

50<sup>th</sup> Summer Tour Heads to Northwestern Minnesota

Northwestern Stockmen's Association to Host

By Kaitlyn Root, MSCA Executive Director

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA) Summer Tour has traveled around the state of Minnesota for 50 years, this year making its way to Thief River Falls on June 25. The Northwestern Stockmen's Association (NWSA), one of 21 MSCA local affiliate associations, will host the tour, highlighting cattle operations and

unique businesses in northern Minnesota. "The NWSA and supporting cast are very excited to host this year's Summer Tour," says NWSA President Dana Didrikson. "We've put together a wide range of tour stops to touch on everything northern Minnesota and the beef industry have to offer. We invite you to come for the tour and stay

for the weekend to experience our area of the state." **Quarterly Meeting/PAC Event** The MSCA June Quarterly Meeting will be held in Thief River Falls on Monday, June 24, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in the Imperial Room from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. That evening, the MSCA will host our annual Political Action Committee (PAC) Event with registration beginning at 5 p.m. in the Upper Concourse of the Ralph Engelstad Arena and dinner/cornhole tournament to follow.

The MSCA PAC raises money to influence elections or legislation at the state level. The PAC Event is open to everyone, and attendees are encouraged to participate in the cornhole tournament and enjoy a delicious beef brisket dinner. The cost is \$40 for the meal and drink ticket and \$10 to register your cornhole team.

Don't forget to pre-register for the PAC event by emailing [kaitlyn@mnsca.org](mailto:kaitlyn@mnsca.org). **Tour Details** The Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls will be the home-base for tour, with registration running from 6:30-7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 25. Northland Community and Technical College is sponsoring a meatball and mashed potato lunch mid-tour at the college, and the steak dinner that evening back at the Ralph Engelstad Arena is sponsored by Tyson Foods.

The 2024 Summer Tour stops include Didrikson Farms, Waage Farms, Hanson's Dairy, DigiKey, Northland Community and Technical College, Greenbush Vet Clinic, and a Ducks Unlimited/Pheasants Forever project. For an in-depth highlight of tour stops, turn to pages 10 and 11.

**Lodging Details** Don't forget to book your hotel room for tour! Accommodations include: GrandStay Hotel ((218) 681-9988); C'mon Inn Hotel & Suites ((218) 681-3000); and Seven Clans Casino ((800) 881-0712). **Registration & More Information** Summer Tour tickets are \$25 per person before June 1, and student tickets are \$10. Stay informed on tour details and registration information by following the MSCA and NWSA on Facebook.

If your business is interested in sponsoring the tour, contact Martyn Novacek at 218-242-4587. For all other tour questions, contact Kaiya Novacek at [novac067@umn.edu](mailto:novac067@umn.edu). For more information on this year's Summer Tour and to register, visit [mnsca.org/summer-tour](https://mnsca.org/summer-tour).

MSCA

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



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23. 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>

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MSCA Quarterly Meeting

Monday  
June, 24

11 a.m.-3 p.m., lunch @ noon

Ralph Engelstad Arena - Imperial Room  
Thief River Falls, MN







**KAITLYN ROOT**  
Executive Director  
Office: 763-479-1011

Wow, what a busy spring it has been!

My latest excursion was travelling to St. Louis, Missouri, for NCBA's Professional Development Workshop. This meeting moves around the country each year,

and it is designed for state affiliate and beef council executive directors to gather and learn from one another.

After attending this two-day meeting, my brain is at max capacity filled with new ideas and tips/tricks from executive directors that have been around for many years, as well as directors that are brand new. We all have useful information to share with one another to help our state associations grow and be successful.

One key takeaway I'd like to share with you all is we are in this together, even though it may not always feel that way. I find it easy to get caught up in my work, like many of you, and forget to ask neighboring

state executives for advice.

Asking for help is not something to be ashamed of – reach out to your friends, family and neighbors to see how you can learn from one another to improve your operations. Many of us are competitive by nature, but this does not mean we can't work together for a common goal – improving the cattle industry and staying in business.

Point being, we are in this together, whether you like it or not.

