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Upcoming Events & Meetings

Time to fire up for the Beef House!

The State Fair (August 13-23) will be here before we know it. MCA is contacting county leaders to schedule each county's work shifts during those 10 days. MCA can use as many volunteer as a county can offer, so **please contact your county leader to sign up for your county's shift at the Beef House.**

NCBA: Legislation providing death tax relief welcome

Released by AgWeb.com 8/4/09

Congressmen Mike Thompson (D-Calif.) and John Salazar (D-Colo.) introduced legislation that would provide farmers and ranchers relief from the death tax, according to a press release from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA).

H.R. 3524, the Family Farm Preservation and Conservation Estate Tax Act, would exempt working farm and ranch land from the death tax, as long as the land is kept in production agriculture. Should the land be used or sold for other purposes, a recapture tax would be imposed.

"The death tax is one of the leading causes of the breakup of family farms, as producers are forced to sell their land to pay off taxes on their inheritance," said Gary Voogt, NCBA President and rancher from Marne, Mich. "This legislation is an important step in ensuring hardworking farmers and ranchers can keep their land in their families."

Currently, estates valued at more than \$3.5 million, or \$7 million for a couple, are taxed at a 45% rate. President Obama has proposed freezing it at this level so it can be dealt with at a later date. But if Congress doesn't act to freeze or reduce the estate tax, in 2011, it will revert to a staggering 55% tax on estates worth only \$1 million or more.

"Our country can't afford the consequences of taxing our farmers and ranchers out of business," Voogt said. "NCBA will continue to press for relief from the death tax, and we look forward to working with Congressmen Thompson and Salazar to ensure that cattle producers can continue to work

Missouri State Fair: Missouri
Beef House

August 13-23

Missouri Beef House

Sedalia, Mo.

MCF Charity Weekend

Sept. 25-27

Golden Hills Trail Ride/Resort

Raymondville, Mo.

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their land and feed our nation."

Did you know?

Beef is consumed 70 million times daily across America. Each year Americans consume 25 billion hamburgers.

Source: [Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom](#)

Michigan House committee passes livestock care measure

Released by Feedstuffs 8/2/09

The House Agriculture Committee in Michigan last week passed H.B. 5127 and H.B. 5128, bringing comprehensive standards for farm animal care one step closer to law in the state. The controversial bills, which closely mirror the proposed November ballot question in Ohio, have animal rights activists and agriculture in the state at odds.

The bills are supported by Michigan Farm Bureau and 13 other ag groups. Opposition is coming from the Humane Society of the United States among others.

H.B. 5128 would put into law voluntary industry guidelines for farm animals' care - ranging from how much living space they need to slaughter practices - and require audits of livestock farms. A 12-member council would review and possibly recommend updated animal care standards at least every five years.

H.B. 5127 would impose and enforce farm animal care regulations on agricultural producers, and impose fees on farms sufficient to pay for this new regulatory regime. At first the regulations would be those created by producer organizations, but the Michigan Department of Agriculture would have the power to create and enforce its own. The department would be empowered to impose "a progressive enforcement mechanism" on violators to bring about compliance.

Among recent revisions made to the two bills was the removal of language dealing with pre-empting local animal welfare ordinances governing farm animal welfare. Additional changes to the legislation would require that farm welfare audits be subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

"The bills advanced by the agriculture committee codify inhumane industry standards for farm animal treatment-standards that allow many animals to spend most of their lives in cages so small they can't even turn around or extend their limbs," Wayne Pacelle of the Humane Society of the United States said in a statement issued after passage of the bills.

Tiger Ag Classic is approaching

The MU Ag Alumni Association's 18th Annual Tiger Ag Classic Golf

Tournament is set for Friday, Sept. 11, 2009 at L.A. Nickell Golf Course in Columbia. Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 11 a.m. Tee time is set for 11:45 a.m.

The steak fry will follow the tournament at about 6 p.m. at Dexheimer Pavilion, Cosmo Park, which is next to the golf course.



Members to receive discount with Mellor Trailers

Mellor Trailers in Booneville, Mo. is offering a discount to all Missouri Cattlemen's Association members (with proof of membership). Membership forms are available at the time of sale.

Discounts include:

10% discount off parts and accessories

\$100.00 off trailer purchases **upto \$5000.00**

\$200.00 off trailer purchases **from \$5000.00 to \$10,000.00**

\$300.00 off trailer purchases **from \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00**

\$400.00 off trailer purchases **from \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00**

\$500.00 off trailer purchases **from \$20,000.00 and up**

Discounts may not apply to certain items already discounted or on promotions. Please call for details.

