Cattlemen’s Summer Tour

The 2016 Minnesota State Cattlemen’s summer tour and trade show is scheduled for July 11th & 12th and hosted by the Midwest Cattlemen’s Association. 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. Canby, MN has been chosen as the location for the 2016 MSCA Summer Beef Tour and Trade Show. The trade show and tour headquarters will be based on the campus of the Minnesota West Technical School.

Roughly 800 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 agriculture related business that feature new products and services available to cattlemen locally and throughout the state at one of the summer’s premier cattle focused trade shows.

The first leg of the tour will include the Wiesen Limousin Farm - operated by Jordan, Jim and Paulette Wiesen, Crazy Fats Ranch - operated by Faith and Chad Olsen, and Rockin’ H Ranch - operated by Chuck and Laurie Hoffman. The second leg of the tour will include Circle S Cattle Company - operated by Kami and Mark Schoenfeld and Gladys and Harvey Hastad, and Pesek Cattle Farm - operated by Dick, Judy, Mark and Ally Pesek, and Jill and Steve Resler. New to the tour this year will be a forage tour will include Circle S Cattle Company - operated by Kami and Mark Schoenfeld and Gladys and Harvey Hastad, and Pesek Cattle Farm - operated by Dick, Judy, Mark and Ally Pesek, and Jill and Steve Resler. New to the tour this year will be a forage tour that will feature new products and services available to cattlemen locally and throughout the state at one of the summer’s premier cattle focused trade shows.

Highlights of the tour will include a monoslope feeding system, hoop barn feeding system, public grazing programs, as well as features such as a high quality breeding stock at multiple stops throughout both legs of the tour. A variety of equipment manufacturers will be on hand to view and demonstrate new and upcoming technologies in forage equipment and forage preservation techniques and practices.

The event will start on July 11th with an MSCA Quarterly Business Meeting, followed by a networking event and PAC sponsorship opportunities, contact Krist Wollum at 507-530-3854 or Dick Pesek at 507-829-3774. The 2016 Summer Tour email is mnccattletour16@gmail.com. Registration from is on page 16 and the MSCA website. We look forward to seeing you there!

Veterinary Feed Directive Questions and Answers – Part 3 of 3

Parts 1 & 2 were included in the November 2015 & February 2016 Minnesota Cattlemen newspaper, respectively. For more information visit the University of Nebraska Lincoln BeefWatch website.

By Rob Eirich, Nebraska Beef Quality Assurance, Nebraska Extension; Matt Luebbe, UNL Beef Feedlot Specialist; Richard Randle, Nebraska Extension Beef Veterinarian; and Dee Griffin, UNL-Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center

KEY POINTS: When the VFD regulations go into effect, they will ONLY apply to antibiotics used in the feed! They will not affect other feed use medications such as ionophores, coccidiosis, other parasite and insect control drugs, or reproductive control medications. VFD regulations will not apply to antibiotics used by injection, tablet, bolus or water.

WHAT DOES THIS REGULATION TAKE EFFECT?

It went into effect June 3, 2015. Currently, feed manufacturers are revising medicated feed labels to remove all feeding performance statements. These labels will read for use to treat, control or prevent a disease. The first of these revised labels will be available January 1, 2016. Labeling transition will continue to January 1, 2017 when all feed grade antibiotic will require a valid VFD.

WHAT PRODUCTS REQUIRE A VFD?

All feed use antibiotics that the FDA, World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control (CDC) considers “medically important to humans.” Currently, the FDA has approved one VFD antibiotic, tilmicosin (Pulmotil) for use in cattle feed to control Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD).

Medically important antibiotics currently being used in cattle feeds that have label indications for prevention, treatment and/or control of specific bacterial disease as required by the VFD regulations, but that will require new approvals by the FDA to continue the feed antibiotic use when the VFD regulation becomes effective in December 2016 include:

- Chlortetracycline (Aureomycin, CLTC, Pennbacillin)
- Oxytetracycline (Neotetramycin, Neo-Oxy)
- Tylosin (Tylosin)
- Virginiamycin (V-Max)

WHAT PRODUCTS DON’T REQUIRE A VFD?

VFD regulations focus on “Medically Important Antibiotics” as these represent the only medication type that has been identified that the use in livestock feed could potentially jeopardize the drug’s effectiveness in humans. Therefore medications used to control parasites, reproduction, bovine respiratory disease or feeding will not require a VFD. These include:

- ammonium bicarbonate (Corid)
- bacitracin (Albac, BM D),
- bambermycin (Gainpro),
- decoquinate (Deccox),
- fenbendazole (Safe-Guard),
- laiomyocin (Cattlyst),
- lasalocid (Bovatec),
- meleengestrol acetate (MGA),
- monensin (Rumensin),
- morantel (Rumatec),
- poloxalene (Bloat Guard)
- ractopamine (Optaflexx, A cogain),
- tetradoxin (Rabon). Can I use a VFD medication as a VFD medication be used in a feed that contains other FDA approved feed additives?

Yes, provided the FDA has approved the medications to be used together in the same feed. For decades the FDA has approved combination of metals in monensin (Rumensin), tylosin (Tylan) and meleengestrol (MGA) in the same feed. Tilmicosin (Pulmotil), the only VFD antibiotic currently approved by the FDA is approved for combination use with monensin. There is no reason to think the FDA will not continue to approve combination use of VFD medications approved in the future with other FDA approved feed medications.

Examples for the use of the currently approved VFD, we will refer to as “T-antibiotic”

- The forms includes the name, address, phone of the cattle owner and the veterinarian
- The location of the cattle is noted on the form

Veterinary... continued on page 8
If you have been tracking agriculture media over the last couple of weeks you likely have noticed that cattle producers in Minnesota and the Dakotas are crying foul over a proposed CME discount on October Feeder Cattle deliveries to the Sioux Falls Regional Livestock sale barn in Worthing, SD. The discount would be $0.50 per hundredweight on live cattle delivered on October future contracts and would only apply to the Worthing, SD location. There are 13 CME approved delivery locations from South Dakota to New Mexico with a total daily capacity of 370 contracts. The maximum daily capacity for the Worthing location is 60 contracts. CME claims this is an effort to redistribute seasonal supply and demand and that the cattle producers feel this discount is creating a competitive disadvantage for area producers.

The comment period for the CME is open through April 4. Comments can be provided to Andrew Crafton or Thomas Clark. Call Crafton at 312-634-8923 or Clark at 312-930-4595. I ask that you take the time to call up the phone and comment on the CME’s proposed discount at the Sioux Falls Regional Livestock sale barn. At a time when cattle prices are already low, do we need the CME to put us at a competitive disadvantage.

As a reminder, mark your calendars for July 12 and join us for the State Cattlemen’s Tour hosted by the Midwest Cattlemen’s Association. We have been working hard over the last several months to put together a quality tour that will be both educational and enjoyable.

We hope to see you in Southwest Minnesota in July.

The weather is changing from winter to spring which means that the meeting season is almost over. It has been fun and interesting getting out and around to meet new people and see familiar faces while we discuss the issues affecting producers in the different areas of the state. I would like to thank all the hosts of these meetings for inviting us and always giving us a delicious beef meal.

I have mentioned this before in this column, but I feel that it needs repeating. What we do as beef producers in this state is not being properly portrayed to the consumers of our product or to the citizens we share this state with. K, A shley, and I attended the governor’s water summit in St. Paul on February 27th to make sure the cattle producer’s voice was heard. We split up to try to cover as many topical areas as we could and soon realized that agriculture was the main topic of discussion in most of these topical areas. Agriculture was taking the blame for water quality in the state. People who were not actually living in the areas were the people who were commenting on the water quality problems. This was a very frustrating experience.

I wish the best for those of you who are just starting your calving season for 2016.

As I write this article, we are nearing the end of our cattle calving season. For people that calve early, you could not have asked for better weather conditions than what we have had. I wish the best for those of you who are just starting your calving season for 2016.

In my last article, I spoke of the Elk issues that are impacting our members in the NW corner of our state. I continue to get calls on this subject. Many of the calls I receive in favor of more Elk come from people that live outside of the Elks management area, or have never had an Elk issue on their own farm. This reaction is no different than when the wolf first started to move out of their territory and into areas with larger populations of cattle. It’s fascinating how fast attitudes can change when livestock or feed stores on your own farm are put at risk.