Cattle producers in the state of Minnesota, and across the country, need to move as a united front. Farmers and ranchers may do things very differently on their operations

compared to one another, but you all share some of the same goals – market a high-quality product, create/maintain a profitable operation, care for the land, etc.

An "us vs. them" attitude will get us nowhere, and it is amazing what can get accomplished when folks are willing to work as a team and help one another. You never know what insight you may receive that could greatly improve your farm or ranch.

I will leave you with this quote from Helen Keller that sums up the point I am trying to get across here – "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."



**JAKE THOMPSON**  
President

Greetings fellow cattlemen and cattlemen,

I hope the spring has been a good and productive one. We are heavy into breeding, fenc-

ing and planting as I write this. This spring has been a busy one for the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association as well.

March was our quarterly meeting in Aitkin, MN. Really good discussion was had on solar farms and wolf interim policy. Kaitlyn and Rachel headed to Washington, D.C. for the NCBA Legislative Conference where they were able to meet with every one of the 10 Congressional Offices from the state of Minnesota.

Third week of April brought Steak on a Stick on the front lawn of the Minnesota Capitol building. This event was very

well received and attended with a little over 1,200 steaks served in a couple of hours. Thank you everyone who took the time to come and help and interact with state legislative staff and representatives.

June brings the Summer Tour this year being hosted by the Northwestern Stockmen's Association based in Thief River Falls, MN. June 25 will be packed full of different tour stops from feedlots to cow/calf operations, a robotic dairy, Digikey and more. Check out our website for all the details and registration information. June 24 will

be our Quarterly Meeting and the ever-fun PAC event with a corn hole tournament.

Make plans to attend this great event and see what northern Minnesota has to offer. Please encourage anyone who is not a member to consider being a member. As a grassroots organization, membership is the backbone that makes us strong.

All membership information can be found at [www.mnsca.org](http://www.mnsca.org).

Until next time, may your grass be green and your fences strong.



**RACHEL GRAY**  
President-Elect

Hello from northern Minnesota. I hope your fieldwork is in full swing, and your calving is finished, or going well.

We have seen some wet weather, and it was much needed. However, it has slowed up fieldwork a bit. We finally got in the field yesterday, but still had to work around some wet spots.

Last month, I spent some time in Washington D.C. with our Executive Director Kaitlyn Root for the National Legislative Conference. We were lucky to be able to meet

with policy advisors and legislators from our state.

We discussed issues ranging from drought to wolves. The legislators asked good questions and were truly interested in what we do.

I was reminded again how important attending the Legislative Conference is, as many policy advisors and legislators have no experience with cattle production. One policy advisor commented that they, "knew nothing about cattle and had never met a cattle producer."

He and I talked about how important it is for their office to ask a cattle producer when making assumptions and decisions about our industry. It may not be a solution to everything, but at least they realize we are here and a large part of the Minnesota economy.

I hope you are planning to attend the Summer Tour. It looks like it's going to be a great time.



**ERIC ZELTWANGER**  
Cow/Calf Council Chair

Greetings fellow cattlemen

As I write to you we are on a roller coaster of emotions here in west central MN. We went into this spring like most of the state without much snow at all. Talk of a continued drought was a worry on everyone's minds. We started planting and calving and the rains started shortly after that. We closed out April just shy of 7 inches of rain and 50 percent of the crop planted so far (5-10) and we are 65 percent done calving. Talk

of drought has quit and talk of prevent plant has started, ha ha. All said and done the spring calving window was pretty good for most of the cattlemen I have talked with. A little mud for us has been better than the snow drifts we fought last year.

Between those things MN-SCA had the opportunity to cook steaks for the legislators and their staffers at the state capitol. This event has become a truly great event for MNSCA and is well received by nearly all. We were blessed with great weather and served 1,250 steaks this year up from 750 last year. I encourage all producers that can break free to join us at this event next year as it is a nice chance to introduce ourselves to our legislators. It helps connect our group with the people that make

**Zeltwanger . . .**  
continued on page 3

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#### Minnesota Cattleman

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**ROSEMARY GUSTAFSON**  
CattleWomen President

Hello from Northern MN where summer is nearly upon us, and the grass is green! Though, everyone could still use some rain, and the smoke from Canada has already been thick in the air this year.

