Governor’s buffer proposal

The current debate over the Governor’s buffer proposal has generated a great deal of interest. While details are still unclear, it is clear that the Governor’s proposal would curtail county flexibility, likely forcing counties to increase enforcement of Minnesota DNR’s shoreland rule along rivers, streams and lakes and greatly expand the current buffer requirement along ditches.

The debate is largely based on water quality and wildlife habitat. The following information is provided to help answer questions that have emerged.

And a reminder—the debate should not divide Minnesotans over the goal of protecting and preserving water resources, we can all share that objective.

Is it well documented that buffers will reduce agricultural pollution?

Buffer science clearly shows that where there is direct surface runoff from fields to streams, sediment and phosphorus delivery to streams and rivers will be reduced. The science does not clearly show that 50 feet is the right buffer width in all cases. Buffer effectiveness and buffer width requirements are affected by many factors, including slopes, soil types and watershed size. Buffers along constructed drainage ditches with a berm between the field and the ditch provide little benefit once the buffer extends past the crown of the berm, unless the areas is also well documented that buffers will reduce agricultural pollution?

Are farmers dramatically increasing cropland acres?

Data on total acreage planted to crops in MN, from the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (in millions of acres)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996-2001</td>
<td>2002-20.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997-2002</td>
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<td>1999-2004</td>
<td>2005-19.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001-2006</td>
<td>2007-19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2007</td>
<td>2008-19.8</td>
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Field Crop Totals- MN- From NASS

These acreage figures include alfalfa and other hay. In 2014, MN farmers harvested 1.9 million acres of hay and about grazed another 2.5 million acres of pastureland, perennial crops that help reduce soil erosion. Many of these hay and pasture acres are already serving as buffers and supporting beef and dairy production, which helps create an efficient nutrient re-cycling system.

Hutchinson set to be the location for 2015 Summer Beef Tour, July 20 & 21st

Each year, a community is chosen to showcase experienced cattle producers with a family history of producing high quality beef, raised with integrity; as well as other agricultural highlights of their community. We are very excited to announce that Hutchinson, MN has been chosen as the location for the 2015 M SCA Summer Beef Tour & Trade Show. Roughly 700-900 cattlemen & women, cattle industry professionals and community members from across the state attend this exciting tour and trade show annually! Attendees of the Summer Tour and Trade Show look forward to 100+ agriculture related business that feature new products and services available to cattlemen locally and throughout the state at one of the summers premier cattle focused trade shows.

The Beef Tour and Trade Show will be July 21st. This year’s tour begins in Hutchinson, located on Hwy 7, just west of the Twin Cities. The trade show and tour headquarters will be located in the beautiful and spacious M L Leed County Fairgrounds. The event will start on July 20th with a M SCA Quarterly Business Meeting, followed by a special networking event and PAC fundraiser in the afternoon followed by supper.

Hutchinson... continued on page 16
Hello, It's almost April, I hope calving is going well. And for all of the menry, it is out of the sheds and getting ready. Good luck.

The past three months have been busy for MCCA with wolves, dietary guidelines, buffer strips and many other issues as well.

Our quarterly meeting was well attended. It was nice to have Congressmen Collin Peterson and Mr. John Hart from the Grand Rapids USFWS office there, it was nice for them to hear the concerns of our members while in the room together.

I just returned home from D.C. It was a very productive trip. A shiny did a great job on babysitting me and the schedule was full. I think we made some progress with everyone we met with some others. It's always interesting how big our state really is, from wolf to water to trade and everything in between.

They are all important. If anyone has any question or comments on any topic that is important to you, our leadership team would gladly hear them and pass the word on. The next couple months are going to be busier than they probably should be for the team, mostly because of the buffer strips conversation.

I do sure appreciate all everyone so support so far. The team has been great for support as well. We are going to do our best to elevate this organization.

Spring is in the air which is a busy time for the Minnesota Cattlewomen! Cattlewomen will begin participating in the “Read Into My World” program. This year the association will be reading either “Farming, We Live It” by the Chaney sisters or “Levi’s Lost Call” by Amanda Radke. After each presentation, the cattlewomen leaves the book for the next cattlewomen to read in the future.

Another event in April which Cattlewomen will be attending is the 17th Annual Women’s Agriculture Leadership Conference. This one-day conference is a development and networking event for women in agriculture. The day is packed with great speakers, opportunities to make connections with others in the field and to celebrate those who have been mentors and positive role models.

Are you Beef Quality Assurance Certified? Beef Quality Assurance is a national program that provides guidelines for beef cattle production. The BQA Certification modules were created in partnership with Dr. Dan Thomson and a team at the Beef Cattle Institute at Kansas State University. This team has developed online interactive modules to educate and certify producers and their staff on best practices for cattle production. There are specific risk matrices customized for cow/calf, stocker fedlot, and dairies operations. Why should I be certified? This program is important because it provides training which raises consumer confidence. Other benefits is because producers increase profit margins and improve management processes. Did you know you can receive this training for free? Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica. To access this opportunity go to this link: http://www.bivetmedica.com/species/cattle/training_programs.html. Don’t delay! This offer is good till April 31!

Minn Cattlewomen Association have a Facebook page and a website! Check out current happenings at http://minnesotaclattlewomenassociation.weebly.com/. Until next time always remember, Beef. It’s What’s for Dinner!

The word sustainability can mean something different to everyone. Form it comes down to two things, environmental sustainability and generational sustainability for our farms. As farmers, we take great pride in taking care of the land. It is in our very nature to ensure that the resources that help us make a living off the land are in better condition tomorrow than they are today. As we see added pressure through regulation and special interest groups, it is critical that we are doing the “right thing” on our farms every day. It is also critical that we share the measures that we have taken to the environment with consumers, regulators and our elected officials. Environmental sustainability is essential for the future prosperity of our farms.

The second area of sustainability is ensuring there is intergenerational transition for the generation of farmers and ranchers. As a father of two and a grandfather of four I work every day to improve our farm to ensure there is opportunity for my kids and grandchildren. Whether it is embracing technology or diversifying our ability to adapt, we should put serious thought into what opportunities will be available for the next generation. Take the opportunity to teach the skills necessary to weather the good and bad.

Don’t forget to take time for family and appreciate all the blessings that surround each of you every day. We have been blessed with wonderful weather this spring and calving has gone well on our farm. I hope that each of your springs has been equally productive. As we look forward to warmer weather, don’t forget to plan on attending the 2015 Summer Tour in the Hutchinson area.

The winter season of meetings and seminars seemed almost endless when looking at it in December. We have made it through our first few of the meetings. It has been very interesting traveling the state and talking with producers from Rochester to Lancaster.

