Another Successful Summer Tour

Hats off to the Northwestern Stockmen’s Association for hosting a great Summer Tour on July 9 which attracted nearly 400 people. The tour included stops at several cow-calf and feedlot operations and businesses in the Roseau area. The MSCA leadership team sends out a big thank you to all the volunteers who made this tour a memorable and enjoyable experience. Next year’s Summer Tour will be hosted by the Redwood Area Cattlemen’s Association on July 8.

USDA Denies Waiving November 1 Harvest Date on PP Acres

After waiting over 45 days for a response from U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, the Secretary delivered a letter on July 15 officially denying requests to lift the November 1 harvest date on prevented plant acres. In his response, the Secretary stated the agency was unable to do so due to statutory and contractual constraints.

All base acres being reported as prevented plant are required to be planted with some type of cover crop. The only exception is lands that were not worked last fall or this spring and still have adequate residue. If producers choose to harvest those acres prior to November 1, they will surrender 65 percent of their prevented plant insurance payment.

According to Eric Mousel with the University of Minnesota Beef Team, the best planting options for post November 1 harvest are: Brassica Mixes—purple-top turnips, graze radishes, dwarf Essex rape, and Winfred brassica; Cereal Grains—spring oats, barley, triticale and rye; and Annual Ryegrass.

MPCA-MSCA Host Feedlot Meetings

Been thinking about starting or expanding your cattle farm, but are concerned about permitting requirements?

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in conjunction with the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association (MSCA) will be hosting a series of regional informational meetings where individuals involved in the cattle business can learn more about the permitting process. Come learn about the process and have your questions answered directly by agency staff.

The meetings will primarily focus on explaining the process and requirements to obtain permits for cattle farms that will have over 1,000 animal units. However, as time permits, agency staff will also field questions related to: manure management plans; winter time feeding; backgrounding; pasture; and open lots.

Times and locations are as follows:
- Monday, August 12, from 10 a.m. to noon, Kandiyohi County Government Services Building, 2200 23rd St NE, Lower Level, Room 0030, Willmar
- Wednesday, August 14, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Lyon County Courthouse, 607 West Main, 2nd Floor, Rooms 1 and 2, Marshall
- Thursday, August 15, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Detroit Lakes MPCA Office, 714 Lake Avenue, Suite 220, Large Conference Room, Detroit Lakes
- Wednesday, August 21, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Brainerd MPCA Office, 7678 College Road, Suite 105, Large Conference Room, Brainerd
- Thursday, August 22, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Rochester MPCA Office, 18 Wood Lake Drive SE, Large Conference Room, Rochester
Summer is well underway and every day brings us closer to the full markets. So far the cattle prices seem to be strong to steady. The early cash sale of the 2013 calf crop seems to be in good demand with the genetic program cattle still receiving a premium price. Live cattle have had a tough summer, but finally some stronger support has also been moving them upward in price. With the current futures showing some weakening, everyone is watching this crop progress through the summer to see what it will have on our markets.

The summer tour was very successful and everyone who attended enjoyed the hospitality and appreciated all the hours of hard work planning and commitment the Northwest Stockmen attended enjoyed the hospitality and appreciated all the hours of hard work planning and commitment the Northwest Stockmen. We hope to see everyone at this year’s 2013 Farmstart. Another event the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s group has been helping with. Our roast beef sandwiches are a real hit with visitors and have always been a popular treat for exhibitors as well as visitors. Stop by and say Hello and thank all of the volunteers who support the association each year with this event. A very grateful thank you goes out to the volunteer team and all the sponsors who helped make this annual event. This is a great fund raiser for the MN State Cattlemen’s Association and it does help a lot with our annual budget.

Membership continues to come in and thank you to all of your renewals for membership. Also, for those of you who are new members, welcome to the MSCA and we hope to see you for years to come. Membership is the key to our ability to accomplish so many projects including the ability to...

Giess... continued on page 16

Thank you to the Northwest Stockman for the hard work they did on the summer tour. It was something to see the operations and the way things are done on the northern end of the state. I was able to learn about the similarities and the differences of farming and raising cattle nearly 400 miles from home. It was also a good way to pick up tips for next year when the tour is in my backyard hosted by the Redwood Area Cattlemen.

Summer festivities are in full swing with many fairs and summer picnics wrapped up and some just around the corner. Thank you to everyone that has been out grilling and working the parades and fairs promoting Beef. As producers we need to be out promoting our product and educate the public. Someone has to do it, and we all need to do our part.

Even though we are busy with the cropping season, making hay, or getting ready for harvest we need to be out in the public and with other producers who still might not be members of MSCA. We need to talk with elected officials as while they are out mingling in public or at fairs. Even though this is not an election year and we don’t get as much hype about the politicians when they go back to St. Paul this winter their votes are very important. We are all in the same boat. We need to talk to them about the similarities and the differences of the soybean vs. the corn fields.

We have increased membership again this year and every time we go to work in St. Paul the more members we have the more the elected officials will listen. With our membership we have been able to have our voices heard on many issues, from ethanol up north to the 90 day livestock extension on the new DOT regulations.

Be sure to register to attend one of the informational meetings that MSCA and MPCAs have to discuss permitting of beef facilities. They August 12 in Willmar, August 14 in Marshall, August 15 in Detroit Lakes, August 21 in Brainerd, and August 22 in Moorhead We want to provide a chance to talk with producers and get a chance to ask questions directly to MPCAs staff about permitting and the process you go through to expand your operation.

Hopefully with the recent break in crop prices we will have a chance to lock in some profit for the year and get the feed yards back on the profitable side.

“A beautiful sight” our cattle are on pasture with plenty of grass. This should be a contrast to the floods we had while most of the last year had a vocabulary that included drought.

How things have changed - wet, prevented plant, winter kill, cover crop options and regulations, the farm bill, wolf, EPA, CO2 and so much more. It seems like the more things change the more they stay the same. As farmers and ranchers we battle with each why the affects the markets and our bottom line. When someone asks “Why do we continue?” we quickly reply “It is what we love to do!”

We had an excellent summer this year as our buder warmed, (we saved the tractor and no one was hurt). Ask yourselves a list of questions:

1) Could I have an equipment fire? All need to answer yes!
2) Does your equipment have a working extinguisher and understand how to use it?
3) Have you thought through the “what if” action plan? Accidents and injuries happen, prepare!
4) Think safety, our families and loved ones are most important, they need us. Equipment can be replaced.

Remember the quarterly meeting in September. There will be reports on many activities MSCA has been involved in and planning ahead to convention and beyond.
It’s with mixed emotions that I sit down to write my last column as your Executive Director, as I will be stepping down from the role at the end of August. The one thing I’m confident in is that the MSCA is on strong footing and set to continue to advance the important role of serving as the voice of Minnesota’s cattle community.

In looking back over the last three years, we have accomplished a lot of important work, such as:

- Growing membership to over 1,000 members and more effectively communicating with the membership on important issues.
- Seeing the delisting of the wolf and the establishment of a managed harvest;
- Expanding access to state and federal lands for the managed grazing of cattle;
- Authorizing emergency haying and grazing of conservation lands in response to adverse weather;
- Establishing reasonable animal identification requirements for breeding cattle; and
- Continuing to insist on reasonable permitting requirements.