We are hopeful to have enough moisture for decent pasture and crops.

A quick recap on our April 20th Calving Camp hosted by the MN State Beef Ambassador team. The event was a success with a full house of 31 youth aged 14-19 in attendance participating in a full day of hands-on training from Dr. Joe Armstrong of University of Minnesota Extension, Dr. Grant Crawford of Merck Animal Health and Melissa Holtz of Purina Nutrition.

The day ended with Don Schiefelbein pulling it all together with real life examples of how to recognize the stages of calving. Special thanks to all who donated to make the event a reality.

Applications are open until June 2 for the 33rd Annual MN State Beef Ambassador competition which will be held Friday, June 14, in Waite Park, MN. The competition is open to all youth aged 14-19 who have a passion for the beef industry.

Please encourage anyone you know who might be interested

to apply for the team and represent our industry statewide. More information about the team and application process can be found at [mncattlewomen.org/mnsba-application](http://mncattlewomen.org/mnsba-application).

We welcome you to attend our Summer Tour and Banquet, Friday, June 14, at the Park Event Center in Waite Park, MN. The day will kick off with our Ambassador competition, where contestants will showcase their passion for the cattle industry and advocacy. This is free to attend and all are welcome to come and show their support for our youth.

At noon, we move over to Grand Champion Meats for lunch and then delve into the world of quality meat production with an exclusive tour of their facility. The second half of the afternoon will be spent at Northern Genetics as we tour their facility. We conclude the day with a social, steak dinner and awards ceremony.

Any part of, or the entire day, is open to all! We want this day to be family focused and multigenerational. Sign up for the Summer Tour and Banquet is available on our website under Events.

This is the time of year we embrace the hustle and bustle of spring in our agriculture industry - planting seeds of opportunity and watching new life flourish. Remember, just like our equipment needs maintenance, so do our minds.

Take time to nourish your industry knowledge with meetings and tours. I look forward to seeing you at our MNCW Summer Tour and Banquet in Waite Park, and up north for the MSCA Summer Tour in Thief River Falls. So much to look forward to!

## Thank you, 2024 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 2024. If you are interested in learning more about the Beef Alliance program, contact Angie Ford at [mnsbamebership@gmail.com](mailto:mnsbamebership@gmail.com).

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### Zeltwanger . . .continued from page 2

decisions that affect our daily lives. I was also able to work the grills at Urban AG Days which was held at the MN State Fairgrounds. This program brings inner city kids that are not exposed to Ag out to the fairgrounds where they see tractors, live animals and learn about the commodities raised in our state. We were able to ex-

pose over 1,000 kids and teachers to this. Events like these are a good place to connect with people that we don't get the chance to normally. Hopefully everyone has a safe and productive spring and remember to schedule BSE for herd bulls as Spring breeding season is fast approaching.

Till next time.





## Minnesota Beef Council Names B&E Meats as 2024 Retail Beef Backer

The Minnesota Beef Council is excited to announce that B&E Meats of Crookston, Minnesota, has been named the 2024 Minnesota Retail Beef Backer award winner. This prestigious award is given to honor retailers who go above and beyond to market and merchandise beef to their customers.

B&E Meats is a small, community-oriented, family-operated meat market owned by Brent Epema. The history goes all the way back to Kenny Epema, Brent's father, who worked as a butcher in the Crookston area. Through family traditions, Kenny taught his sons how to raise a few head of cattle and pigs, which they would process in the garage. With that came learning to hunt and process venison. Brent continued his knowledge of processing beef, pork, and wild game in their garage until the spring of 2004 when he purchased Fisher Meats in Fisher, Minnesota. In 2006, Brent purchased the Camas Concrete plant in Crookston where he continued to process wild game as a seasonal job until 2007 when he took the plunge to open year-round as a full-service meat market. As the business continued to grow, Brent expanded the building and, in 2013, B&E Meats opened their new 1,400 square foot retail space.