Our whole team has been working with state representatives on a list of potentially damaging bills to watch for the upcoming legislative session. At this time, I will not reveal how connected city and rural priorities really are. For instance, there is currently a bill in place to spend $20 million for the state to buy more land. At the same time, there is a bill that would remove the legislative approval of all state land purchases. There is also one that would eliminates DNR and MCPA from rule making authority. (How cool that would be). My point of this conversation is for a simple mind like mine, it is very confusing. For me outside looking in it just does not seem like there is much common ground and or even common sense. But I can assure you one thing, MSCA will not stop working for you.

One of the biggest benefits of being involved is knowing that is actually going on. Not coffee shop news. For instance, I would... continued on page 3

The Minnesota Cattlemen’s Association 23722 230th Street Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350 (612) 618-6619 www.mnsca.org mnsca@mnsca.org

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Membership Chair - Dennis Sleiter 42992 US Hwy 169, Aitkin, MN 56431
...

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Minnesota Cattlemen
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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)

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.

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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.

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

A pril 12-14: Legislative Conference - Washington, DC
May 4: May Beef M onth!
June 14th: 50th Annual Cottonwood Cattlemen’s Beef Royale, Lamberton Stockyards, Lamberton, MN (All are invited to participate!)
July 11: MSCA Quarterly Board of Directors M eeting – Minnesota West Technology School, Canby, MN 10:00 am
July 12: M SCA Summer Tour - Canby, MN
August 2 - 4: FarmFest - Redwood Falls, M N
August 26 & 27: U of M Grazing School, Grand Rapids, M N (More details to come)
September 10: M SCA Quarterly Board of Directors M eeting - Sebeka, MN – 10:00 am
Dec. 1 - 3: M SCA Annual Convention & Trade Show, DoubleTree – Bloomington, M N

May Beef Month Events!

Share your May Beef M onth event stories and photos with us! All entries will be entered into a drawing for $100 in Cabela’s gift cards. Plus, every story and photo submitted will be published in the June edition of The Minnesota Cattlem an.

Legislative Notes

Greetings.

Last month had the pleasure of representing MSCA in conjunction with Agri-Growth, at a luncheon cohosted by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and US Chamber of Commerce regarding current status of TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership).

The keynote address was by Kurt Tong, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs with the US State Department. Mr. Tong is highly knowledgeable and experienced in economics and trade. Some prior assignments have included US Ambassador for Asia, Pacific Economic Cooperation, serving as Economic Coordinator for the State Department’s Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. He has been an economic affairs diplomat for the State Department since 1990, most of his focus has been in the areas the TPP will include.

Many points were discussed with much supportive data as to the benefits of passage.

Before attending this meeting, my expectations where that most attendees would be agriculture based with varying levels of impact TPP would create with the typical discussion of how we can help each organization together for a unified effort to help ourselves while only having a small “ag” percentage of the population. “The Eye Opening Moment” – This group of about 30 represented a huge variety of future benefactors of a passed TPP ranging from big names like Delta Airlines, Cargill, Land-o-Lakes, FedEx, industry, manufacturing, entrepreneurs and marketing firms, soybean and meat export federation, local, Minnesota and US Chambers of Commerce. TPP is not just the beef industry or Ag in general, TPP will have a major benefit to the US, Minnesota in particular.

Some points to remember/consider -

80% of the world’s buying power is outside the U.S.
95% of customers are outside the U.S.

TPP, when enacted, will help in keeping a fair and level playing field throughout the 11 countries involved - Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. They want to associate with the U.S. and have some serious concerns of China. China IS NOT part of TPP.

Without TPP other agreements are being forged and do not include the U.S., thus giving other countries unfair economic advantages to markets. TPP means billions of dollars to Minnesota exports through “duty free” status. “We can grow and process things really well, we are always looking for ways to expand our markets.” Perry Aasness, MN Agri-Growth.

Some comments by Kurt Tong:

- TPP is a “heavy lift” not easy. Negotiations have been ongoing since 2008.
- Geo-economic opportunity to shape the rules of the road
- Smart strategy - constantly promote TPP benefits. We need to do this because the “anti” is ongoing also.
- The current document is 16,000 pages.
- With a code of silence a wide majority in Washington would support; in open public it would be much closer.
- A few things learned through NCBA about TPP:
  - The beef industry could have the largest gains in passing TPP. This will place us on a level playing field with Australia and others for beef exports into the Pacific Rim.
  - If our Congress does not ratify TPP, the other parties involved will go forward without the U.S. putting us at a great disadvantage.

Legislative Notes continued from page 2

have never learned about the CME group requesting changes to the live cattle futures contracts in Worthing, South Dakota if I wasn’t involved. This is a big deal for Minnesota cattle feeders. I would like to thank K rist and Dick for picking the ball up and addressing the disadvantage this would cause for feeders in Minnesota and our region.

I would like to close out by wishing everyone who raises registered cattle and sells bulls the very best of luck during your sales this year.

A ll the best.

May Beef Month Events!

Share your May Beef M onth Event stories and photos with us! All entries will be entered into a drawing for $100 in Cabela’s gift cards. Plus, every story and photo submitted will be published in the June edition of The Minnesota Cattlem an.
Minnesota Monthly Food & Wine Show

On March 5 & 6, the Minnesota Beef Council partnered with St. Paul College Culinary Program and Hennepin Technical Culinary Program to develop a Chimichurri Sauce recipe, as well as a Brandied Cream Sauce recipe that was sampled with the Petite Tender to over 4,000 attendees throughout the course of the weekend. Both recipes were developed to showcase an under-utilized lean cut of beef, but also different flavor profiles that pair nicely with beef and wine. Additionally, the Minnesota Beef Council was also on hand to answer consumer questions about beef cuts, cooking methods and beef recipes throughout the duration of the weekend.

Beef University 2016

The Minnesota Beef Council and the University of Minnesota Extension Beef Team have revamped our training program, Beef University. It is intended as a training tool for retail and foodservice professionals. This year will feature a two-part program that will explore all facets of beef from how beef is raised and product quality to marketing and merchandising. The first program date will occur in April with a carcass breakdown and basic information about beef. The second program will occur in June with an on farm tour and processing tour.

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 through April 15 by using the following access code: BIVIBQA. Please take the opportunity to receive this valuable training. Throughout the duration of the free online BQA Certification this past fall, 203 beef and dairy farmers and ranchers in Minnesota took advantage of the free online BQA program! Ashley Kohls worked with Land O Lakes on a series of Cattle Handling Seminars in Minnesota and Wisconsin utilizing Curt Pate. Since October, 349 producers have been trained through BQA. In January we started to collect data on the number of animals that were represented by the producers and employees being trained. This number for January and February is at over 34,000 head of dairy and beef cattle.

For questions or more information on registration, contact Ashley Kohls, Beef Quality Assurance Coordinator via email at mnbeefbqa@mnbeef.org or via phone at 612-618-6619.

MBC Board Meeting

The next Minnesota Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12 at the Minnesota Beef Council office.
Twin Cities Live – TV Segments

MBC works with the Television Program Twin Cities Live to provide a monthly 4-6 minute segment on beef. The latest segment aired on March 11, and featured spring beef recipes with former Beef Backer Chef Peter Christenson. All past segments can be found on our website.

Minnesota Association of Meat Processors (MAMP) Annual Convention

The Minnesota Beef Council hosted an Innovative Beef Contest at the Minnesota Association of Meat Processors’ annual convention, March 4 & 5 in St. Cloud. The entries had to be new and innovative, value-added beef item with emphasis on consumer acceptability. The winners this year were:

Best of Beef Innovative Overall Winner:
Main Street Meats in Park Rapids with their Florentine Pinwheel Cheeseburger Meatball

Steak/Roast Category:
1. Main Street Meats in Park Rapids with their Florentine Pinwheel Cheeseburger Meatball
2. Greg’s Meats in Hampton with their Tenderloin Beef Jerky
3. Main Street Meats in Park Rapids with their Raspberry Chipotle Beef Brisket

Lean Ground Beef Category:
1. Main Street Meats in Park Rapids with their Deluxe Bacon Cheeseburger Meatball
2. Big Steer Meats in St. Paul with their Deluxe Cheeseburger Meatball

Processed Beef Category:
1. Greg’s Meats in Hampton with their Tenderloin Beef Jerky
2. Grand Champion in Foley with their Deluxe Bacon Cheeseburger Patties
3. Big Steer Meats in St. Paul with their Colorado Beer Jerky

Local Producer Promotions

Spring is here and before you know it, county fairs will be beginning. Do you know about our Local Producer Promotion Program? Any local cattle producer organization, including local breed association, dairy promotion groups and agricultural organizations may request up to $500 per fiscal year, while budgeted funds are available, for a project directly relating to the promotion or education of beef. Fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. Promotions or education activities must encourage the use of beef.

