



August 14, 2009

In This Issue

[Time to fire up for the Beef House!](#)

[Senate passes fiscal year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Bill](#)

[Did you know?](#)

[CWT to remove nearly 87,000 cows](#)

[Tiger Ag Classic is approaching](#)

[Members to receive discount with Mellor Trailers](#)

[Foundation Charity Weekend and Trail Ride](#)

[Article Headline](#)

[Organic food is no healthier than conventional](#)

[Save your Ralgro Wheels](#)

[COOL heats up in Canada and Mexico](#)

[Dead Animal Disposal Issues](#)

[Survey on unwanted horses calls problem 'staggering'](#)

[NCBA submits comments on](#)

Support your Industry! Eat at the Beef House!

The State Fair is finally here! Be sure to stop by the Beef House for a juicy beef burger or delicious steak dinner to support agriculture and the beef industry.

Plus: Please contact your county leader to sign up for your county's shift at the Beef House.

Senate Passes Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Bill

Released by NCBA 8/4/09

Late today, the Senate passed their version of the Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Bill (HR 2997) by a vote of 80 to 17. Here is a recap of the amendments that NCBA engaged in:

-Sen. Mike Johanns (R-Nebraska) offered an amendment to provide \$3 million to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to make indemnity payments to producers who are required to depopulate their herds due to bovine tuberculosis. Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Herb Kohl (D-Wisconsin) objected to the amendment, so we doubled back with Democrat and Republican offices last night and this morning and eventually got the amendment accepted by unanimous consent (UC) today on the floor. APHIS has been short on funds for depopulation, and while the \$3 million won't cover all of our needs, it is an improvement over nothing.

-Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wisconsin) and Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) offered an amendment that would require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance and data to other Federal agencies in investigating agricultural mergers. NCBA opposed this amendment as it is another example from this same pool of Senators of big government intrusion into the marketplace. We had several Senators object on our behalf and the amendment was thus not offered on the floor.

-Sen. Jon Tester (D-Montana) offered an amendment that would reduce USDA funding for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) by 50%.

[NAIS](#)

[Exciting IRA opportunity](#)

Upcoming Events & Meetings

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.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

This amendment goes hand-in-hand with NCBA's support of a voluntary system. Although NCBA did not make a push on this amendment, it was accepted by the Committee without a vote. Since the House of Representatives eliminated all funding for the NAIS, the conference committee will have to decide how much, if any, funding the program will eventually receive.

-Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona) filed 303 amendments to strike earmarks from the bill, several of which were cattle or beef specific. NCBA engaged with Committee staff to flag these amendments, but ultimately, none of the cattle amendments were brought up.

Highlights of funding included in the bill:

\$13,157,000 for cattle fever tick control

\$429,000 for tropical bont tick control

\$9,707,000 for Brucellosis eradication

\$76,281,000 for Wildlife Services operations

\$15,764,000 for the bovine TB program (of which, \$3 million will be earmarked for depopulation indemnity payments per the Johanns amendment)

The bill will now go to conference committee where the House and Senate will settle the differences between their bills and finalize all funding. That should take place in September.

Did you know?

The Beef House at the Missouri State Fair is open every day from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Items on the menu include:

Ribeye Dinner

Ribeye Sandwich

Steak Salad

Cheese Burger

Beef Burger

BBQ Beef Sandwich

Beef Hotdog

*Be sure to stop by the Beef House during your time
at the Missouri State Fair.*

CWT to remove nearly 87,000 Cows

Released by Cattle Network 8/5/09

Cooperatives Working Together announced today that it has tentatively accepted 294 bids in the third herd retirement it has conducted in the last

nine months. The 86,710 cows and 1.8 billion pounds of milk accepted in this round, combined with CWT's previous two herd retirements, equal a total production capacity of 4.8 billion pounds of milk being removed since December 2008.

This is the second-largest herd retirement since the farmer-funded self-help program started in 2003. The previous retirement round completed in July removed a record 101,000 cows and 1.96 billion pounds of milk.

"These two summer 2009 herd retirements, combined with the USDA's recent price support increases, should result in very positive movement in dairy farmers' milk prices," says Jerry Kozak, president and chief executive officer of the National Milk Producers Federation, which administers CWT.

Farmers in 38 states submitted a total of 312 herd retirement bids last month to CWT. This eighth CWT herd retirement in the past six years was also the first to feature a maximum acceptable bid threshold of \$5.25 per cwt. It was also the quickest herd retirement following a previous round, which is an indication "that there is still an interest on the part of our members to use CWT to remove more cows, even though the program has been very active in 2008 and to date in 2009," notes Kozak. This round is removing 3,104 bred heifers.