B&E Meats offers a wide variety of selections with their 24-foot fresh meat display and eight-foot open case of smoked meats. They also carry hand-packaged food, sauces, rubs, and spices. One of their most unique products is their signature "1975 Burger Blend," which is a recipe



Brent Epema (left) with B&E staff members.

from a Crookston meat locker where Brent's dad, Kenny, previously worked. "Beef Holy Rollers" - a type of stuffed meatloaf wrapped in bacon - are also a customer favorite. Creative education is something that is important to this meat market, evident by their Prime Rib cooking instruction video shared to Facebook this past Christmas that garnered more than one million views! B&E Meats strives to provide their customers with high-quality, delicious beef products, selling 800 lbs. of beef per week.

B&E Meats received an engraved award to display in their retail shop. You can follow along with their meat market on Facebook and Instagram.

Any independent or chain retailer that is based in Minnesota is eligible to apply to be the Retail Beef Backer. Retail operations or owners may enter themselves or may be nominated by a customer or vendor.

## Summer 2024 Communications Intern

The Minnesota Beef Council is excited to announce their team member for the summer, Baleigh Peterson! Baleigh will serve as the council's Communications 2024 Summer Intern, assisting with efforts to raise demand for beef. The Minnesota Beef Industry Summer Intern will work with the Minnesota Beef Council Staff and Board of Directors, as well as the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association to develop and implement beef education, communication, and promotion activities throughout the summer. The intern will gain knowledge of beef industry programs and how their actions impact the beef industry in Minnesota. Of importance for the intern is helping to coordinate the efforts of the annual Minnesota State Fair booth located in the Dairy Building. Baleigh's internship with the council begins on May 20th.



## MNBC GRILLING RECIPE BARBECUE CHIPOTLE BURGER



### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound Ground Beef (93% lean or leaner)
- 1/2 cup beer
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- 1 tablespoon minced chipotle peppers in adobo sauce
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 4 slices frozen Texas Toast
- 2 spears pickled okra, sliced

### COOKING:

1. To prepare barbecue sauce, combine beer, brown sugar, ketchup, chipotle peppers and Worcestershire sauce in saucepan; bring to a boil. Simmer 8 to 10 minutes until sauce is thickened; set aside.
2. Lightly shape ground beef into four 1/2-inch thick patties. Place patties on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, covered, 8 to 10 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, covered, 7 to 9 minutes) until instant-read thermometer inserted horizontally into center registers 160°F, turning occasionally.  
**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.
3. Meanwhile, prepare Texas Toast according to package directions. Cut each piece of toast in half.  
**COOK'S TIP:** Fresh Texas toast, buttered, may be used instead of frozen product.
4. For each sandwich, spread 1 tablespoon barbecue sauce over one toast half. Top with burger, another tablespoon sauce and okra slices. Close sandwich.  
**COOK'S TIP:** Dill pickle chips or pickled jalapeño peppers may be substituted for pickled okra.

**Nutrition information per serving using 93% lean ground beef:** 382 Calories; 144 Calories from fat; 16g Total Fat (6.3 g Saturated Fat; 0.1 g Trans Fat; 0.3 g Polyunsaturated Fat; 3.3 g Monounsaturated Fat); 84 mg Cholesterol; 454 mg Sodium; 32 g Total Carbohydrate; 1 g Dietary Fiber; 10.2 g Total Sugars; 29 g Protein; 8.2 g Added Sugars; 33.4 mg Calcium; 3.9 mg Iron; 480 mg Potassium; 0 mcg Vitamin D; 0.2 mg Riboflavin; 6.6 mg NE Niacin; 0.4 mg Vitamin B6; 2.8 mcg Vitamin B12; 236 mg Phosphorus; 6.5 mg Zinc; 21.3 mcg Selenium; 99.8 mg Choline.

\*Based on a 2,000 calorie diet

\*\*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000-calorie diet

This recipe is an excellent source of Protein, Iron, Niacin, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B12, Zinc, and Selenium; and a good source of Potassium, Riboflavin, Phosphorus, and Choline.







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# MSCA Grills Steaks at Minnesota's Capitol

The MSCA gathered on the front lawn of Minnesota's Capitol in St. Paul on April 25 for our annual "Steak on a Stick" event. Volunteer cattle producers from across the state gathered to grill and serve steaks to state legislators/staff.

