

Prestigious Environmental Stewardship Award Presented to Minnesota Farm

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (Aug. 5, 2026) – Feikema Farms, Inc. in Luverne, Minnesota, was recognized today by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) as a 2026 Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) Regional winner. Established in 1991, ESAP celebrates outstanding land stewards in the cattle industry. The national winner, which will be selected from these seven regional winners, will be announced during CattleCon 2027 in Nashville, Tennessee, in February.

"These award recipients undertake stewardship efforts unique to their environment, landscape and resources, and

they share their learnings with fellow producers," said NCBA President Gene Copenhaver. "Their dedication to conserving natural resources is ensuring a bright future for the next generation."

The 2026 Environmental Stewardship Award Program Regional winners are:

Region I: LB Porteus Farms, Coshocton, Ohio

Region II: Donaldson Farms/D&D Meats, Celina, Tennessee

Region III: Feikema Farms, Inc., Luverne, Minnesota

Region IV: Bloody Buckets Cattle Company, Falfurrias, Texas

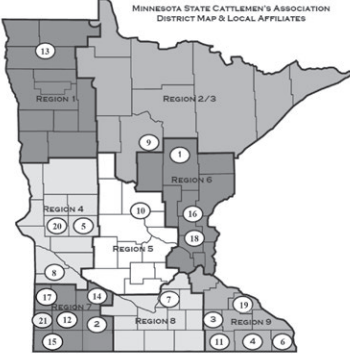
Region V: V Box Land and



Pictured left to right: Mike Feikema, Staci Feikema, Shawn Feikema and Becky Feikema

MSCA

MSCA is a grassroots organization consisting of over 20 local cattlemen's groups, providing the greatest opportunity for producer input and policy recommendations



MINNESOTA STATE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION DISTRICT MAP & LOCAL AFFILIATES

1. Central Minnesota Cattlemen

2. Cottonwood Cattle Producers

3. Three Rivers Cattlemen

4. Fillmore County Cattlemen

5. Glacial Ridge Cattlemen

6. Houston County Cattlemen

7. Le Sueur County Area Cattlemen

8. Midwest Cattlemen

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10. Mississippi Valley Cattlemen

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13. Northwestern Stockmen

14. Redwood Area Cattlemen

15. Rock-N-Roll Cattlemen

16. Snake River Cattlemen

17. Southwest Cattlemen

18. Tri-County Cattlemen

19. Wabasha County Cattlemen

20. West Central Cattlemen

21. Pipestone Cattlemen

Minnesota State Cattlemen's members, did you know you can pay your local affiliate dues online? Use the link below to renew your membership for the state and local association!

<https://www.mnsca.org/become-a-member/membership-application>

Livestock, Juntura, Oregon

Region VI: Munns Flying M Ranch, Snowville, Utah

Region VII: Stomprud Angus Ranch, Mud Butte, South Dakota

"Feikema Farms stands as a model of responsible and forward-thinking land management," said USDA-NRCS District Conservationist Dylan J. Bartels. "Their use of advanced techniques including crop rotation, cover crops, and strip-tillage has significantly improved soil health and reduced erosion, ensuring the land will continue to thrive for future generations."

Feikema Farms started in 1950 as a small dairy and crop farm that then transitioned to a beef feedyard when brothers Bob and Chuck returned home after finishing their military

assignments. Now, the third generation of farmers, Shawn and Mike, are managing the 4,000-head capacity feedlot. A devastating flood in 2014 was a turning point as the aftermath left impacts of runoff and erosion. Over the years, the Feikemas implemented basins and tiling to protect waterways and keep their fields from washing out, as well as implementing strip-till and no-till practices. They also began composting manure and utilizing a large stacking pad for manure as well. Today, their business focuses on targeted, steady growth, top yields through excellent crop management, exceptional animal husbandry, land stewardship practices that build fertility and reduce erosion, and building long-term working relationships with

partners.

"We strive for excellence in production, management and stewardship through the wise use of our resources," said Shawn Feikema. "Our goal is to make a positive impact on our families, our employees and our community, treating everyone with fairness and respect."

ESAP is generously sponsored by organizations that share the cattle industry's commitment to caring for the environment and protecting natural resources. Sponsors including Corteva Agriscience and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service partner with NCBA to promote environmental stewardship throughout the beef supply chain. For more information, visit www.environmentalstewardship.org.

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**KAITLYN ROOT**

Executive Director
Office: 763-479-1011

Hello, readers!

WOW, what a summer it has been for the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA)! Between the months of July and August, MSCA participated in two of our biggest events of the year – the MSCA Summer Tour and Farmfest.

This year's Summer Tour, hosted by the Southwest Cattlemen's Association in Marshall, brought together nearly 600 cattle producers, industry members and guests for a day of learning, networking and showcasing the diverse agriculture industry in southwest Minnesota.

The tour featured a variety of unique cattle operations and agricultural businesses, giving attendees the opportunity to see firsthand the innovation, dedication and hard work that goes into Minnesota's cattle industry.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who attended, our tour hosts, sponsors, volunteers and the Southwest Cattlemen's Association for helping make this year's tour a success. We are grateful for the time and effort so many people put into making the

day possible.

And if you already have next year's calendar handy, be sure to mark July 13, 2027, for the next MSCA Summer Tour, hosted by the Glacial Ridge Cattlemen's Association. We look forward to seeing you there!

Moving on to Farmfest – when you think of Farmfest and the MSCA, you might think of our famous big beef sandwiches first. And while we certainly take pride in serving more than 5,000 meals during the three-day event, Farmfest is about much more than what's on the plate.

For MSCA, Farmfest is an important opportunity to make sure Minnesota's cattle producers have a voice at the table.