With that said, there is still a lot of work to be done and vigilance will be needed to ensure we build off these successes, rather than backslide. I’m confident the MSCA leadership team will ensure the organization continues to advance these issues and the voice of the cattleman is at the table when important decisions are being made. On that note, I want to send out a heartfelt thank you to the leadership team for their service, as I witnessed firsthand the time and effort these great cattlemen volunteer to the organization and the cattle community.

In terms of next steps for me, I won’t be entirely disappearing from the agricultural and cattle community, as I have taken a full-time position working as a communications manager for DuPont Pioneer out of their Mankato office.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Executive Director!

24 Farm Families of the Year are Beef Producers

Congratulations to the 24 beef farm families that were named as farm families of the year by the University of Minnesota. All 76 farm families were recognized on Thursday, August 8 at 1:30 p.m. at Farmfest.

The following families are MSCA members: Chad and Cameo Zehnder (Isanti); Dahlke Family (McLeod); David and Peggy Miller (Red Lake); John and Sheila Robinson Family (Renville); Tim and Rita Nolte (Wadena); Bryon and Helen Anderson Family (Washington); and Charles and Lorie Hoffman Family (Yellow Medicine)


Membership Renewal Over 1,000

Current membership in the MSCA is at 1,011 members with a goal of reaching 1,200 by year-end. With 213 past members yet to renew, that goal is well within reach! If you have forgotten to respond to membership renewal notices, please fill out the membership form on the back of this newsletter.

Thanks go out to all of the local associations for their membership work and the following individuals for new member recruitment. As a reminder, recruiter incentives are as follows:

- 3 Members: Complementary registration to State Convention
- 5 Members: 2 complementary registrations to State Convention
- 10 Members: 2 complementary registrations to State Convention and $120 gift card
- 20 Members: 2 complementary registrations to State Convention, $200 gift card and plaque
- 25 Members: 2 complementary registrations to State Convention, $200 gift card, plaque and two nights stay at State Convention

MSCA Recruiters

Mark Malecek: 13  Mike Landuyt: 1
Troy Paplow: 10  Ed Leman: 1
Dennis Sleiter: 7  Tom Olson: 1
Dan Anderson: 4  Russ Penning: 1
Don Schierleibin: 4  Ted Reichmann: 1
Tom Helfter: 3  Judy Tollesfrud: 1
Dar Giess: 2  Pete Wingert: 1
Tim Nolte: 2  Dave Wulf: 1
Brian Schmidt: 2  Eric Zeltwanger: 1
John Appel: 1
Jay Bakken: 1
Ted Gramm: 1
Thor Didrickson: 1
Jerome Kahlhof: 1
Conrad Kvanne: 1

New Holland Raffle Tickets Still Available

Raffle tickets are still available to win a one-year lease on either a New Holland T6 -75 tractor (400 hours) or BR7090 round baler (1,500 bales). Tickets are $25 dollars each, but only 500 tickets will be sold. There is no limit on the number of tickets you can purchase. All proceeds from the raffle will go towards supporting the MSCA.

If you are interested in purchasing or selling raffle tickets, contact anyone on the MSCA leadership team.

As a reminder, if you are an NCBA member and are thinking about purchasing any New Holland equipment, be sure to review the many discounts offered, which can be found on the NCBA website.

MSCA thanks New Holland for their strong support of state and national cattle organizations, and their commitment to providing quality equipment to cattle farmers across the nation.
Checkoff Delivers Measurable Results

Cattle farmers and ranchers are no different than the business men and women on Wall Street. Yes, we may dress differently but both are focused on the bottom line and the return on investment. Measuring the return on investment of a checkoff program is always difficult. A study was done by Dr. Ron Ward of University of Florida [Gainesville] in 2009 showed that for every dollar invested in the beef checkoff, the industry had a return of $5.55.

Through recent Minnesota Beef Council beef promotion, in conjunction with South Dakota Beef Industry Council and the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, the beef checkoff was able to demonstrate results that Minnesota cattle farmers and ranchers can take to the bank.

- Promotions conducted throughout the month of May achieved well over 500,000 media impressions through various tactics, such as television segments, advertising, influencer events, social media and retail partnerships.
- GrillFest hosted nearly 4,000 foodies in downtown Minneapolis, where they came to sample beef, learn great culinary techniques and ask questions about how their beef is produced.
- The Minnesota Beef Council was featured in six television segments in May.
- Three segments featured the 2013 Minnesota Beef Backer, Chef John Schlitz of the Lake Elmo Inn. On KARE 11, WCCO and KSTP, Chef John talked about his knowledge and experience cooking beef.
- Two segments featured MBC’s Colleen Zenk’s tips for consumers as they shop for beef in the supermarket.
- Two additional segments were run with concern for the rising beef prices during Memorial Day weekend. We were able to provide the media with factual information and make suggestions for how to buy beef on a budget.
- To further reach consumers and impact their meat purchasing decisions, MBC partnered with Lund’s and Byerly’s grocery chain to offer $1 off a package of fresh beef.

Our efforts don’t stop there. KSTP’s Twin Cities Live program has asked to work with us on “The 12 Days of Grilling – Beef!” This series will run July 29 through August 13, featuring 12 consecutive days of on-air beef recipes featuring previous and current Beef Backer award winners, MBC staff and well known chefs in the Twin Cities market. The show airs on KSTP at 3:00 p.m. (central). If you miss the segments, check them out online at: twincitieslive.com.

It is the mission of the Minnesota Beef Council to enhance opportunities for growth and success in the beef industry. We will continue to strive for maximum efficiency of the checkoff investment and make it a priority to communicate with each of you those results. Stay tuned, as there will be many more stories to share of how the beef checkoff investment works for you.

Influencer Tours

The Minnesota Beef Council will again be hosting interactive tours for key influencers in the food and nutrition community to engage them in the beef story. This year’s target audience includes chefs, culinary student, dieticians and dietetic interns. Tours will include beef health and safety messages to attendees along with discussion about modern beef production practices that address common misconceptions.

If you are interested in hosting a tour, please contact the Minnesota Beef Council office.

Beef Council at the Minnesota State Fair

The Minnesota Beef Council will once again be exhibiting at the Minnesota State Fair, Aug. 22 – Sept. 2. The exhibit’s theme will be “From our Family to Your Family,” which illustrates cattle production by using images of real Minnesota beef farmers. Highlights of this year’s exhibit include an interactive beef trivia game, dialogue with consumers about how to prepare beef at home, daily drawings for $100 worth of beef bucks and 1 grand prize drawing for a grill. Thousands of beef promotional literature and recipes will be given away during the 12 days of the Minnesota State Fair.

Cattlemen are needed to ensure consumers can get to know a farmer or rancher. Contact our office if you are interested in working a shift. Volunteer will receive a fair entrance pass and t-shirt.
Minnesota Beef Research and Promotion Council Annual Meeting Results

The Minnesota Beef Research and Promotion Council (MBC) held their annual meeting on July 16 in St. Joseph, MN. The meeting included new director orientation presented by Todd Johnson from the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, along with a tour of the St. Joseph Meat Market which was awarded the Retail Beef Backer for 2013.

