



May 1, 2009

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## CALL TO ACTION: Call the Senate and Oppose a Mark-up of the Clean Water Restoration Act

*Released by NCBA 4/30/09*

**The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee plans to hold a mark-up of S. 787 - the Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA) of 2009 NEXT THURSDAY, May 7th.** S. 787 is being sponsored by Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) and currently has 24 co-sponsors.

CWRA changes the definition of "waters of the United States" to remove the word "navigable" from the federal Clean Water Act, which could cause all waters to fall under federal jurisdiction. This would result in a HUGE land grab by the federal government and the taking of your private property rights. This is the same bill that was introduced and in the House during the last Congress.

NCBA is strongly opposed to this bill and is urging the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to NOT MARK-UP THIS BILL.

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN OPPOSING THIS MARK-UP!

Below is a list of the members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

**If your Senator is ON THE COMMITTEE,**  
**\* Please CALL him or her at both their WASHINGTON, D.C. Office as well as their DISTRICT OFFICE and urge them to NOT HOLD a MARK-UP on S. 787.**

\* Please CALL your OTHER SENATOR and URGE him or her to OPPOSE S. 787 and to TALK TO MEMBERS OF THE EPA COMMITTEE and OPPOSE a MARK-UP

**If your member is NOT on the Committee,**  
**\* Please CALL YOUR SENATORS and URGE THEM TO OPPOSE S. 787 and to TALK TO THE MEMBERS OF THE EPW COMMITTEE and OPPOSE A MARK-UP.**

\* Please CALL the EPW Committee at 202 224 832 and OPPOSE a S. 787 MARK-UP

\* To find the Washington, D.C. and District Office phone numbers for your Senators, please click this link:

[http://capwiz.com/beefusa/dbq/officials/?affiliate\\_lookup=1](http://capwiz.com/beefusa/dbq/officials/?affiliate_lookup=1) Then click on your state and you will be taken to the contact information for your elected

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If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me, Elizabeth Bostdorff, at 202 879 9128 or ebostdorff@beef.org.

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Amy Klobuchar (D) - MN: 202 224 3244  
Christopher Bond (R) - MO: 202 224 5721  
Max Baucus (D) - MT: 202 224 2651  
Frank Lautenberg (D) - NJ: 202 224 3224  
Tom Udall (D) - NM: 202 224 5941  
Kirsten Gillibrand (D) - NY: 202 224 4451  
George Voinovich (R) - OH: 202 224 3353  
James Inhofe (R) - OK: 202 224 4721  
Jeff Merkley (D) - OR: 202 224 3753  
Arlen Specter (D) - PA: 202 224 4254  
Sheldon Whitehouse (D) - RI: 202 224 2921  
Lamar Alexander (R) - TN: 202 224 4944  
Bernard Sanders (I) - VT: 202 224 5141  
John Barrasso (R) - WY: 202 224 6441

## **ATTENTION: Junior Cattlemen**

All-Breeds Junior Show & Missouri Beef Leadership Conference around the corner

The **2009 MCA All-Breeds Junior Show** will take place June 12-14th at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia. Registration information was mailed out this week so be looking out for it in your mail box and it is also available online at [www.mocattle.com/jrshow.htm](http://www.mocattle.com/jrshow.htm). Again this year we will be doing the "Design a T-shirt" contest where the winner of the contest will see their creativity on the shirts of all the exhibitors during the weekend.

Deadline for pre-entry is May 15.

The first **Missouri Beef Leadership Conference** is also scheduled for this coming June in Columbia, Missouri. There is still space available, so if you haven't signed up yet be sure to do so. This event will be full of educational, informational and fun events. This year's MBLC theme is "Show-Me Beef Leadership" and will be held on June 4-6. For more information visit

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## **UNL Research Further Confirms Dried Distillers Grains Positive to Reproduction**

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University of Nebraska research shows that feeding dried distillers grains to developing heifers not only provides an excellent source of energy and protein for growth but also improves reproduction.

UNL animal scientists conducted a two-year study at two locations in Nebraska to determine if supplementing beef heifers with dried distillers grains as an energy source affected growth or reproduction.

Dried distillers grains are co-produced during the fermentation process of ethanol production, making them an economical feed choice for cattle producers due to Nebraska's ethanol industry, said Rick Funston, beef cattle reproductive physiologist at UNL's West Central Research and Extension Center at North Platte.

"Ethanol production is an important industry in Nebraska, and this could potentially enhance the profitability of ethanol production from corn," Funston said.

However, cattle producers have concerns about lack of research related to possible effects of feeding dried distillers grains in developing heifer diets.

UNL scientists found that supplementing beef heifers with dried distillers grains during development did not affect age at puberty, and actually improved artificial insemination conception and pregnancy rates compared with a supplement similar in energy, crude protein and fat. Distillers grains have about 120 percent the energy of corn in forage diets and contain relatively high levels of crude protein, Funston said.

"This can make them an economically feasible energy source in replacement heifer diets," he said.

With Nebraska producers maintaining an inventory of about 2 million beef cows, at a modest 15 percent replacement rate, this represents almost 300,000 replacement heifers annually, which could equate to an additional demand of 210,000 tons of distillers grains, he said.

The studies were conducted at UNL's Dalbey-Halleck farm near Virginia and at the Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead.

In each two-year study weaned heifer calves were fed dried distillers grains or a control supplement of dried corn gluten feed, whole corn germ and urea.