Throughout the week, MSCA staff and Board of Di-

rectors members had meaningful conversations with policymakers, agricultural leaders and industry representatives about the issues impacting cattle producers across our state. These conversations give us an opportunity to hear directly from those making decisions and, just as importantly, to make sure they hear directly from the people those decisions affect.

MSCA President Jake Thompson participated in a roundtable discussion featuring USDA Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins. Having Minnesota cattle producers represented in conversations with national agricultural leaders is an important part of our advocacy efforts.

Root. . .
continued on page 3

**JAKE THOMPSON**

President

Hello, fellow cattlemen and cattlemen.

We are extremely dry for the middle of August. A lot of management decisions need to be made in the next coming weeks. Hopefully your rain cloud has found your place more than a couple times in the past few months.

Farmfest has come and gone and was a huge success. From serving nearly 5,000 meals in three days to very good conversations had with not only state politicians, but with federal Congressional leaders as well.

Opening day started with a roundtable with Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, U.S. Department of Small Business Administrator Kelly Loeffler, Congresswoman Michelle Fishbach, Congressman Brad Finstad, Georgia Congressman Austin Scott and USDA Under Secretary Luke Lindberg.

Great conversation was had by all commodity groups there. It was a real honor to be invited to speak on behalf of the cattlemen of Minnesota.

The discussion led us to topics such as trade, markets, ag

research, New World screwworm, Asian longhorned tick and the grey wolf. Later that day, we were also visited by multiple candidates for and current members of Congress with great discussions had on ways to increase the national cowherd.

We also met with Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate members, Minnesota Department of Agriculture commissioner and staff and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources commissioner and staff.

We are still working on topics such as deer depredation, elk depredation, delisting the grey wolf and feedlot regulations.

I hope to see you for convention December 11 & 12 in Mankato. There will be a large tradeshow, multiple

educational speakers and a live auction which will have many useful items on it. This will be broadcasted on dvauction.com.

This is a great opportunity to network with other producers while visiting the tradeshow vendors, and in the evening sitting back and enjoying the entertainment.

I hope everyone has a safe and successful harvest season.

Thank you for your membership. Your voice matters and gives the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association strength. Please encourage others to become members.

Until next time, may your fence be tight and your pasture stay green.

that hay prices are creeping up. While we are going to be feeding hay, we are making a plan to find some alternative feed sources.

We are looking forward to some beautiful fall days and hopefully getting a chance to attend our county fair and even the state fair. If you do attend the state fair, make sure you stop by the beef booth and take a walk through the cattle barns.

Be sure to plan to attend our annual meeting and trade show in December. The live auction gets better and better every year and will be broadcast again on DV Auction. Keep an eye out for the list of items.

I hope you have a fantastic fall and safe harvest.

**RACHEL GRAY**

President-Elect

Hello from northern Minnesota.

I hope things are going well in your operation. Here in Beltrami County and much of the surrounding area, we are going into our eighth straight week of D2 drought. The crops show signs of stress, as

do the pastures.

We have caught a few timely rains and have been able to manage our pastures by following our drought plan. It seems that each time we see a dry year, we get better at mitigating the effects of the drought.

After the 2021 drought, we were able to get an extreme weather grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. We used the grant to add additional watering infrastructure, and that has been very helpful. If you have a chance to look into that grant, do so.

As conditions have gotten drier here, we have looked at pastures and have decided to use this situation as a chance to hold cattle up on some pastures and feed in areas that normally do not see added

feeding or manure. We find that by choosing a sacrifice feeding pasture, we can add nutrients to the area that we would not have otherwise.

For the most part, we are still grazing and rotating, but we have a breeding group that we are feeding. We also had the chance to move some heifers to another producer that had good grass. That has proven economical for us, and it has established a working relationship with a young producer that is looking to pasture heifers.

The crops in the north, while showing some heat and drought stress, are still doing ok. The rain that we have gotten has come at the right time.

Hay is in short supply up here. It seems that the first crop was fair, but the second crop is short. I am hearing

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Minnesota Cattleman

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AMANDA ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT, MNCW

We selected our 35th Minnesota Beef Ambassador Team. Our 2026-2027 Ambassador team is Katie Mousel (Jacobson, MN), Brooklyn Holtz (Little Falls, MN), Kelly Willegal (Gib-

bon, MN), Megan Fellbaum (Swanville, MN) and Emily Hass (Cambridge, MN). Emily is serving as the peer advisor.

Minnesota Farm Bureau sponsored a two-day leadership event for the Minnesota Beef Ambassadors on July 20-21.

If you have any activities or events you'd like the Minnesota Beef Ambassadors to attend, please reach out to Rosemary Gustafson, the adult leader of the program.

Our next webinar is October 29 at 7 p.m. and will feature "Mom at the Meat Counter" Janelle Yancy, a meat scientist at the University of Arkansas. She has quite a following on social media, and it's going to be a great webinar that is open to everyone.



ERIC ZELTWANGER
Vice President

Greetings fellow cattlemen,

As I sit down to write this, I think to myself where has another summer gone? The Summer Tour was a great event, thanks to the crew that put that on.

Farmfest has come and gone, and we would like to thank everyone that was able to come help make it a success. County fairs are in full swing, which means football practice will start next week.

All are signs of the close to another summer. I for one still have some projects that I hope to take off the list before summer is officially gone.

Hopefully everyone had a summer full of making quality feed and watching healthy calves grow.

We are seeing some posi-

tive movement on the political side of things. We are as close to a Farm Bill passing as we have been since 2018. We have action on the table to delist the grey wolf. All of these things are positive for U.S. beef producers.

