



Ted Reichmann

President, Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association



Mike Feikema

Chairman, MSCA Feeder Council

Hi All!

I hope that everyone has had a good spring. In central MN we have had a very nice spring and anything that needed to be done was able to get done without much trouble. The pastures are looking good as are the cattle both look to be ready to go for summer.

The MSCA calendar has been flying by, we have been busy at the legislature this spring. In March we had our day at the hill, as always it was a very interesting day. The executive board was there and met with our elected officials and other key legislators. We were well received and our messages resonated well with them.

One issue that seems to have gotten some traction this session is help with livestock depredation issues caused by wolves. We have some common ground with the Minnesota Sheriff's Association. On this issue we have been able to team up with them in order to amplify our voice. Legislation & Governor have moved forward to enable producers with wolf depredation issues to also contact their County Sheriff's Department to validate an issue, this should provide an in place 24/7 service to investigate problems.

Membership has been a source of pride for the organization as well this spring. Year to date we have picked up 148 members. This is extremely important for us to keep pushing on as this is the single most important issue that we need to improve upon. I would like to point out that we currently have several members that have recruited over 10 new members and we have one recruiter that has over 25 new members See Steve's comments on page 3 for details on our recruiters.

Thank you to everyone that has recruited a new member. I would also like to challenge all members to sign up at least 1 new member, if we all do that we can more than double our membership. We offer a free registration MSCA Convention and Beef Industry Trade Show registration (\$85 value) to every new member that joins this year. We also provide a host of rewards for current members that recruit new members, see MSCA's website www.mnsca.org for details.

For those current members that have not yet renewed, please - take the time to renew, we are on track to really grow the organization this year, but each of us must do our part!

We are closing in on the MSCA summer tour this year it will be hosted by the West Central Cattlemen's Association and will be headquartered out of Morris. Mark your calendar for July 12-13. This tour will be a great way to meet other producers and find ideas that you will be able to take back to your home operations and implement to help make you more successful.

I also would like everyone to stop and think about how our industry is sitting at the moment. I know it has been rough and tumble for the last few years but we have made it though the cycle and things are looking good. I don't want to get too rosy, but the markets are looking very positive for the future. I would encourage producers to keep up the good work that has put them in the position we are now in and start to look for ways that they can take advantage of the situation that has now presented itself.

Have a safe and successful season and I look forward to seeing you at Summer Tour in Morris in July. Regards, Ted

Greetings,

What a gorgeous spring we have had so far. After the fall and winter that we endured this has been a welcome relief. As of this writing our corn planting is just finished and we will start right into soybeans. It has been a real joy feeding cattle in this nice weather as well.

It is amazing how much work can be saved when the weather cooperates. The cattle market continues to maintain its strength with fat cattle prices hovering around a dollar. I think if someone would have told me that six months ago most of us would have laughed them out of the room. It sure is nice to be wrong sometimes though.

Domestic demand seems to have gained some strength and exports are up over last year so hopefully if we can stay current we should be able to maintain some profitable prices for a while. Recently Minnesota Public Television aired a documentary called Food Inc. This was a very one sided view of modern agriculture and was very disappointing to see aired in a state that relies very much on agriculture.

It is frustrating to constantly be under the media barrage of half truths to make us look bad when we are all working hard to produce safe and reasonably priced food. Often we see radical groups attempt to pit one segment of agriculture against another. Recent examples include films directed at our children. Food Inc. is one of those films that provide an extremely false and unfair portrayal of what we do on our farms and ranches to feed America and the world.

There are some good websites that are trying to tell our message and I would encourage you all to check out www.safefoodinc.org. This website provides a fact based analysis of the many spurious claims anti-agriculture groups continue to make about our efforts put on the world's dinner table. They also provide fact checked reliable resources that tell the real story about today's modern farming practices and how they provide safe, wholesome and cost effective food for our fellow citizens and the entire world. Sincerely, Mike Feikema



Tim Nolte

Chairman, MSCA Cow-Calf & Stocker Council

Hello!

Hey, the last time I wrote back in March I said 2010 was going to be a better year. Well so far the price side of the market sure is better. I have never sold cull cows and bulls for as much as we recently received. The feeder calf side has also been strong so far, good 600 weight steers have commanded \$1.25 - \$1.30. Currently it looks pretty positive, but we were due for a break.

Whether your primary business is cow-calf or feeder, these better prices is helping us get back to even after piling up two years of bills trying survive in a string tough markets. The current prices are great, but let's not forget this go around if it holds, will likely just let us get caught up and cleaned up in 2010. Getting back on the right side of even again makes us all pretty happy.

The exports seem to be going the right direction and the imports the way I understand it are down. We just need our government to finish those trade deals that will let our beef go into more countries without them slapping a big tariff on every pound going in.

I wanted to talk a little bit about technology. Some of us, Rita & myself included, still put a lot of stock in good old manual labor and a stubby pencil (with an eraser). However, there is no reason not to move forward on learning how to use the new tools out there. To get over your fear of computers and other smart machines you just have to step up to the plate and learn. Learning something new is tough "when you already know everything" Don't let that hold you back

On the political front we mostly see the same old fights going on. The issue I watch closely is the wolf. Our legislation to add more resources to investigating wolf complaints is working it way through in Saint Paul. Dale Lueck has jabbed a sharp stick in the federal government's eye with the lawsuit to delist. We are all behind him, lets hope the right people in the federal government "wake the hell up." GO DALE!! Regards, Tim

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Cattlemen's Calendar

2010

- July 12 MSCA BOD Quarterly Mtg/Golf Outing
July 13 MN Beef Tour (West Central Cattlemen)
(Morris MN - see page 7 for details)
- July 28-Aug 1 NCBA Summer Conference (Denver, CO)
Aug 3-5 Farmfest Gilfillan Estates (Redwood Falls area)
Sep 11 MSCA Quarterly Mtg (tentative date)
Sep 14-16 NCBA Legislative Conference (DC)
Oct 1 Open Lot Agreements (Corrective Actions Due)
Oct 21-24 Beef Expo (MN State Fair Grounds)
Dec 3-4 MSCA Annual Convention & Trade Show
(Jackpot Junction - Redwood Falls MN)

2011

- Feb 2-5 NCBA Annual Convention (Denver)
Dtd TBD MN Beef Tour, Rock-Nobles Cattlemen

2012

- Dtd TBD MN Beef Tour, Mississippi Valley Cattlemen