In addition to this work, current UNL research also shows favorable results when it comes to feeding other beef females dried distillers grains.

"It offers a competitive advantage of feeding cattle because of ethanol plants and gives cow-calf producers an economic advantage of using these coproducts as well," Funston said.

However, Funston warned against taking the "more is better approach with this -- don't exceed protein in the diet," Funston said. "We found that overfeeding protein is costly and greatly overfeeding protein can have negative effects on reproduction."

The research also counters previous research of other bypass protein products which demonstrated concerns of feeding bypass protein on reproduction. Dried distillers grains are high in bypass protein which means a portion of the protein bypasses the rumen and is absorbed in the small intestine. Previous work was conducted with bypass protein sources - now with limited to no access -- such as feather meal, blood meal and animal products.

"As ethanol production in Nebraska and the Great Plains expands, dried distillers grains alone may be able to provide the majority of supplemental

nutrients required in forage-based heifer development diets," Funston said.

This UNL Agricultural Research Division research is funded by the Nebraska Center for Energy Sciences Research, Nebraska Public Power District and by funds provided through the Hatch Act.

Source: Rick Funston, Ph.D., assistant professor, animal science, (308) 696-6703, rfunston2@unl.edu, dgrepro.bp09 Writer: Sandi Alswager Karstens, IANR News Service, (402) 472-3030, [salswager2@unl.edu](mailto:salswager2@unl.edu).

## Representative Parson Looking Out for Cattlemen

April 29, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in response to an ongoing problem that has affected cattlemen statewide. I am talking about petition circulators. You may come across one outside your local convenient store. They ask you to sign a petition that supports a certain stance on a particular issue. What many people are not aware of is that a vast majority of them are not Missouri citizens; these petition circulators are hired by out of state companies and are told to solicit in Missouri. Our state constitution allows the citizens of Missouri to amend the constitution more easily compared to other states. Because of this, many out of state groups take advantage of this and try to pass proposals that may not be in the best interest of Missouri. Through the initiative process, a group could acquire a predetermined number of signatures that would qualify their proposal to be put on the ballot in the next general election. Statistics show that many of these proposals that make the ballot are passed.

My problem with this process is that most of these petition circulators are not Missouri citizens. The majority of them are from out of state special interest groups that are trying to amend the Missouri constitution to benefit them, not the people. Current law only requires them to register with the Missouri Secretary of State's office and get the language for their proposals approved. I am sponsoring HB 228 because I want to change this procedure that easily allows out of state groups to amend our constitution so easily. Our federal constitution has only been changed 27 times while the Missouri constitution has been changed 110 times since its adoption in 1945. My bill will require all petition circulators to be Missouri residents. It also requires that they cannot handle more than one petition simultaneously. It is very easy for them to deceive people by discussing one petition, but getting the person to sign a completely different one. I am also concerned about forgery because many of these petition circulators get paid on a per signature basis. My bill will not allow any petitions to be passed around if that circulator gets paid based on the number of signatures he receives. Lastly, no person can qualify to become a petition circulator if they have been convicted of forgery in the past. Through a bi-partisan effort, HB 228 was approved by the House of Representatives and is now headed to the Senate.

The bottom line to this legislation is that if we are going to change the Missouri constitution then let us Missourians do it. I think you should also be aware that some of the users of this practice are animal rights activists and special interest groups that normally attack cattlemen, farmers, and our way of life. This bill passed the House of Representatives 130 to 20. Both Democrats and Republicans support this issue and it is time we do what is right for Missouri.

I am doing this because I am tired of outside influences being able to

change Missouri law without telling the people whom it will affect. No out of state group should be allowed to change our laws.

Sincerely,  
Rep. Mike Parson  
District 133, Polk and Cedar Counties

## NCBA Works to Stop Congress from Granting Massive Land Grab

*Released by NCBA's Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns 4/30/09*

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and the Public Lands Council (PLC) are actively working to prevent passage of the Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA). The bill, which is scheduled for markup in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on May 7th, would significantly expand federal jurisdiction over private farms and ranches.

"This bill is a dangerous infringement on private property rights and amounts to nothing less than a giant land grab on the part of the federal government," said Tamara Thies, NCBA chief environmental counsel.

Currently, waters under the jurisdiction of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) are defined as "navigable waters of the United States." Other waters are subject to regulation by individual states, which are better equipped to manage their own unique geographical concerns. The Clean Water Restoration Act would remove the word "navigable" from the definition, expanding federal regulatory control to unprecedented levels-putting road ditches, drainage ditches, and other wet areas on private farms and ranches under the regulatory strong-arm of the federal government. Farmers and ranchers could be required to obtain permits for common, everyday operations, like driving a tractor near an irrigation ditch or grazing cattle near a mud hole.

"All waters are not equal in terms of their environmental function and value, and they should not be regulated the same," continued Thies. "At a time when our resources are already stretched thin, it's ridiculous to expand the government's responsibility to mud holes and other wet areas with little to no environmental value to the public. Needlessly imposing additional financial burdens on an already struggling farm economy makes no sense."

Cattlemen rely on clean sources of water to maintain healthy animals and land, and the current Clean Water Act has been highly successful in achieving those goals-thanks to the strong partnership that exists between the federal and state governments which allows states flexibility to manage their own land and water in a way that makes sense. States must be allowed to maintain this flexibility.

