

DNR Land Management Report

The Legislative Auditor released a report in March, regarding the ownership and management of public land by the DNR. Despite a renewed appetite to purchase land for public hunting, according to the report: *“the DNR does not appear to have adequate resources to manage and maintain its current land holdings”*.

The DNR also does not have any idea how much money it would take to properly manage or restore the land it now controls. The Auditor’s report came to late have any impact on the recommendations of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council this year, but may have an impact on future land acquisition recommendations.

Minnesota’s DNR manages about 5.6 million acres of land which is about 11 percent of all land in the state. They also have oversight on many conservation easements and other type of public lands which ranges from trout streams to parcels of native prairie. The report highlighted the challenges created if Minnesota continues to add more land to the DNR’s inventory. It also provides some basis for changing the focus from land acquisition activities to better managing the land already owned by the state.

It’s important to understand what is meant by “lack of adequate resources” really means. Because of funding shortfalls, the DNR currently has deferred capital maintenance in excess of \$125 million dollars for state parks, trails, and other recreational facilities; there is an \$8 million dollar backlog of road and bridges for state forests; and an \$8.7 million dollar backlog of work needed to bring existing DNR scientific and natural areas and native prairie bank properties into appropriate condition.

Vaccinate for Anthrax

Producers in northwestern Minnesota are urged to vaccinate their cattle soon against naturally-occurring anthrax.

Anthrax cases tend to be cyclical, only a handful of anthrax cases were reported in the last two years. However, in 2006, over 90 cases were reported, making that year the second worst in state history.”

Anthrax is a naturally occurring disease caused by the bacteria *Bacillus anthracis*. Livestock infected with anthrax die quickly, often exhibiting no symptoms until just before death.

State Vet Bill Hartmann recommends producers assume that any unexpected death is due to anthrax until the disease can be ruled out. Suspect carcasses should not be cut open, because that can allow anthrax to spread. If you suspect anthrax contact your veterinarian immediately.

For more info visit: www.bah.state.mn.us



L/R: Dan Jenniges, Don Schiefelbein, Mike Feikema, Jon Olson, Jay Bakken, Jeri Hansen, Bruce Kleven, Ted Reichmann, Brian Schafer, Steve May

MSCA Cattlemen & Women Conduct Capital Hill Visit

On March 24th cattlemen and women from MSCA converged on Minnesota’s Capital Hill in Saint Paul to spend time discussing industry issues with their elected representatives in the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate.

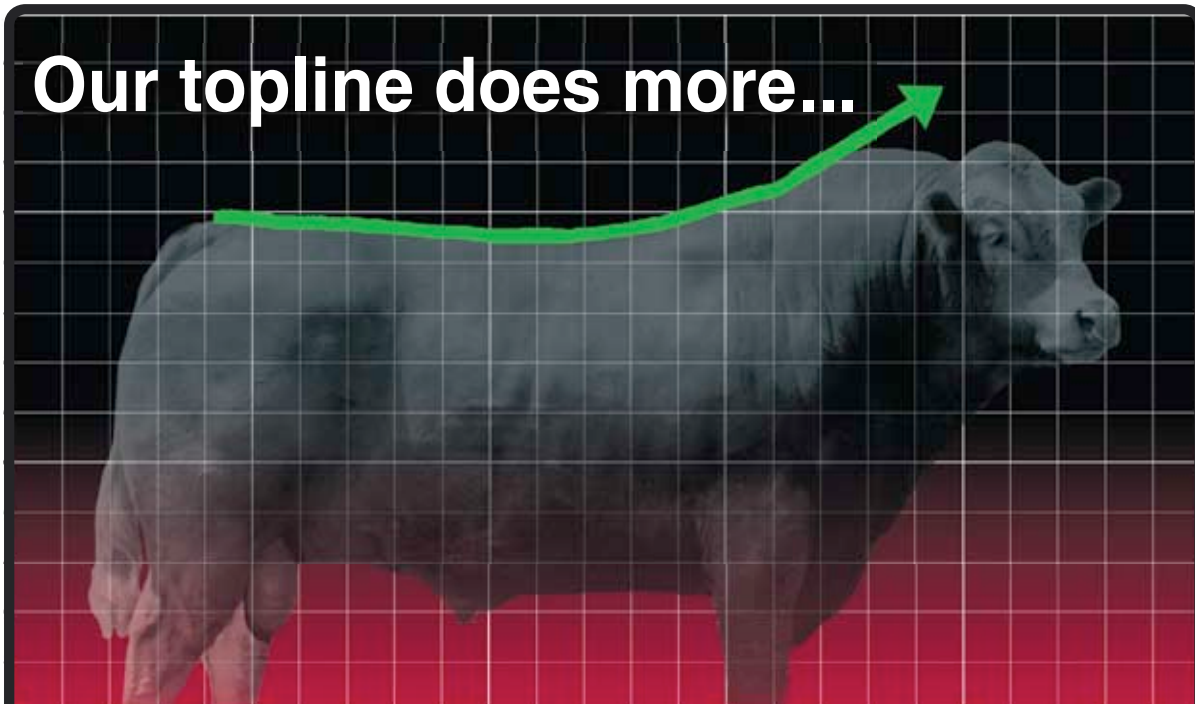
MSCA Exec Steve May and Legislative Consultant Bruce Kleven coordinated the day long event. The day began with summary briefing from Bruce on various agriculture related legislation being considered and progress on dealing with the states budget deficit. The delegation then split up into groups to then visit their respective legislators. During those visits cattlemen and women discussed with their legislators the issues that were important to them and also provided recommended solutions for those issues.

Ensuring that agriculture was not singled out to take the brunt of state budget reductions was an important topic. Dealing with the wolf issue in particular adjusting current state statutes to allow for more investigative resources such as adding deputy sheriffs to the mix of officials authorized to investigate suspected wolf attacks was an issue for cattlemen from the central northern part of the state. . Reducing feedlot permit red tape and recognizing that facilities that by design do not discharge should not be required to have a “discharge permit” was discussed with a number of legislators. Cattlemen took the opportunity to impress upon legislators that producers in conjunction with their herd veterinarian use antibiotics when it’s necessary for the health of the animals and not willy-nilly, as some anti-meat groups claim.

The group met with 16 legislators during the day and also had an opportunity to observe several committee meetings and listen to a floor debate in Senate over whether to lift Minnesota’s ban on building nuclear power plants in the state. At the end of the day the group reconvened to compare notes and determine what type of follow up was in order with individual legislators.

The group also had the opportunity to review progress on developing a grant application for a new federal program to help strengthen the livestock industry within the state. The grant if approved would team up the State of Minnesota, University of Minnesota and MSCA in an effort to provide a full range of education, mentoring support and other assistance to those individuals that were interested in entering the industry, upgrading their current operation or expanding the size of their livestock operation.

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For More Info Contact

Allen Lyon

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(320) 387-2794

Visit: mnlmousin.org

Breed Associations

Affiliated with the

Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association

The following Breed Associations are members of the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association.

MN Angus Association

Contact: Jim Scharpe (507) 964-5756

MN Gelbvieh Association

Contact: Justin Phillips (218) 281-2351

MN Hereford Breeders

Contact: Bob Werk (320) 246-3220

MN Limousin Association

Contact: Allen & Anna Lyon (320) 387-2794

MN Red Angus Association

Contact: Rich Leiseth (320) 564-4035

MN Shorthorn Association

Contact: Glenn Dicks (507) 840-1075

MN Simmental Association

Contact: Beth Andersland (507) 279-5986

North-American South Devon Association

Contact: Dar Giess (320) 468-0235

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