The neat part of the state we live in is the diversity from one area to another, and how the challenges are as different as the areas of the state.

We traveled with the U of MN Beef Extension Team to 7 of the cow/calf days held across the state. We really enjoyed meeting all the producers at these meetings. The different concerns or problems that all of you shared with me have been shared in one form or another with all of our leadership. This is exactly what we need to hear as the leadership team so we can represent you as the producers the best way we possibly can.

Once again the day for Cattlemen at the Capitol proved to be one of the most productive. As we look forward to warmer weather, don’t forget to plan on attending the 2015 Summer Tour in the Hutchinson area.

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Executive Director Notes

Greetings from the MSCA office!

As the “meeting” season winds down, I would like to express a big thank-you to all of our board members and regional directors who put on many miles to attend and represent this organization throughout the winter.

The last few months have been a series of exciting firsts for me. I attended my first MSCA Cattlemen at the Capitol event in St. Paul as well as my first trip to Washington D.C. A common theme I heard on both trips is the desire for our elected officials to hear from their constituents. These men and women are voted into office by you and want to hear your input and feedback on projects they are working on. Both trips were great experiences and I look forward to growing our partnerships with our elected officials as well as state and federal agencies. While this year was not my first trip to the National Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA trade show, it was my first experience attending as both a cattle producer and affiliate staff. I look forward to many more “firsts” as I continue into my first year as your executive director.

MSCA members, executive board members, regional directors and I are continuing to focus on many issues facing our industry both within our state and nationally. Wolves continue to be the primary focus of our conversations. We are making progress, with the most recent victory being the allocation of funding for the derivative wolf control program through the USFWS office in Grand Rapids. This is a great example of how continued communications and partnerships with our delegation in St. Paul and D.C. have paid off. Next, we recently issued a call to action email for MSCA members to submit comments on the 2015 Dietary Guidelines committee report. This is an easy and effective way to voice your opinion and make a difference. Finally, the most recent item of interest is the governor’s 50 foot buffer strip proposal. It was my first experience attending as both a cattle producer and affiliate staff. I look forward to many more “firsts” as I continue into my first year as your executive director.

Minnesota Beef Alliance Members

Thanks to the following businesses that have already joined the Minnesota Beef Alliance in 2015. If you are interested in learning more about the alliance, contact the MSCA office at 612-618-6619 or visit www.mnsca.org.

Prime Level
Minnesota Corn Growers Association
Purina Animal Nutrition
Carlson Wholesales, Inc.
American Foods Group
The Minnesota Beef Council
Wolf Cattle

Choice
Central Livestock Association
Zoetis
Summit Livestock Facilities

Select
Varied Industries Corporation (Vi-Cor)
Huvepharma
Artex Manufacturing
Select Sires

Don’t Forget to Renew Your Membership!

The MSCA saw many successes in terms of our priority issues ranging from wolf management, expanded grazing access on conservation lands, reasonable animal identification requirements, opening up CRP and other conservation lands for emergency haying and grazing and improving the environmental permitting process. As we continue into 2015, the MSCA will be focused on many of the same issues, but we will also be closely monitoring many other issues affecting Minnesota cattlemen.

Be sure to send in your membership renewal as soon as you can so we can continue having cattlemen working for cattlemen! (See membership form on back page)

MSCA Membership Recruitment and Benefits

The MSCA relies heavily on a grassroots process of local cattlemen’s associations and volunteer leaders to recruit and retain members. The MSCA looks to reward recruiters with the following benefits.

Recruiter incentives are as follows: 3 members: complimentary registration to state convention; 5 members: two complimentary registrations to state convention; 10 members: two complimentary registrations to state convention and a $100 gift card; 20 members: two complimentary registrations to state conventions, $200 gift card and a plaque; 25 members: two complimentary registrations to state convention, $200 gift card, plaque and two nights stay at state convention.

Jr Association News – Karlie’s Kolumn

I’m Karlie Breitkreutz, a beef ambassador for the Redwood Area Cattlemen’s Association, and the Vice-Chairman of the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Jr. Association. I’m the daughter of Grant and Dawn Breitkreutz. We farm and run a cow/calf operation northwest of Redwood Falls. I have my own small herd and also finished small groups of cattle and direct marketed them.

As a beef ambassador for our local association, I’ve worked at many county fairs across Redwood, Renville, and Brown counties, and have participated in numerous parades during my three years as an ambassador. At the annual State Cattlemen’s convention this past December in Hinckley, I worked with the executive board and other members of the State Association to start a state-level Jr. Association. I was then voted to be the Jr. Chairman.

In February I attended Cattlemen at the Capital along with many other cattlemen from across the state. During our visit we met a representative from the Minnesota Department of Ag, and also watched President Tim Noite, and Cow/Calf Chairman Grant Breitkreutz testify before the House Ag Committee about grazing public lands and the wolf problems. We met with the commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, where current and future issues relating to cattle were discussed. We also met with various legislators from our local area.

On March 10th I worked with the Midwest and the MN State Cattlemen’s Associations to host a meet and greet with the Minnesota Beef Expo, Minnesota State Fair Grounds.

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

July 20-21: MSCA Summer Tour, Hutchinson, MN
Dec. 3-5: MSCA Annual Convention & Trade Show, Hinckley, MN
July 20th: MSCA Quarterly Board and Business meeting, McLeod County Fair Grounds
July 8th: 11th - Charolais Jr. National – Minnesota State Fair Grounds
October 15th-18th: Minnesota Beef Expo, Minnesota State Fair Grounds

Have an upcoming event? Email it to mnsca@mnsca.org
Digital Advertising
The Minnesota Beef Council just wrapped up a Google/Bing search advertising promotion campaign. This campaign was to help build beef demand when beef sales decline from our top selling summer grilling months. The results were very impressive!

The final results are:
- 22,000 page views for “Beef It’s What’s for Dinner” (BIWFD) recipes
- 52,000 views of BIWFD videos
- 39% of page views came from a mobile device or tablet
- Keywords included: ease, nutrition and taste

An advertising campaign with Pandora internet radio has wrapped up and we are awaiting results. Look for those results in an upcoming update. Another campaign being run on Google/Bing will be kicking off in May.

Minneapolis Food & Wine Show
The MBC exhibited at the Minneapolis Food & Wine Show on March 7 & 8 at Target Field. We partnered with the Minneapolis Arts Institute Culinary Program to develop a customized rub recipe for the Sirloin Tri-Tip Steak. We received rave reviews about the samples and answered questions from attendees about recipes, cuts and cooking methods. Nearly 5,000 attendees were at the show over the two days.