## NCBA Shares Recommendations on Promoting Consumer Awareness of Food Safety Practices

*Released by NCBA's Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns 4/30/09*

On April 26, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) President Gary Voogt submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) regarding the agency's plans to test consumer public health messages related to the safety of meat,

poultry, and egg products. The FSIS' request for comment was published in the Federal Register on February 20th (Docket No. FSIS 2007-0038).

Each year, NCBA and The Beef Checkoff manage a variety of consumer research projects in order to assess the knowledge of beef safety among consumers. NCBA looks forward to using this expertise as we continue to work closely with FSIS towards the goal of ensuring the U.S. remains a world-leader in food safety.

The following is an excerpt from the comments:

"Consumers will always play an important role to ensure that their food is safe. The beef industry has numerous resources for consumers to learn more about proper storage, handling and cooking of beef products. Consumers can find tips and tools about safe food storage, handling and preparation, instructional videos and new burger recipes online at [www.safeandsavory160.com](http://www.safeandsavory160.com). Beef producers realize their responsibility to produce the most nutritious, safest and affordable food supply in the world. It is just as important for consumers to understand and be knowledgeable of proper handling, storage and preparation of their beef and beef products. It is within FSIS' jurisdiction to continue efforts to educate consumers about their role in keeping their food safe for their families.

"With the proposed methodology noticed in Docket Number FSIS-2007-0038 NCBA encourages FSIS to use in-home ethnographic or one-on-one sessions as respondents are less likely to discuss their lack of understanding proper food safety techniques in a group setting. Consumers may also be unlikely to state that they do not understand the current test message or that they do not take the essential steps to ensure their food is safe when other consumers are present. It is important to test new messages in a real-life environment, by age group. There will be large differences with the success of a new message when tested in a group versus in a crowded, message-filled meat case.

"Also with regards to message delivery, age groups play a significant role in how the messages should be delivered or will be considered. Younger groups may be more receptive to a short-hand message in the store that directs them to the Internet to learn more. Lastly, we recommend that the content of a new message be tested by the use of a mixture of technologies."

## Missouri BQA Program Gains Coordinator, New Goals

*By Jerilyn Johnson & Duane Dailey; Released by Missouri Ruralist 4/29/09*

Dr. Craig Payne, University of Missouri Extension veterinarian, has agreed to be coordinator of the Missouri Beef Quality Assurance program at the request of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

Payne's regular job is to educate Missouri producers on livestock health care. In addition, he teaches production beef health to future large animal veterinarians at the MU School of Veterinary Medicine. He also writes healthcare lessons for the forthcoming Missouri Master Cattlemen program working with other MU Extension specialists. Years as a working veterinarian on farms and in sale barns gives him added credibility.

Started 27 years ago, BQA is a national beef industry program designed to build consumer confidence through education and promotion of beef quality assurance practices to beef producers. A written test qualifies a producer to be BQA certified by the Missouri BQA committee. BQA has a

long history in reducing injection-site blemishes in carcasses and improving overall meat quality.

However, teaching producers to build safer handling facilities and how to move animals carefully (no beating with sticks), is a new directive being adopted by state cattle groups across the country, including Missouri. "We'll still work on blemishes," Payne says. However, the future program will educate producers further on safe and proper handling of livestock. Many producers can say, "Yeah, we do that already." However, animal wellbeing may become the most important factor in the future of animal agriculture in the state.

Jeff Windett, executive vice president of MCA, says it's time to work more proactively. MCA already has in place, through its membership code of ethics and Missouri BQA program, some important guidelines. "We believe in the best care of our livestock based on the best scientific information," Windett says. "The BQA will be bringing that to everyone's attention. By revitalizing BQA, we have a great opportunity."

Payne will be meeting with an MCA advisory committee that will lead educational policy in the statewide effort. Both Payne and Windett will be available for meetings on animal wellbeing with local cattle groups and other interested organizations. Educational meetings will start in July.

For more information, contact the MCA office at 573-499-9162, or visit [www.mocattle.org/bqa](http://www.mocattle.org/bqa).

## MCF Golf Tournament

The Missouri Cattlemen's Foundation will host their annual golf tournament at Railwood Golf Course in Holts Summit, MO on Wednesday, May 20, 2009. Registration will begin at 9:00 am and the tournament will have a shotgun start at 10:00 am. Entry fee is \$75 per team.

**Foundation License Plates** are still available for purchase.

For more details contact MCF office at (573) 499-9162.

## Winners Named in AngusSource Contest

*Released by American Angus Association 4/28/09*

Unwavering, resolute, committed-pick one, because they're all accurate descriptions of winners in the first quarter AngusSource® Carcass Challenge (ASCC). The top producers and feeders share a steady focus on raising and feeding superior cattle.

Beginning last year, the ASCC highlights those enrolled in the AngusSource genetic-, source- and age-verified program. Eligible groups of at least 38 head must be fed at a Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) partner yard.

For 10 years, Mike and Priscilla Kasten, Millersville, Mo., have been sending cattle to Irsik and Doll Feed Yard (IDFY), near Garden City, Kan. A 42-head group reached 90.5% Certified Angus Beef ® (CAB®) and Prime this year, earning them the top spot in the ASCC for the Central region and overall honors during the first quarter (January through March).

Beller Corporation, Lindsay, Neb., owned and fed the North Central regional winners. Doug, Dennis and Duane Beller purchased 46 heifers from Ken Pelster, Bartlett, Neb., that went 32.6% CAB and Prime.

IDFY looks forward to getting Kasten's cattle and seeing progress each year.

"They are the ideal feeding cattle," says Jerry Jackson, quality assurance officer at IDFY. "He works so hard at producing the animal for the rail."