MBC recognized three retiring directors who had dedicated years of service to the organization. Carol Abramamzon of Caledonia in District 9, Paul Kent of Mora in District 6, and Ron Rinkel of Hillman representing District 5. New directors were also seated: Katie Brenny of Mazeppa in District 9, Duane Munsterteiger of Ogilvie in District, and John Schafer of Buffalo Lake representing District 5.

Brenny, Munsterteiger and Schafer were elected by producers to serve a 3-year term on the MBC board of directors. John Moon of District 4 and Mark Malecek of District 7 were re-elected to another term in their respective districts.

Election of officers took place during the MBC Annual Meeting. The MBC Directors elected Mark Malecek of Redwood Falls as chair, Darrin Arveson of Trail as vice-chair, Clarence Caraway of Lake Benton as secretary, Jay Bakken of Garretson, SD as treasurer, and John Schafer of Buffalo Lake as executive member at large.

Minnesota Beef Council Update

Hy-Vee Burger Showdown in Winona

Alexandra Economy, Hy-Vee retail dietitian challenged the DJ at Winona Radio to a Burger Showdown. She set up demo tables in the seating area of the store deli and each of them worked with a partner to assemble and cook their “special burger”. Alex did a “Tuscan Burger” and the DJ assembled a “Cincinnati Burger”. Shoppers could watch the process and the radio station broadcast during the contest as well. Judges were Carl Sackreiter and Glen Groth, producers from the Winona area, along with a representative from the YMCA in Winona were the judges. The Tuscan Burger won. I provided support for the event, took photos and handed out recipe brochures to the shoppers.

On July 16, Minnesota Beef Council held their annual meeting in St. Joseph, MN with a stop at St. Joseph Meat Market, the 2013 Retail Beef Backer.
**Beef Demand: Recent Determinants and Future Drivers**

Consumer demand for beef is one of the most important issues directly affecting all segments of cattle and beef production, processing, and merchandising. Understanding key consumer demand drivers is important because of the substantial economic impact they have on the industry. The purpose of this study was to provide information to the beef industry that can be used to better target future domestic beef demand strategies.

A comprehensive approach was taken to assess beef demand determinants. The three-pronged approach included 1) a thorough review of a large body of published research; 2) a consumer survey; and 3) a novel survey of beef demand experts. The consumer and expert surveys probed specific perceptions regarding ground beef and steak products separately to facilitate development of targeted demand enhancement strategies. Collectively, these sources provided a wealth of information on a wide spectrum of factors shaping consumer demand for beef in the United States along with synthesis of expert opinions regarding the feasibility of positively influencing identified demand drivers.

Seven broad beef product attributes were identified as potentially salient demand factors that the beef industry may be able to influence and were the central focus of this study: 1) Beef Price, 2) Food Safety, 3) Product Quality, 4) Health, 5) Nutrition, 6) Social Aspects, and 7) Sustainability.

Price, Food Safety and Product Quality trumped all other attributes as important dimensions of beef demand across the spectrum of information sources analyzed for both ground beef and steak. The least important attributes were Social Aspects and Sustainability. Beef demand experts identified Food Safety and Product Quality as the two attributes that the industry can most feasibly influence.

**Recommendations**

- Industry investments focused on beef food safety and consumer perceptions about beef safety are paramount. Food safety is the most important demand driver of an attribute that industry experts believe the industry can positively influence.
- Beef product quality is among the highest priorities for the beef industry to address. Consumers desire consistent high quality products with excellent flavor, color, tenderness, juiciness, and freshness. Product development focused on improving quality will help improve demand. Industry experts believe the industry is well positioned to improve beef quality.
- Beef price matters to consumers. This means continued investment in production, processing, and merchandising efficiency is essential. However, efficiency gains must be scrutinized relative to how they might impact consumer perceptions regarding product quality and food safety.
- Young shoppers’ interests in specific health and nutritional aspects of beef present valuable opportunities to expand demand as the purchasing power of these consumers increases in coming years. Positioning and promoting healthfulness and nutritional benefits of beef is recommended.

To learn more about the beef demand determinant study, visit mybeefcheckoff.org.

---

**Local Producer Promotion Program**

The Minnesota Beef Council is happy to announce a change in our Local Producer Promotion Program. In the past, the maximum amount that a group could request was $400. As of July 1, we have changed the maximum amount that a group can request to $500.

There is another change to the Local Producer Program regarding advertising dollars. In the past, local groups were allowed to use up to $200 of their local producer promotion for advertising. We have increased the maximum limit to $250.

---

**Beef Facts:**

- The U.S. supplies 25% of the world’s beef with 10% of the world’s cattle.
- 55% of your shoppers say beef is their favorite meal to come home to, which is more than all other proteins combined.
- On average, each person eats 40 pounds of cooked beef every year.

---

**BEEF’S BIG 10**

Do more than just get through the day – be your best self every day. Here’s how beef’s essential nutrients can help.

- **All-natural lean beef**
- **CHOLESTEROL**
- **PROTEIN**
- **SELENIUM**
- **RIBOFLAVIN**

**BEEF GIVES YOUR BODY MORE**

Beef provides the following nutrients in about 150 calories:

- Calories: 176 kcal 9%
- Total Fat: 5 3%
- Saturated Fat: 2.5g 13%
- Cholesterol: 90mg 30%
- Protein: 3.2g 21%
- Vitamins B6 and B12: 0.4mcg 20%
- Vitamin B12: 0.3mcg 17%
- Iron: 2.5mg 13%
- Zinc: 3.2mg 21%
- Selenium: 18.4mcg 26%

**Ground Beef**

Serving Size 3 oz (Cooked)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutrient</th>
<th>Daily Value</th>
<th>Daily %</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calories</td>
<td>176kcal</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fat</td>
<td>5g</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturated Fat</td>
<td>2.5g</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cholesterol</td>
<td>90mg</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>3.2g</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin B6</td>
<td>0.4mcg</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin B12</td>
<td>0.3mcg</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>2.5mg</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc</td>
<td>3.2mg</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selenium</td>
<td>18.4mcg</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ground Turkey**

Serving Size 3 oz (Cooked)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutrient</th>
<th>Daily Value</th>
<th>Daily %</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calories</td>
<td>163kcal</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fat</td>
<td>7.5g</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturated Fat</td>
<td>3.1g</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cholesterol</td>
<td>68mg</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>3.5g</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin B6</td>
<td>0.4mcg</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin B12</td>
<td>0.3mcg</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>2.4mg</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc</td>
<td>3.4mg</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selenium</td>
<td>18.4mcg</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---


Funded by the Beef Checkoff.
Today’s Beef Choices

There are a variety of beef choices such as grain-finished, grass-finished, natural and certified organic as well as several different grades and aging options. So, no matter what you desire, there is a great beef choice for you. How’s that for variety?

**ALL BEEF IS:**

- **Grass-Fed**
  - All cattle spend a majority of their lives eating grass on pastures.

- **Natural**
  - Most beef does not contain any additives and is not more than minimally processed.

- **Nutritious**
  - Beef is a powerful protein and an excellent or good source of 10 essential nutrients.

**BEEF CAN BE:**

- **Grain-Finished**
  - Cattle spend most of their lives grazing on pasture, then spend 4–6 months in a feedyard.
  - Are free to eat an optimal, balanced diet of grasses, grains and other forages.