Media Coverage
On January 3, MBC assisted KARE 11 with a story on the potential changes to the dietary guidelines for 2015. U of M professor of food nutrition, Dr. Joanne Slavin was sourced for the interview along with Karin Schaefer, Executive Director of the Minnesota Beef Council and Kaye Strohbehn, Director of Marketing with the Minnesota Beef Council.

Overall, the story was fairly positive in beef’s concerns regarding these potential changes.

MBC Board Meeting
The April 2015 Minnesota Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7 at the Minnesota Beef Council Office at 5469 Hwy 12 in Maple Plain.

Beef Ambassador Training Recap
On February 16th, the Minnesota Beef Council teamed up with the Minnesota Cattlemen’s Association to offer training in Beef Quality Assurance, Social Media and Educational Classroom presentations to the Minnesota Beef Ambassador Team and the Minnesota Junior Cattlemen’s Association. The Minnesota Beef Ambassador Program provides an opportunity for youth ages 13-19 to educate consumers and students about beef nutrition, food safety and stewardship practices of beef farmers and ranchers.

Beef University
On January 16, MBC hosted Beef University in partnership with the University of Minnesota Beef Team. We had nearly 60 participants for this all day function. Those individuals came from several culinary programs, foodservice and retail sectors. MBC shared that demand for beef is the highest in years! Consumers want beef and they are willing to spend more for beef. Beef supplies will continue to be tight for the next couple years. However, because demand for beef is strong, this sends a signal to America’s beef farmers and ranchers to increase the beef supply by rebuilding their herds. Surveys were taken of all individuals who attended the event and we plan to review those to determine how we can improve the program in the future.

Twin Cities Live
The Minnesota Beef Council has recently teamed up with Twin Cities Live to air monthly TV segments about Beef in 2015. The March segment aired on March 18th at 3pm on KSTP Channel 5. Thank you to Brian and Marytina Lawrence of Princeton, MN for allowing us to come out and film the March segment at their farm. Be sure to watch this segment by going onto the Twin Cities Live website (twincitieslive.com), Show Archive and then scroll down to the week of March 16 and click on the segment From Farm to Table.

Rev it Up! Beef Checkoff Challenge
Care-to-Share: Are you ready to spread the word about the beef checkoff return on investment and how it impacts your beef farm or rancher? Thanks to a generous sponsorship from Yamaha, the Cattlemen’s Beef Board is giving you the opportunity to share your checkoff return on investment story for a chance to win weekly prizes and a Grand Prize of a Yamaha Viking EPS 4x4 loaded with accessories a value of over $21,000! To participate, just “like” and watch for contest details on the My Beef Checkoff Facebook Page. Begin telling your story!
Go Red for Women Event

On January 27th, the Minnesota Beef Council Team partnered with the American Heart Association for their Go Red for Women event, which raises awareness of Heart Disease among women. This year we shared with over 700 women how eating lean beef fits into a healthy diet and lifestyle. Additionally, thanks to our partnership with Medtronic we were able to bring in Laura Hagen, Senior Director of Culinary at the National Cattleman’s Beef Association to be our featured speaker during our workshop, which discussed how to prepare quick and easy lean beef meals in under thirty minutes. Lastly, we had the honor of impacting our future health professionals about beef by having five Dietetic and Nutrition students from the University of Minnesota, St. Kate’s and Minnesota State University join our team in a day of awareness and education.

Rhoads Hired as MBC Director of Industry Relations!

The Minnesota Beef Council is pleased to welcome Royalee Rhoads as our new Director of Industry Relations effective March 13, 2015. Royalee holds a bachelor’s degree in Apparel & Textile Marketing from Kansas State University. She also attended Fort Hays State University where she studied Animal Science. Additionally, Royalee brings experience in beef promotion, education and outreach efforts through her involvement in both the Minnesota State Cattlewomen and the American National Cattlewomen.

Her most recent work experience as a Store Communication Specialist with Christopher & Banks has enabled her to continue to inform, educate and collaborate with others in the field to ensure the team works together and has the tools needed to drive product and promotional efforts.

In her new role as Director of Industry Relations, Royalee will be responsible for delivering beef promotion and education strategies to the foodservice and retail channels, industry partners, producers and consumers. She will also be responsible for communicating with Minnesota cattle producers about the beef checkoff and how they can deliver the beef message on a local level, through MBC’s Local Producer Promotion Program. Royalee will also act as a liaison with state and national groups, conduct educational programs, deliver beef nutritional information through various channels and assist with development of business to business relationships.

Beef Quality Assurance Training

Thanks to a partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., your beef checkoff-funded Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program is offering free online BQA Certification for approximately two months. This opportunity is open to all beef and dairy farmers and ranchers, veterinarians, allied partners, agricultural friends, and students until April 15, 2015.

To take advantage of the free online BQA program, visit www.BIV1-BQA.com for the online modules, click on Beef Quality Assurance and Beef Cattle Care or one of the other eighteen categories available (Comprehensive Beef Quality Assurance-recommended), register and enter code: BIVIBQA for your payment method. After all videos within a specific category have been observed with questions passed successfully, you will become BQA certified! For questions or more information on registration, contact Ashley Kohls, Beef Quality Assurance Consultant via email at mnbeefbqa@mnbeef.org or via phone at 612-618-6619.

Interactive Butcher Counter

Have you ever been asked “What are the best cuts to grill, roast, broil, etc?” Get all your beef cut questions answered at the Interactive Butcher Counter. This is a great resource to share with consumers. It is as simple as going onto the Beef It’s What’s for Dinner website (www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com) and clicking on the Butcher Counter which brings up the Interactive Butcher Counter. You have three options: Explore the Cuts, Guide me to the Right Cut or Find this cut for me.

Explore the Cuts:

Let’s you explore the cuts in each of these 4 categories.

Options:
- Ground Beef
- Steaks
- Roasts & Ribs
- Prepared Cuts

Once you choose an option, it will show you all the cuts in that category. Click on the cut and it gives the recommended cooking method, nutritional information and more recipes.

Guide me to the Right Cut:

Asks you to tell us what you want out of your cut? It has multiple options:

I’m looking for:

Options:
- Economical
- BBQ-worthy
- Fork Tender
- Large
- Lean
- Pre-sliced
- Restaurant/quality impressive
- Steak
- Unique & New
- Well Marbled

Cut that I can:

Options:
- Grill
- Skillet Cook
- Roast
- Stir-fry
- Broil
- Skillet to Oven Cook

Once you put in your options then it will give you the best cut. Click on the cut and gives the recommended cooking method, nutritional information and more recipes.

Find this cut for me

Enter the cut and it will take to all the options that have that cut. For example enter Ribeye and the Ribeye Roast, Ribeye Roast Bone it and Steak come up.