Kasten attributes his carcass quality to more than 30 years of stacking genetics for marbling.

"The cattle were fed real well-we didn't have any sickness-and then it's just simply good genetics," he says.

Kasten works with neighbors in an alliance program, providing them with genetics and management expertise, in return for the option to buy back steer calves. A handful of the calves in this entry were progeny from alliance members.

"I've been working with those herds for a long time, so they're practically the same cattle," he says. With timed artificial insemination (AI), he's able to use the best bulls over a large number of females, which increases quality and uniformity. Since 1988, Kasten has tracked individual carcass and feeding data on each calf, so implementing AngusSource a few years ago was a natural fit.

"There certainly was no change in how we keep records," he says, but AngusSource provides a framework that can help any producer. "You're leaving a lot of money on the table if you don't use it," Kasten adds.

Tracking cattle is not foreign to IDFY either.

"We have a safety net; in case an animal happened to lose an eartag, we can absolutely trace it back," Jackson says, noting they're all cross-referenced to a feedlot tag. "Once they go through our processing barn for the first time, there is no excuse that we could not get that data back to people."

Challenges occasionally crop up during harvest, but IDFY makes sure information gets to ranchers.

"Mike has really used the data he's gotten back on individual animals," Jackson says. "He knows exactly where his end goals are and is working very hard to meet those goals."

Kasten is a 2004 CAB Commitment to Excellence honoree and a finalist in the National Angus Carcass Challenge (NACC) several times.

Pelster, who works with his wife Carol and brothers Dan and David, employs a similar level of detail to his ranch recordkeeping.

"I wouldn't know how to run it without them. I want to know what I've got," Pelster says.

He's used AngusSource since 2004, and every year Beller Corporation has purchased at least some of his calf crop.

"If you can get that high of quality of cattle, why would you buy other cattle and sacrifice that?" Doug Beller says. "His cattle have been proven."

Pelster calves won the steer division in the 2006 NACC with an 82% CAB acceptance rate. Beller says the quality has remained constant, but numbers were down this year because of marketing conditions.

Beller took a chance bidding on Pelster's cattle five years ago. Now he knows what they'll do, but must take similar risks each year when finding new calf suppliers. When possible, he looks to AngusSource.

"We try to find out information before we buy the cattle," he says. Although lot size and location sometimes makes it hard to fully utilize the AngusSource listing e-mails, he says, "If I see some on there from Nebraska, I definitely take a look at them."

For more information on AngusSource or the ASCC call 816-383-5100 or visit [www.AngusSource.com](http://www.AngusSource.com).

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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 Maureen Hamill at (573) 499-9162 (Ext. 233) or [maureen@mocattle.com](mailto:maureen@mocattle.com).



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The research also counters previous research of other bypass protein products which demonstrated concerns of feeding bypass protein on reproduction. Dried distillers grains are high in bypass protein which means a portion of the protein bypasses the rumen and is absorbed in the small intestine. Previous work was conducted with bypass protein sources - now with limited to no access -- such as feather meal, blood meal and animal products.

"As ethanol production in Nebraska and the Great Plains expands, dried distillers grains alone may be able to provide the majority of supplemental

nutrients required in forage-based heifer development diets," Funston said.

This UNL Agricultural Research Division research is funded by the Nebraska Center for Energy Sciences Research, Nebraska Public Power District and by funds provided through the Hatch Act.

Source: Rick Funston, Ph.D., assistant professor, animal science, (308) 696-6703, rfunston2@unl.edu, dgrepro.bp09 Writer: Sandi Alswager Karstens, IANR News Service, (402) 472-3030, [salswager2@unl.edu](mailto:salswager2@unl.edu).

## Representative Parson Looking Out for Cattlemen

April 29, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in response to an ongoing problem that has affected cattlemen statewide. I am talking about petition circulators. You may come across one outside your local convenient store. They ask you to sign a petition that supports a certain stance on a particular issue. What many people are not aware of is that a vast majority of them are not Missouri citizens; these petition circulators are hired by out of state companies and are told to solicit in Missouri. Our state constitution allows the citizens of Missouri to amend the constitution more easily compared to other states. Because of this, many out of state groups take advantage of this and try to pass proposals that may not be in the best interest of Missouri. Through the initiative process, a group could acquire a predetermined number of signatures that would qualify their proposal to be put on the ballot in the next general election. Statistics show that many of these proposals that make the ballot are passed.

My problem with this process is that most of these petition circulators are not Missouri citizens. The majority of them are from out of state special interest groups that are trying to amend the Missouri constitution to benefit them, not the people. Current law only requires them to register with the Missouri Secretary of State's office and get the language for their proposals approved. I am sponsoring HB 228 because I want to change this procedure that easily allows out of state groups to amend our constitution so easily. Our federal constitution has only been changed 27 times while the Missouri constitution has been changed 110 times since its adoption in 1945. My bill will require all petition circulators to be Missouri residents. It also requires that they cannot handle more than one petition simultaneously. It is very easy for them to deceive people by discussing one petition, but getting the person to sign a completely different one. I am also concerned about forgery because many of these petition circulators get paid on a per signature basis. My bill will not allow any petitions to be passed around if that circulator gets paid based on the number of signatures he receives. Lastly, no person can qualify to become a petition circulator if they have been convicted of forgery in the past. Through a bi-partisan effort, HB 228 was approved by the House of Representatives and is now headed to the Senate.

