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16 Missouri ag groups support "Meat the Need" proposal

Released by the Missouri Dairy and Pork Associations 10/23/09

Chesterfield, Mo.,-Sixteen Missouri agricultural organizations have asked Missouri's Congressional Delegation to support The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) "Meat the Need" proposal to address the critical economic situation facing dairy, pork and poultry farmers, while simultaneously providing much-needed nutritional assistance to people facing hunger due to job loss and other economic hardships.

Signing the joint letter were the Missouri Dairy Association, Missouri Dairy Growth Council, Central Equity Dairy Cooperative, FCS Financial, Missouri Agribusiness Association (MO-AG), Missouri Association of Electric Cooperatives, Missouri Bankers Association, Missouri Cattlemen's Association, Missouri Corn Growers Association, Missouri Egg Council, MFA, Inc., Missouri Farmers Union, Missouri Pork Association, Missouri Soybean Association, Missouri Veterinary Medical Association and The Poultry Federation.

"This is one of the broadest Missouri ag coalitions to ever come together to stress the urgency for action by the Administration," says Dave Drennan, Missouri Dairy Association (MDA) executive director. "We have requested our Congressional Delegation to urge the President and his Administration to reallocate Federal Stimulus funding immediately for this proposal.

"The NASDA Plan would establish a tiered-purchase program for dairy and pork products, as well as a one-time purchase of turkey products. This would remove excess meat and dairy products from the market and place them into food assistance programs," says Drennan.

"The implementation timing of this program is critical to improving the lives of millions of Americans who produce the food and for those struggling to put food on the table," says Don Nikodim, executive director of the Missouri Pork Association.

"Missouri's livestock producers are facing a crisis due to a variety of issues, including Governmental action which has drastically increased production costs, and Governmental inaction in regard to opening international markets. This combined with a weak worldwide economy, increased energy costs and supply issues are causing billions of dollars in losses and driving farmers out of business through no fault of their own."

[Secretary Vilsack says](#)

[Exciting IRA opportunity](#)

Upcoming Events & Meetings

"Currently, dairy producers are losing \$5.00 a hundredweight on their milk and pork producers are losing around \$25.00 per hog. At the same time, nearly 36 million Americans are participating in the nation's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - a 21% increase from July 2008 to July 2009. Support to put meat and milk into the SNAP program is a win-win for producers and consumers," concludes Drennan.

2009 Convention Info

42nd Missouri Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show

Dec. 11 & 12

University Plaza Hotel/Springfield Expo Center - Springfield, Mo.

For a schedule of events, visit www.mocattle.com.

See below for information on the Mellor Trailer partnership information.

We are now accepting recommendations for award recipients-

- Cattlemen of the Year
- Pioneer Award
- Beef Industry Award.
- Candidates for officers and Regional VP's for 1,3,5, and 7.
 - Regional VP's for 1 (Steve Kreuger), 5 (Gary Copenhaver) and 7 (Ben Fizette) are eligible for re-election to finish out their two year terms.
- 2nd Vice President

Any resolutions need to be submitted to the office **prior to Nov. 20th.**

Foundation/PAC Bull Auction

- The first-ever Foundation/PAC Bull Auction will be at 3 p.m. Saturday.
- Donors have given a live animal, buyer's choice or credit in their respective production sales.
- Proceeds of this auction will benefit Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation, MCA's Political Action Committee, and Missouri's Junior Cattlemen.

We are now accepting donations for the MCF live auction on Friday evening and the PAC silent auction during the trade show on Saturday.

2009 Awards for Excellence Program

Grand Prize: Portable Scales

Donated by MFA Inc. and Tru-Test.

The grand prize will be awarded to 2009's most outstanding county organization from the Missouri Cattlemen's Association during the Missouri Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention & Trade Show in Springfield on December 12th.

Contact the MCA office for more details at (573)499-9162.

Attention 2009 Top Hand Recruiters!

MFA is giving away a Mira Fount Waterer to one top hand recruiter! The drawing will take place during Convention and the prize will be

cfoster@ytex.com

St. Joseph, Mo.

Bates County

Nov. 10, 7 p.m.