Interactive Butcher Counter

This option once you click on the cut gives the recommended cooking method, nutritional information and more recipes.

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Upcoming Events:

April 21 – University of Minnesota Agriculture Awareness Day
May is Beef Month!
May 15 – Twin Cities Burger Battle
May 16 & 17 – Minnesota Grillfest
Roundtable on sustainable American beef created; diverse participant list covers farm-to-fork

Multi-Stakeholder U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef Launched, Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association listed as founding member.

In early March, a group of U.S. beef value chain participants including producers, processors, retailers, foodservice operators, packers, the nonprofit, industry and non-governmental organizations announced the launch of the U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (USRSB). The multi-stakeholder roundtable will identify sustainability indicators, establish verification methodologies, and generate field project data to test and confirm sustainability concepts for use throughout the United States. The USRSB adopts an approach whereby social, economic and environmental considerations are balanced to achieve sustainable outcomes.

“Research tells us American consumers are increasingly interested in the social, economic and environmental impacts of the beef they purchase,” said Nicole Johnson-Hoffman, vice president of Cargill Value Added Meats and interim chair of USRSB. “For the first time, the entire U.S. beef value chain, including representatives who raise cattle and produce, market and sell beef, in addition to representatives from the NGO community and allied businesses, are coming together to establish metrics and criteria that will be used to benchmark the present and help measure improvements in the sustainability of American beef going forward.”

USRSB’s mission is to advance, support and communicate continuous improvement in U.S. beef sustainability through leadership, innovation, multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration. Utilizing the definition for sustainable beef recently released by the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB), the USRSB will develop sustainability indicators relevant to the various beef systems in the United States, as well as a means to verify sustainable progress in a transparent manner that can be shared. Similar to GRSB, the USRSB will not mandate standards or verify the performance of individual beef value chain participants.

“Today’s announcement from the United States regarding the formation of a U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef is welcome news to GRSB and our membership,” said Cameron Belfry, head of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability at JBS USA and president of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef. “The United States is a world leader in beef production and will play a key role in meeting the global challenge of feeding the world in a sustainable manner that allows future generations to thrive. With the establishments of regional multi-stakeholder beef sustainability roundtables in Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Colombia and now, the United States, it is clear that the international commitment to sustainable beef enjoys tremendous momentum.”

Currently, the USRSB has 43 founding members. They include: Adams Land and Cattle, LLC; AgBiReef Co.; Alabama Cattlemen’s Association; Beef Cattle Institute, Kansas State University; Beef Marketing Group; Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation; Certified Angus Beef; Colorado Cattlemen’s Association; Costco Wholesale Corporation; Dow AgroSciences LLC; Elanco Animal Health; Florida Cattlemen’s Association; FPL Food LLC; Global Food Traceability Center; Golden State Foods; Holistic Management International; JBS USA; Kansas Livestock Council; K-COE ISOM; King Ranch® Institute for Ranch Management; Lopez Foods; McDonald’s Corporation; Merck Animal Health; Micro Technologies; Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association; Missouri Cattlemen’s Association; National Beef Packing Co. LLC; National Cattlemen’s Beef Association; National Livestock Producers Association; Nebraska Cattlemen’s Association; Oregon Cattlemen’s Association; SimpliSorb Livestock Company; Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable; Texas A&M AgriLife Research; Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association; The National Grazing Lands Coalition; Texas Cattle Feeders Association; The Nature Conservancy; The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation; Tyson Foods, Inc.; Walmart; World Wildlife Fund; and Zoetis.

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Membership will be open to additional founding members until June 1, 2015. “American cattlemen and women are proud of our efforts to provide safe, affordable and sustainable beef on the plates of millions of American and global consumers every day,” said John Butler, chief executive officer of the Beef Marketing Group, a cattle marketing co-operative located in Kansas and Nebraska. “We stand ready to collaborate in this effort of continuous improvement across the social, economic and environmental aspects of beef production. Working together with members of the U.S. beef value chain, American producers are eager to add the next chapter to our long-standing heritage of beef stewardship and great-tasting beef.”

Learn more at usrsb.org. For additional information, please contact Nikki Richardson at nrichardson@beef.org or 303-850-3357.

Quarterly Meeting Update

The Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association had their first quarterly business meeting of 2015 on March 7th. A big thank-you to Mitch Barthel and the crew at the Perham Stockyards for allowing us to hold our meeting at their facilities. We were pleased to have Congressmen Collin Peterson join us during our meeting to give an update of the progress made to legislatively delist the grey wolf from the endangered species act. Below highlights of topics discussed during the meeting.

Cow Calf report: Grant B. went to all of the Cow calf days with good turn outs at all of them.

Feeder report: Dick P. said that feeder days were well attended. Northern States Beef Conference was also well attended. Mentioned Farmfest in August with its success around locals helping & American Foods donation of meat. Conference will be held on Dec. 3-5, 2015 at Hinckley.

Carole Hoge gave the MCAW report. Sara Colombo is new president. Had about 7 members attend the National Convention, with Penny Zimmerman elected as ANCW vice-president. They were involved with MSCA at the Farm Bureau Foundation Leadership Conference. Royalee Rhoads took over the job of Director of Industry relations at the MBC. Read into my world and AG in the classrooms’ are all being held. Plans are to host another Mom’s Day with MBC and Schiefelbein Farms.

Regional Reports:

#1 – Dan Anderson attending meetings with the elk and wolf problems being the top topics.
#2/3 – Gary Sampson telling that their farm tour will be held the 3 week of Sept. The scale yard is working and also attending meetings.
#5 – Dar Giess had their meeting with great turn out.
#6 – Keith Carlson attended C/C days in Mora but it should be moved to a better facility. Their next local meeting will be sponsored at Cassidy’s in Hinckley, March 17. They are getting into the classrooms demonstrating ag.
#7 – Krist W. area was discussing the new Buffer Strip law if it will go into effect.
#8 – Tom Helfter said they had a good turnout at C/C days. Working on getting more membership.
#9 – Fritz Nibbe said they had almost 200 people at their local meeting.

MBC report was given by Lori Beckel. They are doing a beef advertising promotional campaign. Hosted a Beef University in partnership with U of M on foodservice. Partnered with The American Heart Association (Go Red for Women). Beef Ambassador & BQA training. Royalee Rhoads hired as new Director of Industry Relations.

U of M report was given by Dr. Eric Mousel. Had one of the better turnouts for the Northern States Beef conference. C/C days were good especially with a member of the MCA going along to all of them. Beef industry conference will be held in Deerwood, MN. June 4 – 5. It will include speakers. They will help at Farmfest. They will replace the # 2 position at Grand Rapids.