The bottom line to this legislation is that if we are going to change the Missouri constitution then let us Missourians do it. I think you should also be aware that some of the users of this practice are animal rights activists and special interest groups that normally attack cattlemen, farmers, and our way of life. This bill passed the House of Representatives 130 to 20. Both Democrats and Republicans support this issue and it is time we do what is right for Missouri.

I am doing this because I am tired of outside influences being able to

change Missouri law without telling the people whom it will affect. No out of state group should be allowed to change our laws.

Sincerely,  
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"This bill is a dangerous infringement on private property rights and amounts to nothing less than a giant land grab on the part of the federal government," said Tamara Thies, NCBA chief environmental counsel.

Currently, waters under the jurisdiction of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) are defined as "navigable waters of the United States." Other waters are subject to regulation by individual states, which are better equipped to manage their own unique geographical concerns. The Clean Water Restoration Act would remove the word "navigable" from the definition, expanding federal regulatory control to unprecedented levels- putting road ditches, drainage ditches, and other wet areas on private farms and ranches under the regulatory strong-arm of the federal government. Farmers and ranchers could be required to obtain permits for common, everyday operations, like driving a tractor near an irrigation ditch or grazing cattle near a mud hole.

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Cattlemen rely on clean sources of water to maintain healthy animals and land, and the current Clean Water Act has been highly successful in achieving those goals-thanks to the strong partnership that exists between the federal and state governments which allows states flexibility to manage their own land and water in a way that makes sense. States must be allowed to maintain this flexibility.

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"Consumers will always play an important role to ensure that their food is safe. The beef industry has numerous resources for consumers to learn more about proper storage, handling and cooking of beef products. Consumers can find tips and tools about safe food storage, handling and preparation, instructional videos and new burger recipes online at [www.safeandsavory160.com](http://www.safeandsavory160.com). Beef producers realize their responsibility to produce the most nutritious, safest and affordable food supply in the world. It is just as important for consumers to understand and be knowledgeable of proper handling, storage and preparation of their beef and beef products. It is within FSIS' jurisdiction to continue efforts to educate consumers about their role in keeping their food safe for their families.

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## Missouri BQA Program Gains Coordinator, New Goals

*By Jerilyn Johnson & Duane Dailey; Released by Missouri Ruralist 4/29/09*

Dr. Craig Payne, University of Missouri Extension veterinarian, has agreed to be coordinator of the Missouri Beef Quality Assurance program at the request of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

Payne's regular job is to educate Missouri producers on livestock health care. In addition, he teaches production beef health to future large animal veterinarians at the MU School of Veterinary Medicine. He also writes healthcare lessons for the forthcoming Missouri Master Cattlemen program working with other MU Extension specialists. Years as a working veterinarian on farms and in sale barns gives him added credibility.

Started 27 years ago, BQA is a national beef industry program designed to build consumer confidence through education and promotion of beef quality assurance practices to beef producers. A written test qualifies a producer to be BQA certified by the Missouri BQA committee. BQA has a

long history in reducing injection-site blemishes in carcasses and improving overall meat quality.

However, teaching producers to build safer handling facilities and how to move animals carefully (no beating with sticks), is a new directive being adopted by state cattle groups across the country, including Missouri. "We'll still work on blemishes," Payne says. However, the future program will educate producers further on safe and proper handling of livestock. Many producers can say, "Yeah, we do that already." However, animal wellbeing may become the most important factor in the future of animal agriculture in the state.

Jeff Windett, executive vice president of MCA, says it's time to work more proactively. MCA already has in place, through its membership code of ethics and Missouri BQA program, some important guidelines. "We believe in the best care of our livestock based on the best scientific information," Windett says. "The BQA will be bringing that to everyone's attention. By revitalizing BQA, we have a great opportunity."

Payne will be meeting with an MCA advisory committee that will lead educational policy in the statewide effort. Both Payne and Windett will be available for meetings on animal wellbeing with local cattle groups and other interested organizations. Educational meetings will start in July.

For more information, contact the MCA office at 573-499-9162, or visit [www.mocattle.org/bqa](http://www.mocattle.org/bqa).

## MCF Golf Tournament

The Missouri Cattlemen's Foundation will host their annual golf tournament at Railwood Golf Course in Holts Summit, MO on Wednesday, May 20, 2009. Registration will begin at 9:00 am and the tournament will have a shotgun start at 10:00 am. Entry fee is \$75 per team.

**Foundation License Plates** are still available for purchase.

For more details contact MCF office at (573) 499-9162.

## Winners Named in AngusSource Contest

*Released by American Angus Association 4/28/09*

Unwavering, resolute, committed-pick one, because they're all accurate descriptions of winners in the first quarter AngusSource® Carcass Challenge (ASCC). The top producers and feeders share a steady focus on raising and feeding superior cattle.

Beginning last year, the ASCC highlights those enrolled in the AngusSource genetic-, source- and age-verified program. Eligible groups of at least 38 head must be fed at a Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) partner yard.

For 10 years, Mike and Priscilla Kasten, Millersville, Mo., have been sending cattle to Irsik and Doll Feed Yard (IDFY), near Garden City, Kan. A 42-head group reached 90.5% Certified Angus Beef ® (CAB®) and Prime this year, earning them the top spot in the ASCC for the Central region and overall honors during the first quarter (January through March).

Beller Corporation, Lindsay, Neb., owned and fed the North Central regional winners. Doug, Dennis and Duane Beller purchased 46 heifers from Ken Pelster, Bartlett, Neb., that went 32.6% CAB and Prime.