We have had some interesting changes in the cattle world as of late. We have seen the U.S. border open to live cattle from Mexico again.

What will this do to the markets in the short term? What will it do to the markets long term?

One thing we know as of now is that the U.S. population still has a passion for consuming beef. As long as we continue to create a good eating experience for our consumers, I believe we will continue to see prices that hold up for our producers.

The U.S. cattle industry produces some of the most consistent high-quality beef in the world, and we will continue to do so. That product will keep creating demand that the word craves.

As people move up in income, one of the first things they do is feed themselves and their families better. We will continue to position U.S. BEEF to fill the demand.

As always, may your cows be fat and your calves heavy!



DALLAS KNOBLOCH
MSCA FEEDER CHAIR

Hello to you all from the southwest corner of Minnesota.

Hope this finds you well as we watch summer fly by so quickly. County fairs are wrapped up, and the Minnesota State Fair is upon us.

We are certainly dry here in the southwest corner. Seems to be raining around us, but our last good rain was on July 1.

Time will tell, and we certainly could see some beneficial rain yet. We are starting to see some good tip back on the corn ears, so we'll have to wait and see.

In July I was able to attend the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Summer Business Meeting on behalf of the MSCA. There were many topics

discussed and information passed along, and it was interesting to be there.

While attending the Cattle Health and Well-being seminar, there were a handful of current concerns discussed including New World screw-worm. What I found to be the most concerning threat discussed was the Asian longhorned tick and the protozoan *Theileria orientalis* ikeda that it can spread.

Once the tick infects an animal this protozoan stays in their blood. It can cause anemia and even death.

It is prevalent in Missouri and much of the southeastern U.S., and there is no quarantine or restriction on movement of animals.

Be cautious when bringing in breeding animals and be aware of this problem.

It was good to see NCBA working to keep the beef industry thriving and help protect the industry's interests in Washington D.C.

They are certainly keeping a watchful eye on laws and policies that could negatively affect us. There are many men and women with many years of experience working to be sure our voices are heard.

Hopefully the worst of the summer feeding is over. It

certainly is one of the more stressful times to feed cattle it seems. Unfortunately, we had a three to four day stretch where too many negative factors came together with the weather, and there were cattle losses much higher than usual in July.

We do all we can as caretakers, but when it sets in there comes a time when it is out of our control and it can certainly be stressful as a producer.

I'm not sure what to think of the markets. Things have softened in the cash fat cattle market. That is beginning to get pushed back into the feeders, but break-evens are still not good with a slipping market.

Our imports and lack of exports are starting to weigh on the ground beef market. The border is opening and will provide more numbers for those in the south.

September and October could see ample supplies to the packer, but as we fully get into the fourth 1/4 hopefully, we can begin to see a rebound.

I certainly hope that each of you have a safe harvest season. It always comes so quickly each year.

Keep the fat cattle sold and the pens refilled!

Root... continued from page 3

The issues discussed at Farmfest were wide-ranging. Feedlot regulations, delisting the gray wolf, trade and market volatility, deer and elk depredation, drought, New World screwworm, Asian longhorned tick and other challenges facing the beef industry were all part of the conversation.

Some of these issues are complex, and there are rarely simple answers. But that makes having producers at the table even more important. Policies developed without a clear understanding of what is happening on the

farm or ranch can have significant consequences for the people who are expected to implement them.

Advocacy is a big part of MSCA's role. It means showing up, having conversations, asking questions and making sure the concerns of Minnesota cattle producers are not overlooked. It also means building relationships with policymakers and industry leaders so we have a seat at the table when important decisions are being discussed.

That is what makes Farmfest such a valuable event for MSCA. Yes, we are there

serving beef and visiting with producers. But we are also there representing an industry and making sure the voices of Minnesota cattle producers are heard.

We are proud to continue that work and appreciate every producer, policymaker and industry leader who took the time to stop by, have a conversation and engage in the issues facing Minnesota agriculture.

Farmfest may be famous for the beef sandwiches, but for MSCA, the conversations happening around the sandwich are just as important.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB AT www.mnsca.org

Upcoming Events Important Dates

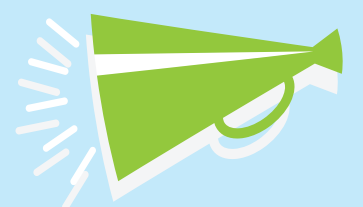
December 11-12 – 2026 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention – Mankato, MN

September 15 – MSCA Quarterly Meeting – ZOOM Virtual Meeting

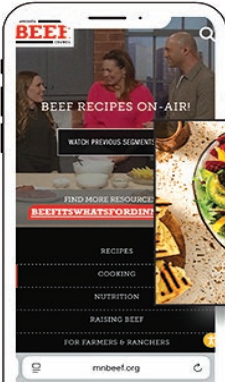
December 10-11, 2027 – 2027 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention – Mankato, MN

December 1-2, 2028 – 2028 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention – St. Cloud

December 7-8, 2029 – 2029 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention – St. Cloud



For more details on events listed below, visit www.mnsca.org.



Minnesota Beef Council

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GrillFest



GrillFest, hosted by Minnesota Monthly, took place May 30-May 31, 2026, at CHS Field in Saint Paul. The Minnesota Beef Council participated in the event through a partnership with Pauly's Pub & Grill, helping share beef's story with attendees through educational handouts and branded giveaways. A highlight of the weekend was the Burger

Battle, where the crew from Pauly's served up samples of a Jalapeno Bacon Burger. The flavorful creation was a favorite of the crowd, earning second place among tough competition. Hundreds attended the event, making it a great opportunity to share directly with consumers the great taste of grilled beef.