- **Grass-Finished**
  - Cattle spend their entire lives grazing on pasture.

- **Naturally Raised**
  - Cattle can be grain-finished or grass-finished—look at the label for details.
  - Must be certified by USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service.

- **Certified Organic**
  - Cattle can be grain-finished or grass-finished, as long as the feed is 100% organic.
  - Must be certified by USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service.
  - Look for the official label.

**BEEF GRADES INCLUDE:**

- **USDA Prime**
  - Prime has the most marbling. It usually is sold to high-end restaurants, although some specialty meat markets and supermarkets may carry it.

- **USDA Choice**
  - Choice cuts tend to have a little less marbling. Choice is the most widely available grade in the market.

- **USDA Select**
  - Select has the least amount of marbling, making it leaner and a little less juicy and flavorful than the other two grades.

**BEEF AGING CHOICES:**

- **Wet Aging**
  - Aged up to 21 days.
  - Aged in airtight sealed bags under refrigeration (32°F to 34°F).
  - Traditional beef flavor.
  - Most common method.

- **Dry Aging**
  - Aged up to 28 days, depending on purveyor.
  - Aged uncovered in refrigerated room (32°F to 34°F) under controlled humidity and air flow.
  - Distinctive brown-roasted beefy flavor.
  - Less common method due to complexity and cost.

---

Minnesota Beef Council, in partnership with the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, conducted a meat cutting demonstration for a large foodservice chain based in Minnesota. The goal was to develop menu ideas for foodservice to create a value added beef cut.
Minnesota Beef Organizations Introduce Referendum to Help Elevate Image of Beef in the State

The Minnesota Beef Council (MBC) and the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association (MSCA) have introduced a new referendum that will increase the state checkoff by an additional $1 for every head sold. The launch of a new website by the MSCA – raisedwithpride.com - will allow producers to sign up for, and receive, a ballot to vote for the upcoming referendum and learn more about the proposed referendum.

The MBC has been funded at the same rate for 28 years. During that time the industry has seen many changes, including a reduction in the total number of cattle, an increase in the value of cattle and less spending power of the dollar.

With the checkoff facing less revenue and a bigger need for communications, a February 2014 referendum would increase the checkoff by an additional $1 for every head sold. This would grant the council an additional $500,000 to $750,000 to further communicate the value of Minnesota beef.

The proposed state checkoff would differ from the federal checkoff currently being collected. If the state checkoff is passed the entire $1 stays in the state to communicate with influencers and consumers; Is voluntary, a refund can be requested through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Only applies to Minnesota cattle, sold in Minnesota; Does not apply to dairy animals being sold for breeding purposes; Falls under the jurisdiction of the State Beef Promotion order and will only be spent on projects in Minnesota.

Producers can sign up to receive a ballot on raisedwithpride.com and become a certified producer. Those who request a ballot will ensure their ability to vote in the referendum to increase the checkoff and other upcoming elections. Ballot sign-up must be requested by December 15, 2013. Also on the website, producers can find information on the history of the beef checkoff and identify the need for more funding.

The MBC and the MSCA are increasing their consumer outreach with a new campaign called “Raised with Pride, Handled with Care.” More than ever, consumers today want to know where their food comes from. That growing concern about how animals are raised and treated is why this campaign is so important.

“Along with talking to consumers about beef, the checkoff helps people understand and appreciate that producers raise our product with pride, and we handle our animals with care,” emphasizes Don Schiefelbein, seed stock and feeder cattle producer from Kimball, MN.

The campaign is a producer-led effort that will help boost consumer confidence and consumption, elevate the public image of beef and address misconceptions about the beef industry.

**Timeline of Beef Checkoff in Minnesota**

1969: Legislation approves Minnesota Agricultural Commodity Promotion Act, which authorized the establishment of commodity promotion councils and ability to collect assessments.

1969: Establishment of Minnesota Beef Council

1974: Minnesota Beef Research and Promotion Order Adopted. A $0.50 assessment was implemented, but was refundable.

1985: As part of the 1985 Farm Bill, the Federal Beef Promotion and Research Act was adopted. The Act authorized the Cattlemen’s Beef Board to collect up to $1.00 per head, with $0.50 being retained by Qualified State Beef Councils. With the act in place, the State Order no longer applied and all funds were subject to the Federal Promotion Order.

1988: The $1.00 per head assessment became mandatory with passage of the national referendum. In practice, the Minnesota Beef Council now collects the entire $1.00 per head assessment and remits $0.50 per head to the national Cattlemen’s Beef Board.

2011: Discussions begin on the needs of increasing the state assessment in order for the MBC to carry out needed work.

2003: State referendum was defeated which would have raised the state assessment by $1.00 per head.

2013: Official joint MSCA-MBC task force is formed to explore calling for a referendum and what the dollars should be directed towards.

Dec 15, 2013 All producers must self-certify with the MBC in order to receive a ballot.

Dec-Jan 2013 Official public meetings will be hosted in several location by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Feb 2014 Referendum vote will be held via mail-in ballots.

How does this differ from the national checkoff?

The proposed state checkoff would differ from the national checkoff currently being collected. If the state checkoff is passed:

- The entire $1.00 stays in state with the MBC
- It is voluntary, and a refund can be requested through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- It only applies to Minnesota cattle, sold in Minnesota
- It does not apply to dairy animals sold for breeding purposes
- It falls under the jurisdiction of the State Beef Promotion order and will only be spent on projects in Minnesota
- What the State Checkoff funding could Accomplish

An additional $1 per head state checkoff would grant the Minnesota Beef Council approximately $500,000 to $750,000 in the first year of collection to promote a new and innovative campaign titled “Raised with Pride, Handled with Care.” It will personalize the beef story in Minnesota by highlighting real producers and telling our story to consumers.

The state checkoff would work for producers to:

- Brand Minnesota beef producers as family farmers committed to raising healthy food for Minnesota families.
- Develop a consumer facing website to engage directly with consumers in a comprehensive and helpful way that promotes the health benefits of beef and promotes Minnesota beef producers as family farmers committed to raising good food for Minnesota families.
- Collaborate with professionals in the Minnesota retail grocery and restaurant industries to help consumers develop a better appreciation for beef as a tasty and healthy choice that is fun to prepare at home or enjoy in a restaurant.
- Help Minnesota grocery retailers sell more beef by providing information and developing customized point-of-sale materials that help advance stores’ beef sales.
- Engage directly with consumers through targeted communications that promote the health benefits of beef and portray Minnesota beef producers as family farmers committed to raising good food for Minnesota families.
- Merchandise beef research — including BOLD (Beef in an Optimal Lean Diet) research — through food editors and dietitians to overcome myths about beef as a less-than-healthy protein choice.
- Develop a set of behavior core messages about the benefits of eating beef to communicate through all elements of the campaign.
- Develop an editorial calendar of story ideas to “pitch” to Minnesota’s food editors, freelancers and bloggers so they can write timely stories about beef — new research, recipes, heart health, nutrition, grilling, restaurant menus, innovations by chefs, local beef sources, care and feeding of livestock, etc.

