

# Membership Matters!

(Continued from page 1)

When something shows up that needs attention MSCA's elected officers are contacted and what ever needs to be done gets done. It may be simply a phone call by MSCA's President to a key legislator or agency person. Sometimes an MSCA representative needs to attend a meeting to speak up for cattlemen.

Other times a letter has to be drafted and sent to key legislators explaining why a specific policy is either good or bad for Minnesota's cattle industry. Many times MSCA's Exec and legislative consultant can take care of the issues by coordinating with other ag groups like Farm Bureau, the Minnesota Sheriff's Association and MN Deer Hunters Association. MSCA's work on the wolf issue, TB and many other issues very often involves coordinating with other groups that have a common interest in the outcome of an issue.

MSCA can't claim credit for all the ag related bills that were passed this year in Saint Paul, nor did MSCA agree with all the bills that became law this year. However, MSCA was at the table working hard to defend cattlemen's interests throughout the session.

## Ag Related Bills that Passed During 2010

**EAW Streamlining.** A bill streamlining the environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) review process by allowing e-licensing applications, tailored environmental assessment worksheets for specific industries, and requiring coordination between levels of government was passed this year.

**Biodiesel Exemption.** A bill temporarily suspending the biodiesel mandate by exempting #1 diesel fuel from the biodiesel mandate until March 31, 2012, for the months of October, November, December, January, February, and March, was passed this year.

**Wolf Depredation.** Changes were made to the payment program for damage to livestock caused by wolves, including a new provision allowing sheriffs to be called to investigate and document the site.

**TB Management Zones.** A bill making definitional changes to bovine tuberculosis management zones was passed this year. The changes were required to prepare for an upgrade to Minnesota's TB Status.

**Land Management Plan.** In response to criticism over public land ownership, the DNR and BWSR must conduct a 10-year budget analysis and establish a land management plan by January 15, 2011.

**Property Tax Payments.** The due date for the second half of annual property tax payments on agricultural land has been moved from October 15 to November 15 for taxes payable in 2012 and thereafter.

**Green Acres.** Bills extending the deadline to withdraw from the Green Acres program until August 16, providing a method for valuation of agricultural property in the green acres program, and allowing transfer of property from family farm limited liability partnerships to individuals were all approved this year.

**4-H Funding.** City councils and townships were authorized to spend money for local 4-H programs under a bill passed this year.

**Ethanol Waiver.** A bill was passed this year amending state law to make conforming changes in the event a federal waiver is granted to allow the sale of E-15.

**Pet Protection.** Pet and companion animals can now be included in domestic protection orders and restraining orders issued by a court in order to curb domestic violence under a bill passed this year.

**Drainage Working Group.** A bill making clarifications to drainage laws as recommended by the Drainage Working Group, in the areas of partial abandonment, liens, inspectors, bonds, operations, maintenance, and repairs, was passed this year.

**Watershed Limits.** Limits on the amount of money a watershed district can borrow were increased from \$600,000 to \$2 million to reflect the increase in land values.

**Temporary Feed Liens.** A bill providing a temporary livestock production input lien to protect feed suppliers, valid for 30 days following a mediation request, was passed this year.

**Terminal Capacity Study.** In an effort to address the continuing hours-of-service problem when transporting anhydrous and propane, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture will be conducting a study of the total propane and anhydrous ammonia terminal capacity within 100 miles of the state's borders under a bill passed this year.

**Pesticide Incident Plan.** In addition to developing and maintaining plans for the storage, handling, and disposal of pesticides, commercial pesticide dealers must also develop and maintain an incident response plan under a bill adopted this year.

Just as important as what is passed are bills that did not pass. Some represented good ideas and MSCA will continue to work on getting them passed next year. A good example is the feedlot permit bill, it will likely take a couple of years to get something done in this area. Other bills such as banning antibiotic use in livestock obviously was not supported by MSCA. These kinds of bills come up every year and their failure to pass doesn't mean MSCA can let up protecting the reasonable use of antibiotics to produce healthy animals.

## Just a few Ag Related Bills that Did Not Pass During 2010

**Feedlot Permit Changes.** A bill changing the requirements that livestock farms over 1,000 animal units that do not discharge get federal NDPEs permits was passed by both Environment Policy Committees but stalled in the Finance Committees after the MPCA testified the bill would create confusion among producers and require additional staff to update forms and change MPCA's website.

**Antibiotics.** A bill designed to maintain the effectiveness of medically important antibiotics used in the treatment of diseases in humans by completely outlawing the use of non-therapeutic antibiotics in animal feed was introduced in the Senate but was not given a hearing.

**Antimicrobial Bill.** A bill prohibiting the sale of poultry and pork products that were raised using a microbial product called Roxarsone was heard in a Senate committee but not move in the House and was not adopted.

**Animal Standards.** A bill to create dog and cat breeder standards was heard in the Senate Ag Committee this year but did not pass.