IDFY looks forward to getting Kasten's cattle and seeing progress each year.

"They are the ideal feeding cattle," says Jerry Jackson, quality assurance officer at IDFY. "He works so hard at producing the animal for the rail."

Kasten attributes his carcass quality to more than 30 years of stacking genetics for marbling.

"The cattle were fed real well-we didn't have any sickness-and then it's just simply good genetics," he says.

Kasten works with neighbors in an alliance program, providing them with genetics and management expertise, in return for the option to buy back steer calves. A handful of the calves in this entry were progeny from alliance members.

"I've been working with those herds for a long time, so they're practically the same cattle," he says. With timed artificial insemination (AI), he's able to use the best bulls over a large number of females, which increases quality and uniformity. Since 1988, Kasten has tracked individual carcass and feeding data on each calf, so implementing AngusSource a few years ago was a natural fit.

"There certainly was no change in how we keep records," he says, but AngusSource provides a framework that can help any producer. "You're leaving a lot of money on the table if you don't use it," Kasten adds.

Tracking cattle is not foreign to IDFY either.

"We have a safety net; in case an animal happened to lose an eartag, we can absolutely trace it back," Jackson says, noting they're all cross-referenced to a feedlot tag. "Once they go through our processing barn for the first time, there is no excuse that we could not get that data back to people."

Challenges occasionally crop up during harvest, but IDFY makes sure information gets to ranchers.

"Mike has really used the data he's gotten back on individual animals," Jackson says. "He knows exactly where his end goals are and is working very hard to meet those goals."

Kasten is a 2004 CAB Commitment to Excellence honoree and a finalist in the National Angus Carcass Challenge (NACC) several times.

Pelster, who works with his wife Carol and brothers Dan and David, employs a similar level of detail to his ranch recordkeeping.

"I wouldn't know how to run it without them. I want to know what I've got," Pelster says.

He's used AngusSource since 2004, and every year Beller Corporation has purchased at least some of his calf crop.

"If you can get that high of quality of cattle, why would you buy other cattle and sacrifice that?" Doug Beller says. "His cattle have been proven."

Pelster calves won the steer division in the 2006 NACC with an 82% CAB acceptance rate. Beller says the quality has remained constant, but numbers were down this year because of marketing conditions.

Beller took a chance bidding on Pelster's cattle five years ago. Now he knows what they'll do, but must take similar risks each year when finding new calf suppliers. When possible, he looks to AngusSource.

"We try to find out information before we buy the cattle," he says. Although lot size and location sometimes makes it hard to fully utilize the AngusSource listing e-mails, he says, "If I see some on there from Nebraska, I definitely take a look at them."

For more information on AngusSource or the ASCC call 816-383-5100 or visit [www.AngusSource.com](http://www.AngusSource.com).

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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 Maureen Hamill at (573) 499-9162 (Ext. 233) or [maureen@mocattle.com](mailto:maureen@mocattle.com).



May 1, 2009

### In This Issue

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[ATTENTION: Junior Cattlemen](#)

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[Representative Parson Looking Out for Cattlemen](#)

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[MCF Cattlemen's Classic Golf Tournament](#)

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### Upcoming Events & Meetings

Boone County

## CALL TO ACTION: Call the Senate and Oppose a Mark-up of the Clean Water Restoration Act

*Released by NCBA 4/30/09*

**The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee plans to hold a mark-up of S. 787 - the Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA) of 2009 NEXT THURSDAY, May 7th.** S. 787 is being sponsored by Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) and currently has 24 co-sponsors.

CWRA changes the definition of "waters of the United States" to remove the word "navigable" from the federal Clean Water Act, which could cause all waters to fall under federal jurisdiction. This would result in a HUGE land grab by the federal government and the taking of your private property rights. This is the same bill that was introduced and in the House during the last Congress.

NCBA is strongly opposed to this bill and is urging the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to NOT MARK-UP THIS BILL.

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN OPPOSING THIS MARK-UP!

Below is a list of the members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

**If your Senator is ON THE COMMITTEE,**  
**\* Please CALL him or her at both their WASHINGTON, D.C. Office as well as their DISTRICT OFFICE and urge them to NOT HOLD a MARK-UP on S. 787.**

\* Please CALL your OTHER SENATOR and URGE him or her to OPPOSE S. 787 and to TALK TO MEMBERS OF THE EPA COMMITTEE and OPPOSE a MARK-UP

**If your member is NOT on the Committee,**  
**\* Please CALL YOUR SENATORS and URGE THEM TO OPPOSE S. 787 and to TALK TO THE MEMBERS OF THE EPW COMMITTEE and OPPOSE A MARK-UP.**

\* Please CALL the EPW Committee at 202 224 832 and OPPOSE a S. 787 MARK-UP

\* To find the Washington, D.C. and District Office phone numbers for your Senators, please click this link:

[http://capwiz.com/beefusa/dbq/officials/?affiliate\\_lookup=1](http://capwiz.com/beefusa/dbq/officials/?affiliate_lookup=1) Then click on your state and you will be taken to the contact information for your elected

May 4, 7:00 PM  
MCA Building, Columbia

#### **Macon County**

May 4, 7:30 PM  
Lolli Bros Livestock Market,  
Macon

#### **Southwest Cattlemen**

May 5, 7:00 PM  
Southwest Research Center,  
Mt. Vernon

#### **Polk County**

May 7, 6:30 PM  
Bolivar High School

officials.

