



PRIORITY ISSUES

RIPE

MSCA had the opportunity to work on a grant which was submitted by Virginia Tech to the U.S. Department of Agriculture called Rural Investment to Protect our Environment (RIPE). The RIPE grant is being funded and Minnesota along with North Dakota, Virginia and Arkansas are pilot states for the program, which will begin this spring. The rate of return is \$100 per animal unit or \$100 per acre for participation. MSCA is predicting the enrollment process will be simple and available to a variety of operation types and sizes. Farmers and ranchers are stewards of the land, giving back to the environment every day, so MSCA supports rewarding farmers and ranchers for their conservation efforts through programs such as RIPE. Watch for upcoming details in MSCA's newspaper and on our website, or visit RIPE's website at riperoadmap.org.

POLLUTION CONTROL

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) released a tweet on Twitter in September of 2022 encouraging Minnesotans to take part in Meatless Mondays to benefit the environment. MPCA deleted the tweet and apologized to the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association for the tweet, but ever since the Meatless Monday tweet, MSCA has been meeting with MPCA quarterly to ensure MPCA is aware that Minnesota cattle producers are stewards of the land and are the original conservationists. Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association wants to ensure MPCA is considering how farmers and ranchers give back to the environment through carbon sequestration when they are developing their data on greenhouse gas emissions.

SOIL HEALTH

MSCA Past President Grant Breikreutz testified in March before the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy Committee in support of a bill to establish a state-run soil health grant program, SF3737. Sponsored by Sen. Bill Weber (R-Luverne), the bill would appropriate \$10 million for the program over the next two fiscal years. It would also require the state Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the University of Minnesota and other stakeholders, including agricultural organizations, to develop a statewide soil health management plan.

DROUGHT

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association continued working on drought relief efforts in 2022. MSCA discussed the needs of our producers with state and national legislators, including drought aid, haying and grazing public lands. MSCA helped secure relief payments and hay trucking subsidies for producers in Minnesota.

WOLF DEPREDATION

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association has been having discussions as always about improving the payment time lag for wolf kills in Minnesota. Many areas in Minnesota have asked that someone else does the kill verification. Some producers have suggested the Minnesota Department of Agriculture should do the verifications. MSCA is working to update the indemnity process.

DEER DEPREDATION

MSCA started the discussion with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) Assistant Commissioner Bob Meier about deer depredation throughout the state of Minnesota. This is getting to be a very large problem throughout the state. MSCA, along with Minnesota Corn Growers and Minnesota Farm Bureau, had a sit-down meeting with MNDNR Assistant Commissioner Meier and others from the MNDNR in August and talks are continuing this winter/spring.

FARM BILL

MSCA is continuing to supply input for the upcoming farm bill to ensure the haying and grazing problem that happened two years ago is corrected in the future and that the decision to protect some of the CRP contracts in a major drought is not done by the interpretation of the Secretary of Agriculture but is spelled out clearly in the farm bill with no interpretation needed.



Another year for the record books. Most of the state started out very wet and cool and quickly changed to somewhat drought conditions.

Pastures and grazing lands supported the grazing herd much better than the previous year. Forage production was much better than a year ago, and most producers were able to put up adequate winter feed resources.

Grain producers in the southern part of the state were simply amazed at the yields on corn and soybeans despite the drier conditions. The fed cattle market is improving weekly which is providing stability in the feeder cattle markets even with extremely high cost of gain on fed cattle.

Our membership numbers continue to be stable or slightly increasing, which is great to see given this year's challenges. Our membership number is very important when we go to St. Paul or Washington D.C. as our elected officials ask how many producers we are representing.

The higher the number, the more impact we make. Please continue recruiting members by telling neighbors and friends why you are a member and what the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association can do for their operations.

The Big Beef Sandwich served at Farmfest is our second largest annual fundraiser and would not happen without our statewide members helping throughout the three-day event. Thank you to all who have helped and especially to American Foods Group for your donation to the beef industry.