Twin Cities Live - 12 Days of Grilling



The Minnesota Beef Council makes a monthly appearance on Twin Cities Live, a TV show airing weekdays from 3-4 p.m. CST on KSTP, Channel 5-Eyewitness News, and is rebroadcasted late in the evening. In addition to these monthly segments, the Minnesota Beef Council sponsored the 12 Days of Grilling in

partnership with Minnesota Pork and Minnesota Turkey from July 20-Aug. 4, 2026. This included TV segments of beef grilling recipes, alternating days with Pork and Turkey. This promotion was a way to further capitalize on grilling season to showcase the versatility and taste of beef for the grill. Various individuals from chefs to meat markets feature delicious grilling recipes (see below). You can find all of the replays on our Facebook page at Minnesota Beef.

- Kelly Schmidt, Minnesota Beef Council
- McDonald's Meats
- Here's the Deal Spice Company
- Teena Anderson from Anoka Meat & Sausage

Farmfest

The Minnesota Beef Council team participated in Farmfest again this year. This annual event is a great way for the council to highlight their work to many farmers and ranchers who attend the event. There is a booth in the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association building where a large crowd gathers daily for delicious beef sandwiches. The food line flows right past the booth where educational materials and informational handouts are available. The staff also have valuable conversations with attendees, industry representatives and other beef industry stakeholders.



Minnesota Beef Council Events

- August 27 – September 7, 2026 | Minnesota State Fair (Falcon Heights, MN)
- August 30, 2026 | Twin Cities Live segment at the Minnesota State Fair (Falcon Heights, MN)
- September 22, 2026 | Performance Foodservice – Foodcentric Experience (Hinckley, MN)
- October 12 – 14, 2026 | Partnership in Action Conference (Denver, CO)
- October 15 – 18, 2026 | Minnesota Beef Expo (St. Paul, MN)
- December 11– 12, 2026 | Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention (Saint Cloud, MN)

MBC BACK-TO-SCHOOL RECIPE FRENCH ONION MEATBALL SUBS



Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef
 - 1 egg, beaten
 - 1 packet (1 ounce) onion soup mix
 - 1/4 cup dry bread crumbs
 - 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
 - 2 tablespoons canola oil
 - 1 packet (0.87 ounces) brown gravy mix
 - 2 cups water
 - 4 sub rolls, split
 - 8 slices gruyere cheese
 - 1 green onion, thinly sliced
- Caramelized Onions:**
- 1-1/2 cups thinly sliced onion
 - 2 tablespoons butter

Cooking:

1. Combine ground beef, egg, onion soup mix, breadcrumbs and pepper in large bowl, mixing lightly but thoroughly. shape into twelve 2-inch meatballs.
 2. Heat oil in nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. add meatballs; cook 5 minutes or until meatballs begin to brown, turning occasionally. remove from skillet; set aside.
 3. Meanwhile, add onion and butter to skillet; cook 8 to 10 minutes or until caramelized, stirring often. lower heat if necessary. add gravy mix and water; whisk until thickened. return meatballs to skillet. cook 8 to 10 minutes or until heated through and reach an internal temperature of 160°F.
- Cook's tip: cooking times are for fresh or thoroughly thawed ground beef. ground beef should be cooked to an internal temperature of 160°F. color is not a reliable indicator of ground beef doneness.*
4. Preheat broiler to high. place half of cheese in bottom of sub rolls; top with 3 meatballs, gravy and remaining cheese. place in broiler pan so surface of subs is 3 to 4 inches from heat. Broil 2 to 3 minutes or until cheese melts. sprinkle with green onion.

Passport to Ag

On Thursday, July 30, Kelly Schmidt, CEO, and Mary Lanoue, communications intern, represented the Minnesota Beef Council at the Passport to Ag event held at the Rice County Fairgrounds. This event offered a valuable opportunity to connect with youth and share information about beef, alongside a variety of other agricultural commodities. The MBC booth

featured an interactive spin wheel that quizzed kids on beef-related questions, with fun prizes and educational resources available for both children and adults. This was the second year Minnesota Beef Council has participated in the event, and it had strong attendance with over 800 individuals, an increase from the previous years.

Minnesota State Fair

The "Great Minnesota Get-Together" is fast-approaching! This year, the state fair runs from Aug. 27--Sept. 7, 2026. The Minnesota Beef Council will have a booth during the entirety of the 12 days of the fair, located in the Dairy Building by the butterheads. Be sure to stop on by

to play a game, learn about beef and take home a prize. To volunteer at the booth, contact MBC intern Mary Lanoue at intern@mnbeef.org. Volunteers will receive an admission ticket into the fair, a t-shirt and a free malt ticket.

MBC Board Meeting

The next Minnesota Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2026. The meeting will be held in Maple Plain, MN at the Minnesota Beef Council office.

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DUSTIN WIESE
MSCA COW/CALF CHAIR

For cattle producers across most of Minnesota, the summer of 2026 has been a dry one. As of the first week of August, 95.26 percent of Minnesota is experiencing some degree of drought, a dramatic increase from just 30.44 percent three months ago.

Where I ranch, we have been experiencing stage D2 drought. This year, we have had to drastically change our grazing management plans. Most of our grass hay fields used for grazing and water pipelines have been added to pastures that have always had natural water sources.

In an average year we would expect to have 17.05 inches of precipitation by the first of August. However, this

year we have had only 8.38 inches, a deficit of 49 percent of our expected rainfall. In the month of July, we had only 0.92 inches of precipitation, with 0.89 inches of that rainfall coming in one storm the first week of July.

To compound the problem, we have also been dealt a summer of crippling heat. We have been running about 4°F to 10°F above typical mid-summer climate baselines during peak warm stretches, which pulls even more moisture out of the soil and plants.