A legislative leave behind with talking points on the issue is attached to this email. Also, NCBA is sending call alerts from CAPWIZ to our members urging them to call both their Senators and the Committee and oppose a mark-up.

If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me, Elizabeth Bostdorff, at 202 879 9128 or ebostdorff@beef.org.

#### **Senators/Phone**

Barbara Boxer (D) - CA: 202 224 3553  
Thomas Carper (D) - DE: 202 224 2441  
Mike Crapo (R) - ID: 202 224 6142  
David Vitter (R) - LA: 202 224 4623  
Benjamin Cardin (D) - MD: 202 224 4524  
Amy Klobuchar (D) - MN: 202 224 3244  
Christopher Bond (R) - MO: 202 224 5721  
Max Baucus (D) - MT: 202 224 2651  
Frank Lautenberg (D) - NJ: 202 224 3224  
Tom Udall (D) - NM: 202 224 5941  
Kirsten Gillibrand (D) - NY: 202 224 4451  
George Voinovich (R) - OH: 202 224 3353  
James Inhofe (R) - OK: 202 224 4721  
Jeff Merkley (D) - OR: 202 224 3753  
Arlen Specter (D) - PA: 202 224 4254  
Sheldon Whitehouse (D) - RI: 202 224 2921  
Lamar Alexander (R) - TN: 202 224 4944  
Bernard Sanders (I) - VT: 202 224 5141  
John Barrasso (R) - WY: 202 224 6441

## **ATTENTION: Junior Cattlemen**

All-Breeds Junior Show & Missouri Beef Leadership Conference around the corner

The **2009 MCA All-Breeds Junior Show** will take place June 12-14th at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia. Registration information was mailed out this week so be looking out for it in your mail box and it is also available online at [www.mocattle.com/jrshow.htm](http://www.mocattle.com/jrshow.htm). Again this year we will be doing the "Design a T-shirt" contest where the winner of the contest will see their creativity on the shirts of all the exhibitors during the weekend.

Deadline for pre-entry is May 15.

The first **Missouri Beef Leadership Conference** is also scheduled for this coming June in Columbia, Missouri. There is still space available, so if you haven't signed up yet be sure to do so. This event will be full of educational, informational and fun events. This year's MBLC theme is "Show-Me Beef Leadership" and will be held on June 4-6. For more information visit

<http://mocattle.org/jrleadersconf.htm>.

## **UNL Research Further Confirms Dried Distillers Grains Positive to Reproduction**

*Released by CattleNetwork.com 4/29/09*

University of Nebraska research shows that feeding dried distillers grains to developing heifers not only provides an excellent source of energy and protein for growth but also improves reproduction.

UNL animal scientists conducted a two-year study at two locations in Nebraska to determine if supplementing beef heifers with dried distillers grains as an energy source affected growth or reproduction.

Dried distillers grains are co-produced during the fermentation process of ethanol production, making them an economical feed choice for cattle producers due to Nebraska's ethanol industry, said Rick Funston, beef cattle reproductive physiologist at UNL's West Central Research and Extension Center at North Platte.

"Ethanol production is an important industry in Nebraska, and this could potentially enhance the profitability of ethanol production from corn," Funston said.

However, cattle producers have concerns about lack of research related to possible effects of feeding dried distillers grains in developing heifer diets.

UNL scientists found that supplementing beef heifers with dried distillers grains during development did not affect age at puberty, and actually improved artificial insemination conception and pregnancy rates compared with a supplement similar in energy, crude protein and fat. Distillers grains have about 120 percent the energy of corn in forage diets and contain relatively high levels of crude protein, Funston said.

"This can make them an economically feasible energy source in replacement heifer diets," he said.

With Nebraska producers maintaining an inventory of about 2 million beef cows, at a modest 15 percent replacement rate, this represents almost 300,000 replacement heifers annually, which could equate to an additional demand of 210,000 tons of distillers grains, he said.

The studies were conducted at UNL's Dalbey-Halleck farm near Virginia and at the Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead.

In each two-year study weaned heifer calves were fed dried distillers grains or a control supplement of dried corn gluten feed, whole corn germ and urea.

In addition to this work, current UNL research also shows favorable results when it comes to feeding other beef females dried distillers grains.

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However, Funston warned against taking the "more is better approach with this -- don't exceed protein in the diet," Funston said. "We found that overfeeding protein is costly and greatly overfeeding protein can have negative effects on reproduction."

The research also counters previous research of other bypass protein products which demonstrated concerns of feeding bypass protein on reproduction. Dried distillers grains are high in bypass protein which means a portion of the protein bypasses the rumen and is absorbed in the small intestine. Previous work was conducted with bypass protein sources - now with limited to no access -- such as feather meal, blood meal and animal products.

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## Missouri BQA Program Gains Coordinator, New Goals

*By Jerilyn Johnson & Duane Dailey; Released by Missouri Ruralist 4/29/09*

Dr. Craig Payne, University of Missouri Extension veterinarian, has agreed to be coordinator of the Missouri Beef Quality Assurance program at the request of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

Payne's regular job is to educate Missouri producers on livestock health care. In addition, he teaches production beef health to future large animal veterinarians at the MU School of Veterinary Medicine. He also writes healthcare lessons for the forthcoming Missouri Master Cattlemen program working with other MU Extension specialists. Years as a working veterinarian on farms and in sale barns gives him added credibility.