The beef building at Farmfest has become a draw for just about every elected official (and potential candidates) to stop and hear our concerns about the beef industry. Members of the executive team met with many officials across the state to try to get the help needed for our producers struggling with permitting and depredation concerns.

Although we didn't always get what we wanted for the current situation, we have contacted the people who work on writing the farm bill, and we will have our concerns addressed in future farm bills.

The MSCA and the Minnesota Beef Council have a working agreement to share and contract staff to cover our administrative needs as our membership grows and the workload is more than just an executive director can accomplish. The MSCA and MBC have some of the best people on staff to meet the needs of our membership.

Thank you to all the other board members who put in so much extra time off the farm and ranch to keep this organization at the forefront in Minnesota agriculture. Your leadership and input help keep the MSCA representing all the producers across our diverse environments within this state.

Your membership in the MSCA is the number one fundraiser and the reason our voice is heard in St. Paul and Washington D.C. Thank you for your membership as MSCA continues to protect your rights to produce high quality beef and remain on our farms and ranches doing what we love.

Grant Breikreutz
MSCA Immediate Past President

MINNESOTA STATE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission: To create and maintain an economic and political climate that provides individual members the opportunity to sustain and grow the cattle industry in Minnesota.

2022 CATTLEMEN EVENTS

FARMFEST

MSCA once again had a successful year at Farmfest! Volunteers came together to help serve our Big Beef Sandwiches to about 4,500 community members, farmers, vendors and government officials. We served over 2,000 pounds of beef. This event provides a great opportunity for members to network with fellow cattlemen and legislators. The Cattlemen's Barn was the place to be in 2022!



SUMMER TOUR

A local affiliate association organizes and hosts the MSCA Summer Beef Tour annually. This event continues to be a highlight for the MSCA membership and industry sponsors. The 2022 Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association Summer Tour was held on July 12. The University of Minnesota (UMN) Extension Beef Team and MSCA hosted the tour. The tour featured many stops, including the UMN Andrew Boss Laboratory of Meat Science, UMN College of Veterinary Medicine, UMN Forage Research Plots and a visit to the Minnesota Zoo. A highlighted event at summer tour was visiting the Forage Research Plots. The Extension Forage Team prepared and planted a large set of plots specifically for the event. Over 30 different species of forages were on display side by side to allow farmers to compare the options available to them. Over 350 community members, farmers, ranchers and allied industry partners attended the Summer Beef Tour. The evening before the tour, following the MSCA quarterly meeting, the annual Political Action Committee (PAC) fundraiser was held at the Grand Stay Hotel in Apple Valley. The bean bag tournament and dinner were held to support candidates running for public office in Minnesota who have a history of supporting the cattlemen's priorities.



MINNESOTA CATTLE INDUSTRY CONVENTION



Cattlemen, cattlemen and cattle industry members gathered at the Willmar Conference Center for the 2022 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention on Dec. 9-10. Attendees had the opportunity to network, visit the tradeshow and listen to speakers. Key speakers included NCBA Past President and Minnesota native Don Schiefelbein, U.S. Meat Export Federation Senior Vice President, Industry Relations, John Hinners and entertainment by Jerrid Sebesta, director of business development at Taatjes Financial Group in Willmar. Newly elected MSCA leaders were announced during the convention. Mark Pankonin of Lamberton was announced as president of the MSCA. Pankonin succeeds Grant Breikreutz of Redwood Falls as MSCA president, and Breikreutz will now serve as immediate past president of the association. The MSCA executive committee for 2022-24 also includes: Jake Thompson of Barnsville as president-elect; Rachel Gray of Blackduck as vice president; Angie Ford of Lake Wilson as membership and industry relations chair; Krist Wollum of Porter as legislative chair; Kevin Hoge of Aitkin as secretary; Josiah Ebeling of Trimont as Feeder Council chair; and Eric Zeltwanger of Morris as Cow/Calf Council chair. Kaitlyn Root was announced as MSCA's new executive director. The new executive committee's contact information can be found in each edition of The Minnesota Cattleman newspaper. Mike Landuyt was awarded with the 2022 Cattleman of the Year award, and the 2022 Minnesota Beef Industry Service Award went to Minnwest Bank.

