

**Concerned About Cap & Trade Legislation?**

What is cap-and-trade? Cap-and-trade is an approach designed to control carbon emissions. The government sets a "cap" on the amount of carbon dioxide that can be emitted. Companies are issued emission permits and are required to hold an equivalent number credits which represent the right to emit a specific amount of carbon dioxide.

The total amount of allowances and credits cannot exceed the cap, limiting total emissions to that level. Companies that need to increase their emission allowance must buy credits from those who use less. The transfer of allowances is referred to as a "trade." In effect, the buyer is paying a charge for emitting carbon dioxide, while the seller is being rewarded for having reduced emissions by more than was needed.

Why should a Farmer or Rancher be concerned about cap-and-trade? Cap-and-trade will impose huge costs upon all American citizens. Cap-and-trade will impose a carbon tax on all goods and services produced in the United States. The average family of four can expect to pay an additional \$1700 or more each year. The United States is expected to lose more than 2 million jobs as the result of cap-and-trade schemes. Poor and middle-income families will be hurt the most. All of this for little, if any, real impact on the earth's climate. That's the projected cost of cap & trade for the average suburban family – not involved in farming!

For those in agriculture that must use energy to produce food for America's dinner table it will be even more damaging. The cost of fuel, electricity, fertilizer, and heavy transportation will go up significantly for US farmers and ranchers. That will raise input costs, lower farm income and raise food costs for Americans. US agriculture will also be at a major disadvantage to our international competitors, as most other nations are not taking the same destructive route. What other's are saying on the issue.

*American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman testified before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Oct. 29th on S-1733, the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act (climate legislation). Stallman said, "The impacts of the legislation go far beyond just the farm and ranch community," Stallman added, "Families will be hit hard with higher energy costs under any cap-and-trade program, an amount that could total up to \$200 billion a year for American taxpayers. That will put enormous strain on family budgets."*

Take the time to make a phone call or write a letter, remember silence is assumed as support by those in Washington DC. Want to find out more on this issue and get a message out to our legislators on this issue visit: [www.nocapandtrade.com](http://www.nocapandtrade.com).

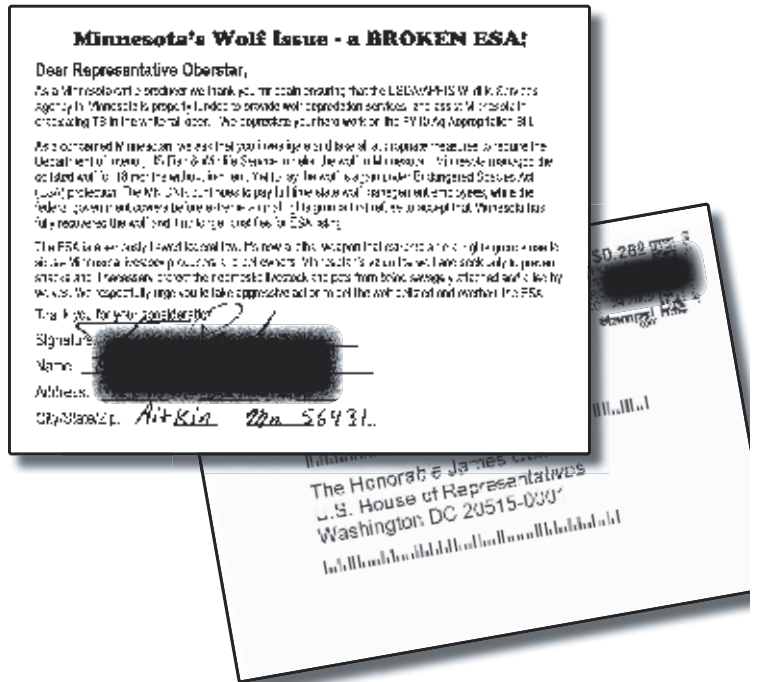
**Ag Environmental Open House**

Reichmann Land & Cattle Company will hold an open house at their farm near Villard, MN on December 12th from 11 am to 4 pm.

The open house will provide the local community with a look at how the beef industry is working to protect the environment, while at the same time producing food for America's dinner table.

The open house will also provide an insight into just how much agriculture operations put into Minnesota's rural economy.

If you can, please visit the Reichmann's on December 12th and lend your support to their effort to show off what the Beef Industry does to protect the environment and support our rural economy.