We served over 1,000 steaks and had a beautiful day for the event!

Thank you to the West Central Cattlemen's

Association for donating the steaks/grills/volunteers and Cottonwood Cattle Producers for supplying a grill and volunteers. Shout-out to all the volunteers who helped out - we couldn't do this without all of your support!

There is no better way to discuss MSCA priorities than while enjoying high quality, delicious beef!



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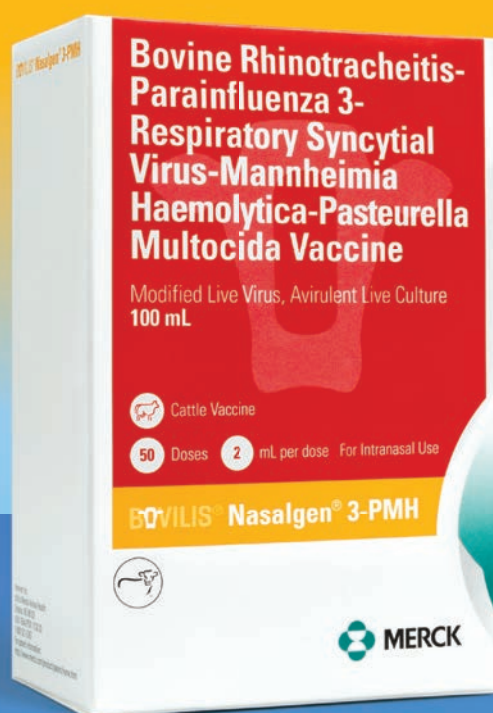
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MSCA President-Elect Rachel Gray and MSCA Executive Director Kaitlyn Root travelled to Washington D.C. in April to meet with Minnesota's Congressional Offices to discuss Minnesota cattle producers' priorities.

## Cattlemen's Representatives Travel to D.C.

MSCA Executive Director Kaitlyn Root and MSCA President-Elect Rachel Gray travelled to Washington D.C. to meet with Minnesota's U.S. Representatives and Senators April 16-19.

While in D.C., Rachel and Kaitlyn networked with fellow cattle producers from around the country and received policy updates from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association team. They also attended the annual Environmental Stewardship Award Reception to recognize exceptional land stewards.

Kaitlyn and Rachel discussed funding for the Foot-and-Mouth Disease vaccine bank; disaster relief programs including drought relief; support for the beef checkoff; delisting the gray wolf and updating the Endangered Species Act; strengthening the Livestock Risk Protection program; and conservation with Congressional offices.

"This trip is what grassroots efforts is all about – we were able to bring our members' concerns to D.C. and hear from our Congressional leaders on the inner workings of policy," says Root. "It is always fun to educate policy makers on what we are seeing on the ground and to hear updates from their offices as well."

This trip highlighted the importance of bipartisan efforts – Rachel and Kaitlyn met with all 10 of Minnesota's Congressional offices while in D.C.

"It is important to put aside our differences and find common ground – working together is the only way we can get things done," Root says.



Rachel and Kaitlyn pictured with Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN).



Rachel and Kaitlyn pictured with Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach (R-MN).



Rachel and Kaitlyn pictured with Congressman Brad Finstad (R-MN).



Kaitlyn pictured with Congressman Pete Stauber (R-MN).



Rachel and Kaitlyn pictured with Senator Tina Smith (D-MN).



# 2024 Summer Tour Preview

## Didrikson Farms

Didrikson Farms is a fourth-generation family cattle and grain farm in northwestern Minnesota. Didrikson Farms was founded by Norwegian immigrants and passed down with each generation adding to the ranch and learning to work with nature to produce a quality product and a sustainable enterprise. Didrikson Farms is still owned and managed by the current Didrikson generation – brothers Thor and Dana.



## Waage Farms

Waage Farms is a fourth-generation family farm in northwestern Minnesota. They grain farm corn, wheat, soybeans, and ryegrass. In addition, they have a 2,100 head feedlot with five hoop buildings and are a part of the Zehnder Waage Partnership which has a purebred Charolais herd and an annual bull sale at the end of March.