Midwest Lumber and Supply

Butler, Mo.

MCA Executive Meeting

Nov. 12, 10 a.m.

Cattle Industry Headquarters

Columbia, Mo.

Polk County

Nov. 12, 7 p.m.

Smith's Restaurant

Pettis County

Nov. 14, 6 p.m.

MCA Convention and Trade Show

Dec. 11 & 12

University Plaza
Hotel/Springfield Expo Center
Springfield, Mo.

Young Cattlemen's Conference

Feb. 23 & 24

MCA Headquarters

Columbia, Mo.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

awarded during the Awards Banquet on Saturday night.

Missouri Cattlemen's Association would like to thank MFA Inc. and Tru-Test, two long-time supporters of MCA. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Thank you MFA & Tru-Test!

County affiliates may go online to print off Awards for Excellence forms. These forms are due by Dec. 1.

Pre-Registration Brochures are also available online. These forms are due by Nov. 17.

Remember that members must be pre-registered to be eligible to win the one-year use of an Elite Trailer from Mellor Trailers in Boonville. See below for more information.



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.

Farm states may copy Ohio vote on livestock rules

Released by the CattleNetwork.com 10/28/09

Ohio voters will decide next week whether to create a board overseeing livestock care in a move that could give farmers in rural America a blueprint for battling animal rights groups intent on outlawing cramped cages for chickens and hogs.

Agriculture industry leaders pushed the issue onto the state ballot, hoping to thwart an attempt by animal rights activists who were threatening to force farmers to change how they house livestock.

Voters in California, Florida and Arizona already have approved measures that require more space for confined farm animals. Lawmakers in Colorado, Maine, Michigan and Oregon have adopted similar rules.

Supporters of the changes say animals raised for food deserve humane treatment. Opponents argue the regulations will force farmers to make costly changes that could put them out of business and drive up the price of eggs, chicken, pork and beef.

That's why Ohio's agriculture leaders decided to take a shot at creating a livestock board that would include farmers and animal care experts.

Voters in Ohio - often a crucial swing state in national elections - will decide Tuesday whether to approve Issue 2 in what could be a significant decision for farmers nationwide.

"We've tried to model this in a way that other states can look at it," said Jack Fisher, executive vice president of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. "This involves farmers, ranchers, everyone in the food chain."

Animal rights groups, led by the Humane Society of the United States, are targeting the 24 states that allow signature-driven petitions to appear on their ballots.

It's an easier process than trying to go through the legislatures. And campaigns in California and elsewhere have shown that voters respond to the Humane Society's pitch that farmers shouldn't be allowed to use such practices as housing laying hens in cages smaller than an 8-inch-by-11-inch sheet of paper.

"People have similar views about these issues everywhere," said Wayne Pacelle, president and chief executive of the Humane Society of the United States. "In California, we won in urban, suburban and rural areas."

A survey, he said, showed that there's not one state where people favor gestation crates that allow little movement for sows giving birth.

Big farm operators say animals rights groups are telling only part of the story.

"They argue on the emotional level," said Scott Stuart, president of the National Livestock Producers Association, which is based in Colorado Springs, Colo. "They don't pay attention to the science at all."

Those within the industry say they need to do a better job of explaining why confining animals makes sense. They contend that cages protect the animals from predators and each other, keep barns cleaner and make it easier to inspect and treat the animals.

Too many people think of farm animals like the family pet, said Toby Moore, a spokesman for the USA Poultry & Egg Export Council in Stone Mountain, Ga.

"They've had talking farm animals in the movies for years," he said. "People truly don't understand agriculture. They just see cages as inhumane and cruel."

Until now, farmers have been caught off guard by the push to eliminate cages and other practices.

"We're used to producing food. That's never been questioned before," said Jay Rempe, a lobbyist for the Nebraska Farm Bureau. "It's caused agriculture to reach out and think about the consumer."

The Ohio Farm Bureau has opened the Center for Food and Animal Issues to get out its message on farm animal, pet and research issues.

The organization and its backers expect to spend \$3 to \$5 million in support of Issue 2, a constitutional amendment that would create a 13-member Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board.