The proposed promotional project must relate to one of the following key Minnesota Beef Council goals:

- Enhance image of the Minnesota Beef Industry
- Increase consumer and influencer understanding of the value, preparation, safety and nutritional attributes of beef.

See the MN Beef Council website for all the guidelines & request form under Cattlemen’s Corner.

Here are just a couple of examples from this past year:

Tailgate Event for Homecoming Football Game: A meal was served from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and consisted of beef brats and hamburgers with sides. There were booths that people could stop at, which included various school clubs with activities, the FFA which had beef cow bingo, a tractor and the Goodhue Farm Bureau which had ag games. Over 400 people were served and more attended the event before the homecoming football game.

Fun with a Farmer Event: Interacted with 510 students and 8 volunteers at two different Rochester schools. They set up 5 stations for the students to rotate through. The stations were: making butter and learning about dairy, beef and learning about beef byproducts, feed sack and learning about nutrition of animals, farmer Olympics, and visiting their school garden to talking about plant growth.

Albany Market

320-845-2000

Monday & Wednesday:
7 a.m. - Designated Thursdays
10 a.m. - Feeder & Slaughter Cattle
3 p.m. – Baby Calves

Tuesday & Thursday:
7 a.m. to 10 a.m. - Hogs & Sheep
10:30 a.m. - First Wednesday & third Friday of the month
Special Dairy Sales:
10:30 a.m. - Market Cows, Fed Cattle, Stock Cows & Breeding Bulls
1 p.m. - Fed Cattle, Day Delivered
4 p.m. – Baby Calves

Special Feeder Sales:
9 a.m. – Hog Auction
Noon – Market Cows/Bulls & Fed Cattle
4 p.m. - Designated Thursdays

Special Feeder Sales:
9 a.m. – Hog Auction
Noon – Market Cows/Bulls & Fed Cattle
4 p.m. - Designated Thursdays

UPCOMING SPECIAL FEEDER CATTLE SALES

Albany
Apr. 13 & May 11
Rock Creek
Apr. 6 & 20, May 4 & 18
West Fargo
Every Wednesday
Zumbrota
Apr. 14
By: Tracy Brunner, NCBA

President

Meet President Brunner - 2016: A Year for Growing Market Access not Regulation

I am proud to say that for cattle producers coming off the 2016 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show this is going to be a great year. We had over 6,700 cattlemen and women in attendance for this year’s convention in San Diego and they gave a clear indication NCBA is on the right track.

It’s a honor to take the reins of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association at a time when there are so many reasons to be optimistic about the future of our industry. My roles in the beef industry have helped me broaden my view of our industry. My family’s operation in Ramona, Kansas spans the beef production chain to include farm and pasture land, seedstock cow-calf units and a feedlot operation. That background, with my two decades of service to the Kansas Livestock Association and Kansas Beef Council and six years in the Cattlemen’s Beef Board have given me a greater appreciation for the industry as a whole. In this next year, I hope to build off that experience to ensure we do everything we can to support our producers and build market access and capitalize on strong beef demand.

We had a number of monumental successes in 2015 to build from including greater stability in the tax code and increased congressional oversight in key policy areas. On that foundation, we will look in this year to grow exports and set our sights on regulatory overreach across the agencies.

One of the top priorities for this year will be to educate and ensure passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Expanded trade supports our domestic market and adds value for underutilized products and variety meats.

Trade is essential to the continued success and growth of our industry, in turn supporting future generations of cattle producers. For me, supporting the next generation of cattlemen and women is essential and the best way to do that is to ensure our industry remains profitable.

There are around 260 preferential trade agreements in force worldwide, only 14 of which include the United States. We have already seen what happens when we do not engage in these trade agreements. In 2014, Australia and Japan signed their economic partnership agreement, giving Australia a 10 percent tariff advantage over U.S. beef exports into Japan. That agreement alone cost U.S. beef producers over $100 million and counting in lost access to Japan. That lost access to the Australian market is one of a myriad of reasons that led to lower prices this fall and winter. The only way to reclaim that access and lead trade in the fast growing Asian markets is passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. TPP would immediately level the tariff disparity and provide the best access ever negotiated into the Japanese market. That is why it is a top priority for 2016.

This is also an election year, and while movement on Capitol Hill will be slowed, regulatory action will not rest.

We still must defeat EPA’s “waters of the United States” rule. We will continue to move forward with our lawsuit in the Southern District of Texas and work with Congress to find a permanent solution to halt EPA’s land grab. We must also focus on other environmental regulations coming from EPA before they become the next crisis for our industry. Moreover, this next year, we will continue the call for meaningful reform to the Endangered Species Act and ensure the goal is not simply listing new species and regulating land use to achieve unreachable goals, but recovery and delisting.

Meet President Brunner - 2016: A Year for Growing Market Access not Regulation... continued on page 7

Local Producer... continued from page 5

off- Yellow Medicine 4-H County Leaders Council: Teams prepared a stir fry using steaks. The kids chose steak because cattle production is a big component of our community. Their overall mission was to educate the public about how the beef starts on the farm and ends up in the grocery store. They did this by having informational diagrams & posters displayed and they also gave a speech about beef production.

These are just a few of the events that people submitted Local Producer Promotion request forms this past year. Does your Cattlemen’s group have a great idea to enhance the image of the Minnesota Beef Industry or increase consumer and influencer understanding of the value, preparation, safety and nutritional attributes of beef?

Meet President Brunner - 2016: A Year for Growing Market Access not Regulation... continued on page 7

PROUD TO SUPPORT OUR #1 CUSTOMER.

Minnesota’s corn farmers and their families work hard to grow high quality crops while preserving land for future generations. And we’re proud to invest millions of dollars every year in research that improves the production of livestock - our number 1 customer. Learn more at mncorn.org.

Mary Waibel
Courtland, Minnesota
My Ag Policy Experience
By: Kylee Kohls, Region V FFA President

As a high school student, homework, FFA events, church happenings, my show cattle, and what I have on my packed calendar for the upcoming weekend are thoughts that fill my mind throughout the week; ag policy and the issues that essentially affect my daily life were pretty low on the priority list. My perspective changed after attending the Minnesota FFA Agriculture Policy Experience (APEX) February 1-2, 2016.

Ag policy was something I was told should be looked into as a career, but I had no idea what a job like that included. Once I heard about this opportunity through FFA’s social media, I knew this would be a fabulous opportunity for me to explore this career path. Of course, a few FFA friends and mentors recommended APEX to me as well, because they knew I would enjoy the action-packed and knowledge-crammed two days.

Before this event, I had no true, hands-on policy experience; but I have always wanted to know how the legislative process works and how the guidelines that affect our daily lives are created and put into action. In preparation for APEX, each of the attending FFA members submitted two agriculture, food, or environment focused bills. These bills were going to be used during a mock legislative experience where we would discuss the bills and participate in the demonstrated legislative process. The days leading up to APEX, I was trying to round up details from those I knew who had previously attended. They told me to take lots of notes, shake hands with as many people as possible, and have fun! My comrades were right.

I was one of approximately 20 Minnesota FFA members that were able to increase our current knowledge of issues in agriculture in order to become an active leader in our local communities. During this prestigious experience, we had the opportunity to visit with Department of Agriculture staff, legislators, representatives, and Senator Gary Dahms, as well as other legislators and agricultural commodity leaders. One of the biggest surprises that we encountered during our time at this event was that we, 20 FFA members from rural Minnesota, were going to have lunch with Governor Mark Dayton at his residence!

Throughout Minnesota FFA’s APEX, the knowledge gained and people met within the two days in St. Paul, Minnesota are the most valuable takeaways for me. My questions were answered about how the legislative process works as I was able to participate in a mock legislative experience. The two hours spent in a mock committee hearing were eye-opening and my favorite part during the two day conference.