## Hanson's Dairy

Good-Vue Farms is a fourth-generation Ayrshire and Holstein dairy in eastern Pennington County. The dairy features a free stall facility built in 2016 and uses two Lely Astronaut Robotic Milking Systems for the 145 lactating cows. Unique to the facility is the crane and grabber Vector Robotic Feeding System which was the first one installed in the U.S. The farm uses beef on dairy via artificial insemination (AI) for approximately 40 percent of the herd. In vitro fertilization and embryo transfer are used on the high genomic/type cows and heifers for showing, sale, herd replacements, and bull sales to the dairy AI industry. In addition to the dairy, Good-Vue farms 3,000 crop acres. The farm is owned and operated by Mike and Linda Hanson and their three sons Steven, Matthew and David.



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# 2024 Summer Tour Preview

## Northland Community and Technical College

Northland is a comprehensive two-year community and technical college located in northwestern Minnesota. Northland provides education that transforms lives and strengthens the communities they serve. Their Ag Food and Natural Resources program run by ADawn Nelson focuses on community engagement and partnerships to train future ag leaders through hands-on, real-world lessons.



## Greenbush Vet Clinic

I came to Greenbush in 1985 after six years in Milbank, S.D. I purchased the practice of Dr. Allen Larson. In the beginning, this was primarily a dairy practice, with beef work in the fall and spring. There are now two dairy herds in the practice area. I still do pregnancy checking of beef herds in the fall.

The spring beef work has changed dramatically. Whereas in the past, there were a fair number of calving calls in the spring, I now see a small number of calving calls. This is primarily due to the improved breeding practices of the ranchers in this area.

I now do a significant amount of semen testing of bulls every spring. To augment our seasonal cattle work business, we have expanded the amount of pet work we do in this area. This expansion with the increased necessity for office space have led us to build a new office area which should be opening in the spring of 2024.

We'd like to welcome the Cattlemen's tour, and we hope you enjoy your tour of northwest Minnesota. (We do indeed have more than rocks and cows up here)!

Dr. Lyle Mattson



## Ducks Unlimited/ Pheasants Forever

Ducks Unlimited's (DU) mission is to conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. Their positions are developed in partnership with the NRCS to provide technical assistance to livestock producers to implement and improve grazing systems on private working lands that foster sustainable and regenerative agriculture while promoting wildlife habitat conservation. In addition, DU grazing biologists work in partnership with other state, federal and NGOs to write grazing plans on public lands and/or easements. Pheasant Forever's (PF) mission is to conserve pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public access, education, and conservation advocacy.

Garner Eeg and his son Gavin will host the tour stop highlighting DU/PF projects. The family runs a seed company and used to show high-end show cattle in addition to the more commercial cattle they run. This new site is where Garner is working with government programs to set his son up with a farm in the future. This is where DU/PF comes in to play. The site currently has about 60 head of cattle and a heated calving facility since Garner calves in December. He also plans to highlight how they are utilizing a grazing rotation strategically set up around the pretty varied soil types on the farm.





## NEWS BRIEFS

### Cattle Producers Support House Ag Committee Farm Bill Framework

*Senate Framework Harmful to Livestock Producers*

WASHINGTON On May 1, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Vice President of Government Affairs Ethan Lane responded to the release of Farm Bill frameworks from the House and Senate Agriculture Committees:

"We are very pleased with the Farm Bill framework released by House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn 'GT' Thompson. Since 2023, Chairman Thompson has gone to great lengths to meet with America's cattle producers in every region of the country and craft a Farm Bill that supports their unique needs. We are especially pleased by the Chairman's focus on voluntary conservation programs that are increasingly popular with cattle producers, animal health provisions that protect the U.S. cattle herd, and investments in food security that support our broader national security.

"Unfortunately, the Senate Agriculture Committee majority has failed to engage in the same level of outreach to real cattle producers, and their framework reflects that lack of producer input. While there are some bipartisan elements to the Senate proposal, there are many provisions which would be harmful to livestock producers. We look forward to the House Agriculture Committee's May Farm Bill markup and will continue engaging with members of the committees to advocate for the cattle industry."