It is summers like these that really test the resilience of a rancher. While producers cannot control when drought arrives, there are programs designed to help offset some of the financial impacts. One such program is the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP).

The LFP, administered by the Farm Service Agency, provides financial support to eligible livestock producers who are experiencing grazing losses due to qualifying drought or fire conditions. The program helps producers recover from significant forage losses and addresses increased feed costs resulting from disasters.

Drought eligibility is deter-

mined by the U.S. Drought Monitor. The drought monitor is available online and is updated every Thursday.

It should be noted that as part of the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, the USDA has recently implemented changes to the program by updating eligibility thresholds. The timeframe threshold has been reduced from eight consecutive weeks of D2 drought to four consecutive weeks to qualify for one monthly payment, or if you have seven out of eight weeks of D2 drought, you may qualify for

two monthly payments.

LFP payments are calculated using a formula based on the monthly feed cost of eligible livestock and the normal carrying capacity of eligible grazing land. The annual LFP payment limitation still remains at \$125,000 per person or legal entity.

While LFP can help producers after qualifying drought losses, crop insurance can provide another layer of protection by insuring the value of the forage itself.

Beginning with the 2027 crop year, USDA's Risk Man-

agement Agency is expanding forage insurance options in selected counties, including eligible counties in Minnesota. The new approach incorporates forage prices and futures prices for corn, soybean meal and Class III milk to establish more representative insurable values.

Forage producers in eligible areas will have three plan options under this change:

Yield Protection: Provides coverage against loss in yield.

Revenue Protection: Provides coverage against loss in revenue due to a yield loss,

Thank you, 2026 Beef Alliance Members

THANK YOU to the following businesses that have committed to support members of the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association as a part of the Minnesota Beef Alliance Program for 2026. If you are interested in learning more about the Beef Alliance program, contact Angie Ford at mnscomembership@gmail.com.

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MSCA Represents Cattle Producers During Farmfest

Each year, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA) has a presence at Minnesota Farmfest near Red-

wood Falls. This year's Farmfest was Aug. 4-6.

Farmfest is about more than serving up a great beef sand-

wich for the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association – it's also an important opportunity to make sure Minnesota's cat-

tle producers have a voice at the table.

During Farmfest, MSCA staff and BOD members had

meaningful conversations with policymakers and industry leaders about the issues that matter most to cattle producers across our state. MSCA President Jake Thompson also participated on a roundtable featuring USDA Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins.

From topics such as feedlot regulations and delisting the gray wolf to trade and market volatility, deer and elk depredation, New World screw-worm, Asian longhorned tick and more, we're proud to advocate for Minnesota's beef industry and bring producers' concerns directly to those making decisions that impact agriculture.



MSCA President Jake Thompson, Congressman Brad Finstad, MSCA Executive Director Kaitlyn Root and Congressman Austin Scott (R-GA) pictured at the MSCA's beef booth.




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MSCA Executive Director Kaitlyn Root, U.S. Small Business Administrator Kelly Loeffler, MSCA President Jake Thompson and Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach pictured at the MSCA beef booth.



The MSCA served Big Beef Sandwich meals once again this year at Farmfest.



MSCA Executive Director Kaitlyn Root and MSCA President Jake Thompson visit with Minnesota Senator Aric Putnam, chair of the Minnesota Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee.



MSCA's beef booth at Farmfest is one of MSCA's largest fundraisers and is completely ran by volunteers. THANK YOU to those who volunteered their time to spend with us at Farmfest.



MSCA President Jake Thompson discusses delisting the gray wolf, trade & market volatility, the threat of Asian longhorned ticks and New World screwworm with USDA Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, U.S. Small Business Administrator Kelly Loeffler, USDA Under Secretary Luke Lindberg and other special guests/Minnesota ag groups.



The Farmfest Committee pictured left to right: Dick Pesek, Mark Malecek, Krist Wollum and Grant Breitkreutz. This committee is nearing retirement, and the MSCA is looking for their replacements. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on the Farmfest Committee, contact Kaitlyn by emailing mnsca@mnsca.org or calling (763) 479-1011.

NEWS BRIEFS

\$5 Million Available for Soil Health Equipment Grants

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) will open applications on Aug. 3 for the next round of Soil Health Financial Assistance Program Grants, which help producers and partners purchase or retrofit equipment that supports soil-building practices.

This is the fifth round of grants, which offers up to 50 percent cost-share, with awards ranging from \$500 to \$45,000. A total of \$5 million is available statewide through funding from the 2025 Minnesota Legislature and the EPA.

"Interest in soil health keeps growing, and this grant helps make the equipment side of that transition more affordable," said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. "Producers are driving innovation in every corner of the state, and this funding helps them put the right tools to work. I'm thankful for the strong support from our state leaders and federal partners, and I encourage farmers, producer groups, Tribes, and local governments to apply."

Eligible new or used equipment includes, but is not limited to, no-till drills, air seeders, and strip-tillage units.

The Request for Proposals and application link will be available at mda.state.mn.us/soil-health-grant starting on Aug. 3. Applications are due Aug. 31, with awards announced by Jan. 1, 2027.

Since its launch in fiscal year 2023, the program has awarded more than \$10 million in grants, improving soil health on nearly 525,000 acres each year.

Register Today for CattleCon 2027

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (Aug. 10, 2026) – CattleCon 2027 is returning to the Music City Center in downtown Nashville, Tennessee, Feb. 2-4, 2027, with business meetings beginning Feb. 1. Attendee registration and housing are now open for the biggest cattle industry event of the year.