Not only were the sessions and information learned incredible, but so were the people we met. We discussed “hot” topics in agriculture during roundtable discussion such as GMO Labeling with the likes of Anna Boroff of the Minnesota Corn Growers, livestock issues including avian flu or the docking of dairy cow’s tails with Associated Milk Producers Inc (AMPI) leaders and Minnesota Turkey Grower’s Steve Olson, and the buffer zone issue and water quality with Minnesota Agricultural Water Resource Center’s Jeremy Geske. Along with these agriculture commodity experts, we ‘built bridges’, starting to engage in relationships with Kevin Paap and Amber Hanson from the Minnesota Farm Bureau, and Sarah Domink and Kari Schwab from the Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council (MAELC). They each shared their stories connecting them to agriculture, how they got to the positions they are in today, and then shared their expertise with us young ‘Ag Advocates’.

A driving message that I took away from APEX was that we all need to share our agriculture stories, young or old. Each one is unique and by getting our stories about how we are connected to agriculture, how we use technology to better the plants and animals that we will eventually eat, or how we are influencing our communities in agriculture, we will have a greater impact than we know. During our reception on that Monday evening with representatives and lobbyists, they wanted to know our stories and allowed me to feel like I have a voice in Ag Policy even though I am only sixteen years old.

While APEX was going on, most of you (my family too) were home, working on the farm, but kudos to those who are standing up for us up at the Capitol. There is an exorbitant amount of time, effort, and resources that go into their efforts to make our... continued on page 8

Brunner... continued from page 6

will flight wholesale monument designations and ensure this administration does not prevent multiple-use on millions of acres of land on their way out the door.

Finally, we will continue to work with Congress and the federal agencies to ensure we have strong procedures in place to protect against a foreign animal disease outbreak. In 2015, through Congressional oversight, a process was established for evaluating future requests for imports from regions with a known history of foreign animal disease. The latest science and most rigorous safeguards must be utilized to ensure the safety of our domestic herd. A bovine all else, animal health is paramount to the economic viability of our industry and the safety of our food supply.

This is a remarkable year for growth of our industry and I look forward to working with our state affiliates and NCBA members to achieve results and grow our success in 2016.

Bruder... continued from page 6
The form also indicates how many cattle are to be covered by the VFD and their approximate weights.

The amount of VFD medication that will be needed is calculated and recorded on the form (not required in the final rule).

A note is included if the VFD drug is to be used in combination with another drug as approved by the FDA.

The “effective date” of the VFD and the “expiration date” as calculated from the effective (start) date is listed.

The required withdrawal time is record on the VFD form.

The veterinarian signs the form and provides a copy for both the cattle producer and for the feed distributor that will provide the VFD medication.

For this example the VFD for “T-antibiotic” has a 45 day “expiration date” calculated from the VFD “effective date” listed on the VFD form by the veterinarian. This means that the VFD therapy must be initiated within the 45 day window from the “VFD effective date” to the “VFD expiration date” ...

...that allows for a complete therapeutic cycle to be completed.

The VFD approved “T-antibiotic” will be fed to 100 calves that average 500 lbs.

The VFD for “T-antibiotic” requires that at least 10% of the cattle in the group are exhibiting signs of pneumonia.

The VFD “T-antibiotic” is fed for 14 continuous days and a 28 day withdrawal is assigned at the end of the 14 day treatment.

To meet the 45 day VFD expiration window, the “T-antibiotic” must be started no later than 31 days from the VFD effective date. (45 day window – 14 therapy cycle = 31 day window to start a therapy cycle).

Three concentrations of “T-antibiotic” are available for on-farm mixing. For this example a “Type B Article” 5.68 gm / lb product will be used. This is especially convenient for this examples as the dose is 5.68 mg per lb of calf. Therefore, each pound of 5.68 gm / lb Type B product will medicate two 500 lb calves each day during the 14 day treatment. The total amount of Type B product to be used for the 100 calves weighing 500 lbs for the entire 14 day treatment will be 700 lbs.

The ration being fed the calves is 75% dry matter (DM).

“T-antibiotic” has a few use restrictions that must be followed. They are:

- Cattle in the group that are exhibiting clinical signs of pneumonia should be removed for individual treatment.
- An injectable antibiotic in the same macrolide class cannot be used in conjunction with or prior to the use of the “T-antibiotic”.
- The “T-antibiotic” must be used in a complete feed which means no other feed or feedstuff can be offered.
- Cattle must receive between 1.5% and 2.0% of their body weight of the complete feed on a dry matter basis (DMB).
- No other feed can be offered while feeding the VFD medicated feed (no extra hay or lick tubes).
- The feed mixer used to prepare the complete feed should be “flushed-out” before being used to mix feed containing the tilmicosin.

- Between 1000 A-Feed lbs to 1333 A-Feed lbs of the 75% DM complete ration will meet the 1.5% to 2.0% daily intake restriction for the 100, 5 CWT calves required by the VFD for “T-antibiotic”.
- The amount of the “T-antibiotic” 5.68 gm/lb of the Type B product used daily for the 100, 5 CWT calves will be 50 lbs. This amount will be added to the 1000 to 1333 lbs of A-Feed daily feed delivery.

The total amount of feed that is 65% dry matter (DM) fed to a group of 100 cattle weighing 5 CWT would be:

- Feed intake can range between 1.5% to 2.0% of BW on a DMB
  - At 1.5% BW (DMB) = 500 x 1.5% = 7.5 lbs (DMB)
  - At 2.0% BW (DMB) = 500 x 2.0% = 10 lbs (DMB)

- The amount of “T-antibiotic” fed will be 50 lbs.

- For this example the VFD medication supplier (e.g. feed store) to let them know John Doe will be using a VFD medication and what concentration of the medication they want to use. It may take the supplier 1 to 2 weeks to get the medication in stock.

- John Doe's vet (licensed in the state where the cattle will reside AND as a VCPR) can write a VFD for “T-antibiotic” and as a “Special Instruction” indicate the “VFD to begin Aug 1, 2015”.

- The expiration date for “T-antibiotic’ is labeled as 45 days. Therefore in this example the VFD usage window will be from Aug 1st to Sep 14th. WHICH MEANS, all feeding of “T-antibiotic” on this VFD must stop at midnight Sep 14th.

- “T-antibiotic” has a 14 day feeding cycle. Therefore all groups for cattle identified to receive “T-antibiotic” must be started on a treatment cycle by Aug 31st.

- If there is any delay in receiving the anticipated loads of cattle, a second VFD will need to be written to extend to potential treatment past the expiration of the original VFD (Sep 14th).

- The dose of “T-antibiotic” is 5.68 mg/lb per day. “T-antibiotic” is available in a 5.68 gm/lb pellet. Therefore the dose would be 1 lb of these pellets per 1,000 lbs of cattle being treated.

- “T-antibiotic” has a couple of important feeding restrictions:
  - Must be feed to cattle consuming feed between 1.5% and 2.0% of the body wt. on a DMB
  - No other feedstuff can be offered … not extra hay, lick tubes, etc.

- The total amount of “T-antibiotic” that will be needed for a group of 100, 5 CWT calves will be:
  - 1 pound of pellets will treat 1,000 lbs of cattle per day
  - 5 CWT x 10 head = 50,000 lbs. …. 50,000 lbs / 1000 lbs = 50 lbs of pellets per day.

- A copy for both the cattle producer and for the feed supplier 1 to 2 weeks to get the medication in stock.

- A copy of the form for notifying the FDA: http://go.unl.edu/mwzv

- Must be supported by a copy of the VFD medication label, which must be kept for two years.

- The VFD medication supplier (feed mill) must have a copy of the completed VFD form. These copies must be retained for two years.

- The VFD medication supplier (feed mill) must have a new supplier line of VFD medications, and they can request a VFD form. The supplier will repeat the process, even if a new VFD product becomes available.

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- Veterinary Policy Experience was very eye-opening and would recommend it to any young agriculturalists or FFA members who are involved in agriculture or thinking about going into policy as a career.

- For my career path, I have not decided on exactly what I would like to do, but at least I was able to catch a glimpse of what it would be like to have an agricultural policy career. For now, I will continue to share my story and passion for agriculture, for its greatest impact is on those around us.
**Mid-Session State Legislative Update:**

Governor Dayton released his supplemental budget bill and is proposing to spend approximately $700 million of the $900 million projected budget surplus on mostly one-time spending items. He is seeking $25 million to pay for public school pre-kindergarten programs in school districts with higher poverty rates and for child care programs, serving an estimated 3,700 additional students. He is also proposing to spend $100 million for rural broadband (using public-private matching grants) and $100 million to address racial disparities. There is approximately $117 million in tax relief that would be targeted to low and middle income families by expanding the child and dependent care tax credits and raising the eligible income level for the K-12 education tax credit.