### USDA Provides Bird Flu Updates

*Federal Order Issued for Dairy Cattle Movement*

On April 24, USDA issued a Federal Order to prevent the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). This Federal Order went into effect on Monday, April 29, and requires mandatory testing for interstate movement of dairy cattle.

Prior to interstate movement, dairy cattle are required to receive a negative test for Influenza A virus at an approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratory.

The Federal Order can be found on the USDA's HPAI Detections in Livestock page.

#### Guidance Document

USDA also provided a guidance document highlighting requirements for interstate shipments of lactating dairy cows. Important highlights include: Non-clinical lactating dairy cattle moving interstate direct to slaughter are not required to have a premovement test but must move on a certificate of veterinary inspection or other documentation of movement approved by the sending and receiving state animal health officials and provided to the sending and receiving state animal health officials. Clinical lactating dairy cattle are ineligible for interstate movement or movement to slaughter.

The guidance document can also be found on USDA's HPAI Detections in Livestock Page.

USDA continues to ensure consumers that milk is safe to drink, and beef is safe to eat.

For more information, visit USDA's HPAI Landing Page at [aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock](https://aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock) or the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's landing page at [mda.state.mn.us/business-dev-loans-grants/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-hpai-dairy-cattle](https://mda.state.mn.us/business-dev-loans-grants/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-hpai-dairy-cattle).

### American and Australian Cattle Producers Commit to Partnership

*Statement Addresses Cattle Health, Sustainability and Lab-Grown Protein*

ROCKHAMPTON, Australia (May 9, 2024) – Today, leaders of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and Cattle Australia (CA) signed a joint statement at the Beef 2024 convention in Rockhampton, Australia to further the two organizations' partnership on issues related to cattle health, lab-grown proteins, and sustainability.

The joint statement outlines both countries' commitment to protecting cattle health and wellbeing with vaccine banks to counter the threat of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). While FMD only impacts cloven-hoofed animals and does not pose a risk to humans, the disease can still cause immense financial harm to farmers and ranchers. The United States has been FMD-free since 1929 and Australia has been FMD-free since 1872.

The statement also addressed the emergence of lab-grown proteins. While there are no lab-grown proteins that imitate beef currently authorized for retail in the U.S., several companies are attempting to bring these products to market. It is critically important that these products are properly vetted by regulatory authorities so they do not pose a potential risk to consumer health and food safety, and it is important that they are labeled in a way that is transparent to consumers so they can choose between naturally produced beef and lab-grown proteins. Additionally, the statement supports efforts to continue sharing information on cattle industry sustainability and promoting the benefits of cattle production such as improving wildlife habitat, natural water filtration, and greenspace protection benefits.

Following the statement signing, NCBA and CA will continue engaging with their respective governments to secure policies that protect cattle health, recognize the cattle industry's sustainability, and ensure proper oversight of lab-grown protein.

### USDA Makes \$1.5 Billion Available to Help Farmers Advance Conservation and Climate-Smart Agriculture

MANKATO, Minn., April 3, 2024 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the availability of an historic \$1.5 billion in fiscal year 2024 to invest in partner-driven conservation and climate solutions through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting project proposals now through July 2, 2024, that will help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners adopt and expand conservation strategies to enhance natural resources while tackling the climate crisis. These projects in turn can save farmers money, create new revenue streams, and increase productivity.

The investments in climate-smart agriculture that USDA has made since the beginning of the Biden-Harris Administration, and will continue to make through the Inflation Reduction Act and Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, are estimated to support over 180,000 farms and over 225 million acres in the next 5 years.

The investment is made available through the Farm Bill and the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest climate investment in history, which has enabled

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to boost funding for RCPP. Additionally, NRCS is announcing progress on its effort to streamline and simplify RCPP and improve processes and implementation.

Project proposals for RCPP are being accepted through the RCPP portal. Details on the RCPP Classic and RCPP AFA funding opportunities are available on [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov).

NRCS will be hosting webinars to provide additional information. Learn how to participate at the RCPP website at [nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program](https://nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program).

### BWSR Awards Federal Funding for SWCD Climate-Smart Programming

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is awarding a total of \$2.1 million in grant funding to local governments to support climate-smart agricultural practices such as those beneficial to soil health.