As the cattle industry continues to evolve, CattleCon 2027 offers producers the opportunity to stay ahead of what's next. Attendees will gain practical insights, explore the latest innovations, connect with industry leaders and peers, and participate in discussions that will help shape the future of the beef cattle business. More than an annual convention, CattleCon is where producers invest in the knowledge, relationships

and opportunities that position their operations for success.

CattleCon 2027 features popular events such as Cattlemen's College, CattleFax Outlook Session, D.C. Issues Update, Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame Banquet, Prime Cut Awards Ceremony, along with more surprises to be announced. Producers actively engage as they participate in NCBA policy meetings and guide Beef Checkoff committee discussions. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Cattlemen's Beef Board, American National Cattle-Women, CattleFax and National Cattlemen's Foundation also hold annual meetings during the event.

The award-winning NCBA Trade Show includes acres of displays as well as live cattle handling demonstrations, educational sessions and entertainment. The Marquee Stage returns featuring engaging sessions with industry experts. Trade show exhibitors showcase the latest advancements, from equipment and technology to pharmaceuticals and feed supplements, all conveniently located under one roof. Register early for the best rates and housing selection. For more information and to register, visit convention.ncba.org.

Senate Urged to Pass Bill Delisting Gray Wolf

WASHINGTON – On Aug. 4, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), Public Lands Council (PLC) and Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association (WCA) urged the Senate to pass S. 1306 and thanked Senator Ron Johnson R-Wis., for elevating this critical issue on behalf of livestock producers.

The legislation would reissue the 2020 rule delisting gray wolves in the lower 48 states returning management authority to the states and is the Senate companion to the Pet and Livestock Protection Act, which passed the House in late 2025 with bipartisan support.

Sen. Johnson took to the Senate floor and sought unanimous consent to pass the legislation. While the request was met with an objection, NCBA and PLC remain committed to advancing this commonsense measure and urge Senate leadership to give the bill the consideration it deserves.

"Gray wolves are no longer hovering on the brink of extinction and represent a successful recovery," said Skye Krebs, NCBA vice president and Oregon rancher. "Populations are thriving, but Endangered Species Act protections limit man-

agement and allow these apex predators to negatively impact rural communities and family-owned cattle operations that are vital to rural economies. This is not just a cattle industry issue, it's a public safety, economic and governance concern. The last three U.S. presidents have recognized wolf recovery. Cattle producers and rural communities across the country are urging Congress to return gray wolf management to the states."

USDA Introduces More Crop Insurance Options for Forage Producers in 12 States Including Minnesota

(Washington, D.C., July 8, 2026) – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is expanding coverage options to add revenue protection for forage producers in 12 states, part of the Department's efforts to put Farmers First through improved crop insurance. Implemented by USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA), the new coverage options guard against both yield losses and decline in price due to market changes.

For more information and to read the full press release, visit the USDA's website.

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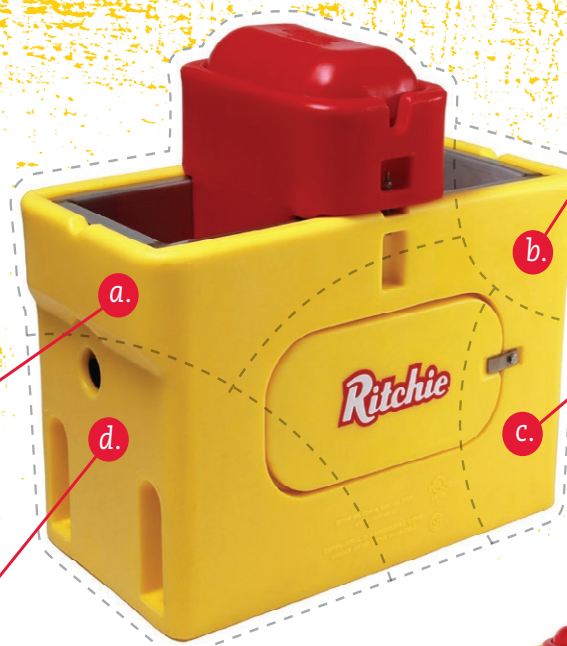
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NEWS BRIEFS

NCBA Statement on Reopening of First Port of Entry in Arizona

WASHINGTON (July 24, 2026) – Today, the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) released a statement in response to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announcement that they will be reopening the port of entry at Douglas, Ariz. to shipments of cattle in 30 days. This is the first part of a phased reopening that will include ports of entry in Columbus and Santa Teresa, N.M. in the second phase, after further biosecurity assessments.

“Secretary Rollins and her team at USDA have been fighting the spread of New World screwworm with an aggressive five-point plan and comprehensive response playbook. Their work – along with the diligence of cattle producers in border states – bought the United States valuable time to improve our domestic readiness. The whole-of-government response has put us in a strong position to begin safely and gradually reopening our southern border to cattle shipments,” said NCBA CEO Colin Woodall. “This decision will help normalize business for cattle operations throughout the border states and Southern Plains. We appreciate the continued work of USDA to support American producers and the U.S. cattle industry.”

Farm Bill Fails to Pass Out of Senate

On Thursday, Aug. 6, the Senate Agriculture Committee met to mark up the Farm Bill. Despite members submitting more than 200 amendments to the bill, the only Republican amendment the committee considered individually was Senator Thune’s mandatory country-of-origin (MCOOL) push. The committee succeeded in passing the MCOOL amendment to the bill, however, the vote to move the Farm Bill itself, as amended, failed. Following the failed vote, the committee recessed until September.