**Transportation Highlights:**
- During the last committee meeting, non-partisan research staff walked through the side-by-side comparisons of the House and Senate omnibus transportation finance bills. The chairs of the conference committee expressed optimism that a deal could be reached before adjournment in May.
- Roadside mowing: A bill to modifying restrictions on mowing ditches, HF 2885 (M. Nama), was introduced. Notable language in this bill will require a person to obtain a permit from the commissioner of transportation to mow, hay, burn, or till the right-of-way of a road or highway.

**Tax Highlights:**
- Legislation, HF 2987, sponsored by Rep. Paul Marquart (DFL-Duluth), seeks to alleviate some of the property tax burden farmers see when new school building referendums are approved by voters. The proposal would create a school building bond agricultural credit based on the school debt tax rate and the property’s net tax capacity. A similar provision in the House Omnibus Tax Bill is currently being considered in the Tax Conference Committee.

**Ag Committee Highlights:**
- An update on the implementation of the buffer law from the DNR and BWSR was heard. The Committee heard SF 2503 (Skee), a bill clarifying some of the provisions in the 2015 buffer law. Language of interest in this bill states that the DNR cannot know if a property owner is using an existing public waters inventory must be used when mapping public waters. The bill was amended and was referred to the Senate Environment Policy Committee. A summary of the amended bill can be found at: www.rense.com
- In response to a recent to an elevator filing for bankruptcy recently in Porter, M. Resnea, the House Ag Agriculture Policy Committee heard HF 3186. The legislation sponsored by Rep. Chris Swedzinski (R-Gheet) increases the size of bond required of certain grain buyers. It also establishes a new program to provide indemnity payment to farmers who sell grain on credit if a grain buyer defaults on the credit contract the indemnity program would be administered by the M. Nama Department of Agriculture, the agency that licenses grain buyers under current law. M. SCA., Pres. Elect K. Rist Wollum testified on behalf of the bill.
- The House Ag Policy Committee and the House Ag Finance Committee held a joint hearing to hear updates from the M. Nama Department of Agriculture regarding the AGRF fund and the biodiesel and biofuels programs. The joint committee also heard the M. D. A. livestock industry study report.

**Environmental Highlights:**
- Elk Management Plan: The House Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee heard testimony Wednesday about a bill authored by Rep. Dan Fabian (Roseau) H. F 3000, which seeks to clarify some uncertainties about the 2016-2020 DNR Elk Management Plan. M. SCA., Region 9 Director Dan Anderson of Roseau & M. SCA. member Donnie Schmiedeberg of Lancaster offered testimony on behalf of the committee and offered testimony on behalf of this bill.
- MPCA Citizens Board. A bill re-establishing the MPCA Citizens Board, SF 2346 (M.arty) was introduced. This bill was as heard in the Senate State and Local Government Committee. The bill passed and was referred to the Senate Finance Committee. There is still no House companion.
- Wolf Hunt Moratorium. A bill establishing a ban on a wolf hunting season was introduced, SF 2987 (Eaton). This bill prohibits an open season for hunting wolves due to a report of a wolf hunting season was introduced in the early 2000s as a result of the 2015 wolf hunting season from the DNR and BWSR. The bill also prohibits the sale of wolf meat, and it also states that the existing public waters inventory must be used when mapping public waters. The bill was amended and was referred to the Senate Environment Policy Committee. A summary of the amended bill can be found at: www.rense.com
- The House Agriculture Policy Committee heard HF 3186 (Swedzinski). This bill establishes a grain contract indemnity program to provide an indemnity payment to farmers who sell grain on credit if a grain buyer defaults on the credit contract. The indemnity program would be administered by the M. Nama Department of Agriculture, the agency that licenses grain buyers under current law. M. SCA., Pres. Elect K. Rist Wollum testified on behalf of the bill.

**State Legislative Update:**

The following bills are of interest to MSCA. Any of these bills can be found at: www.leg.state.mn.us by clicking “Search House Bills” or by clicking “Search Finance Bills.”

- **Environment:**
  - SF 2987 (M.arty): Establishes a grain contract indemnity program.
  - HF 2885 (M. Nama): Modifying restrictions on mowing ditches.

- **Tax:**
  - SF 2987 (Mony): Allows an agricultural land credit on school building bonds.

- **Transportation:**
  - SF 2987 (Eaton): Establishes a grain contract indemnity program.
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- **Ag Committee:**
  - SF 2987 (M.arty): Establishes a grain contract indemnity program.
  - HF 2885 (M. Nama): Modifying restrictions on mowing ditches.

- **Elk Management Plan:**
  - SF 2503 (Skee): Clarifies buffer requirements on public waters and drainage ditches.

- **Wolf Hunt Moratorium:**
  - SF 2987 (Eaton): Establishes a grain contract indemnity program.
  - HF 2885 (M. Nama): Modifying restrictions on mowing ditches.

- **Roadside Mowing:**
  - SF 2987 (Eaton): Allows an agricultural land credit on school building bonds.

**Hereford Bulls for Sale**

Featuring sons of LSJS MARK DOMINO 0945, best Hereford carcass sire ever:

- Ranks in top 1% of sires for ribeye area, marbling, udder suspension, test size, baldie maternal index, certified Hereford beef index
- Ranks in top 5% for carcass weight, backfat, yearling weight, milk, maternal calving ease, scrotal circ.
- Trait leader for 15 traits, sire of even-tempered, highly fertile, structurally correct, durable cattle
- One of the best all-around performance sires to be found in any breed
- Dominant sire in J. S. Simplot Co. sire test, ribboned 105 weaning, 108 yearling, 117 ribeye area

**0945 and his sons are ideal for your black cows**

- Proven quality for Angus branded programs and CERTIFIED HEREFORD BEEF
- Aided heterosis, problem-free, efficient daughters
- Maximin feedlot performance and carcass value

**LJS MARK DOMINO 1321**

Son of 0945, owned with Churchill, M T, Texas Stardance, TX

Currently in use in many prominent herds across North America. Aready a breed leader for calving ease and rapidly establishing himself as a leading performance sire. We bred 1321, his parents and grandparents. Semen is available on 0945 and 1321. Both are safe for use on heifers.

**Schafer Herefords**

Lester & John Schafer
64664 170th St.
Buffalo Lake, MN 55314

Home: (320) 833-2050
L es, cell: (320) 582-0489
J ohn, cell: (320) 582-1458
jschafer@wildbluecoop.com
The Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) has been working to fulfill its mission to identify and promote opportunities for corn growers while enhancing quality of life since the organization was formed in 1978. Since its inception, MCGA has grown to more than 7,200 members with 52 affiliated county organizations around the state, making it the second largest corn membership association in the country.

MCGA is affiliated with the Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council (MCR&PC), which is responsible for the efficient and effective use of the Minnesota corn check-off. Created in 1991, the MCR&PC is an eleven-person board that consists of Minnesota farmers elected by their peers. MCR&PC and MCGA are two separate entities but share a common mission and meet concurrently and provide members to common committees and action teams. This close, respectful relationship has been key to the success of the two organizations and to the effectiveness of our work.

MCGA has been involved with the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association or its members in some fashion since the organization was founded. Livestock feed is the number one market for corn in both the U.S. and Minnesota, and corn farmers (many of whom raise cattle themselves) recognize the importance of maintaining a healthy and successful beef industry in our state.

As one of the largest farm membership organizations in the state, they take their leadership responsibility seriously and work not only to identify and promote opportunities for corn farmers but for all farmers in the state. Through our relationship with the Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council (MCR&PC), we support and fund a wide variety of communications and educational initiatives that promote the value of agriculture. They work hard to form relationships with policy-makers and influencers in both St. Paul and Washington D.C. to help ensure that farmers’ voices and concerns are heard and considered in policy decisions that affect not only corn farmers but all of agriculture and rural Minnesota.

Every year, MCGA also invest millions of dollars of corn check-off funds into research designed to help improve the economic viability of agriculture, improve the environment and pave the way for a brighter future for all farmers in the years ahead. Since 2009, MCGA/MCR&PC has funded at least 16 significant research projects directly related to the Beef Industry. Much of this research has focused on optimizing the use of Distillers Grains in beef cattle rations and related issues.