Mike Stevens from the FSA of Wadena County also gave a little talk about USDA and what is happening there. He told everyone to keep track on damage to your crops including calves from the cold temperatures, could be some programs coming out.

Rep. Collin Peterson was there also giving a talk on what is happening at the national level. (Wolf, fund trappers, Farm bill, Cool, and Dietary guidelines).

John Hart from the DNR gave a little talk on the trapping of wolves. To run the office and the trapping of wolves it costs around $37,000 a month. This doesn’t include pay outs for the farmers. As of now there is no budgeted for complete running of the program.
The 2015 legislative session has passed the halfway point, but much of the budget-setting work remains. The first policy committee deadline passed last Friday and the second policy committee deadline passed this Friday. With few exceptions, policy committees will not meet again this session. Lawmakers have left St. Paul for the Easter break and will resume their work at noon on Tuesday, April 7. The finance committee deadline is Friday, April 24, which means that all budget bills must be assembled and passed out of finance committees by that date. The session must end at midnight on Monday, May 18.

House Republican Budget. House Republicans released their proposed budget on Tuesday. The House package totals approximately $40 billion for the next two years, which is nearly $3 billion lower than Governor Dayton’s proposed budget. Part of the package includes $2 billion worth of unspecified tax relief (not refunds). The House Ways and Means Committee adopted the targets on Tuesday night. While Democrats and the media point to how much lower the Republican budget is than the Governor’s, what they fail to mention is that the House budget is $2 billion higher than the $38 billion, all-DFL budget adopted two years ago. The net effect is that Republicans are not proposing to actually cut the budget but rather they are proposing to slow the rate of growth. Still, some conservatives are upset they are spending too much.

Senate DFL Budget. Senate Democrats released their budget proposal on Friday. They are proposing to spend approximately $42.7 billion, which is $250 million less than Governor Dayton but $2.75 billion higher than the House. The Senate proposal sets up a good possibility for a compromise by mid-May. The biggest discrepancy with the House is in the area of health and human services – the Senate wants to increase spending in that area by $341 million but the House wants to cut more than $1 billion. The second discrepancy is in the area of transportation funding – the House wants to redirect $600 million from the general fund, while the Senate and the Governor want to raise taxes to cover that amount. Finally, the Senate wants to increase the reserve fund using $250 million of the projected surplus and the House has proposed $100 million. Dayton proposed $0 for the reserve but said he is open to saving some of the surplus.

House Republican Transportation Funding. House Republicans unveiled their proposed transportation funding plan on Monday and it totals $7 billion over the next 10 years, without tax increases, compared to the $11 billion over 10 years proposed by the Governor and the Senate DFL. Specifically, the House would raise $3 billion by redirecting the current sales tax collected on auto parts, vehicle rentals, and leasing. Another $2.3 billion would be in the form of bonding, $1.2 billion in MnDOT efficiency savings, and $228 million from the projected surplus. Governor Dayton and Senate Democrats have proposed raising $5.8 billion by increasing the gas tax and license tab fees, $2.8 billion through a half-cent sales tax increase in the metro area, $2 billion in bonding, and $120 million from the general fund. It should also be noted that Republicans propose to spend little on transit – probably because only one House Republican represents a district inside the 494/694 beltway. Meanwhile, a Star Tribune/Minnesota poll released last week showed that 52% of those surveyed are against a gas tax hike – primarily in rural areas, because they drive more – especially in light of the projected budget surplus. In the event the gas tax is raised, 66% of those surveyed believe it should be a fixed amount rather than a fluctuating amount tied to the pump price.

Senate Ag Committee. The Senate Ag Committee met on Wednesday to assemble and pass SF-1459 (Swedzinski), a bill providing $3 million to install biofuel pumps at gas stations. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus finance bill.

House Ag Policy Committee. The House Ag Policy Committee met on and Wednesday and heard HF-812 (Bly), a bill modifying the beginning farmer loan program administered by the Rural Finance Authority by providing income tax credits to beginning farmers. The bill passed and was referred to the House Tax Committee. The Committee also heard HF-1904 (Anderson, P.), a bill providing $1.5 million for grants to install biofuel pumps. The bill passed and was referred to the House Ag Finance Committee.

Senate Environment and Ag Finance Committee. The Senate Environment and Ag Finance Committee met on and Wednesday and heard SF-1158 (Sparks), a bill modifying provisions relating to soil and water conservation districts by clarifying that county levies for those districts may be levied as special tax districts. The bill also provides $11 million per year for grants to soil and water conservation districts. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus finance bill.

House Ag Finance Committee. The House Ag Finance Committee met on Tuesday and Wednesday and heard the following bills. Each one was heard and was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus ag finance bill:

- HF-1613 (Swedzinski), a bill providing $1 million for the noxious weed grant program.
- HF-1377 (Pierson), a bill providing $3 million to Second Harvest Heartland for the purchase of milk for food banks.
- HF-1906 (McNamara), a bill providing funding to enforce labeling and advertising provisions related to pollinator-friendly plants sold by nurseries.
- HF-536 (Hamilton), a bill creating an advanced...
biofuels, chemical, and biomass production incentive program.

- HF-1451 (Miller), a bill requiring a study of livestock growth or decline in Minnesota and surrounding states.
- HF-1079 (Applebaum), a bill establishing a one-stop farmer regulatory assistance program.

**Senate Environment Policy Committee.** The Senate Environment Policy Committee met on Tuesday and Thursday and heard the following bills:

- SF-1433 (Scalze), a bill amending state soil and water conservation policy by providing for comprehensive watershed management. The bill passed and was referred to the Senate Ag and Environment Finance Committee.
- SF-1754 (Scalze), a bill enacting the funding recommendations of the Clean Water Council. The bill passed and was referred to the Senate Ag and Environment Finance Committee.
- HF-517 (Saxhaug), a bill creating an advanced biofuels, chemical, and biomass production incentive program. The bill passed and was referred to the Senate Ag and Environment Finance Committee.

**House Environment Finance/Policy Committee.** The House Environment Finance/Policy Committee met on Wednesday and heard HF-1327 (Torkelson), a bill modifying provisions relating to soil and water conservation districts by clarifying that county levies for those districts may be levied as special taxing districts levies. The bill also provides $11 million per year for grants to soil and water conservation districts. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus finance bill. The Committee also heard HF-1161 (Fabian), a bill allowing truck wash facilities to be operated as part of a feedlot permit. This bill was also laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus finance bill.