PLUS! In conjunction with Elite Trailers and Mellor Trailers, MCA is rewarding one member with the free use of an Elite trailer (as shown above) for one year, which will be given at the Missouri Cattle Industry Convention and Trade show. To be eligible for this reward, an MCA member must pre-register for the MCA Convention and Trade Show. Furthermore, the member must be present at the convention awards banquet to win.

Mellor Trailer Sales

1550 West Ashley Road
Boonville, Missouri 65233
877-882-8433

Open Monday -Saturday
7:30 am - 5:30 pm

I-70 Exit #101 and
1 mile north on Hwy 5

For more information, contact MCA at (573)499-9162 or at cattleinfo@mocattle.com.



Checking in on the Checkoff



Thanks to the beef producers who volunteered their time to serve on the "Pasture to Plate" panel of experts for Missouri culinary educators.

The checkoff is working to build relationships between food professionals and cattlemen, in an effort to answer common consumer questions regarding beef production.

Learn more at www.mobeeff.org or email dawn@mobeeff.com

Save your Ralgro Wheels

Wheels for Bucks: Turn those empty wheels into cash!

For every 10 empty wheels (or every 5 empty Magnum Strips) received, Schering Plough will donate a full wheel of Ralgro! These full wheels will be auctioned off Friday evening, Dec. 12 during the Cattlemen's Foundation Fund-Raising Auction.

The proceeds will be split equally between the MCF Scholarship Fund to assist young people achieve a higher education and leadership and youth development activities supported by the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

So get with your neighbors and start saving those wheels NOW!!!
Get them to the Cattle Industry Headquarters or bring them with you to the Convention! Just don't forget to turn them in!

Annual Top Hand Contest ends next month

Released by NCBA 8/5/09

Next month, NCBA's fiscal year will come to a close and the annual Top Hand recruiting contest will end. How much strength can you add to NCBA before Sept. 30? Remember, in addition to fortifying the nation's oldest national cattlemen organization, you can win valuable prizes - see below for a list of them.

At this point in fiscal 2009, the Top Hand Club has 169 members who have recruited 1,182 new NCBA members. Another 326 people have been recruited by members who have not reached Top Hand status (by signing up three new members or recruiting two new members as a prior year Top Hand). A total of 1,563 people have been recruited since Oct. 1, 2008.

There are 45 Top Hands who have recruited 10 or more members and have earned the Exclusive Belt Buckle (see below), which will be presented at the Top Hand Reception at the 2009 Cattle Industry Convention in San Antonio, Jan. 26-30.

**The 2009 Top Hand leaders at the end of July were:
Blue Geier, Missouri, 52 new members**

Hugh McCampbell, Tennessee, 36
Becky Bennett, Kentucky, 28
Todd Allen, Kansas, 24
Charles Litteral, Louisiana, 24

Here are the prizes:

3 New Members (2 for Renewals) - Top Hand Plaque, Year Plate and Lapel Pin

10 New Members - Exclusive 2009 Top Hand Belt Buckle
20 New Members - One Airline Ticket to Annual Convention or Summer Conference

30 New Members - One Registration for Annual Convention or Summer Conference

40 New Members - Three Nights Lodging at Annual Convention or Summer Conference

50 New Members - Additional Airline Ticket to Annual Convention or Summer Conference
Top Recruiter - \$2,000 Cabela's Gift Card
Recruiting Tips

Write letters to the editor about issues that NCBA is working on, and include your contact information.

Call in to radio talk shows to discuss NCBA solutions and include your contact information.

Familiarize yourself with the benefits of NCBA membership. Click on the Member Benefits link below for help with this.

The NCBA headquarters office can provide Top Hands with a personalized list of potential recruits in your zip code area. Just ask and you will receive a list as small or large as you'd like.

Send prospective members copies of the National Cattlemen magazine. If you want extra copies to distribute, please contact Joe Snyder at jsnyder@beef.org.

Dead Animal Disposal Issues

Please contact your MCA staff with any dead animal disposal issues you may be having as a result of the FDA's Enhanced Feedband Rule. MCA will take your information and pass it on to NCBA.

Call at (573)499-9162

Or email at cattleinfo@mocattle.com

Prices limp along

Released by BEEFmagazine.com 8/4/09

"Cheaper feed costs and premiums on deferred CME live-cattle futures are making the lighter yearlings a more attractive investment," say analysts with the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), explaining last week's uneven cash trade.

