will likely be a rainy day that will permit cattle working to take place," said Cole.

*Source: Springfield News-Leader via The Beef Blog*



## Checking in on the Checkoff

Running ads to remind health-conscience consumers that beef is a passion that is permissible.

It's earth-friendly fuel for your body!



*Ads run in over 30 national publications like Health, Real Simple, Parents, Mens Fitness and many more. They also run in several Missouri publications.*

### Stocker Management: Analyzing Cattle Feeding Risk

If you want to get a quick read on how risky feeding a particular group of calves might be, check out the "Cattle Feeding Risk Analyzer©" developed by Kansas State University ag economists.

You input the required variables - such as purchase weight and value, cattle sex, interest rate - and the online calculator tabulates an expected profit or loss per head. The model utilizes historical cattle feeding data from Kansas and Nebraska, and futures and options prices from the primary exchanges to calculate prices and distributions.

For the free program, go to [www.naiber.org/cattleriskalyzer](http://www.naiber.org/cattleriskalyzer)

*Source: Beef Stocker Trends*

### \$100,000 Up for Grabs in Missouri Roping Fundraiser

The "Best of the Best," Joplin Regional Stockyards' (JRS) annual fundraiser for Camp Barnabas, a Christian camp for kids and teens with life-threatening illnesses and disabilities, is set for Saturday, August 9, 2008.

Set for the Missouri Entertainment & Event Center in Springfield, the day includes the JRS "Best of the Best" calf-roping contest with the top National Finals Rodeo qualifiers from 2007 vying for \$100,000 in prize money. In addition, "Whiplash" the cowboy monkey from Taco John's television commercials, will display his herding prowess by

working sheep.

Also part of the day is a Cattle Industry College and Trade Show, which includes a presentation by Mike Murphy of CattleFax on "Navigating The Changing Business Environment."

For more info, call 417-548-2333 or visit [www.joplinstockyards.com](http://www.joplinstockyards.com). --Source: JRS News Release and BEEF Cow Calf Weekly

### **Missouri FSA to Host Informational Meetings at Missouri State Fair**

Tim Kelley, executive director for Missouri Farm Service Agency (FSA), announced FSA would be holding a series of informational meetings at the Missouri State Fair, which will be held August 7 through 17 in Sedalia, Mo.

Interested persons can come to the meetings to learn about new programs and program changes outlined in the 2008 Farm Bill and flood disaster assistance available through FSA. All meetings will be held on the lower level of the Mathewson Exhibition Center in Room 102. The meeting schedule will be as follows:

Thursday, August 7, 2008, at 11 a.m.  
Friday, August 8, 2008, at 11 a.m.  
Monday, August 11, 2008, at 11 a.m.  
Tuesday, August 12, 2008, at 11 a.m.  
Thursday, August 14, 2008, at 2:30 p.m.  
Friday, August 15, 2008, at 11 a.m.

Current program participants, or those interested in getting started in the agriculture industry, are encouraged to come and learn about FSA programs.