Members would include Ohio's agriculture director, family farmers, veterinarians, a representative of a local humane society and consumers.

Interest in the outcome is high, especially in the Midwest.

"This is Humane Society of the United States' first venture into the heartland, the bread basket," Fisher said. "This is a new test for the industry."

Approval of Issue 2 would not prevent animal rights groups from trying to ban farm animal cages, but it would force them to gather more signatures for a spot on the ballot.

"We'll have to see how this plays out," Pacelle said. "We don't intend to relent and allow this very unfair outcome to stand."

Checking in on the Checkoff

Pat Wood, Sedalia (re-elected)

John Ridder, Marthasville

Gerald Campbell, Licking (re-elected)

*Congratulations to these newly elected board members!
There are a total of 13 board members from across the state
that oversee the checkoff funded programs in Missouri*

Learn more at www.mobeeff.com, www.mybeefcheckoff.com or email john@mobeeff.com

Stockmanship and Stewardship Program at Soaring Hope Equestrian Center

Released by Colin Foster of Soaring Hope Equestrian Center

On November 9th, at 6:00PM two great programs are working together for an evening of education and the lending of a helping hand. The NCBA's Stockmanship and Stewardship program is coming to the Soaring Hope Equestrian Center in St. Joseph, MO.

A fun-filled evening with educational demonstrations, a dinner for all in attendance, door prizes, and an auction to help support the Soaring Hope Equestrian Center is planned. The Stockmanship and Stewardship program will feature Curt Pate and Ron Gill using live cattle demonstrations to teach effective stockmanship skills and provide the latest information regarding livestock handling and performance. For more information see the attached flyer or visit www.effectivelivestockmanship.com.

Soaring Hope Equestrian Center is a faith based not-for-profit organization that uses horses to help physically, emotionally, and mental challenged children and to assist with their rehabilitation. All the cost of funding this program comes from private and corporate donations.

As a leader in the agriculture industry, we are asking for a donation from you for the auction benefiting Soaring Hope Equestrian Center to be held in conjunction with the evening's events. We also need small items that will help promote your business for door prizes. All of these items go to help us continue the work we have started with these special kids. All of your donations are tax deductible and are going to help share the way of life we enjoy in the agriculture industry. Please visit www.soaringhope.net for more details on this great charity and therapeutic rehabilitation program.

To donate, please contact Colin Foster at 816-253-9164 or email at cfoster@ytex.com or Jeff Anslinger at 816-244-7340 or email at jacross@centurytel.net. Donations may be sent to Soaring Hope Equestrian Center, 9380 SE Hillyard Road, Easton, MO 64443.

We welcome your attendance at the event. Directions: Take Highway 169 South (toward Gower) from I-29 exit 44 approximately 5 miles. Turn north

(left) on SE Hillyard Road just after you cross the Platte River bridge; go approximately ¼ mile to the first driveway on the right which is Soaring Hope. Signs will be in place to assist you.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to hearing from you.

Colin Foster

Central Missouri Feed and Supply offers members discount

Central Missouri Feed and Supply is partnering with Missouri Cattlemen's Association to offer a 5 percent discount to all MCA members when they purchase electronic fence supplies. Plus, every time that 5 percent discount is used, another 5 percent goes to MCA.

For more information, contact Brian Lease, owner of Central Missouri Feed and Supply.

2707 W Rt. F
Clark, MO 65243

(573) 641-5639

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threbarl@socket.net

Cattlemen urge EPA not to regulate agriculture out of business

Released by NCBA 10/30/09

WASHINGTON (October 30, 2009) - The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) criticized flawed and inconclusive science in an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Particulate Matter (i.e. dust).

The study was done as part of a required review of the coarse particulate matter standards. "Coarse particulate matter is nothing more than the dust kicked up by cars or trucks traveling on dirt roads, a tractor tilling a field, or cattle moving around on dirt," explains Tamara Thies, NCBA's Chief Environmental Council. "Studies do not show that rural dust is a health concern."