Kozak adds that "CWT stands ready to conduct yet additional herd retirements later this year in order to help address the severe supply-demand imbalance that has depressed farm-level milk prices. We intend to use all the resources at our disposal to help farmers deal with this severe economic crunch that they're confronting," he says.

Starting next week, CWT field auditors will begin visiting the 294 farms whose bids were accepted, checking their milk production records, inspecting their herds, and tagging each cow for processing. All farmers will be notified no later than Aug. 31, as to whether their bid was among those accepted.

Once CWT field auditors inspect and accept the herds offered as part of the bidding process, farmers have 15 days in which to send their animals to a processing plant. CWT will again provide each farmer the NMPF animal handling guidelines for the proper culling and transporting of dairy cattle, Kozak says.

Producers whose bids are accepted in this herd retirement will be paid in two installments: 90 percent of the amount bid times the producer's 12 months of milk production when it is verified that that all cows have gone to slaughter, and the remaining 10 percent plus interest at the end of 12 months following the farm audit, if both the producer and his dairy facility - whether owned or leased - do not become involved in the commercial production and marketing of milk during that period.

Source: Cooperatives Working Together

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.

Foundation Charity Weekend and Trail Ride

Whether you like horseback riding or just want to relax and enjoy a beautiful fall weekend, the Texas County Cattlemen's Association, Golden Hills Resort and Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation want you to escape to southern Missouri for a great fall getaway.

Contact Katie Steen with Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation for more information at katiesteen@mocattle.com or at (573) 449-4923. Or visit www.mocattlemenfoundation.com for a registration brochure.



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

Organic food is no healthier than conventional

Released by Cow-Calf Weekly 8/7/09

Organic food has no nutritional or health benefits over ordinary food, according to a major study published last week in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Researchers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine said consumers were paying higher prices for organic food because of its perceived health benefits. But research commissioned by the British government's Food Standards Agency and consisting of a systematic review of 162 scientific papers published over the last 50 years found no significant difference between organic and conventionally raised food.

"A small number of differences in nutrient content were found to exist between organically and conventionally produced foodstuffs, but these are unlikely to be of any public health relevance," said Alan Dangour, one of the report's authors, reports Reuters.

"Our review indicates that there is currently no evidence to support the selection of organically over conventionally produced foods on the basis of nutritional superiority."

In response, the Organic Trade Association said nutrition and health is "more

than just nutrient density."

Marion Nestle, Paulette Goddard Professor of Nutrition, Food Studies and Public Health at New York University, posed the question: "Doesn't a food system that avoids the use of pesticides, synthetic growth hormones and antibiotics while building healthy soil and protecting natural resources promote health and nutrition? I certainly think so."

"I buy organic products because I want foods to be produced more naturally, more humanely, and more sustainably. I see plenty of good reasons to buy organic foods, and this study does not even begin to address them," she said.

-- Reuters and OTA

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!

COOL heats up in Canada and Mexico

Released by Drovers 7/20/09

Country of origin labeling hasn't been getting much attention in the U.S. lately, but the issue is hot north and south of our borders as producers blame the policy for lower prices and lost revenue.

Participants in the Live Cattle Marketing Committee at the Beef Industry Summer Conference in Denver last week heard an update on COOL, including comments from representatives of Canadian and Mexican cattlemen.

Collin Woodall, NCBA executive director for legislative affairs, says COOL has been low on the agenda in Washington DC since USDA's final rule took effect in March, as the economy and other priorities take precedence. He adds that the industry does not have any good data to indicate how the law has affected beef or cattle prices in the United States. NCBA is working with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service to develop an analysis, but progress is slow.

The impact on our NAFTA trading partners, however, is more clear, said Canadian and Mexican representatives at the meeting.

According to the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA), COOL has forced prices lower for fed cattle shipped to the United States, and added shipping

costs and more shrink to Canadian cattle shipped to U.S. feedyards. Fed-cattle prices in Canada are based largely on the U.S. price, minus shipping costs, so Canadian cattle feeders are taking a hit whether they export cattle or not, according to CCA. The prices for Canadian beef shipped to the United States meanwhile, have been largely unaffected by COOL. In response, the Canadian government, with support of CCA, is pursuing action through the World Trade Organization. If the WTO rules in Canada's favor, the country could impose retaliation in the form of tariffs on U.S. goods. Canada currently is our top export customer for food and agricultural products, purchasing \$16.2 billion in American products in 2008.

Mexico is our second-largest customer for food and agricultural exports, and producers there say COOL has reduced the value of their fed cattle by \$80 to \$100 per head as a limited number of U.S. plants slaughter Mexican cattle, and purchase them at reduced prices. Like in Canada, the value of Mexican fed cattle is driven by their value in the United States, meaning the entire market is affected. Mexican officials say the difference in value between Mexican-origin and U.S.-origin beef in U.S. retail markets is small, suggesting processors and retailers are cashing in on the lower value of Mexican cattle.