*Released by: Missouri Farm Service Agency*

### **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!

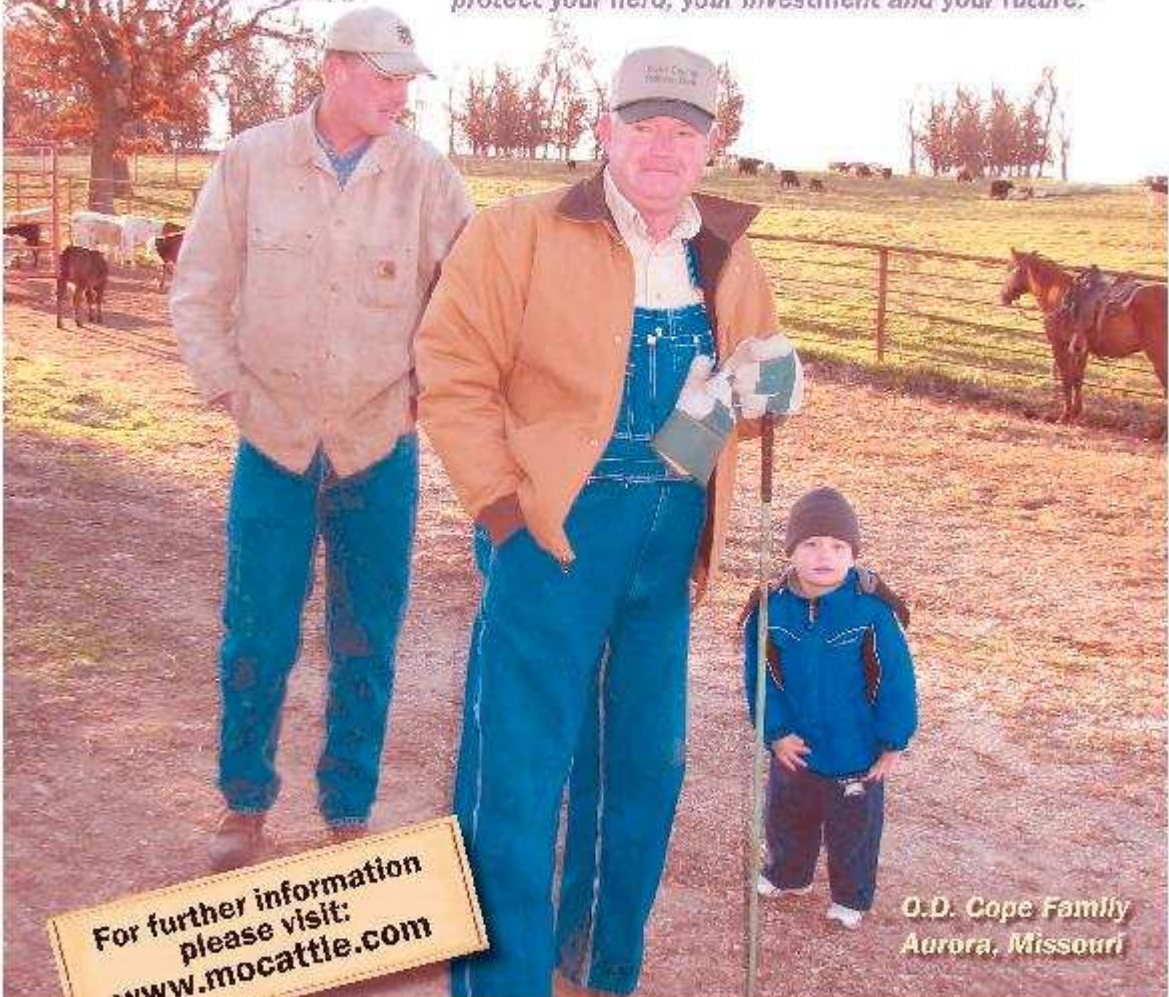
**The success of the Beef House is largely dependent  
on our county association volunteers.  
Please begin planning to carpool as a county and  
come enjoy some time at the Fair and in the Beef House!**

To see a schedule of assigned county shifts, please visit our website at [www.mocattle.com](http://www.mocattle.com) or look for it in the July 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.*

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## REGISTER TO PROTECT

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**MBIC Board of Directors Election - VOTE!**

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 will be elected from each of regions 2, 3, and 4. The elected individuals will serve for three years.

Any cattle producer within these regions of Missouri who produces cattle for market and is the legal owner of one or more head of cattle is eligible to vote in this election. There are MCA members running for each region and we encourage all of our producers in those regions to register. Registration can be completed at Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices prior to July 18, 2008. If you have participated in MBIC elections within the last five years, it is not necessary to register.

The MDA will mail ballots to the producers registered 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 or her name placed on the ballot. An independent nomination accompanied by a petition of at least 100 producers in the nominee's region and written permission of the candidate are required. Petitions must be delivered to the MDA Director's office by no later than July 18, 2008.

Register to vote!

Current Nominees:

|               |               |                 |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Region 2 (NE) | Region 3 (SE) | Region 4 (SW)   |
| Blue Geier*   | Jim Freeman*  | Jay Stahl*      |
| Sally Angell  | Mike Kasten   | Chris Cloud     |
|               |               | Howard Hardecke |

\*Denotes incumbent

### **Cattlemen's Meetings**

#### **August 2 - Moniteau County Cattlemen's Meeting**

Moniteau County Fairgrounds - 5:00 pm

Members are asked to help serve at Steak Night for County Fair

Please bring one dessert.

#### **August 4 - Macon County Cattlemen's Meeting**

Lolli Livestock Market - 7:30 pm

\*Important Agenda\*

#### **August 5 - Bates County Cattlemen's Meeting**

Mo-Kan Livestock Market - 7:00

Meal provided

#### **August 7-17 - Missouri State Fair; Sedalia, MO**

#### **August 14 - Polk County Cattlemen's Meeting**

Smith's Restaurant - 7:00 pm

## August 21 - Henry County Cattlemen's Meeting

First Baptist Church Calvary Hall, Clinton - 7:00 pm

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.

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Do you have questions, comments or suggestions?

Would you like to advertise in our newsletter ?

If so, please contact Rachel Bartholomew at (573) 499-9162 or [rachel@mocattle.com](mailto:rachel@mocattle.com).

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