



Holiday Issue

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Steve Willard Chosen to Lead Missouri Cattlemen's Association

Steve Willard was elected President of Missouri Cattlemen's Association for 2009 year during the 41st Annual Meeting held in Springfield, Missouri last weekend. Willard of Willow Springs, Missouri has served as first Vice President and Chairman of the Membership Committee for the last year.

Willard is a native of Georgia but has made his home in Texas County. Willard owns and operates Clear Springs Ranch and launched Open Range, a restaurant, in Willow Springs last March. Willard has been a long-time supporter and spokesperson for the association.

Jason McCann of Miller, Missouri was elected 1st Vice President and Mike Grimes of Butler, Missouri was voted in as 2nd Vice President. Ryan Bailey of Curryville, MO. was re-elected Secretary/Treasurer for the association.

Also during the Annual Meeting, the membership elected 7 new Regional Vice Presidents to serve the membership across the state. Region 1-Steve Krueger, Kahoka, MO., Region 2-Sheryl Brewe, Marthasville, MO., Region 3-Kenny Beltz, Willow Springs, MO., Region 4-Carl Messner, Albany, MO., Region 5-Gary Copenhaver, Lexington, MO., Region 6-Lonny Duckworth, Butler, MO., and Region 7-Ben Fizette, Golden City, MO.

Over 800 members and guests attended the annual convention and trade show which showcases the latest innovations and products in the beef industry and sets policy for the association.

Quick Links

[Missouri Cattlemen's Association](#)

[Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation](#)

[Missouri Beef Industry Council](#)

[National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#)

[Missouri Department of Agriculture](#)

Register Your Premise

As cattlemen we encourage all producers to take part in premise registration as it is the best method for immediate notification in case of a disease outbreak. MCA takes animal health very seriously in order to protect the state's livestock industry. Registering your premise is a primary step in accomplishing this goal. To register your premise visit the [Missouri Department of Agriculture website](#).

Join our list

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

MCA is the voice of over 65,000 beef producers in Missouri and represents their interests in state and federal legislation.

Holiday Season

Due to the holiday season, you will not receive Prime Cuts e-newsletter on December 26 or January 2. You will receive your next issue on **January 9, 2009**. MCA wishes you a safe and happy holiday season. The Missouri Cattle Industry Headquarters will be closed from December 24 through January 4.

APEX Financial, Inc. Thanks Cattlemen

On behalf of APEX Financial, MCA would like to thank the many cattlemen and women who stopped by their booth during the convention. MCA and APEX have been working together to create benefits for our membership for the 2009 year.

Thank you for a great 2008 and we're looking forward to a successful year in 2009!

2008 Awards

Cattleman of the Year: Merrel Breyer

Pioneer Award: Joe Lyle

Industry Leader Award: Rick Anstine

CattleWoman of the Year: Marsha Corbin

Awards for Excellence

Overall Winner: Franklin County

Runner Up: Polk County

Outstanding Beef Promotion: Southwest Cattlemen

Outstanding Event/Activity: Dallas County

Beef Queen: Kristen Wright, Tuscumbia, MO

Beef Ambassador: Merle Jaster, Concordia, MO

Vilsack named Secretary of Agriculture

President-elect Barack Obama announced his selections for key cabinet posts for the agricultural community, including former Iowa governor Tom Vilsack for Secretary of Agriculture and Colorado Senator Ken Salazar for Secretary of the Interior.

We appreciate that President-elect Obama chose to nominate a Secretary of Agriculture who has worked closely with agricultural producers during his time as Governor of Iowa. Agriculture provides more than \$8 billion in value added to the economy of Iowa, and cattle and calves are the fourth biggest agricultural commodity in that state. Nationally, cattle and calves are the largest agricultural commodity, valued at about \$50 billion. Governor Vilsack understands that America's farmers and ranchers feed our nation and provide significant contributions to our economy.

We've been in close contact with the Obama team throughout the campaign and now the transition. We've been consistently assured that decisions in the Obama Administration will be made based on sound science with a view of the economic impacts of the policy in question. We appreciate that commitment and look forward to sharing the facts about beef and beef production with Governor Vilsack and other agriculture policy advisors to the President-elect. Additionally, we are eager to begin working with Governor Vilsack and the Department of Agriculture on our priority issues for 2009, including expanding trade, enhancing food safety, and leveling the playing field for food and fuel markets.