**Tim Nolte Speak's out on the Wolf Issue**

Tim Nolte, MSCA Cow-Calf Council Chairman recently addressed a meeting of the Central Minnesota Cattlemen's Association at Aitkin MN. Tim covered a wide variety of industry topics and stressed the need for cattlemen to stick together and not be bashful about speaking up for our issues.

A topic painfully familiar to many cattlemen in central and northern Minnesota is the continuing saga of the Endangered Species Act protection of the wolf. The US Fish & Wildlife Service has been unable to sustain the delisting of the wolf here in Minnesota. That is despite the MN DNR successfully managing the wolf for 18 months when it was last delisted. With the wolf delisted out west and both Montana and Idaho currently holding big game hunting seasons on the wolf, its beginning to look like Minnesota and the Midwest is being played as a bunch of chumps by the federal government. I guess no one has noticed that we have more wolves in some individual counties in Minnesota than exist in all the western states together.

Cattlemen in Minnesota aren't sure whether the Midwest's Regional US Fish & Wildlife Agency is blessed with the nation's "collection of the incompetents" with respect to following the procedures for delisting species under the ESA, or someone in the new administration in Washington DC is dictating that they drag their feet in delisting the wolf in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Neither suggestion is likely true on what's really going on, but it's time to get some answers on this issue.

That's what Tim helped the Central Cattlemen do by sending a simple post card asking for those answers from Rep. James Oberstar, Senator Klobuchar and Senator Franken.

Need help at your local association with speaking out on an issue contact the MSCA Exec @ [maysteve@comcast.net](mailto:maysteve@comcast.net) or (952) 920 9512 or MSCA's Legislative Chair Brian Schafer at [brian@schaferfarm.com](mailto:brian@schaferfarm.com) or (651) 923-5415

**MSCA Awards Kayla Mulhern a Beef Heifer**

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This year MSCA along with seven state beef associations each donated a heifer to a young cattlemen and women through the Youth Beef Experience Program. The funds to purchase Kayla's heifer were donated by members of the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association. The purpose of the program is to aid youth in getting a start in the beef cattle business by awarding heifer calves to program participants. The awards are made on the basis of merit, need, future goals and ability to care for the animal. Youth ages 12-16 who are actively involved in 4-H or FFA may apply.

Each heifer recipient is responsible for raising, breeding and maintaining complete records on care of the animal while providing monthly progress reports to the original owner and the Minnesota Beef Expo. The program is the brain child of Mark and Claudine Goodrich of Emerald, WI and is an excellent way to assist young people in overcoming some of the costs and animal husbandry experience challenges to starting a beef herd.

Mark Goodrich was awarded the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Distinguished Service Award in 2008 for his tireless efforts at promoting the Beef Industry and in particular his focus on investing in the industries' youth. Mark also was the prime mover in starting the Minnesota Beef Exposition, which is now in its 10th year. He continues in that endeavor as the Beef Expo's coordinator.

This is the second year MSCA has purchased and awarded a heifer to a young person attempting to develop a beef herd. MSCA is accepting donations to ensure the program continues as a way for cattlemen to invest in developing as many new young cattleman and cattewoman as possible.

To donate send a check or credit card information to MSCA, Attn: Steve May, 3901 Joppa Ave. S, St. Louis Park, MN 55416. Provide your full name & address, make the check out to MSCA-YBEP Program. For more info contact: MSCA Executive Director Steve May (952) 920-9512 or MSCA Vice President Dar Giess (320) 249-2130.

**US Senate**

Senator Amy Klobuchar  
(202) 224-3244

Senator Al Franken - (202)  
224-5641

**US House**

Dist. 1 - Timothy Walz  
(Mankato) - (202) 225-2472

Dist. 2 - John Kline  
(Lakeville) - (202) 225-2271

Dist. 3 - Erik Paulsen  
(Eden Prairie) (202) 225-2871

Dist. 4 - Betty McCollum  
(St. Paul) - (202) 225-6631

Dist. 5 - Keith Ellison  
(Mpls) - (202) 225-4755

Dist. 6 - Michele Bachmann  
(Stillwater) (202) 225-2331

Dist. 7 - Collin C. Peterson  
(Detroit Lakes) (202) 225-2165

Dist. 8 - James L. Oberstar  
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