**Agritourism Liability Limits.** A bill providing immunity for on-farm agritourism activities was passed by the full Senate on Monday by a vote of 63-0. Due to the inherently dangerous nature of performing farm work, SF-152 (Schmit) provides lawsuit protection for recreational, entertainment, or educational activities that take place on a farm. The House companion, HF-216 (Anderson, P.), is on the House floor awaiting final action.

**50-Foot Buffer Bill.** There was no activity on HF-1354 (Torkelson) and SF-1557 (Marty), Governor Dayton’s 50-foot buffer bill, last week. In addition, the bill failed to meet the policy committee deadline in either body so technically the bill is dead for the year. However, because the buffer bill is an initiative proposed by the Governor, failure to meet the deadlines does not necessarily mean the issue is over for the year.

**Roadside Mowing.** SF-1852 (Pederson, J.), a bill changing roadside mowing laws, was heard on Monday in the Senate Transportation Committee. Specifically, the bill delays mowing on all federal and state highways until after August 1 of each year. The bill also requires a permit for haying and implements a misdemeanor penalty for violations. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus transportation policy bill. On Friday, the Committee assembled the omnibus transportation policy bill and included the mowing restrictions in SF-1647 (Dibble).

**Truck Weights.** Last week there was activity in two House and Senate Committees on the truck weight bill, HF-620 (McNamara) and SF-309 (Jensen). The House bill was heard for the second time in the House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee on Wednesday (the bill had previously been heard and was laid over on Monday, February 23). At the hearing, bill author Denny McNamara (R-Hastings) offered an amendment that would give the bill a more specific application to a list of qualified products rather than apply to all types of freight. The reason for scoping the bill down to a list of qualifying products was to alleviate some members’ concerns about the diversion of freight from interstate, thereby picking up additional votes in the Committee. The list of qualifying products in the amendment includes:

1. Raw and unprocessed agricultural products (current law);
2. Livestock and poultry feed, seed, fertilizer, potash, and agricultural lime; and
3. Highway and building construction materials.

The House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee is expected to include this language in its version of the omnibus transportation finance bill. In the Senate, the bill had not been given a hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee prior to the policy committee deadlines outlined above. On Friday, bill author Vicki Jensen (D-Owatonna) offered the same amendment to the Senate transportation policy bill. Due to fiscal concerns, she withdrew her amendment on Friday but pledged to re-offer the amendment when the Senate Committee assembles its version of the omnibus transportation finance bill after the Easter/Passover break.

**Introduction of Bills.** The following bills of interest to agriculture were introduced during the twelfth week. Any of these bills can be found at http://www.leg.state.mn.us/ by clicking “Search House Bills” or by clicking “Search Senate Bills”, under the “Bill Search & Status” heading, and then entering the bill number:

- SF 1925 Eken - Requires legislative approval of certain agency rules
- SF 1993 Sparks - Provides funding for the Ag Research Education and Tech Board
- SF 1994 Jensen -Provides $50,000 for promotion of locally grown food
- HF 2058Petersburg
- SF 2004 Koenen - Provides a property tax credit on a house, garage, and one acre
- HF 2077 Drazkowski
- HF 2122 Kiel - Provides a school property tax credit on bare farmland
- SF 1995 Dahlé
Hats on the Hill
MSCA heads to D.C. on behalf of Minnesota cattle producers.

Tim Nolte, John Chute & Ashley Kohls attended the NCBA legislative conference on March 24th – 26th in Washington, D.C. The group had a jam packed trip and was able to meet both senators and their staff as well as all 8 of the congressional offices. Items discussed included Wolves, the endangered species act, 2015 dietary guidelines, trade and immigration. The group also had the opportunity to discuss key issues with government agencies. This was an ideal opportunity to bring Minnesota specific concerns, including the livestock indemnity fund, water quality regulations and antibiotic residue, to the table. It was an honor to represent cattle producers of Minnesota and discuss issues that are important our members.

MSCA Members with Senator Klobuchar

MSCA Members with Senator Franken

MSCA Members discussing the endangered species act with Congressman Nolan

MSCA Members with Congressmen Emmer

MSCA Members with Congresswoman Waltz

MSCA members with Congressmen Collin Peterson

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Special Feeder Sales:
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Special Feeder Sales:
10 a.m. – Designated Wednesdays

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Tuesday:
6 a.m. – Sheep, Goats & Feeder Pigs

Wednesday:
8 a.m. – Hog Auction
Noon – Market Cows/Bulls & Fed Cattle

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Looking Forward: What Does the Cattle Market Have in Store for 2015?

By Brett Crosby, Custom Ag Solutions

The USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) cattle inventory report for January 2015 confirms that beef herd expansion is underway. The number of beef cows that have calved increased over 600,000 head in 2014 to 29.7 million head. The increase in beef cow numbers is the largest since 1994 and the second largest increase in over 30 years. The herd expansion was impressive by any measure, but especially remarkable given the cost of replacement animals and the smaller number of replacement females available compared to 1994, when there were 34.6 million beef cows in the U.S. While increased herd numbers have been expected by many, the new inventory statistics and rapid growth leave many producers wondering what this means for cattle prices going forward.

While a 600,000 head increase is sizeable, the U.S. beef cow herd is still small by historical measures and has decreased by over 3.9 million since 1996. Nearly half of that decrease, 1.7 million head, came in 2012 and 2013 alone, when a drought ravaged the Southwest and forced massive herd liquidations. Even if cattle numbers continue to increase at the 2014 rate, it will take several years just to get the U.S. herd back to the size it was only four years ago. Clearly, total per capita beef supply in the US will remain at historically low levels for several years while the U.S. population continues to grow, resulting in per capita beef supply and beef prices remaining at or near their current levels.

While the current herd expansion suggests that calf prices likely hit their high water mark in the fall of 2014, prices should remain strong in 2015. The 2015 calf crop is likely to be 10 to 15 percent higher than 2014, and calf supplies will likely remain tight while producers retain inordinately large numbers of heifers during this expansion phase. As a result, deferred feeder cattle futures suggest calf prices holding very close to the levels seen last fall. Of course, there is still a long time between now and the fall, and corn prices and winter wheat conditions this fall will play a large part in determining calf prices late in the year.

Feed cost and forage availability aren’t the only sources of uncertainty for this year’s calf prices. Exports have been incredibly strong and a strengthening economy has also supported domestic beef demand. Therefore, a U.S. recession or a global economic slowdown could have a substantial adverse impact on cattle prices. With the U.S. beef herd expanding and a strong dollar and soft oil prices indicating global economic uncertainty, there is more downside risk for cattle prices than upside potential.

With increased downside market risk, this is a good year to consider carefully managing price risk. Forward contracts, futures, options, and RMA’s Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) insurance are all worth considering. If fundamentals hold steady, the calf market is expected to remain strong, so producers should consider a risk management strategy that limits or softens unexpected downside market moves. Also, because a repeat of 2014’s explosive upside move is unlikely, 2015 is probably a good year to consider early forward contracts at current price levels.