MCGA/MCR&PC also funds and supports a wide variety of initiatives that support cattlemen as well as the entire agricultural sector of Minnesota, including Ag in the Classroom, Provider Pals, Common Ground Minnesota, MFB’s Speak for Yourself program, MN 4-H SOAR challenge, U of M Beef Team Cattle Feeder Days, the MN Beef Expo and many, many other projects.

On the policy side, their number one issue for the legislative session is property tax relief, an issue that is important to the profitability and success of all farmers in Minnesota and vital to the economic success of our overall rural economy. Policy-wise, they are also working on buffers, water quality and other regulatory issues that affect all farmers and ranchers across the state. Additionally, they are increasing their focus on outreach and education to the non-farming public on a variety of agricultural and rural issues. Developing closer personal relationships outside the ag world is an important first step to building trust, which is critical to finding cooperative solutions.

MCGA has always been, and will remain a grassroots organization run by and for farmers. They’re committed to a teamwork approach with other state and national agricultural organizations and they’re proud of the relationships we’ve built over the years.

Want to keep up with the promotional and policy efforts of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association? Check out their various media outlets today!

Website: mncorn.org
Blog: MinnesotaCornerstone.com
Facebook: Facebook.com/MinnesotaCorn
Twitter: Twitter.com/MNCorn

Thank you to the Minnesota Corn Growers Association for their continued support of the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association as well as Minnesota family farmers!
The Livestock Industry Study is the result of action taken by the 2015 Minnesota Legislature and signed into law by Governor Mark Dayton.

This Livestock Industry Study was designed to identify causes of the relative growth or decline in the number of head of poultry and livestock produced in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Nebraska over the last ten years, including but not limited to the impact of nuisance conditions and lawsuits filed against poultry or livestock farms. No later than February 1, 2016, the commissioner must report findings by geographic stock sector, recommendations on how to strengthen and expand Minnesota animal agriculture to the legislative committee with jurisdiction over agriculture policy and finance.

Facts

The three main stock sectors for Minnesota are dairy, beef, and pork. Dairy, beef, and hogs are the three largest sectors in terms of inventory and pounds of production.

1. Dairy: 2015 inventory was 10.5 million, with a production decline of 15 percent compared to 2014. The number of dairy cows in Minnesota is declining, while cheese plants are processing at capacity which means producers are not able to sell milk as much as they would like. The value of milk produced fluctuated widely over the past 10 years with prices ranging from a low of $10.70 per hundredweight (cwt) to a high of $26.60/cwt in April 2014.

2. Beef: The cattle inventory and production in Minnesota experienced a 15 percent increase since 2006, an increase of over one million hogs. Only Iowa’s 20 percent increase topped Minnesota’s growth over the study period. Nebraska’s inventory increased by 26 percent, while South Dakota was at 7 percent. The growth in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, saw decreased hog inventories over the past decade with Wisconsin’s 29 percent decrease the most prominent. Minnesota pork production value topped $2.7 billion in 2014 compared to $1.6 billion in 2005, a 177 percent increase.

3. Poultry: As the nation’s number one turkey producer, Minnesota’s annual production was 4.0 to 4.7 million head annually. Turkey production is dependent on the capacity of processors to modernize and/or expand their operations to meet the growing market needs of the industry. Turkey production is vertically integrated (one company operates two or more stages of production normally operated by separate companies) and there are a number of independent growers who have a marketing agreement to market their poultry. With the exception of some backyard flocks raised for personal consumption and local direct marketing, many poultry farms now have contracts to sell their birds to the following companies: Jennie-O Turkey Store, GNP Company, (formerly Gold’n Plump Poultry), Willmar Poultry Company, Michael Foods, Inc., Sparboe Co LLC and Rembrandt Enterprises Inc. a few Minnesota-based companies.

4. Egg: Data showed an increase in all states except North Dakota where no data were available. Iowa leads the nation with 16.5 billion eggs produced annually and has increased 14 percent since 2008.

5. Sheep: All states within the study, with the exception of Wisconsin, experienced decreases in number of sheep ranging from 4 percent to 10 percent. Minnesota’s inventory decreased by 10 percent, while Wisconsin’s increased by 10 percent. One of the reasons for the decline is competition for marginal and grazing lands, a factor that is six times greater in the United States than in the lowest beef cow inventory since the 1950s which directly reflects on the number of calves being fed and marketed. The number of cattle on feed marketed is split with inventories in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin increasing while Nebraska and North Dakota are decreasing by 3 percent, 4 percent, and 27 percent, respectively.

6. Goats: The number one turkey producer, Minnesota’s annual production has remained fairly constant over the past 10 to 15 years at 44-46 million head. Iowa’s annual turkey production has increased from 8.5 million head in 2005 to 10.5 million in 2014. South Dakota’s turkey production has been fairly stable at 4.0 to 4.7 million head annually. Turkey production is dependent on the capacity of processors and few, if any, new processors or major expansions have been noted over the study period. The poultry industry is vertically integrated (one company operates two or more stages of production normally operated by separate companies) and there are a number of independent growers who have a marketing agreement to market their poultry. With the exception of some backyard flocks raised for personal consumption and local direct marketing, many poultry farms now have contracts to sell their birds to the following companies: Jennie-O Turkey Store, GNP Company (formerly Gold’n Plump Poultry), Willmar Poultry Company, Michael Foods, Inc., Sparboe Co LLC and Rembrandt Enterprises Inc. a few Minnesota-based companies.

Executive Summary

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Recommendations

Minnesota should continue its regulatory efforts to protect the environment and natural resources. Crop and livestock producers should be encouraged to continue to follow recommended guidelines and standards for Best Management Practices (BMPs) that provide optimum health and growth of their livestock and crops. The environmental review process should seek a balance that includes public input and involvement. Projects that meet these standards should be encouraged to proceed.

The following recommendations are presented:

• Ensure the success of Minnesota’s livestock industry by encouraging processors to modernize and/or expand their operations to meet the growing market needs of the industry.

• Support the dairy processing infrastructure by stimulating investments in cheese processing capacity and boosting demand for fluid/soft dairy products. This would help to address the impending oversupply of milk in Minnesota.

• Fund programs that provide capital, low-interest loans and grants to young and beginning farmers or those considering an intergenerational transition of their farm.

• Fund educational programs that train and teach tomorrow’s agricultural professionals, in particular large animal veterinarians who provide critical services to livestock farmers.

• Explore how state and federal agencies could allow the use of more conservation acres as “working lands” and combine protection for wildlife and habitat with a source of feedstuffs for livestock using proper grazing management practices.

• Support local ordinances that are fair, reasonable, recognize landowner property rights, and that seek solutions which allow for both livestock and other uses on the same property.

• Continue to fund Minnesota Department of Agriculture programs that provide beneficial financial and technical resources to both producers and processors.

• Increase the permitting process assistance provided to livestock producers, a service that has been successful in the other five states.


**2015 MDA Livestock Study Released**

The 2012 U.S. Census of Agriculture depicts the change in hog inventory from 2007-2012 as shown in Map 2. Operations expanded further north in Minnesota and declined overall in Wisconsin and North Dakota. Iowa experienced clusters of both growth and loss throughout the state.

Map 2. Change in hog inventory, 2007 to 2012

Source: USDA Agricultural Census, 2012

**Beef Industry**

Beef inventory in the target states is a combined total of beef cows raised on pasture or marginal land and cattle on feed, usually raised in feedlots. Cattle finished to market weight may be purchased locally or from other regions of the country. Over the last decade, rising crop prices have led to the conversion of some marginal lands previously used for raising beef cows, to crop production. This trend directly reflects on the number of calves being fed and marketed. Some regions of the country have seen severe droughts (West and Southwest) while blizzards and flooding in the six target states impacted beef cow inventories. Currently, the trend is for beef cow producers to consider keeping additional heifer replacements as the slow process of rebuilding herds is underway. This process takes several years as heifer calves grow, but won’t produce their first calf until two years of age.

Average feedlot size has gradually increased since 2006 while the number of cattle feeding operations has steadily declined. In 2015, Minnesota had 2,400 feedlots with a one-time feeding capacity of 300,000 head with 500,000 head finished annually. About 175,000 dairy steers from Minnesota’s dairy industry are also fed in Minnesota feedlots.