How to Get a Ballot

The referendum will take place during the month of February via mail ballots, similar to our director elections. If you currently receive ballots to vote in director elections, you are a certified producer. If you do not receive ballots to vote in the director elections, or are unsure, you must contact the Minnesota Beef Council to self-certify in order to receive a ballot. This must be done prior to December 15, 2013.

Producers are eligible to request a ballot if they meet these specific criteria:

1. At least 18 years of age;
2. A producer of beef
3. Shares directly in the risk or loss from the production of beef during the current or preceding marketing year;
4. Is eligible to file an IRS Form 1040 Schedule F (Profit or Loss from Farming);
5. Casts only one vote in this election or referendum;
6. Meets the qualifications for a producer set forth in the promotional order.

Thanks to Task Force Members

Thanks go out to the members of the joint MSCA and MBC task force that spent a considerable amount of time meeting, discussing and considering options regarding the status of the state promotion order.

Members included, Dar Geiss, Tim Nolte, Don Schiefelbein, Dennis Swan, Mark Pankonin representing the MSCA, and John Moon, Mark Malecsek, Jay Bakken, Claire Caraway and Dave Wulf representing the MBC.

Through a process of several meetings, the group determined they wanted to move forward with the process and thought that $1.00 per head would be a fair ask of the State’s cattle community; Members agreed these funds should be put toward something new and innovative and focused on improving the image of beef and beef producers and addressing misinformation.

During the process, the task force issued official requests for proposals to local public relations firms to assist with this proposed effort, which generated many fantastic ideas. The taskforce selected the public relations firm FLMy to work with on this project.
The Upcoming Sale Schedule

Dairy Sale
- Feeder, Bred Cow & Pair Sale
  - Monday, Sept 23, 2013
  - Monday, Sept 16, 2013
  - Monday, Sept 9, 2013

Dairy Sale
- Monday, August 26, 2013
- Monday, August 19, 2013
- Monday, August 12, 2013
- Monday, August 5, 2013

Field Reps:
- Swanville Area
  - Scott Twardowski
  - 320-220-5501
- Fergus Falls Area
  - Don Nelson
  - 218-739-9501

Open on Sundays from 12-8pm to receive livestock
**NO EXTRA CHARGE**
Complimentary Hay & Water, pens provided.

For complete Market Reports, Upcoming Sales, Consignments, and numerous other information check out our website at www.perhamstockyards.com

August Sales
- Monday, August 5, 2013
- Monday, August 12, 2013
- Monday, August 19, 2013
- Monday, August 26, 2013

Dairy Sale
- Monday, September 2, 2013
- Monday, September 9, 2013
- Monday, September 16, 2013
- Monday, September 23, 2013
- Monday, September 30, 2013

45240 City Hwy 80
Perham, MN 56573

─── July 22 Sale ───

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seller</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Breed Type</th>
<th>Avg Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EVANSVILLE MN</td>
<td>1 Red</td>
<td>Hol</td>
<td>Cow Dairy Cattle</td>
<td>1475 $1,375.00 H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HENNING MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Cow Dairy Cattle</td>
<td>1265 $1,400.00 H</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HENNING MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Cow Dairy Cattle</td>
<td>1350 $1,400.00 H</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWIN VALLEY MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Bred Heifer Dairy Cattle</td>
<td>1445 $1,600.00 H</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSAGE MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Steer Feeder Cattle</td>
<td>815 $87.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GARY MN</td>
<td>1 Blk</td>
<td>Steer Feeder Cattle</td>
<td>605 $149.50 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEBEKA MN</td>
<td>2 Blk</td>
<td>Heifer Feeder Cattle</td>
<td>640 $130.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERHAM MN</td>
<td>4 Blk</td>
<td>Heifer Feeder Cattle</td>
<td>640 $130.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRAZEE MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1010 $83.50 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETROIT LAKES MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1765 $83.50 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OMAHA NE</td>
<td>1 Red</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1415 $83.50 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERNDALE MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1160 $84.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BATTLE LAKE MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1545 $84.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW YORK MILLS MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1415 $84.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VELVA ND</td>
<td>2 Blk</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1210 $89.50 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VELVA ND</td>
<td>1 Char</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1070 $90.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VELVA ND</td>
<td>1 Char</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1575 $90.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETROIT LAKES MN</td>
<td>1 Blk</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1230 $90.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETROIT LAKES MN</td>
<td>1 Blk</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1475 $91.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VELVA ND</td>
<td>2 Blk</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1210 $91.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VELVA ND</td>
<td>1 Char</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1650 $91.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

─── July 29 Sale ───

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seller</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Breed Type</th>
<th>Avg Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PERHAM MN</td>
<td>2 Red</td>
<td>Hol</td>
<td>Cow Dairy Cattle</td>
<td>1485 $1,325.00 H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERHAM MN</td>
<td>1 Blk</td>
<td>Cow Dairy Cattle</td>
<td>1270 $1,300.00 H</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRAZEE MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1010 $83.50 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW YORK MILLS MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1220 $83.50 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERHAM MN</td>
<td>1 Blk</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1220 $83.50 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRAZEE MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1010 $83.50 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETROIT LAKES MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1765 $83.50 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OMAHA NE</td>
<td>1 Red</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1415 $83.50 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERNDALE MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1160 $84.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BATTLE LAKE MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1545 $84.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW YORK MILLS MN</td>
<td>1 Hol</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1415 $84.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VELVA ND</td>
<td>2 Blk</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1210 $89.50 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VELVA ND</td>
<td>1 Char</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1070 $90.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VELVA ND</td>
<td>1 Char</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1575 $90.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETROIT LAKES MN</td>
<td>1 Blk</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1475 $91.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VELVA ND</td>
<td>2 Blk</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1210 $91.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VELVA ND</td>
<td>1 Char</td>
<td>Slaughter Cows</td>
<td>1650 $91.00 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bid & View Our Sales Live at www.cattleUSA.com or www.PerhamStockyards.com
Meteorologist Greg Soulje says a lively weather pattern is ahead for much of the U.S.

Generally speaking, the fall outlook indicates a pronounced, southward shift of the jet stream, and over the mid-to-late portion of the season the formation of a U-shaped buckling all the way to the southern Plains, and at times extending to Eastern seaboard. This in turn should allow for frequent cool to cold air intrusions and a general trend in temperatures to below- and at times much below-normal average.

Across the Midwest and Great Lakes Corn Belt, a challenging mid- to late-fall weather pattern is expected, but not before a mild to warm start and extended dry spell very early in the season. Cold air outbreaks will be few and far between until then. This, however, will not be rule advancing deeper into the season. Temperatures will build to a range of below-normal to well-below normal, but with some fluctuations from the lower Great Lakes to the Ohio Valley. Several early winter-like cold wave episodes are likely.

Struggles at Northern Beef Producers

The Northern Beef Packers facility in Aberdeen, SD continues to experience problems with their operations culminating in a recent chapter 11 bankruptcy filing and laying off of nearly all workers. Court records show the plant owes $10-$50 million to nearly 300 creditors in the U.S. and South Korea. The plant was built for and hoped to process up to 1,500 cattle per day from the Upper Midwest.