Despite national herd expansion, the next several years should remain profitable for cow/calf producers. Beef demand domestically and abroad is strong, and heifer retention that is fueling expansion will help offset the effects of larger calf crops in the coming years. With prices still near historic highs, however, a price risk management strategy should be employed to protect against downside movements triggered by high feed costs or macroeconomic issues. For 2015, the old adage “nobody ever went broke locking in a profit” is a good one to remember.

Custom Ag Solutions (CAS) is a USDA/RMA education partner that works to promote risk management tools, including Federal crop insurance programs such as the Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) program. CAS neither sells nor services crop insurance policies. For a list of crop insurance agents, please visit www.USDA.RMA.gov/tools/agent.html. For more information, visit the RMA website at www.USDA.RMA.gov.

Complete Your Green Star Farms Initiative Self-Evaluation before Spring Planting

Spring is right around the corner, and soon the busy planting season will begin. Unfortunately, the threat of additional water regulations impacting agriculture continues to increase. Everything from the Governor’s proposal of a fifty-foot buffer requirement along all waters, the EPA proposed expansion of Clean Water Act rules, or state agencies proclaiming that farmers aren’t doing enough to protect water quality, we in agriculture can’t afford to ignore this and hope it goes away. Now is a critical time to take action, before you get too busy with spring work, and before new regulations gain a foothold.

There is a safe, easy, confidential way you can help demonstrate that farmers are committed to being good stewards of our water and soil resources. The Green Star Farms Initiative is an on-line self-evaluation tool designed for farmers and ranchers to critically evaluate their own conservation efforts without any government agency involvement. Your participation is important, because our critics will use lack of participation as leverage to push for further regulation. The evaluation may also help you identify areas you would like to improve, and will help you do so on your own, unless you choose to seek outside assistance.

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2015 Dietary Guidelines

The 2015 Dietary Guidelines comments period is open until May 8th.

Meat is a fundamental part of the American diet. There is more than three decades of sound science that supports the positive role of protein and lean meat in healthful dietary pattern. Lean meat is a nutrient-dense food source, providing high levels of essential nutrients with fewer calories than other sources. The committee who developed the recommendations for the 2015 dietary guidelines has contradicted itself on numerous occasions, excluding evidence from its review library and making recommendations with no scientific evidence to support them. While this should be an evidence-based process and the final Guidelines should reflect the totality of the science, key science was not considered as part of this allegedly open and transparent process. The Dietary Guidelines matter. Even though the average consumer may not be aware of them, they are used to set policies for government feeding programs like school lunch, hospitals, daycares facilities, the military and set the tone for nutrition advice from health professionals Americans are already eating red meat at levels that are consistent with the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The fact is that the protein foods group is the ONLY category are consuming within the recommended amounts in the 2010 Dietary Guidelines that Americans.

It’s time to use your voice and tell your story!

There are 2 easy ways to submit comments.
1. Go to www.beefusa.org and click on the “Submit Comments Now” button.
2. Go to www.regulations.gov or www.health.gov. This is will take you directly to the comments page where you can search for the comments section for the guidelines.

MN Cattle On Feed Report from USDA

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in Minnesota for all feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head totaled 145,000 head on March 1, 2015, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – Cattle on Feed report. This is up 3 percent from last month and up 8 percent from last year.

Placements during February totaled 18,000 head, up 6 percent from last month and up 64 percent from last year. Marketings for February were 13,000 head, up 8 percent from both last month and last year. Other disappearance totaled 1,000 head.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.7 million head on March 1, 2015. The inventory was 1 percent below March 1, 2014.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.52 million, 8 percent below 2014. Net placements were 1.46 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 330,000, 600-699 pounds were 270,000, 700-799 pounds were 388,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 535,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.52 million, 2 percent below 2014. February marketings are the lowest since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 62,000 during February, 13 percent below 2014.
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Update on MSCA’s wolf delisting efforts

1. Wolf Legislative Delisting Process -
A. There are currently 2 bills in the House of Representatives in D.C. to legislatively de-list the wolf in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Wyoming. Minnesota has good representation of support from our Congressmen. Please continue to reach out to your representative and ask them for their support on HR 843 & HR 884. MSCA is staying in close contact with the co-signers of the bills to keep tabs on their process.

i. H.F. 843 - Western Great Lakes Wolf Management Act

ii. H.F. 884 - To direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue final rules relating to listing of the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes and Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.

B. There have been 4 groups who have filed an intent to appeal or an actual appeal to the Dec. 19th court ruling. 1. US Coalition of Hunters, 2. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3. The state of Michigan and 4. The State of Wisconsin. Minnesota was not an original intervener in the case and cannot file an appeal. BUT, we were invited to a meeting with Attorney General Swanson in February where she announced that she will be filing an “Amicus Brief” or friend of the court document along with the appeal of another state or group to show support of the appeal.

C. Recently the National Wildlife Federation announced they are working to pass a resolution for their organization to support the legislative delisting of the grey wolf in MN, WI and MI. This is an unprecedented move by this organization and will give the two previously listed bills more traction, as well as gain more support from legislators who were previously on the fence about supporting a legislative delisting.

C. MSCA, Collin Peterson, Amy Klobuchar, Tom Emmer, John Kline, Rick Nolan, Time Walz and Al Franken all signed on to letters or sent letters to The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Wolf... continued on page 16
Independent, Third-Party Feedlot Audits – The Wave of the Future?

By: Jennifer Garreau - Feedlot Magazine

A growing number of beef consumers are looking for something more than just flavor and value; they want to know that the beef they are feeding their children is safe, wholesome and humanely raised. In order to meet consumer demands, Rob Eirich, University of Nebraska Extension Educator and Nebraska Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Director believes processors, feedlots and producers should be prepared to see independent, third-party audits that are currently optional become more important and possibly mandatory in the future.

“Audit is the official examination of the activities of the animals we produce. Consumers are wanting to know about where their food is produced and how it affects the animals. They want to know how and where their beef is raised. They want to know if it is wholesome and safe, and that they are getting what we say we are,” said Eirich.

“We want the auditors to verify we are using the best care and management of the animals we produce. Consumers continue to want more information about how their food is produced. They want to know how and where their beef is raised. They want to know if it is wholesome and safe, and that they are getting what we say we are,” he said. “Who are these consumers? McDonald’s recently announced that by 2016, all of the beef they sell will come from sustainable producers.