All states within the study, with the exception of Wisconsin, have experienced declines in beef cow numbers since 2006, as seen in Chart 5. Declines ranged from 4 percent to 10 percent with Minnesota’s inventory decreasing by 28 percent from 2006. Wisconsin increased beef cow inventory by 10 percent.


Source: USDA, NASS

Map 3 shows the change in beef cattle inventory from 2007 to 2012. The inventory loss can be seen particularly in Minnesota and western North Dakota. Areas of both growth and loss are relatively uniform and not limited to one region or state.

Map 3. Change in beef cattle inventory, 2007-2012

Source: USDA Agricultural Census, 2012

Nebraska has seen the greatest increase in number of cattle on feed per farm/feedlot since 1950. The number of cattle on feed marketed and the total number of all classes of cattle marketed increased in Nebraska, with Iowa showing a slight increase, and the remaining states staying relatively consistent, as shown in Chart 6.


Source: USDA, NASS

The long-range cattle trend shows a mixed picture among the six states. Nebraska has the largest cattle inventory which increased 64 percent since 1950 (Chart 7). Iowa’s cattle inventory decreased 20 percent, while South Dakota’s increased 51 percent. Wisconsin’s inventory decreased 6 percent. Minnesota’s inventory decreased 28 percent from 3.24 million in 1950 to 2.33 million in 2015.

Chart 7. All cattle inventory, 1950-2015

Source: USDA, NASS

Map 4 shows the change in all cattle inventory from 2007 to 2012. Areas of large change, both increases and decreases, are seen in pockets in northwest Iowa, northeast South Dakota, southwestern Nebraska, and eastern Wisconsin.

Map 4. Change in all cattle inventory, 2007-2012

Source: USDA Agricultural Census, 2012

Since 2006, overall cattle inventory (includes both types of beef and dairy cattle) decreased in Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota by 1 percent to 4 percent (Chart 7). Inventory increased in Iowa and Wisconsin, both by 4 percent. In 2015 Nebraska had the largest all cattle inventory at 6.3 million head, dropping 3 percent from 2006.
Update From Washington D.C.
By Tracy Brunner, NCBA President

We find ourselves in a bit of a crossroads in D.C. Rarely has our industry been presented with such a direct and tangible opportunity as we have through the Trans-Pacific Partnership, yet due to the presidential election and the political climate in D.C., whether we actually see a vote on TPP this year is in the air. But our industry cannot afford to be a bargaining chip or presidential propaganda.

As cattle producers we understand the value of trade to our bottom line. Ninety-six percent of the world’s population lives outside our borders and that population continues to grow increasing their demand for high quality protein. Their appetite for U.S. beef is limitless and we can capitalize on this trend. But in order to capitalize, we need to be at the table.

For years, we have worked to break down the high tariff barriers U.S. beef faces in the Japanese market. While Asia and the other Pacific Rim countries are not to be ignored, for us, leveling the playing field in Japan is critical. In 2015, Australia concluded a bi-lateral trade agreement with Japan, giving their producers a 10 point tariff advantage over U.S. producers. While U.S. beef currently faces a 38.5 percent tariff on imports into Japan, Australian producers currently have a 27.5 percent tariff rate under the Australia-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement. That rate will continue to decrease over time, continuing to widen the disparity. This agreement alone has already cost U.S. producers over $100 million in lost sales to Japan. At the end of 2015, our exports sales into Japan were down 19 percent.

While Australia negotiated bi-lateral preferential access to Japan, we knew that we could get better access working cooperatively with the U.S. Trade Representative and the other 10 nations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The good news is TPP will immediately level the playing field into Japan and in the 16th year of the agreement, the tariff will bottom out at 9 percent. That is the best access for beef ever negotiated into Japan.

The biggest hinge, however, is Congress. They must vote in support of the agreement before it will go into effect. With opposition from the unions, labor advocates and campaign rhetoric passage of TPP is an uphill battle. Trade is about our industry’s future; it’s about ensuring our next generation and beyond can remain profitable in the cattle industry. Trade through TPP allows us access to growing markets, it diversifies our beef market adding stability through economic swings, and it adds value to every part of the beef carcass including variety cuts like tongue. Moreover, it maintains our seat at the table in future Asian market negotiations.

That is the very reason so much of the focus will be on TPP this year in D.C. But it won’t be the only focus.

TPP’s “Waters of the United States” rule continues to be a hot topic in D.C., as it is now finalized, although temporarily halted as the courts determine whether to overturn the rule. The rule is a significant expansion of federal jurisdiction beyond current practices and limitation affirmed by the Supreme Court.

While the final rule attempts to fix some issues by reaffirming the agricultural exemptions to the Clean Water Act, it fails on other fronts. What is particularly problematic is the overly expansive definition of tributary which, in combination with other provisions of the final rule, allows federal jurisdiction over many isolated waters. Erosional features are “exempt” unless they have a bed, bank, and ordinary high water mark. There are millions of these features across the country, and on your ranch, which would now be categorically jurisdictional.

Also of grave concern regarding the Clean Water Act is Section 404, called the “dredge and fill” permit program, which exempts “normal farming and ranching activities.” However, through creative interpretation of the law, the EPA and Army Corps have continued to regulate agricultural activities. NCBA is working with Congress to force the agencies to comply with the law and cease permitting these agricultural activities.

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In addition to the Clean Water Act, EPA has two other environmental regulations that NCBA is continuing to push back on. For the first time, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, which is a law for landfills and management of hazardous waste, was applied to animal operations by a federal court. NCBA is working to move legislation that would prevent this issue from becoming the next crisis for cattle producers.

EPA’s new ozone regulation will impact rancher’s ability to use prescribed burns as a management practice despite the ecological benefits to plants and animals. NCBA is working to ensure that ranchers can continue to conduct burns legally and with the flexibility they need.

The Endangered Species Act is also in dire need of reform. Through habitual abuse of citizen lawsuit provisions like the Equal Access to Justice Act, radical environmental groups have hijacked the ESA and turned it against farmers and ranchers by overwhelming the Fish and Wildlife Service with new listing petitions, resulting in a backlog of decisions to be made and redirecting resources away from recovery and delisting efforts. This abuse has led to a species recovery rate of less than two percent.

ESA’s dysfunction is particularly egregious in places like Minnesota where we know that grazing is an essential component for maintaining and expanding migratory bird habitat, yet ranchers are constantly threatened with burdensome regulations and exploding populations of apex predators like wolves – a protected species that is long overdue for delisting. The ESA is a broken system that needs addressing. It is a vicious cycle of abuse that drains resources from true recovery efforts. There needs to be clear recovery goals and a focus on delisting species when the best available science indicates the recovery goals have been met.

As you can see, there is no shortage of issues in D.C., even in this contentious election year. I encourage you to take the time to visit with your elected officials about these issues. NCBA’s success in Washington D.C., does not happen without active members meeting and developing relationships with their representatives. At the end of the day, members... continued on page 14

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American National CattleWomen - “Why ANCW?”

By Penny Zimmerman, ANCW President Elect

As I look back, I have been involved in the cattle industry throughout all of my 43 years of married life. Bill and I operate a cow calf operation of both purebreds and some commercial cattle in central Minnesota. We are also involved in feeding cattle in custom feedlots in South Dakota and in the Northwest. I have absolutely loved this life style and the enriching friendships I have made within the cattle industry.

That is one of the reasons why I have been involved in the Minnesota CattleWomen’s Organization for over 15 years, as well as being involved with local cattlemen’s organizations and the Minnesota/Wisconsin Charolais Association. We have other breeds of cattle too - some Angus, Simmental and Limousin. At the national level, I have loved working with the women in the American National CattleWomen (ANCW) for the past 15 years. Whether working with the Cattlewomen on a state or national level, it has been my favorite organization within the beef community. Now as a newly initiated ANCW President-Elect, I want to share some thoughts. So you ask “Why ANCW?”

Within this organization there is a shared vision and a shared passion to support the industry which allow us to achieve our goals. ANCW has a tremendous history and a successful record of positively promoting beef and the beef industry. This organization will not only continue to uphold the traditions of the past, but we will embrace the future. ANCW, as an organization, provides programs and resources that benefit the beef industry and the women involved.