We're also pleased that President-elect Barack Obama has chosen Colorado Senator Ken Salazar to lead the Department of the Interior. His experience working the land as a farmer and rancher will give him the perspective necessary to balance the many competing demands on our nation's public lands.

Released by USDA 12/19/08.

NCBA Requests Deadline Extension for Compliance with Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Rule

As part of the Agriculture Coalition on Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC), NCBA submitted comments this week to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the dates by which facilities must be in compliance with SPCC plans.

Under the Clean Water Act, farms and ranches are required to prevent discharges of oil into waters of the United States, and to contain those discharges should they occur.

The rule requires farms to have a Facility Response Plan certified by a Professional Engineer that details equipment, workforce, procedures, and training to prevent, control, and provide adequate countermeasures in the event of a discharge of oil. Farms with oil storage capacities of less than 10,000 gallons can self-certify their SPCC plans, rather than employing a Professional Engineer.

In a proposed rule issued on December 5, 2008, the EPA put forth two separate compliance dates for farms. Larger operations with storage capacities exceeding 10,000 gallons must have an SPCC plan in place by November 20, 2009-less than one year from today. Smaller operations are given until November 20, 2010.

Although many industries have been in compliance with SPCC regulations for decades, the regulations were only recently applied to the agricultural community. Many producers are unaware of the requirement to have an SPCC plan. Beyond this educational barrier, most producers have already budgeted for the 2009 fiscal year without planning for the investment necessary to develop and certify an SPCC plan. The early compliance dates the EPA is proposing are both technically and fiscally difficult for producers to meet.

The oil production industry was given a five-year time frame in which to comply with the SPCC regulations.

Given the lack of knowledge of the SPCC rule within the agricultural industry, and EPA's lack of a communication plan for agricultural producers, we believe that our industry should also be given a five-year time line for compliance.

The deadline for comment submission to EPA is December 26, 2008.



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5% discount per Missouri Cattlemen's Association membership along with your membership number.
(You must provide your membership number to receive the discount.)

 

Better Approach to Reporting Hazardous Substances from Farm Animal Waste

EPA is announcing a final rule providing an administrative reporting exemption for air

releases of hazardous substances from animal waste at farms.

This rule will enable response authorities to better focus their attention on hazardous substance releases that require a response, while reducing reporting burdens on America's farms. Notifications must still be made to response authorities when hazardous substances are released to the air from sources other than animal waste (e.g., ammonia tanks), and when hazardous substances are released to soil and water.

Administrative exemptions from particular notification requirements are authorized under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, also known as Superfund) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).

Under the Federal National Contingency Plan (NCP) regulations, farms and other facilities are required to report any releases of hazardous substances above an EPA-established level to the Coast Guard National Response Center and state and local emergency response authorities. However, EPA has never initiated a response based upon a notification of a hazardous substance release to the air from animal waste at farms. A number of states and localities have also indicated that they do not expect to take response actions as a result of a notification of releases of hazardous substances from animal waste at farms. Because of these findings, EPA is providing a full exemption to the reporting requirement under CERCLA and a limited exemption to the reporting requirement under EPCRA for releases of hazardous substances to the air from animal waste at farms.

The limited exemption under EPCRA resulted from EPA receiving comments on the proposed rule from state and local officials indicating that, although they did not expect to respond to notifications of air releases of hazardous substances from animal waste at farms, some still wished to receive notifications from large concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). EPA has addressed these comments by requiring large CAFOs to continue submitting emergency notification reports under EPCRA.

Information on the final rule: <http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/epcra/index.htm>
Released by EPA on 12/12/08.

Mexico Joins Canada in WTO Consultation on COOL

On December 18, 2008, the Mexican government announced it would join Canada's formal consultations with the U.S. under the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement process on Country of Origin Labeling (COOL).

U.S. exports to Canada and Mexico comprise 56 percent of the tonnage (1.04 billion pounds) and 59 percent of the value (\$1.827 billion) of our total January-October exports (1.85 billion pounds and \$3.1 billion). Canada and Mexico are valued trading partners, and NCBA hopes the U.S., Mexican, and Canadian governments can work together and resolve this issue in a way that doesn't hurt the business climate for U.S. beef producers.

NCBA will closely monitor this situation, and as COOL is implemented in the U.S., we will continue to monitor the effect of COOL on domestic demand for beef. If we determine

that COOL is negatively affecting beef producers, we've pledged to work with Congress to alter the law as necessary.