Started 27 years ago, BQA is a national beef industry program designed to build consumer confidence through education and promotion of beef quality assurance practices to beef producers. A written test qualifies a producer to be BQA certified by the Missouri BQA committee. BQA has a

long history in reducing injection-site blemishes in carcasses and improving overall meat quality.

However, teaching producers to build safer handling facilities and how to move animals carefully (no beating with sticks), is a new directive being adopted by state cattle groups across the country, including Missouri. "We'll still work on blemishes," Payne says. However, the future program will educate producers further on safe and proper handling of livestock. Many producers can say, "Yeah, we do that already." However, animal wellbeing may become the most important factor in the future of animal agriculture in the state.

Jeff Windett, executive vice president of MCA, says it's time to work more proactively. MCA already has in place, through its membership code of ethics and Missouri BQA program, some important guidelines. "We believe in the best care of our livestock based on the best scientific information," Windett says. "The BQA will be bringing that to everyone's attention. By revitalizing BQA, we have a great opportunity."

Payne will be meeting with an MCA advisory committee that will lead educational policy in the statewide effort. Both Payne and Windett will be available for meetings on animal wellbeing with local cattle groups and other interested organizations. Educational meetings will start in July.

For more information, contact the MCA office at 573-499-9162, or visit [www.mocattle.org/bqa](http://www.mocattle.org/bqa).

## MCF Golf Tournament

The Missouri Cattlemen's Foundation will host their annual golf tournament at Railwood Golf Course in Holts Summit, MO on Wednesday, May 20, 2009. Registration will begin at 9:00 am and the tournament will have a shotgun start at 10:00 am. Entry fee is \$75 per team.

**Foundation License Plates** are still available for purchase.

For more details contact MCF office at (573) 499-9162.

## Winners Named in AngusSource Contest

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Unwavering, resolute, committed-pick one, because they're all accurate descriptions of winners in the first quarter AngusSource® Carcass Challenge (ASCC). The top producers and feeders share a steady focus on raising and feeding superior cattle.

Beginning last year, the ASCC highlights those enrolled in the AngusSource genetic-, source- and age-verified program. Eligible groups of at least 38 head must be fed at a Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) partner yard.

For 10 years, Mike and Priscilla Kasten, Millersville, Mo., have been sending cattle to Irsik and Doll Feed Yard (IDFY), near Garden City, Kan. A 42-head group reached 90.5% Certified Angus Beef ® (CAB®) and Prime this year, earning them the top spot in the ASCC for the Central region and overall honors during the first quarter (January through March).

Beller Corporation, Lindsay, Neb., owned and fed the North Central regional winners. Doug, Dennis and Duane Beller purchased 46 heifers from Ken Pelster, Bartlett, Neb., that went 32.6% CAB and Prime.

IDFY looks forward to getting Kasten's cattle and seeing progress each year.

"They are the ideal feeding cattle," says Jerry Jackson, quality assurance officer at IDFY. "He works so hard at producing the animal for the rail."

Kasten attributes his carcass quality to more than 30 years of stacking genetics for marbling.

"The cattle were fed real well-we didn't have any sickness-and then it's just simply good genetics," he says.

Kasten works with neighbors in an alliance program, providing them with genetics and management expertise, in return for the option to buy back steer calves. A handful of the calves in this entry were progeny from alliance members.

"I've been working with those herds for a long time, so they're practically the same cattle," he says. With timed artificial insemination (AI), he's able to use the best bulls over a large number of females, which increases quality and uniformity. Since 1988, Kasten has tracked individual carcass and feeding data on each calf, so implementing AngusSource a few years ago was a natural fit.

"There certainly was no change in how we keep records," he says, but AngusSource provides a framework that can help any producer. "You're leaving a lot of money on the table if you don't use it," Kasten adds.

Tracking cattle is not foreign to IDFY either.

"We have a safety net; in case an animal happened to lose an eartag, we can absolutely trace it back," Jackson says, noting they're all cross-referenced to a feedlot tag. "Once they go through our processing barn for the first time, there is no excuse that we could not get that data back to people."

Challenges occasionally crop up during harvest, but IDFY makes sure information gets to ranchers.

"Mike has really used the data he's gotten back on individual animals," Jackson says. "He knows exactly where his end goals are and is working very hard to meet those goals."

Kasten is a 2004 CAB Commitment to Excellence honoree and a finalist in the National Angus Carcass Challenge (NACC) several times.

Pelster, who works with his wife Carol and brothers Dan and David, employs a similar level of detail to his ranch recordkeeping.

"I wouldn't know how to run it without them. I want to know what I've got," Pelster says.

He's used AngusSource since 2004, and every year Beller Corporation has purchased at least some of his calf crop.

"If you can get that high of quality of cattle, why would you buy other cattle and sacrifice that?" Doug Beller says. "His cattle have been proven."

Pelster calves won the steer division in the 2006 NACC with an 82% CAB acceptance rate. Beller says the quality has remained constant, but numbers were down this year because of marketing conditions.

Beller took a chance bidding on Pelster's cattle five years ago. Now he knows what they'll do, but must take similar risks each year when finding new calf suppliers. When possible, he looks to AngusSource.

"We try to find out information before we buy the cattle," he says. Although lot size and location sometimes makes it hard to fully utilize the AngusSource listing e-mails, he says, "If I see some on there from Nebraska, I definitely take a look at them."

For more information on AngusSource or the ASCC call 816-383-5100 or visit [www.AngusSource.com](http://www.AngusSource.com).

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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.

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