Drought Conditions Return to Midwest

Drought conditions have returned to the central and eastern Corn Belt, with abnormal dryness and patches of moderate drought reported in Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Overall, 19 percent of corn and 11 percent of soybeans are growing in areas impacted by drought.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Minnesota

87% on MN Corn Crop Good to Excellent

The July 21 USDA Crop Progress report has 87 percent of Minnesota’s corn crop in good to excellent condition, with 27 percent reported as fair, and 9 percent poor to very poor. Nationally, the USDA estimates 63 percent of the Nation’s corn crop in good to excellent, 26 percent fair and 11 percent poor to very poor. These ratings compares to similar ratings in 2007 and 2011 in which the final U.S. corn yield was 151 and 147 bu. per acre respectively. This is versus the current USDA estimate of 156.5 bu. per acre.

Central Livestock Association

Auction Schedules

Albany Market (800) 733-8928

Monday & Wednesday: 7 a.m. to noon - Hogs and Sheep
Tuesday & Thursday: 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. - Hogs
10:30 a.m. – Fed Cattle, Slaughter Cows & Bulls along with Baby & Started Calves on Thursday
Special Dairy Sales: First Wednesday & third Friday of the month, 10:30 a.m.
Special Feeder Sales: Second Wednesday of the month, 10:30 a.m.

Rock Creek Market (825) 229-1122

Monday: 8 a.m. – Market Cows, Fed Cattle, Feeder Cattle, Hogs, Sheep & Goats
Wednesday: 10 a.m. - Market Cows, Fed Cattle, Feeder Cattle, Hogs, Sheep & Goats
Special Feeder Sales: 10 a.m. - Every other Wednesday from Sept. 11, 2013 - May 28, 2014

Zumbrota Market (877) 792-7085

Monday: 8 a.m. – Overnight Market Cows/Bulls
10 a.m. – Fed Cattle, Stock Cows & Breeding Bulls
1 p.m. – Fed Cattle, Day Delivered Market Cows/Bulls
4 p.m. – Baby Calves
Tuesday: 8 a.m. – Sheep, Goats & Feeder Pigs
Wednesday: 10 a.m. – Market Cows/Bulls & Fed Cattle
Special Dairy Sales: Second & fourth Tuesdays, noon
Special Feeder Sales: 10 a.m. - Every other Thursday from Sept. 12, 2013 - April 10, 2014

West Fargo Market (800) 733-4929

Wednesday: 10 a.m. – Feeders & Slaughter Cattle
Sheep Sales: Designated Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.
North Dakota Confirms TB Case

In June, a beef cow in south central North Dakota tested positive for bovine tuberculosis. North Dakota State Veterinarian Dr. Susan Keller reported the animal was identified as a result of a trace-out investigation in Texas, with the animal originating in Texas, and first moving to South Dakota, and then to North Dakota.

This recent case shouldn’t affect the TB status of the state of North Dakota, unless they have another positive case within a two-year timeframe. This is the first confirmed case of bovine TB in North Dakota since 1999.

Michigan Continues to Battle TB

Michigan recently confirmed widespread TB in a dairy herd in Saginaw County, which has been classified an accredited-free zone. The herd had over 80 animals test positive and subsequently has been entirely depopulated. There were some trace outs from this herd to Minnesota farms which are currently being investigated by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health.

Bacteria Linked to BRD Showing Antibiotic Resistance

A three-year survey conducted by Kansas State University has shown increasing cases of bovine respiratory disease (BRD) where cattle are not responding to commonly-used antibiotic treatments. In 2009, 42% of diagnosed cases were drug-resistant. By 2010, 46% of diagnosed cases were resistant to at least three of the six antibiotics used to treat BRD. The next year, that number grew to 63%.

MN BAH Confirms Anthrax Case in Pennington County

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health confirmed on July 7 that one four-year-old cow in Pennington County died of anthrax. This is the first documented case of the disease in Minnesota since 2008.

The Board recommends vaccination as an inexpensive way to protect animals from anthrax. Grazing animals are most likely to become infected with the disease after periods of heavy rain, flooding or excavation. Cases usually occur in areas where animals have previously died of anthrax. Anthrax is not spread by animal to animal contact.

Any animal in northwestern Minnesota that dies suddenly of unknown causes should be treated as an anthrax suspect. Producers should contact their veterinarian immediately to collect blood samples for testing. Necropsies should not be performed on suspect carcasses as the procedure could result in contamination of surrounding soil. Suspect cases of anthrax must be reported to the Board at 651-296-2942.
MPCA Releases Feedlot Rules for Official Comment

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) announced an official public comment period on proposed amendments to the 7020 rules regulating animal feedlots, which closes on August 26.

The MPCA is proposing these changes due to several law changes made by the Legislature, and taking the opportunity to remove obsolete language. Highlights of the rule changes include:

*Require the MPCA to issue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits “only as required by federal law,” unless a feedlot owner requests that an NPDES permit be issued. Federal law only requires livestock operations to obtain a NPDES permit if they actually discharge or propose to discharge to surface waters.

In replacement of the current NPDES permit, which is currently required for any farm over 1,000 animal units, the livestock farmer would need to obtain a State Disposal System (SDS) permit which is essentially the same as the current NPDES permit. SDS permits would be issued for 10-years.

*Revises definition of ‘pasture’ to include: winter feeding areas as part of a grazing area and agricultural lands where livestock are allowed to forage over winter.

*Clarifies that feedlots under 50 animal units, not in a shoreland area, are not required to obtain construction short form or interim permits. However, they are still required to notify the permitting authority of proposed construction or expansion.

*Clarifies that a feedlot owner must notify all residents and land owners located within 5,000 feet of the feedlot, when proposing to construct or expand a facility capable of holding 500 animal units or more.

The MPCA will be closely reviewing the rules, providing official comment, and considering requesting a public hearing.

MSCA Attends Meeting on Winter Time Application

The MSCA attended a meeting on June 27 hosted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and County Feedlot Officers to discuss issues surrounding winter time application of manure. The meeting was called due to several incidences of improper and sometimes illegal application of manure during the winter and spring of 2013.

The consensus arrived at during the meeting is that it will be in everyone’s best interest to maintain the option and availability of manure application on snow covered and/or frozen soils. However, with some calling for additional restrictions, a better job must be done by all in terms of informing livestock producers and manure applicators of the current restrictions and in some instances taking enforcement action against those who knowingly violate the law.

New State Tax Changes

Several new taxes took effect as of July 1, following is an overview of a few that will directly impact agriculture:

*6.875% sales tax to the labor portion of a machinery or equipment repair bill. This includes farm equipment and machinery (motor vehicles are still exempt).

*Sales tax is extended to any “pay” television service.

*10% tax on taxable gifts. A lifetime credit of $100,000 is allowed, equivalent to a $1 million exemption.

Promoting the vital work of Minnesota farmers since 1978.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” ~ Margaret Mead
Livestock Investment Grants

Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson has announced the recipients of the state’s latest round of Livestock Investment Grants. Nearly 100 producers were selected to share $1.1 million in grants aimed at boosting the state’s livestock sector (16 were beef operations).

“Livestock production and processing pumps $11.6 billion into our state economy so it’s important to provide an incentive for livestock farmers to reinvest in their industry,” says Frederickson. “This grant program will help them stay competitive and ensure Minnesota remains one of the top ten states in livestock production.”

