

2010 MSCA PAC Golf Outing

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The MSCA PAC is a separate entity from MSCA and is registered with the Minnesota Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board. The operation of MSCA PAC along with all other political action committees in Minnesota is rigidly regulated by the Minnesota Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board (CFPD). MSCA PAC is required to file 5 finance reports during the election year with the CFPD. All PAC financial reports are on CFPD's public website (www.cfboard.state.mn.us) for the general public to view. The reports include the names of the candidates and amounts given by each PAC committee in Minnesota. The CFPD also strictly enforces contribution limits on how much can be donated to a candidate by a PAC. Minnesota's campaign finance rules are some of the strictest in the nation.

The MSCA executive committee also serves as the members of the MSCA PAC committee. MSCA's legislative consultant Bruce Kleven also assists the committee in identifying candidates that merit support based on their positions and record on agriculture issues. Dale Lueck serves as the MSCA PAC treasurer. MSCA PAC is a separate entity from the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association, however its mission is closely aligned with that of MSCA. Each has a specific role.

MSCA focuses on shaping legislative and regulatory outcomes that support the cattle industry. However, MSCA is prohibited by state law and the associations own by-laws from providing endorsements and direct financial support to candidates. The MSCA PAC committee focuses on providing a contribution to deserving candidates running for elected office. The decision as to who will receive a contribution is based on their overall approach to supporting Minnesota's Agriculture Industry and not what political party they belong to.

If you are interested in finding out more info on the details of political action committees visit Minnesota's Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board www.cfboard.state.mn.us.

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The economic carnage to the agriculture economy in the affected regions of Japan and Korea continues. The number of livestock destroyed in the effort to stop the disease continues to mount. The export of beef and pork products from both countries remain at a stand still. Since foot-and-mouth disease broke out in Miyazaki Prefecture in late April, about 270,000 cows and pigs have been slaughtered.



Japanese Self Defense Force, local and national veterinary and public health officials bury FMD exposed cattle.



Japanese Officials disinfect a farm after livestock are removed and slaughtered.



Officials disinfect a car before it leaves a quarantine zone.

The Japan's Self-Defense Forces recently sent additional military personnel to augment the 140 additional federal police officers that have been sent to Miyazaki Prefecture to help enforce quarantines, conduct disinfection work, animal slaughter and monitor travel on the highways that serve the prefecture. Dissatisfied with the apparent inability of national and local officials to contain the FMD outbreak in Miyazaki Prefecture, governors in surrounding prefectures are considering issuing orders to close some roads and conduct full quarantine checks on motor vehicles as they enter their prefectures. (Prefectures in Japan are similar to states in the US).

A new complication appears to have surfaced with Japan's Environment Ministry indicating that wild animals may be contributing to the spread of the disease in the prefecture. The US experienced that problem back in the 1924 FMD outbreak in California. That outbreak involved sixteen counties including Los Angeles and San Francisco. More than 109,000 cattle, goats, sheep and swine were depopulated during the 1924 eradication program. Deer in the Stanislaus National Forest became infected after they came in contact with livestock being driven there for summer pasture. Approximately 22,000 deer were destroyed before the outbreak was finally halted.

Today a FMD outbreak in wildlife presents a much greater issue than it did in 1924. During that era deer were in short supply and were aggressively hunted pretty much year-around. Today deer enjoy strong state management, strict enforcement of bag limits and short deer hunting seasons. Deer are a regular fixture on most all farms & ranches throughout the United States.

The U.S.'s last FMD outbreak (1929) occurred at Montebello, California. It originated in swine that had eaten infected meat scraps from a tourist steamship that had stocked up on meat in Argentina before visiting California. The disease was contained in less than a month. About 3,600 animals were slaughtered in that effort.

Today the speed at which FMD can spread is many orders of magnitude faster than during the first half of the 20th century. Today humans travel by air between continents in a matter of hours. While many people assume that FMD is spread throughout the world primarily by animal to animal contact – *that assumption is dead wrong*. An examination of how the FMD virus travels clearly indicates that the virus can hitch a ride on just about anything including humans.

The virus can be transported on the skin or clothes of humans that have come in contact with an infected animal. An individual transporting the virus would likely be unaware they were spreading the disease. FMD can also ride the wind or piggy-back on almost anything. Examples include; livestock feed, shoes, motor vehicles, water, and uncooked food scraps. Even semen from infected bulls can spread the disease.

For more info visit: www.bah.state.mn.us or call (651) 296-2942.

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