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State Moves on TB Up-Grade!

Minnesota is moving forward to apply for an upgrade to the states TB status. On February 16th State Veterinarian Bill Hartman, DVM and Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture Joe Martin, held a stakeholder's teleconference to announce the initiative and describe the details of the plan.

The application will request that USDA upgrade the current Modified Accredited (MA) zone to Modified Accredited Advance (MAA) and the MAA zone to TB free status. (Continued on page 7)



Paul Boyum, Minnesota Cattleman of the Year & Carol Abrahamzon, Minnesota Cattlewoman of the Year

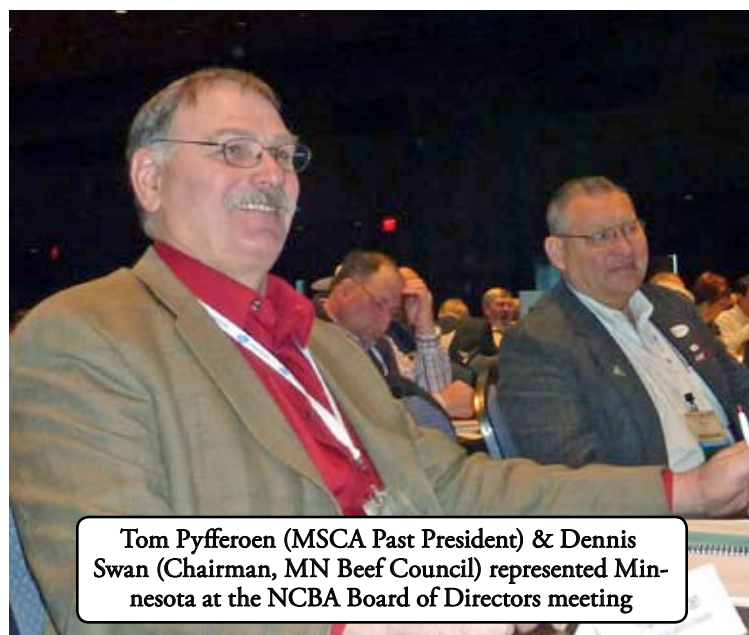
Boyum & Abrahamzon Named Minnesota Cattleman & Cattlewoman of the Year

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's and Cattlewomen's Associations at their annual convention this past December recognized Paul Boyum as Minnesota's Cattleman of the Year and Carol Abrahamzon as Minnesota's Cattlewoman of the Year. Both individuals have a long and distinguished record of service to the industry.

Paul Boyum and wife Shari make their home near Utica, MN where they operate a cattle feeding and cow-calf operation. Paul was recognized for his leadership and years of faithful service to Minnesota's beef industry. The Wabasha County Cattlemen's Association nominated Paul and the selection committee made up of former "Cattlemen of the Year" agreed Paul's many accomplishments merited his selection for this prestigious award.

Carol Abrahamzon and husband Bill operate a Cow-Calf and seedstock operation near Caledonia, MN. Carol was recognized for her many achievements and long standing service to Minnesota beef industry. The award presentation was a huge surprise to Carol and especially personal, as Jennifer Abrahamzon, Carol & Bill's daughter and last year's Minnesota Cattlewoman of the Year made the award presentation to Carol.

While reading the preamble to the selection describing Carol's accomplishments, daughter Jennifer did an excellent job of keeping everyone guessing who the selectee would be right up until she said, "I am proud to introduce to you a great leader in our industry and the best mom a girl could ask for." (Continued on page 11)



Tom Pyfferoen (MSCA Past President) & Dennis Swan (Chairman, MN Beef Council) represented Minnesota at the NCBA Board of Directors meeting

NCBA Cattle Industry Annual Convention Highlights

Minnesota was well represented among the over 6,000 cattlemen & women that attended the 2010 Cattle Industry Convention and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Trade Show at San Antonio, TX January 26-30, 2010. Consideration of a governance structure change proposal presented by the Governance Task Force dominated the discussion throughout the convention.

Cattlemen from across the country showed up with a healthy skepticism on making any changes to NCBA's organizational structure. However, by the end of 3 1/2 days of intense study, frank and open debate and some adjustments to the original governance proposal, NCBA's Board of Directors voted overwhelmingly (201 ayes, 13 nays) to adopt the report and new governance structure concept that had been developed by the Governance Task Force.

After a thorough vetting of the task force's recommendations cattlemen provided a strong mandate to move forward on refining NCBA's governance structure. The decision by the NCBA Board of Directors which is primarily made up of NCBA Policy division directors and Federation of Beef Council directors sets a new course for NCBA that is intended to reshape the organization's ability to more effectively respond to the many challenges facing the industry today. (Continued page 11)

Green Acres Program May 1, 2010 Deadline

The deadline to make important enrollment decisions for land covered by the green acres program is May 1, 2010. During the 2008 and 2009 legislative sessions the green acres program was modified. Farmers, ranchers and county assessors have struggled to keep up with the changes to the program. Baring any more changes to the program producers in green acres must make some key decisions on or before the May 1, 2010 deadline. (continued on page 9, also see page 6 for a related story)

MN Summer Beef Tour & Trade Show

"Hosted by the West Central Cattlemen's Association"

The West Central Cattlemen's Association will host the 2010 Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association Summer Beef Tour and Trade Show on July 12-13, 2010. The 2010 tour will be hosted by the West Central Cattlemen's Association. The Summer Beef Tour and Trade Show is an annual event sponsored by the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association. On a rotating basis each year, a local cattlemen's association showcases experienced cattlemen, innovative techniques, and quality beef operations by hosting approximately 600-800 participants and industry allies from around the state and country to tour area farms. (continued page 8)

NCBA Annual Dues to Increase

An increase in NCBA annual dues will go into effect in April of this year. NCBA's Board of Directors voted unanimously at the Jan 2010 Annual Convention to return to a single base dues rate for cattle producers 1-100 cow-calf herds and feeder and stockers that handle between 1-800 head annually.

That new minimum dues rate will be \$100 per year. The per head assessment for feeders and stocker with operations larger than 800 increases from 10 cents to 12.5 cents per head. Additionally, the Allied Industry Council voted to increase allied industry annual dues from \$17,500 to \$25,000. (Continued on page 10)



Colleen Zenk Joins Beef Council Staff

Colleen Zenk recently joined the Minnesota Beef Council (MBC) as Director of Nutrition and Consumer Information. At MBC, Colleen will work closely with retailers, the food service industry, and health care professionals to increase demand for beef. (continued page 9)



2009 MSCA Annual Convention Huge Success

Dar Giess "cattleman" turned "auctioneer for night" was just one of the many outstanding attractions at the MSCA annual convention.

Dar, along with the auction committee team made up of volunteers from MSCA, the MN CattleWomen's Association, the beef spokes person team and quiz bowl contest participants really made it happen!

MSCA youth demonstration some impressive beef quiz bowl skills, showing up some veteran Minnesota cattleman and UMN Beef Team Members. (Continued page 3)

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