Commercial chains are currently having feedlots and processors to have third-party audits. WalMart, JBS and Cargill are considering implementing similar policies. Audits evaluate if processors are obtaining their beef from a verifiable, reliable source and if feedlots and producers are using the 2009 revised BQA best management practices adapted from The Cattle Industry’s Guidelines for the Care and Handling of Cattle.

Feedlots can schedule audits in advance and usually have two weeks prior notice and are given a list of required documentation. The guidelines state that audits should only be scheduled under normal operating conditions and not during extreme weather or during disease outbreaks.

“When they come, they will want a daily schedule to see first-hand how the cattle are handled. They will want to check how the cattle are loaded and unloaded and how they are processed. They will count how many fall and how many times the hot shot is used,” said Eirich.

The audit focuses on three main areas – animal identification and space and for the amount of dry area available in pens.

An auditor will watch staff process one hundred head of cattle looking for excessive use of electric prods, cattle stumbling, tripping or falling out of the chute, cattle vocalization in the chute and how many cattle are miscounted in the chute.

Eirich said one of the most important things feedlots can do to prepare for an audit is to have standard operating procedures written down and on hand. Written protocols and documentation are required for employee training, pen maintenance, care of downers, euthanasia procedures, disease prevention, biosecurity standards, animal disposal, procedures for receiving, storing and handling of medications, broken needle procedures, verification of a veterinarian client relationship, feed delivery records, feed quality standards, medicated feed and supplement procedures, an emergency action plan, and shipping, receiving and processing procedures.

A feedyard cannot fail the audit. Scoring occurs in three categories – “acceptable” meaning that an operation meets guidelines, “needs improvement” meaning that immediate corrections must be made. It is “a goal of the audits to help def in the best management practices and educate suppliers in producing a high quality beef product for consumers. Eventually, unannounced audits will occur so they know producers are following the standard operating procedures on a daily basis,” said Eirich.

“For producers this is part of product integrity which shows their commitment to produce a wholesome, safe and a quality beef product each and every time for consumers.”

The BQA Assessment Guides for feedlots, stockers and cow-calf operations can be found on the BQA website at www.bqa.org.

———

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Company: _____________________________________
Additional names part of registration:
2) _____________________________________________
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Address: _______________________________________
City, state, zip: ___________________________________
Phone: _________________________________________
Fax: ___________________________________________
Email: _________________________________________

Send completed form and payment (make checks payable to Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association or MSCA)
23722 230th St.
Hutchinson, MN 55350
Buffer... continued from page 1

regulations. Here is a partial list:

- Feedlots- from the MPCA website:

  The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) regulates the collection, transportation, storage, processing and disposal of animal manure and livestock processing activities, and provides assistance to counties and the livestock industry. The rules apply to all aspects of livestock production areas including the location, design, construction, operation and management of feedlots, feed storage, swine manure runoff and manure handling facilities. - read more at http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/topics/feedlots/index.html.

- Feedlot operators are also subject to local government regulations.

- Pesticides- from the DMA website:

  The Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) is a state law that regulates activities eligible for USDA farm program benefits. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) regulates the use, application, storage, sale, handling and disposal of agricultural chemicals. This includes fertilizers and products to control weeds, insects, fungi, rodents and other pests. Pesticides must be registered with both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state of Minnesota. The MDA Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division (PFMD) conducts routine inspections and performs investigations about pesticide use complaints. - read more at http://www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/pesticides/complaints.aspx

  Wetlands and Drainage- from the BWSR website:

  Since 1985, the Wetland and Conservation provision of the federal farm bills (Swampbuster) requires all agricultural producers to protect the wetlands on the farms they own or operate in order to be eligible for USDA farm program benefits.

  The Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) is a state law that regulates activities that result in the draining, filling, or excavating of wetlands in Minnesota, including those on agricultural land. - read more at http://bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands_on_Ag_Land.pdf

The Bottom Line:

- Water quality is a top priority of Minnesota farmers. Minnesota farmers work diligently to provide crop and livestock products on which we all depend and reduce environmental impacts. The false choice of clean water or farms is, in my view, unreasonable—society requires both, and the farming community is doing its part to contribute now and continues to strive to do even better.

Hutchinson... continued from page 1

Registration will begin at 6:15 am through 8:30 am, with the first tour bus leaving at 7:00 am and every 15 minutes after that. A continental breakfast will be available before the tour. This year’s tour will have an additional emphasis on education with each stop having an opportunity to learn about a specific program or technology specific to that farm. Tentative tour stops will include Schiefeleben Farms; Kimball; Landwehr Dairy, Watkins; Terry & Matt Schaefer, Cokato; Polzin Cattle/Polzin Embryo Center, Litchfield and Cashwise Foods, meat cutting & meat department tour.

The tour registration fee is $25 before June 15th and $35 after June 15th. The student price is $20. An additional lunch ticket is $10 and an additional dinner ticket is $15. Sent payment to Ashley Kohls, 23722 230th St, Hutchinson, MN 55350.

An MNSCA board of directors meeting, MNSCA PAC golf scramble and a picnic will be held on Monday, July 20th just outside of Hutchinson.

For more information contact Ashley Kohls: 612-618-6619 or mcsasnmmertour2015@hotmail.com

Wolf... continued from page 15

Tom Vilsack, asking for funding for the USFWS wolf control programs in Grand Rapids. After the Dec. 19th court ruling, office in Grand Rapids had the permit to trapdeprecated wolves, but not the funding to do so unless it is a human safety issue. We are happy to report that the USDA and the state of Minnesota are jointly funding $220,000 for wolf depredation services, effective immediately.

D. Minnesota Department of Ag. wolf/elk depredation compensation funds have run dry for this fiscal year, as many of you already know. There is bill that has been introduced to back pay any claims made that could not be paid in the current fiscal year. Bill HF 514 is listed for possible inclusion in the ag. Omnibus bill, please contact Rep. Rod Hamilton and express your support of this bill. This bill also lays out specific dollar amounts to allocate to the depredation funds. R ep. Fabian has asked that, even though there is no funding available, please continue to submit claims to the Minnesota Department of Ag. so they are able to keep track of the needs and have a handle of actual dollars needed in this fund. If you wish to file a claim with your FSA office for the federal livestock indemnity fund, you need to do so within 60 days of the depredation.

S. Minnesota was well represented at the 2015 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show. More than 7,000 cattlemen and women from across the country attend the 2015 Cattle Industry Convention and National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Trade Show in San Antonio, Texas. MSCA had representation on both the policy and federation committees.

MSCA Members and Minnesota Cattle Industry members at the 2015 National Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show.

 Students Attend the NCBA Trade Show.

- Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association/National Cattlemen’s Beef Association MSCA/NCBA Partnered Membership Application Form

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