What it means: Senator Thune’s MCOOL amendment tasks the U.S. Trade Representative and USDA to find a trade-compliant way to implement MCOOL within 180 days (from enactment of the Farm Bill). If they are unable to do so, then USDA will implement MCOOL within one year of enactment, regardless of the consequences. The amendment was passed by a 17-6 vote. The votes broke out as follows:

Yes - Ernst (R-Iowa), Fischer (R-Neb.), Grassley (R-Iowa),

Hoeven (R-N.D.), Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), Thune (R-S.D.), Bennet (D-Colo.), Booker (D-N.J.), Durbin (D-Ill.), Fetterman (D-Pa.), Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Luján (D-N.M.), Schiff (D-Calif.), Slotkin (D-Mich.), Smith (D-Minn.), Warnock (D-Ga.), Welch (D-Vt.)

No - Boozman (R-Ark.), Justice (R-W. Va.), Marshall (R-Kan.), McConnell (R-Ky.), Moran (R-Kan.), Tuberville (R-Ala.)

Chairman Boozman will have to call the committee back to vote on final passage of the Farm Bill again when they return from recess in September, and Sen. McConnell will need to be physically present to avoid the same failure to advance. If Sen. McConnell has returned to Washington at that time and the votes remain the same, the bill will then head to the Senate floor. This would be

the next opportunity to tackle the MCOOL amendment issue. If the bill passes the Senate floor, the bill will go to a conference process to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the Farm Bill in order to agree on one version to go to the president’s desk.

Grant Available To Help Cattle Producers Attend Educational Events

CENTENNIAL, Colo. - Cattle producers are the original stewards of land and livestock and are constantly striving to improve their operations through education and professional development. To help reduce the financial burden of attending conventions and meetings, the National Cattlemen’s Foundation and Cargill created the Rancher Resilience Grant, which is

administered by the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association.

The grant reimburses producers for registration fees and other expenses at specific educational events, including Cattlemen’s College during the 2023 Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show in New Orleans.

Producers can apply for the grant to attend the 2023 Cattlemen’s College and, if selected, will receive a reimbursement of \$1,097 to offset expenses. For more information and to apply, visit ncba.org/producers/rancher-resilience-grant.

Spanish Beef Quality Assurance Resources Available

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (July 30, 2026) – The Beef Checkoff-funded Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program

provides best practices around cattle handling, facility management, cattle transportation, good record keeping and protecting herd health, which result in better outcomes for cattle and producers. Now, the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, announces the release of many BQA resources in Spanish. Spanish BQA program materials are available at <https://www.bqa.org/resources/recursos>.

“For more than 30 years, BQA has provided producers and the cattle industry the science-based information and tools we need to assure cattle well-being, beef quality and safety,” said NCBA President Gene Copenhaver. “Producers asked for these translated materials, and I’m glad we now have them available.”



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2026 MSCA SUMMER TOUR SHOWCASES THE STRENGTH OF MINNESOTA BEEF

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA) extends a sincere thank you to the nearly 600 attendees who joined us for the 2026 MSCA Summer Tour.

Hosted by the Southwest Cattlemen's Association in Marshall, this year's tour showcased innovative cattle operations, agricultural businesses and the people who make Minnesota's beef industry strong. The day was filled with opportunities to learn, con-

nect and celebrate the passion and resilience of Minnesota cattle producers.

A special thank you goes to our hosts, sponsors, volunteers and everyone who helped make the 2026 Summer Tour a success. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

Mark your calendars for July 13, 2027, to attend the Summer Tour hosted by the Glacial Ridge Cattlemen's Association.



Krist Wollum was recognized for his many years of dedicated service to the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association at the 2026 Summer Tour. After 16 years on the Board of Directors, including serving as president and most recently as legislative chair, Krist is transitioning off the board, leaving behind a lasting legacy of leadership, advocacy and commitment to Minnesota's cattle industry.