The Livestock Investment Grant Program is made possible through the Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) fund established by the legislature to advance Minnesota’s agricultural and renewable energy industries. Qualifying producers are reimbursed ten percent of the first $500,000 of investment, with a minimum investment of $4,000.

The MDA also announced they are accepting applications for the next round of grants, of which an additional $1 million will be awarded. The application deadline is September 23. For additional information on the Livestock Investment Grant program, visit the MDA’s website at http://www.mda.state.mn.us/livestockinvestmentgrant.

Wolf Update: Population Survey, Managed Harvest, Federal Lawsuit and Depredation Funding

Population Survey

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently completed a population survey, which estimates the wolf population in Minnesota at 2,200—down from the 2009 estimate of 2,900. However, the survey contained such a large margin of error that it couldn’t tell if the actual population has declined or increased. Despite that fact, the DNR is confident the population has declined as deer populations are down, which are the primary food source for wolves.

Managed Harvest

The DNR recently announced that hunters and trappers will be allowed to harvest 220 wolves in 2013, down from 400 wolves allowed in 2012. The number of licenses available will also be reduced. Starting, August 1, hunters and trappers can apply for 2,000 early-season licenses and 1,300 late season licenses. Down from 3,600 early-season and 2,400 late-season licenses issued in 2012. The deadline to enter the license lottery is September 5.

Federal Lawsuit

In October 2012, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and a variety of other environmental groups filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to return wolves back to the Endangered Species List. If successful, management of wolves would be returned back to the federal government, which would mean no ability to protect livestock or pets, and no managed harvest. The Minnesota DNR filed an amicus brief in the case outlining the appropriate need for state management.

Depredation Funding

The depredation payment program administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) took a $100,000 cut over the next biennium, which means that only $25,000 each year will be available to pay for claims. The MDA is currently seeking federal funds to backfill the cut made by the Minnesota Legislature.

Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP Open in SE MN

The USDA announced that Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres in 19 Minnesota counties have been authorized for emergency haying and grazing due to excessive precipitation that caused a severe shortage of forage.

Counties approved for emergency haying and grazing of CRP include: Blue Earth, Carver, Dakota, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Jackson, Le Sueur, Mower, Nicollet, Olmsted, Scott, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona. These counties experienced a 140 percent or greater average precipitation from March through June 2013 and sustained a 40 percent or greater loss of available feed as a result of the precipitation.

Emergency haying and grazing of CRP may only be conducted on specific eligible conservation practices, and is limited to 50 percent of the field for haying or 75 percent of the field for grazing. To initiate emergency haying and grazing, farmers must contact their local FSA office to apply before any haying or grazing begins. Farmers must sign a modified conservation plan to allow haying and grazing. Fields containing or near environmentally sensitive areas may have further restrictions placed on haying and grazing activities. Haying or grazing cannot occur within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body, or on acres devoted to trees.

Emergency haying must be completed by August 31, and the bales removed from CRP by September 15. Grazing must end by September 30.

35 Minnesota Counties Eligible for Low Interest Loans

USDA recently announced that 20 counties in Minnesota have been designated as primary natural disaster areas due to forage losses caused by winterkill and excessive rain. Producers in these counties are now eligible for low-interest loans.

The primary disaster counties are: Carver, Dakota, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Jackson, Le Sueur, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Rock, Scott, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Washington and Winona.

The contiguous counties are: Anoka, Blue Earth, Chisago, Cottonwood, Hennepin, McLeod, Martin, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Pipestone, Ramsey, Sibley, Watonwan, and Wright.

Additional programs available also include the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Contact your local USDA Service Center for additional information on eligibility requirements and application procedures.
Farm Bill Awaits Conference Committee

The U.S. House of Representatives have passed their version of the Farm Bill, which included all agriculture-related provisions, but excluded the nutrition title. It is uncertain at this time when the House might take up consideration of a separate bill that only includes the nutrition title, which makes up for nearly 80 percent of spending in the overall Farm Bill.

In the meantime, the Senate has taken steps to officially request a conference committee, but the House is expected to delay the process until they devise a strategy to address the nutrition title, which means a conference committee will most likely not start until late August. That does not leave much time for conferences to negotiate a House-Senate compromise with the current farm bill expiring on September 30.

Hearing held on RFS Standard

The House Subcommittee on Energy and Power has held a series of hearings on the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). The committee heard testimony from both sides of the argument. Witnesses included: American Petroleum Institute, Renewable Fuels Association, Growth Energy, The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, National Biodiesel Board, National Corn Growers Association, National Chicken Council, National Council of Chain Restaurants, Environmental Working Group and others. An outcome of the hearings was the naming of a working group to consider potential reforms to the RFS. Members of the working group include Representatives John Shimkus (Illinois), Cory Gardner (Colorado), Lee Terry (Nebraska) and Steve Scalise (Louisiana).

The main arguments for the RFS is the need for the Nation to increase the use of renewable sources of energy to become less dependent on foreign sources of energy and move away from petroleum-based sources of energy which are more damaging to the environment. The main arguments against the RFS is that the use of corn or other food-based feedstocks are driving up the price of those commodities, and thus driving up the price of food.

The RFS, part of the Clean Air Act, was introduced in 2005 and amended in 2007 and is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The RFS requires higher levels of renewable energy to be blended each year into petroleum-based fuels through 2022, when it reaches 36 billion gallons.

Without passage of a new Farm Bill:
• There will be no disaster assistance programs available for livestock producers.
• There will be no Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) cost-share funding available.
• There will be no additional flexibility on haying and grazing of CRP lands, as called for in both House and Senate bills.

There is no clear path in terms of how the House and Senate might reconcile their differences over nutrition spending, as the Senate bill cuts $4 billion and the original House version cut $20 billion, but was rejected as not going far enough by conservative House members.

Turn Those Wheels Over

Wheels for Bucks has made fundraising for your state cattlemen’s association easier than ever.

**Start Saving Ralgro Wheels Now**

• Save your empty Ralgro wheels and turn them over to Merck Animal Health at your state cattlemen’s meeting.
• For every empty wheel received, Merck Animal Health will give $1 to your state association’s special projects fund.
• The person and county donating the most wheels will be recognized during the convention.

**Hear this**

**Start Saving Ralgro Wheels Now**

• Save your empty Ralgro wheels and turn them over to Merck Animal Health at your state cattlemen’s meeting.
• For every empty wheel received, Merck Animal Health will give $1 to your state association’s special projects fund.
• The person and county donating the most wheels will be recognized during the convention.
Farm Groups Sue EPA on Data Release

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) recently filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to stop the agency from publicly releasing personal information about thousands of farmers and ranchers and their families. The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota.

AFBF and NPPC are arguing the EPA is improperly applying the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which allows agencies to withhold the release of personal information that “would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.”

In response to the lawsuit, the EPA has now officially stated that due to the lawsuit, the agency will not go through with the expected release that they were scheduled to perform, and would not be complying with any additional FOIA requests until the lawsuit is resolved. Language is also included in the House-passed Farm Bill addressing the issue. There was also a bill recently introduced in the Senate by Sen. Grassley (R-Iowa) which would protect personal information of livestock producers.