The WTO consultation is a first step that allows the parties to resolve trade disputes through formal discussions. The United States has ten days to reply, but the actual consultation will last for 30 days. If at the end of 30 days the consultations have failed to resolve the issue, the matter can be referred to a WTO dispute settlement panel.

Released by USDA 12/19/08.

Beef Quality Assurance

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For more information on BQA programs contact Missouri Cattlemen's Association
at (573) 499-9162 or cattleinfo@mocattle.com

Kansas Chosen as Site for National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF)

On Friday, December 5, 2008 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate released the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), recommending Manhattan, Kansas as the preferred site for the state-of-the-art, high-security laboratory facility to study foreign animal and zoonotic (transferable from animal to human) diseases that can impact livestock.

NBAF is intended to replace the Plum Island facility, where foreign animal disease research has been conducted by the U.S. Government for decades. The funding for Plum Island has not been timely enough or adequate to keep the facility up-to-date.

Foreign animal disease research is critical to protecting the health of our livestock. While NCBA believes that a new and modern facility is essential, our support of the facility is dependent on a continued commitment from Congress, USDA, and DHS to ensure this facility is properly funded and maintained, so it does not fall into poor condition in a manner similar to Plum Island. It is also essential that NBAF have in place multiple layers of biosecurity and maintain the strictest safety protocols to prevent any kind of a release of diseases being studied.

The livestock industry faces multiple threats and circumstances that didn't exist when Plum Island was built in New York decades ago. It will take advanced facilities and research methods to protect the food supply, including our livestock and meat, from disease threats that exist in today's age of global commerce.

The importance of maintaining and enhancing animal-related research, vaccine development, diagnostics and training to protect animal agriculture must be maintained and enhanced at the new facility. NCBA supports building the facility under a carefully planned and funded operating and construction budget. The operational budget should broaden the list of animal and animal-related diseases being studied, enhance current Plum Island educational efforts, and target efforts on developing diagnostics, preventives and therapies, and minimization of risk should a FAD outbreak occur.

Released by NCBA 12/15/08.

Empowering, Energizing Youth a Key NCBA Accomplishment in 2008

Programs Established to Get Next Generation More Involved in Cattle Industry

Young cattlemen and women were motivated by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) to get more involved in the cattle industry this year, according to the organization's outgoing president. Andy Groseta, a producer from Cottonwood, Ariz., says the organization saw the need for bringing young people closer to the action and giving them more of a say in their future.

"Young people will be responsible for shaping and directing the future of our industry," says Groseta. "They are an asset we can't afford to ignore, and they deserve our support to get them active and involved with our industry as early as possible."

At the 2008 Cattle Industry Summer Conference in Denver, NCBA established a Young Producer's Council (YPC) to help move the industry in that direction. The YPC helps NCBA members ages 18 to 35 develop their leadership skills and become more involved in policy committees, voicing their opinions on how the future should be approached. It also helps provide networking opportunities, continuing education and professional development activities.

The first meeting of the YPC will be held Jan. 29 as part of the Cattle Industry Annual Convention in Phoenix, Ariz. Membership in the council, which will be allowed to bring resolutions to committees and select individuals to represent them on each NCBA policy committee, is free to NCBA members.

Other NCBA events that highlight youth participation will also be conducted at the 2009

Convention. These events, which focus on education, leadership and teamwork, are designed young people aged nine and up, and are made possible through a grant from the Farm Credit System Foundation.

Events will include an NCBA Team Marketing Contest, NCBA Beef Quiz Bowl Contest, NCBA Prepared Public Speaking Contest and the NCBA Cattle Judging Contest. Each event is intended to be both educational and entertaining for participants.

"It's crucial that we provide ways for our young people to be involved in our industry events," Groseta explains. "Even more important, though, it's vital that we give students and young adults the tools with which they can be active participants in the industry. Both their future and the future of our industry are at stake."

Released by NCBA 12/18/08.



Checking in on the Checkoff

Training senior dietetic students from across the state about media basics— from mastering the interview to key message tracks regarding the benefits of beef in a healthy diet.

Not only does this secure beef's relationship with future dietitians; but it also gives us third-party spokespersons.



To learn more about the checkoff's efforts to work with key influencers to keep beef center of the plate, visit us at www.mobeef.org or call 573-817-0899.

Upcoming Cattlemen's Events & Meetings

Lewis-Marion Cattlemen's - December 30th at 7:00 pm
Highland High School Cafeteria

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