The Collegiate Beef Advocacy Program is one such program. ANCW continues to give direction and maintains focus on delivering opportunities for Collegiate Cattlewomen members by enriching their skills and leadership. The Collegiate Beef Advocacy Program is structured to support collegiates who are talented and interested in becoming more involved in the industry. This program will further their knowledge and equip them with resources that sets no limits on the potential of what they are able to achieve as they prepare to enter the workforce. They will develop crucial networking opportunities. We are excited that Farm Credit has stepped up to partially fund the Collegiate Beef Advocacy Program. ANCW and Farm Credit believe in supporting the future leaders of the beef industry. This program will further their knowledge and equip them with resources that sets no limits on the potential of what they are able to achieve as they prepare to enter the workforce. They will develop crucial networking opportunities. We are excited that Farm Credit has stepped up to partially fund the Collegiate Beef Advocacy Program. ANCW and Farm Credit believe in supporting the future leaders in agriculture.

ANCW is also focusing on a Women’s Leadership Program. One aspect of this program is that members of ANCW have the opportunity to be involved in this industry through our monthly webinar series. These webinars are a great way to expand knowledge and understanding of issues surrounding cattle-raising and marketing. Undoubtedly, there will be other workshops and educational speakers at ANCW regional and national meetings. The Women’s Leadership initiative is to support the business needs of their operators and to help them have a better grasp of all the issues which impact the US Beef Industry. After all, over thirty percent of farms and ranches are owned and operated by women. ANCW not only reaches out to ranch/farm owners, but also to professional business women within the cattle industry.

ANCW still has three main focus areas - promotion, education and legislation. There are many tools that ANCW provides for its members to promote our industry – through any of the three focus areas. Please take a look at our new website to see the tools and support for all at www.ancw.org. We are also looking for a new logo as ANCW continues to work on rebranding to appeal to millennials and future generations. We are putting the talents of ANCW members to the test as submissions of a new logo are being accepted until May 1. The submissions can be hand drawn, computer generated or a written description. It will be exciting to see what is submitted. We have a couple of money making events coming...
April 2016

Dear Beef Producer,

You’ve probably been reading about monoslope, cattle confinement facilities and some of the university research that’s being conducted right now. Perhaps you’ve been to a cattleman’s association meeting or taken a feedlot tour to see for yourself efficiencies while minimizing their risks.

how operators like you are using these facilities to maximize their profit potential through operational

Answering that question is complex. And, while we have been in the monoslope beef barn business for a long time, we are first and foremost in the “help-our-customers-make-the-right-decision” business. Fact is, I can think of nothing worse than designing and building a beef feedlot facility that will not help our customer make more money the day the first animal enters a pen. That’s why we’re offering you the newest edition of the

New Feedlot Profits
includes the latest information about how Midwest beef producers like you benefit from a new or expanded monoslope feedlot operation.

In it, you’ll discover other successful beef producers, like you, who are eager to share their ideas and experiences with you.

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• Risk management and financial feasibility assessment
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• Environmental law and regulatory compliance

In addition, the packet also includes an informative DVD packed with comments from beef producers about their experiences with operating monoslope facilities.

The enclosed brochure explains what’s inside your copy of the

Sincerely,

Miles Ridgway, President

P.S.

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2016 MSCA Summer Tour & Trade Show
• Event dates: July 11, 2016 – July 12, 2016

About the Event:
The 2016 Minnesota State Cattlemen’s summer tour and trade show is scheduled for July 11th & 12th and hosted by the Midwest Cattlemen Association. The trade show and tour headquarters will be based on the campus of the Minnesota West Technical School in Canby, Minnesota. *Note: July 11th is our quarterly meeting and PAC golf outing and July 12th is the day of the tour.

The first leg of the tour will include the Wiesen Limousin Farm - operated by Jordan, Jim, & Paulette Wiesen; Crazy Fat Ranch - operated by Faith & Chad Olsen, Rockin’ H. Simmental - operated by Matt and Holly Hoffman, and Rockin’ H. Ranch - operated by Chuck & Lorie Hoffman. The second leg of the tour will include Circle S. Cattle Company - operated by Kami and Mark Schoenfeld and Gladys & Harvey Hastad, and Pesek Cattle Farm - operated by Dick, Judy, Mark, & Ally Pesek, and Jill & Steve Resler. New to the tour this year will be a forage demonstration stop, hosted by the Pesek Cattle Farm.

Highlights of the tour will include a monoslope feeding system, hoop barn feeding system, public grazing programs, as well as feature high quality breeding stock at multiple locations throughout both legs of the tour. A variety of equipment manufacturers will be on hand to view and demonstrate new and upcoming technologies in forage equipment and forage preservation techniques and practices.

Lodging & Camping Options:
• Canby Inn & Suites • 127 1st Street West • Canby, MN 56220 • www.canyinandsuites.com • 507–223–6868 • *Note: All 28 rooms have been reserved under the 2016 Midwest Cattlemen’s Tour & Trade Show event.
• Stone Hill Regional Park Campground • Canby, MN 56220 • 507–233–7586 (or) 507–829–0394 •
• Buffalo Ridge Resort & Talking Waters Campground • 1312 Coteau Street • Gary, SD 57237 • www.buffaloridgeresort.com • 605–272–7777

*Note: Other lodging is available in Marshall, MN.

Questions? E-mail us at mncattletour16@gmail.com (or) call Krist Wollum at 507–296–4471 or 507–530–3854 (or) call Dick Pesek at 507–829–3774.

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As a Tour Participant, please fill out this form and send back to us with your payment.

Name: _______________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________ E-mail: ______________________________

☑ Before June 15, 2016 ................. $25 ☐ After June 15, 2016 ................. $35
☑ Student Price ................. $20 ☐ Additional Lunch Ticket ................. $10
☐ Additional Dinner Ticket ................. $15 * Payment must be received by June 15, 2016.

* Checks can be made out to: Midwest Cattlemen’s Assoc. * Send completed form & payment to: Midwest Cattlemen’s Association • P.O. Box 75 • Canby, MN 56220 • * For Credit Card payments, please provide the name as written on the card, credit card number, 3-digit security number, and expiration date. Billing will go through the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association. *

Sign Up a New Member Today - Help MSCA Grow!

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

Name ____________________________ Phone ____________________________ Email ____________________________

MN State Cattlemen’s Association Dues ..... $50
Local Cattlemen Association Dues (Optional) Local = $25
NCBA Membership Dues (Optional)
(Select the appropriate classification and add to MN State Cattlemen dues)
1-100 – $150 Stocker/feeder – $150 + $0.38/head
101-250 – $300 251-500 – $450
501-750 – $650 Individual – $150
751-1000 – $900 Business – $200
1001-1250 – $1150 Student (24 or younger) – $50
1251 – 1500 – $1400
1501 – 1750 – $1600
1751 – 2000 – $1900

Total Dues Enclosed This Membership

Address _______________________________________________________________
City _______________________________ State ________ Zip ____________

Type Ops: ☐ Feeder ☐ Cow-Calf ☐ Seedstock ☐ Stocker ☐ Dairy ☐ Associate

Method of Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Invoice Me

Credit Card Type: __ Master Card ___ Visa ___ Discover
Card #: ____________________________

Expiration Date ___ / ___ Signature ________________________________

Make Checks Payable to: *MSCA* (No Cash Please)
Return Form & Payment To: MSCA Treasurer
23722 230th Street • Hutchinson, MN 55350

Questions Call ☑ (612) 618–6619 or email: mnsca@mnsca.org

Why ANCW

. . . continued from page 13

up. One is the BIG ticket Silent Auction items during the summer conference in Denver. Last year there were vacation packages, as well as tickets to big sports events, Indy 500, etc. It looks like more BIG ticket items will be there – another Indy 500 package, hunting packages, etc. Please be ready to support ANCW through the auction with you check book in hand!

Don’t forget the Beef jewelry that is for sale. It is made of sterling silver. There are necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and pins. We appreciate our cattlemen, Barbara Jacques, for her artistic talent in designing the jewelry. Again, go online to make your jewelry purchase www.ancw.org.

But best of all, if you are not an ANCW member, please join us! Just go online www.ancw.org and sign up. With all the issues that surround the beef industry, we need to be involved with organizations that support our industry – which includes ANCW!

Through history, the ANCW organization has been recognized and known for having a lot of good will. We need to continue this for the future. As people ask about ANCW, I have said, We intend to move forward with our good will, and continue to strengthen the organization. We plan to provide opportunities for women to learn leadership skills in all aspects of the cattle industry.*