Lawsuit and Injunction on COOL

Nine organizations representing the U.S., Canadian, and Mexican meat and livestock industries are asking the United States District Court for the District of Columbia to grant a preliminary injunction to block USDA from implementing a mandatory country-of-origin labeling (“COOL”) rule that was finalized in May. This was a follow up legal maneuver to a lawsuit filed on July 8 which: brings into question the constitutionality of the law; claims USDA exceeded their authority granted to them by Congress; and calls the current rule arbitrary and capricious, offering little benefit to consumers or producers.

Plaintiffs include the American Association of Meat Processors, American Meat Institute, Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, Canadian Pork Council, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, National Pork Producers Council, North American Meat Association, Southwest Meat Association and Mexico’s National Confederation of Livestock Organizations, which joined the lawsuit this week.

USDOT Grants 90-Day Waiver to Rest Requirement for Livestock Haulers

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) recently announced a limited, 90-day waiver from the 30-minute rest break provision of the Federal hours-of-service (HOS) regulations for the transportation of livestock. This announcement was in response to a request from NCBA and several other livestock/agricultural organizations that recently submitted a request to FMCSA for relief from the new rest requirement.

Several associations representing various segments of the livestock industry raised concerns about the risks to the health of animals from rising temperatures inside livestock trucks during drivers’ mandatory 30-minute break, especially in light of long-range weather forecasts for above-normal temperatures for July, August and September 2013.

FMCSA’s new hours-of service final rule:

- Limits the maximum average work week for truck drivers to 70 hours, a decrease from the current maximum of 82 hours;
- Allows truck drivers who reach the maximum 70 hours of driving within a week to resume if they rest for 34 consecutive hours, including at least two nights when their body clock demands sleep the most - from 1- 5 a.m., and;
- Requires truck drivers to take a 30-minute break during the first eight hours of a shift;
- The final rule retains the current 11-hour daily driving limit and 14-hour work day.
work with state and federal legislators, some who understand the hardship and obstacles facing our industry. Each and every day some legislators really have no idea of our challenges we face and what we do to offer everyone a safe and wholesome product.

As I have been writing this column my family and I are in Campbell River, BC Canada on the Abbotsford Regional Fair. This week I am judging the Canadian National Junior Shorthorn Show and the Beef Ambassador team will consist of the Senior Minnesota Beef Ambassador, the Junior Beef Ambassador and 2 team members. The MN Beef Ambassador team will promote beef and farming as they develop skills of leadership, communication and self confidence. The program spotlights the positive impact cattle farming has on our health, economy, and environment.

Competition Judging Areas

1. Media Interview - The contestant will participate in a mock media interview. The interviewer will have pre-determined questions to ask each contestant in the option to ask follow-up questions in order to expand upon general knowledge or clarify a point. A panel of judges will observe the interaction for: knowledge, articulation, poise and the contestant’s ability to “Tell the Beef Production Story” and present beef and farming in a positive light.

2. Consumer Promotion Event - A mock consumer promotion event will be set up for the contestants. Each contestant will be provided with a “sample” to serve as well as beef literature and recipes. “Consumers” will approach the table to take the sample. They will ask questions to test the contestant’s knowledge, capacity to perform in the field, and ability to present beef in a positive light. A panel of judges will observe and score each contestant on their ability to educate the consumer and provide the consumers with the appropriate information to answer their questions. Each contestant will have 5 minutes to interact with the “Consumers” who will ask questions. Contestants are able to ask the consumers questions to engage a deeper dialogue about beef, and are encouraged to do so.

3. Youth Presentation - Contestants will develop a lesson plan to present to an elementary class of students. A situation will be given in which the contestant will make the presentation to “students.” The students will have a set of questions to ask regarding the presentation. A panel of judges will observe the interaction and score the contestant on their organization, age appropriateness, key message delivery, creativity of presentation and ability to hold the attention of the students.

For more information contact:
Marilyn Nickel
MN Cattlemen
nickelm@centurytel.net
507-227-0775

or
Colleen Zenk
MN Beef Council
collen@mnbeef.org
952-854-6980

Deadline - October 7, 2013

The winners will be presented at the Supreme Sale Female & Steer Selection Dinner on Saturday, October 19 beginning at 5:00 PM.

Questions may be directed to:
collen@mnbeef.org
952-854-6980
Or
Marilyn Nickel
nickelm@centurytel.net
507-227-0775

The Minnesota Beef Ambassador Program provides an opportunity for youth to educate consumers and students about beef nutrition, food safety and stewardship practices of beef farmers. The Minnesota Beef Ambassador team will promote beef and farming as they develop skills of leadership, communication and self confidence. The program spotlights the positive impact cattle farming has on our health, economy, and environment.

Contest Details

Each contestant will have 5 minutes to interact with the “Consumers” who will ask questions. Contestants are able to ask the “Consumers” who will ask questions. Contestants are able to ask the “Consumers” who will ask questions. Contestants are able to ask the “Consumers” who will ask questions. Contestants are able to ask the consumers questions to engage a deeper dialogue about beef, and are encouraged to do so.

1. Media Interview - The contestant will participate in a mock media interview. The interviewer will have pre-determined questions to ask each contestant in the option to ask follow-up questions in order to expand upon general knowledge or clarify a point. A panel of judges will observe the interaction for: knowledge, articulation, poise and the contestant’s ability to “Tell the Beef Production Story” and present beef and farming in a positive light.

2. Consumer Promotion Event - A mock consumer promotion event will be set up for the contestants. Each contestant will be provided with a “sample” to serve as well as beef literature and recipes. “Consumers” will approach the table to take the sample. They will ask questions to test the contestant’s knowledge, capacity to perform in the field, and ability to present beef in a positive light. A panel of judges will observe and score each contestant on their ability to educate the consumer and provide the consumers with the appropriate information to answer their questions. Each contestant will have 5 minutes to interact with the “Consumers” who will ask questions. Contestants are able to ask the consumers questions to engage a deeper dialogue about beef, and are encouraged to do so.

3. Youth Presentation - Contestants will develop a lesson plan to present to an elementary class of students. A situation will be given in which the contestant will make the presentation to “students.” The students will have a set of questions to ask regarding the presentation. A panel of judges will observe the interaction and score the contestant on their organization, age appropriateness, key message delivery, creativity of presentation and ability to hold the attention of the students.

For more information contact:
Marilyn Nickel
MN Cattlemen
nickelm@centurytel.net
507-227-0775

or
Colleen Zenk
MN Beef Council
collen@mnbeef.org
952-854-6980

Deadline - October 7, 2013

The winners will be presented at the Supreme Sale Female & Steer Selection Dinner on Saturday, October 19 beginning at 5:00 PM.

Questions may be directed to:
collen@mnbeef.org
952-854-6980
Or
Marilyn Nickel
nickelm@centurytel.net
507-227-0775

When

Wine

The winners will be presented at the Supreme Sale Female & Steer Selection Dinner on Saturday, October 19 beginning at 5:00 PM.

Questions may be directed to:
collen@mnbeef.org
952-854-6980
Or
Marilyn Nickel
nickelm@centurytel.net
507-227-0775

Be a Part of the Team, Speak out for the Beef Industry!