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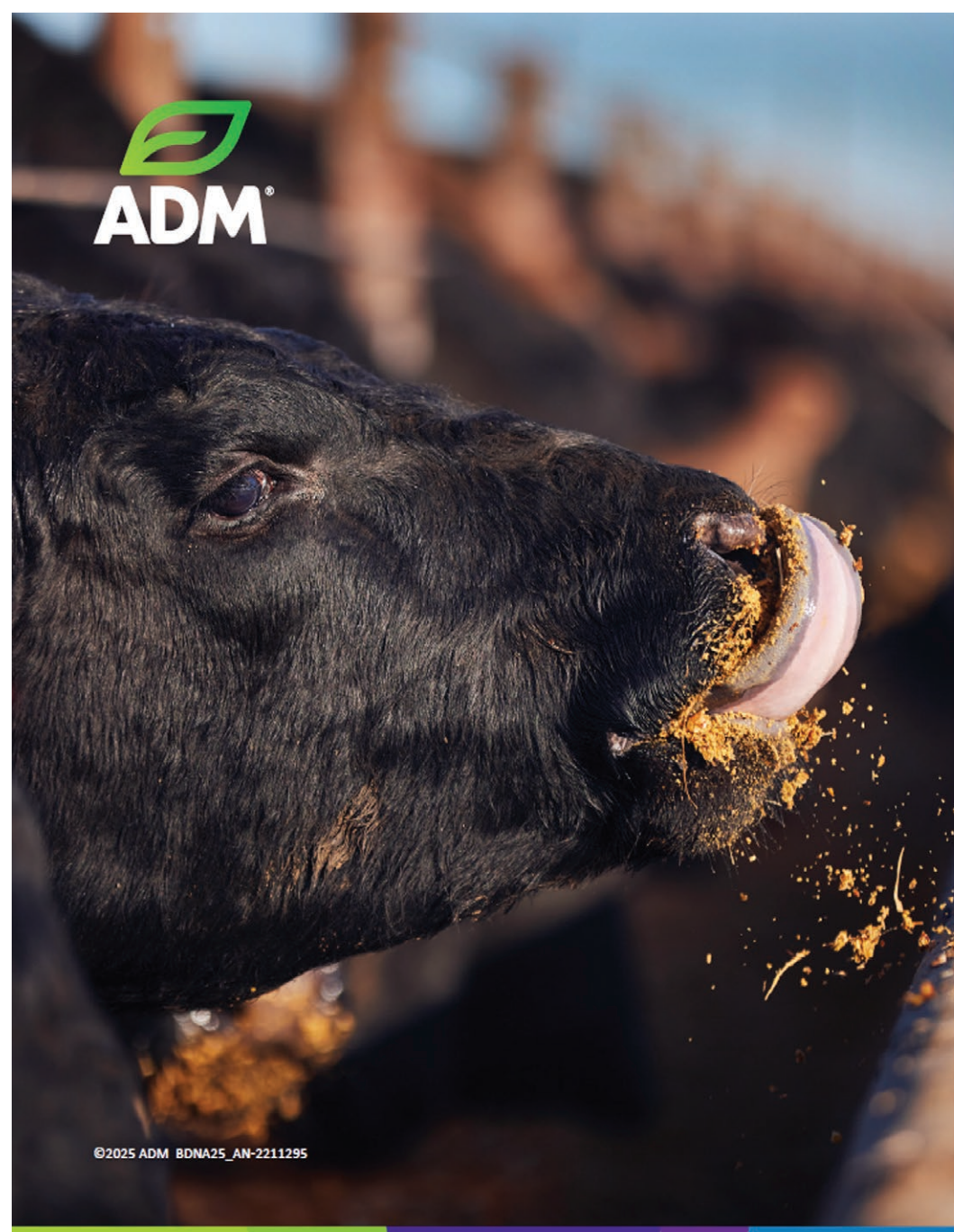
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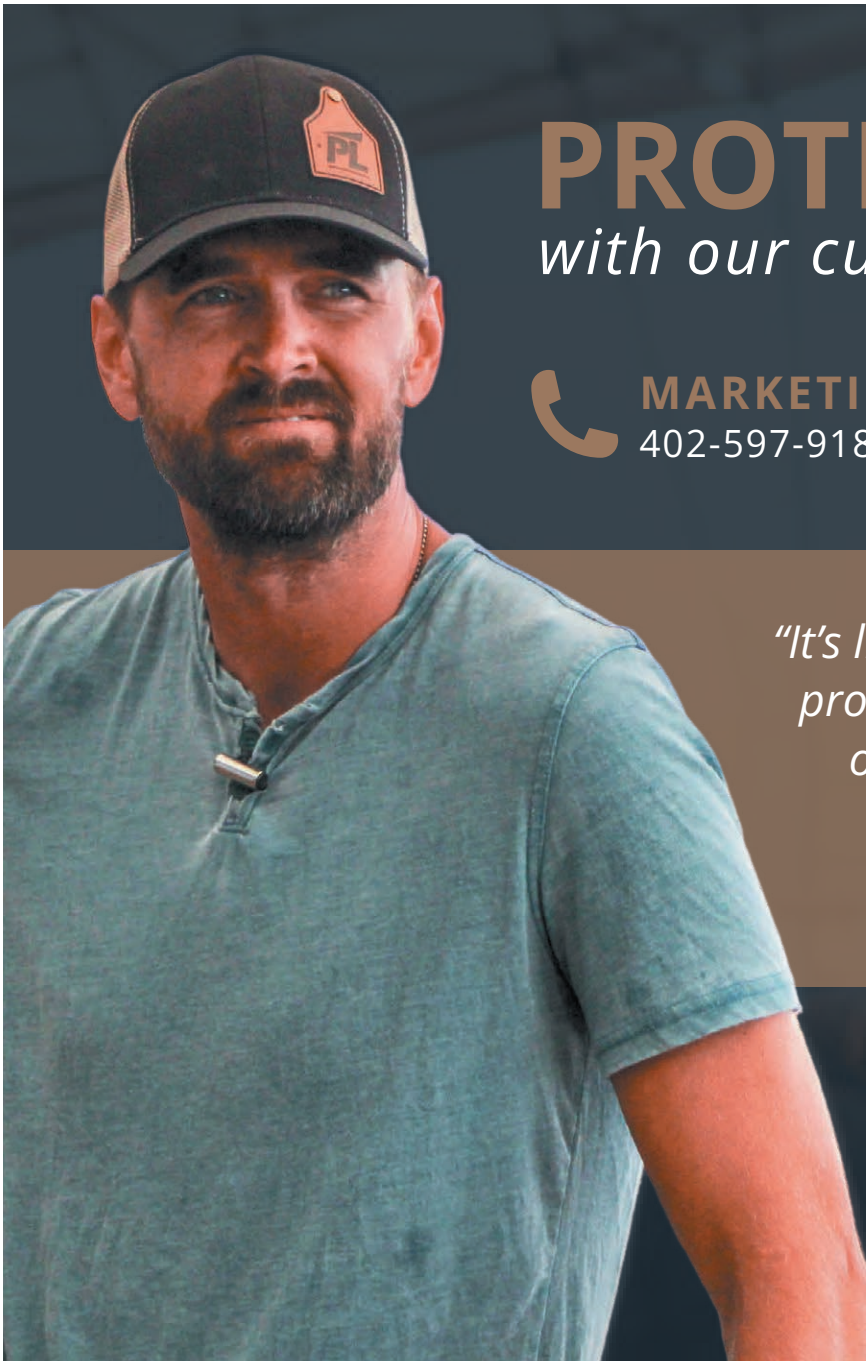
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