TOP OF CLASS



The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association partners with the Minnesota Beef Council to offer the Minnesota Top of Class program. The program is a dynamic year-long educational experience featuring multi-day state seminars along with an out-of-state experience to conclude the program. The goal of the program is to equip participants with the training, knowledge and experiences they need to be valued advocates for the beef industry. In 2022, the class was informed about MSCA's staff structure and how MSCA represents Minnesota cattle producers. They learned about the functions of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and were given an update on the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. MSCA's Legislative Consultant Bruce Kleven provided the class with a policy briefing. The Top of Class program concluded in January when participants traveled to Denver, Colorado, to learn about the National Beef Checkoff while visiting the National Cattlemen's Beef Association headquarters. Participants also had the opportunity to tour Five Rivers Feedlot, a 100,000-head-capacity feedlot in Kersey, Colorado, and Cargill Meat Solutions in Fort Morgan, Colorado.

AIRSHOW

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association served Steak on a Stick at the Ray Fagen Memorial Airshow June 18 at the Lenzen-Roe-Fagen Memorial Airport in Granite Falls. The sandwiches were a huge hit among spectators, with about 2,500 sandwiches sold!

STEAK ON A STICK



Cattlemen grilled steaks at the Minnesota Capitol in April for legislators and staff to promote the beef industry in Minnesota. With the help of Cottonwood cattle producers and West Central Cattlemen's Association, about 750 steaks were served. This is a great opportunity for Minnesota cattle producers to network with legislators.

NCBA CONVENTION

Minnesota cattlemen and cattlemen gathered in New Orleans at the NCBA Convention and Tradeshow Jan. 31-Feb. 3. Minnesotans attended policy committee meetings and voted on resolutions with Minnesota cattle producers in mind. Convention highlights included the CattleFax 2023 U.S. and Global Protein and Grain Outlook Seminar, a sustainability forum and an update on the beef business climate hosted by NCBA Vice President Ethan Lane. MSCA Executive Director Kaitlyn Root thanked NCBA's current Past President Don Schiefelbein for his service as NCBA president and all he has done for the cattle industry nationwide during the NCBA Board of Directors meeting on Feb. 3. Todd Wilkinson, a South Dakota native cow/calf producer and cattle feeder, became the new NCBA president during the convention.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kaitlyn Root, originally from Watkins, Minnesota, started as MSCA's executive director in December of 2022. Over the past few months, she has attended MSCA's Annual Cattle Industry Convention, the NCBA Convention and Tradeshow in New Orleans, the Top of Class trip to Denver, Colorado, and local affiliate meetings. She will represent Minnesota cattle producers, serving as the voice of the MSCA. Contact Kaitlyn at mnsca@mnsca.org.



NEW BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBERS

MSCA is excited to share we have a few new board of director members. Josiah Ebeling is the new Feeder Council chair. Josiah is a cattle feeder from Trimont, Minnesota, and he also operates a custom manure pumping business and a trucking business hauling livestock with his younger brother. Tom Smude will serve as Region Five director. He raises and finishes Black Angus beef cattle near Pierz, Minnesota. Tom also owns and operates a sunflower oil company called Smude's Sunflower Oil. Region Four's new director is Mark Schoenfeld. Mark and his wife Kami own and operate Circle S Cattle & Club Lambs with their two sons. He also currently works for Cargill, Inc. as a specialty grain buyer sourcing grain throughout the U.S. Thomas Salentiny is from Dundee, Minnesota. He is married to Olivia Salentiny with two kids, June (3 years) and Micah (9 months). Thomas currently owns and operates The Feed Shak in Fulda, Minnesota, and sells both bag and bulk feed to producers in the tri-state area. All region directors' contact information can be found on MSCA's website and in our newspaper. Wondering what region you are in? Visit mnsca.org/about/membership to view the map!