In 2006, EPA set coarse particulate matter standard of 150 micrograms per cubic meter of air. When EPA began reviewing the NAAQS in 2008, they determined that the evidence of health effects from this level of coarse particulate matter was inconclusive.

In July 2009, however, EPA reinterpreted that inconclusive evidence and

made use of a flawed study to suggest that there are adverse health effects from dust at levels that are ten times lower than the current standard.

"EPA is suggesting a level of 12 to 15 micrograms of dust per cubic meter of air," says Thies. "That is below naturally occurring levels of dust throughout many Western states-including pristine National parks."

If EPA were to set the air standards at this level, much of the country would be over the limit. "Cattle producers are concerned about this because it would limit our ability to raise livestock, who kick up dust as they walk around," Thies says. "But this issue goes well beyond agriculture. States would be required to impose extreme control requirements and limitations on many businesses to ensure that the standard is met."

"We are urging EPA to reject this faulty study and refrain from setting an air quality standard for dust lower than naturally occurring levels, and effectively halting economic growth and development."

Visit [Missouri Farmer Today!](http://www.missourifarmertoday.com)

State Department of Agriculture proposes emergency rule change to provide need assistance

Released by the Missouri Department of Agriculture 10/26/09

(JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.) - The Missouri Department of Agriculture and the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA) are proposing an emergency rule change to the Single Purpose Animal Loan Guarantee Program to help extend credit to Missouri's producers. Ag industries, especially dairy and pork, continue to face high input costs and sustained low sell prices well below the cost of production.

"The Department is committed to taking a proactive approach in finding opportunities to reduce the dire economic impacts affecting our agricultural

community," said Director of Agriculture Dr. Jon Hagler. "We have asked our affiliated boards to investigate all possible options and tools within their disposal to find ways to provide assistance for Missouri's number one industry. This proposed rule change stems from that effort and piggybacks nicely on national efforts to stabilize prices."

The Single Purpose Animal Loan Guarantee Program provides a 50 percent guarantee on loans up to \$250,000 that banks and other lenders make to independent producers. The current rules for this program do not include options for refinancing or loans for operating capital. Therefore, MASBDA is proposing an emergency rule change to open up the program to qualified farmers from all agricultural sectors. The emergency rule change is effective November 2, 2009.

"This proposed change is consistent with the mission of MASBDA and will provide much needed assistance to producers at a critical time," stated Jeff Case, chairman of MASBDA. "The general economic downturn and the current credit crunch have impacted all of agriculture and the dairy and pork industries in particular."

For more information about financial assistance offered by the Department of Agriculture, visit mda.mo.gov or call MASBDA at (573) 751-2129.

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!

September beef production down, pork output sets new record

Released by the Livestock Marketing Association 10/27/09

September U.S. beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was two percent below September, 2008, according to USDA's September Livestock Slaughter report. Pork production, however, set a new record for the month, at 2.00 billion pounds, up 25 million pounds from the previous high hit a year ago.

Cattle slaughter for the month totaled 2.81 million head, down three percent from a year ago, while the average live weight, 1,311 pounds, was up 14 pounds from the previous year. Calf slaughter was 81,200 head, down seven percent from September, 2008. The average live weight was down seven

pounds from last year, at 244 pounds.

NAIS will change, USDA Secretary Vilsack says

Released by Livestock Marketing Association 10/28/09

This summer, USDA hosted 14 nationwide "listening sessions" on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) - sessions that drew overwhelming opposition to the program. So it should come as no surprise that in a recent interview, Vilsack said the program will change.

"I have a very clear idea of what we want to do. It's just the matter of getting the sign-off to say this is what we propose...it's significantly different than what the system is today, and responsive to the concerns that were expressed by the cattle producers in particular."

Vilsack said he couldn't specifically say what USDA will propose, or when it will be made public. It has to go through the proper channels outside the agency, a process that "could take four weeks, it could take six weeks. It could take longer than that. I just don't know."

He added, "What I will say is this. What we have been doing is clearly not working. Congress has lost confidence in what we have attempted to do, as reflected in the fact there is less money available to do it." The fiscal year 2010 ag spending bill cut NAIS funding to \$5.3 million, from the administration's request for \$14.6 million.

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.