Mexico also is moving forward with a complaint through the WTO. The country also is due to review its policy of duties on imported meats early next year, and there is some concern the government could decide to increase duties on U.S. meat in retaliation for COOL.

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

Survey on unwanted horses calls problem 'staggering'

Released by Livestock Marketing Association 8/6/09

Supporters, like LMA, of humane horse slaughter have always said it was necessary to help deal with the problem of unwanted horses. Now a new survey on unwanted horses found the problem is "staggering." According to an article in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medicine Association, a group called The Unwanted Horse Coalition developed two questionnaires on the subject, one for horse owners and a second for industry stakeholders.

The surveys generated more than 27,000 responses - about 20,000 from horse owners - in two weeks. Rescue and retirement facilities said they're turning away horses, with 39 percent at full capacity and another 30 percent near capacity. Horse owners said the number of euthanized horses is increasing, as is the number of abused and neglected horses as confirmed by hundreds of eyewitness reports of horses turned loose, abandoned or left to starve.

The survey's executive report said, "Speculating there is an alarming rise...in unwanted horses is one thing. Hearing that alarm sounded and confirmed by thousands of responses from all across the country is another. The results of this study help to document the magnitude of the problem and its effects."

Dr. Nat Messer is a professor of equine medicine and surgery at the University of Missouri's Veterinary College, and on the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee. He discussed some causes of the problem. USDA, he said, estimates that about 100,000 horses go unwanted every year. "But the closure of the slaughter plants in 2006-2007 has eliminated an avenue for disposing of unwanted horses. That is about the time the economy went into the tank, and feed and fuel prices increased, which compounded the problem. In 2008, over 150,000 unwanted horses were exported for slaughter, so there was a significant increase in unwanted horses due to the economy."



NCBA submits comments on the National Animal Identification System

Released in NCBA's Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns 8/9/09

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) on Tuesday submitted the following to comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) with regards to a National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

"As the oldest and largest national association for cattle producers, we represent 230,000 cattle farmers and ranchers through our membership and the membership of our state and breed affiliates. NCBA policy is generated at the grassroots level, is debated by producers, and is voted on by all NCBA members before it is finalized.

"NCBA recognizes and supports the need for a National Animal Identification System for the purpose of enabling state and federal animal health officials to respond rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies, such as foreign animal disease outbreaks or emerging domestic diseases. We also support

the use of animal identification systems for genetic improvement and marketing arrangements. In fact, albeit recognizing the need for continued refinements to be developed, NCBA policy supports the adoption of the NAIS as the national animal identification program.

"NCBA has encouraged our members to participate in animal identification systems, and has produced and implemented a media campaign to get producers to register their premises. Many of our members already participate voluntarily in numerous animal identification programs as one of many tools to improve their herds, monitor disease, and better market their cattle. The private sector plays a tremendous role in the administration of these voluntary programs, and NCBA believes that private sector involvement and the resulting competitive market forces benefit producers while maintaining the objectives of the NAIS.

"However, our members continue to have concerns with NAIS, which is why NCBA's policy supports a voluntary - rather than a mandatory - system. The first concern is that private producers' confidential information would be housed in a USDA-maintained database. The federal government does not have a strong track record of preventing the leak of private information. Furthermore, USDA has not been able to guarantee us that the information in a mandatory system would be protected from release under a Freedom of Information (FOIA) request. USDA's own Office of General Counsel has told us and the House Agriculture Committee that protection is different between a voluntary and mandatory system.

"Another concern is the need for a system that will move at the speed of commerce. The working, processing, and marketing of cattle cannot slow down in order to be scanned and entered into the system.

"Finally, we want to make it very clear that animal ID is NOT a food safety tool. There are many firewalls and inspection procedures in place to keep our beef supply safe. The NAIS will not serve to enhance food safety, nor was it intended to. Additionally, animal ID does not prevent animal disease; it is merely a tool to respond to an animal health emergency.

"In short, NCBA encourages USDA to develop an efficient system that meets the needs of the country's beef producers by:

- Minimizing additional costs to the beef industry
- Maintaining the confidentiality of producer, animal, and premises information
- Operating at the speed of commerce
- Integrating private-sector databases
- Ensuring that the system is phased-in within and between species
- Providing that any animal tracking database should be user friendly to producers of all sizes
- Ensuring that current or future business plans include significantly more details to allow producers to understand day to day impacts of the plan, prior to the final rule-making process

"NCBA is committed to working with USDA in working towards these, and other continued refinements to NAIS, and we look forward to these discussions in the further development of a workable system."

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](#)

This newsletter is a publication of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association. All rights reserved - this newsletter may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, without permission of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

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.