Compared to the previous week, yearling feeder cattle weighing 600-800 lbs. sold steady to \$2 higher, while those weighing more than 800 lbs. traded steady to \$2 lower. Steer and heifer calves sold mostly steady, though they were only lightly tested in most trade areas.

There was no support from the fed-cattle trade, which lost a buck in the Southern Plains (\$82) and \$1-\$2 in Nebraska (\$131-\$132 dressed) Friday, compared to the previous week. That, despite the bullish midyear cattle inventory and monthly Cattle on Feed reports issued a week earlier.

USDA's midyear cattle inventory report confirmed continued liquidation in both the beef and dairy cow herds. As of July 1, the beef cow inventory is 1% less than last year (32.2 million), while the inventory of dairy cows is 2% less than the previous year (9.2 million head).

The inventory of all cows and calves on inventory is 101.8 million, 1% less than a year earlier. The number of beef heifers retained for replacement this year is 2% less than a year ago. In light of the current dairy herd retirement programs, it's interesting to note the number of dairy heifers retained for replacement is unchanged from a year ago.

"Similar to last year, higher feed grain costs has resulted in a number of calves placed out on pasture before being placed on feed," explain analysts with the Livestock Marketing Information Center. "But, nationwide, smaller calf crops have compensated for longer grazing periods. Thus, as of July 1, the calculated number of feeder cattle outside of feedlots was around 38 million head, down about 200,000 head from last year."

According to the most recent Cattle on Feed report, there were 9.8 million head on feed for slaughter as of July 1, 5% fewer than a year earlier. The inventory of steers was down 7% from a year earlier (5.99 million) and heifers were down 3% (3.72 million head). Placements in June (1.39 million) were 8% less than a year earlier and represent the second-lowest number of placements in June since the series began in 1996.

"Cattle feeders have become weary from buying in an active and competitive market, and selling in one that is not," say AMS analysts. "The business has lost its luster of trading slim losses for the opportunity to hit occasional homeruns, turning instead to scant profits on outstanding performing cattle amid bankruptcy-sized wrecks. Several small to mid-sized custom feeding yards in the Southern Plains now have padlocks on the front gate and the number of independent cattle feeding investors or cow-calf producers who want to maintain ownership shrinks every year. The industry is now overwhelmed by corporate feeders or conglomerate subsidiaries that operate

on economies of scale and the slim margin of the basis between cash and futures. The option of feeding out cattle to many calf producers or backgrounders has become most unlikely."



Talk to your legislators

Released by NCBA 8/4/09

The U.S. House will be on recess Aug. 3-Sept. 8. The U.S. Senate adjourns Aug. 8-Sept. 8. During this month-long recess, members of Congress will be back in their districts and states to meet with constituents. This is an opportune time to talk to them about the issues and how they affect the cattle industry. The biggest issues to discuss with members are ANTIBIOTICS, CAP and TRADE and the CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT.

NCBA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

NCBA will be holding its 2009 Legislative Conference Sept. 14-17 in Washington, D.C. Housing and most meetings will be held at the newly renovated The Liaison Capitol Hill, an Affinia Hotel.

Time is running out!

Are you 70 1/2 or older? Do you know someone who is 70 1/2 or older? Do you or they own an IRA or other tax qualified asset? Time is running out!

You only have until December 31, 2009 to make the most tax efficient donation to the Missouri Cattlemen Foundation that the IRS has probably ever allowed.

You will probably never have this chance again to help to children of Missouri with the help of the IRS. Yes, the IRS will help you contribute to the foundation.

Call your tax preparer and call our partners at APEX Financial LLC to find out if you qualify for this exciting opportunity. Call 800-843-9429 or 573-876-6011 and tell them you want to talk about a Missouri Cattlemen Foundation Contribution.

Remember time is running out! You have until December 31 to take advantage of this opportunity.

As always, MCA Membership is the key to the success of the organization. Without producers who back our association our voice is not as strong. Ask your friend, neighbor and fellow cattlemen to join the thousands of cattlemen in supporting the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

For more industry news visit:

[Missouri Cattlemen's Association Website](#)

[Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation Website](#)

[Missouri Beef Industry Council Website](#)

[National Cattlemen's Beef Association Website](#)

[Missouri Department of Agriculture Website](#)

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Do you have questions, comments or suggestions?

Would you like to advertise in our newsletter?

If so, please contact Kaity Kerwin at (573) 499-9162 (Ext. 233) or kaity@mocattle.com.