**Increased Weight Penalties.** A bill to increase fines for overweight truck violations was introduced in the House late in the session this year but was not given a hearing.

**Cap and Trade.** Dueling bills – one supporting the federal a cap & trade bill and the other opposing a federal cap & trade system. – were introduced in the House and Senate but neither was given a hearing.

**Native Grass Seed Repeal.** A bill to repeal unreasonable restrictions on the type of grass seed that can be used to restore native prairie was passed by the Senate three times but dropped in a conference committee.

**Environmental Agency Reorganization.** A proposal to reorganize and consolidate environmental agencies by establishing the Environment and Natural Resources Organization Advisory Committee to advise the legislature and the governor on a new structure for administration of environment and natural resource policies was passed by the Senate but was dropped in a conference committee.

**Extended Levies.** A proposal to permanently extend voter-approved school district levies unless 30% of the registered voters in the district sign a petition to end the excess levy was included in a House bill but rejected by the Senate.

***It's critical that MSCA be at the table when the legislature and regulatory agencies work policy and regulations that may impact the cattle industry in Minnesota. Your annual membership dues provide the funding that allows MSCA to have someone monitoring what is going on in Saint Paul everyday. It's much easier to work with legislators and regulators up front on solutions to issues that face the industry and then transition those solutions into policy. Without that presence we are stuck with trying to undo unwarranted and ineffective law and regulation adopted without the input of Minnesota's Cattle Industry. Help us expand our influence ask a neighbor to join MSCA. There is strength in numbers!***

## Pork Check-Off Conducts FMD Drill

The National Pork Board in conjunction with this year's World Pork Expo recently put on a table top exercise on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

Tim Bierman, an Iowa, pork producer and current president of the National Pork Board recently was quoted saying, "The Pork Checkoff provided this drill to help all pork producers understand the important role for producers in being prepared and knowing how to respond in the event of a foreign-animal disease outbreak such as FMD."

Minnesota's Board of Animal Health Emergency Planning Veterinarian Dr. Linda Glaser participated in the drill. Linda said, "This was really valuable; you learn how complicated it can be and how different segments (of the industry) have to respond for business continuity." Dr. Glaser has been intimately involved in the battle to defeat TB in Minnesota. She added, "The communications was very similar; but TB is slower moving than Foot and Mouth, so you'd have to think about doing that on a much faster pace."

The emergency exercise focused on answering the tough questions that must be faced when an FMD outbreak occurs. Exactly what public officials are in charge? What authority do they have to take action? What happens to farmers in an outbreak area? How is the rest of the local community impacted by the actions necessary to eradicate an outbreak of FMD?

Those questions and many others were put to the test at the recent World Pork Expo in Des Moines. There were over 80 participants in the exercise including representatives from production agriculture, law enforcement, media and state and federal governments.

Jim Niewold, a pork producer and chairman of the Pork Check-off's Swine Health Committee described his reaction to the drill. "I know every time I participate in an FMD drill I realize just how devastating an FMD outbreak would be to me as a pork producer, and to all livestock producers in the U.S.," he added, "By practicing how we would respond, I feel like we as an industry are better prepared and have plans in place should we ever have FMD in this country."

The National Pork Board has responsibility for Checkoff-funded research, promotion and consumer information projects and for communicating with pork producers and the public. Through the Pork Checkoff, pork producers invest \$0.40 for each \$100 value of hogs sold.

See pages 1 & 7 for a related article on the current FMD outbreak Japan and Korea.

## Sign Up a New Member Today - Help MSCA Grow!

Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association/National Cattlemen's Beef Association

MSCA/NCBA Partnered Membership Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### MN State Cattlemen's Association Dues ..... \$50

#### Local Cattleman Association Dues (Optional)

Local = \_\_\_\_\_ (Local Dues →) \_\_\_\_\_

#### NCBA Membership Dues (Optional)

(Select the appropriate classification and add to MN State Cattlemen dues)

1-100 Head = \$100  
 101-250 Head = \$200  
 251-500 Head = \$300  
 501-1000 Head = \$400 + Fair Share  
 1001 - 1500 Head = \$550 + Fair Share  
 1501 Head & Up = \$750 + Fair Share  
 Fair Share is \$0.25 per stock cow & \$0.125 per stocker/feeder  
 Individual Supporting Member (non-cattle owner) = \$100  
 Student Membership = \$50

(Newspaper - 2010-June) **Total Dues Enclosed This Membership** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Type Ops:  Feeder  Cow-Calf  Seedstock  Stocker  Dairy  Associate

Method of Payment:  Check  Credit Card  Invoice Me

Credit Card Type:  Master Card  Visa  Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: **"MSCA"** (No Cash Please)  
 Return Form & Payment To: MSCA Membership Chairman  
 37489 - 295th Street, Aitkin, MN 56431

Recruited By: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions Call: ☎ (218) 927-2495 or email: ✉ [dklueck@embarqmail.com](mailto:dklueck@embarqmail.com)