Grant recipients are the Redwood SWCD, the Renville County SWCD, the Stevens SWCD, the Kandiyohi SWCD, a partnership between the East Otter Tail SWCD and the Wadena SWCD, and a partnership between the Fillmore County SWCD and Houston County.

This funding is available through the Alliance to Advance Climate Smart Agriculture, a national USDA-funded pilot program led by Virginia Tech University (formerly known as the RIPE100 program) to support landowner adoption of climate-smart practices. During the three-year pilot program, a total of \$80 million will be available to partners in Minnesota, Virginia, Arkansas and North Dakota for program administration and direct financial incentives for producers. Through the pilot program, farmers and ranchers in participating districts will be eligible to receive \$100 per acre or animal unit by voluntarily implementing practices that sequester carbon, improve soil health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve water quality and conservation. Up to \$13 million is expected to be available in mid-2024 to producers in Minnesota for these practices.

"This pilot program offers attractive incentives that will allow producers to try climate-smart practices in a low-risk setting," BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke said. "Our goal is to prove the value of these practices while putting more conservation on the ground."

Landowners who live in counties that are receiving funding will be eligible to apply for the \$100 per acre or animal unit incentives. Contact your SWCD office for more information and to learn more about when applications will be accepted if you live in Redwood, Renville, Stevens, Kandiyohi, Otter Tail, Wadena, Fillmore or Houston counties.

The Alliance to Advance Climate Smart Agriculture grants are part of a broader effort BWSR is undertaking to work with landowners across the state to improve soil health. BWSR received \$21 million from Minnesota's general fund and \$12 million from the Clean Water Fund during the 2023 legislative session to support soil health programming. BWSR was also selected in November to receive \$25 million in Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funds from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service for soil health initiatives. Soil health is a priority identified in the Minnesota's Climate Action Framework.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### USDA Publishes Final Traceability Rule

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced publication of a Final Rule to update the 2013 animal disease traceability rule by requiring visually-readable, electronic identification (EID) of certain cattle prior to interstate movement. The effective date of the rule is November 5, 2024.

The USDA final traceability rule amends a previous 2013 rule that requires sexually intact cattle 18 months of age or older, rodeo and exhibition cattle, and dairy cattle moving interstate to have an official form of animal identification. The 2013 rule, which cattle producers already comply with, instituted visual ID tags for interstate movement.

The new final rule switches producers to electronic ID tags, which are easier to read and would yield a faster traceability response during a foreign animal disease outbreak. The cattle industry faces immense threats from foreign animal diseases, which can be carried into the country by individual travelers, on contraband products or through regular commerce.

It is estimated that a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the U.S. would lead to \$221 billion in economic losses. Only 11 percent of the U.S. cattle herd is impacted by this final rule. The rule will not take effect for six months to provide time for producers to prepare.

#### NCBA Statement on USDA Final Traceability Rule:

WASHINGTON (April 26, 2024) – Today, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) President Mark Eisele, a Wyoming rancher, issued the following statement in response to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) final traceability rule:

“USDA’s final traceability rule updates the existing requirement for animal identification that has been in place since 2013, switching from solely visual tags to tags that are both electronically and visually readable for certain classes of cattle moving interstate. Many producers are already familiar with using these visual tags and under the new rule, they will instead use electronic tags. NCBA has worked hard to secure \$15 million in funding for producers to reduce the cost of implementing this change. We also remain committed to safeguarding producers’ private data and continuing to reduce the cost of ear tags for farmers and ranchers. Our industry faces a tremendous threat from the risk of a future foreign animal disease on American soil. To avoid devastating financial losses during a potential outbreak and to help producers quickly return to commerce, we need an efficient animal disease traceability system.”

### MSCA Urges USDA to Reverse Decision

On April 12, the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association criticized the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Services’ (USDA-NASS) decision to cancel the July Cattle Report, discontinue the County Estimates for Crops and Livestock, remove Minnesota as a published state in the monthly Cattle on Feed report, among other changes. The agency’s stated rationale for this is to accommodate

budget reductions contained in the most recent appropriations bills. These reports provide critical data and the decision to end them is completely misguided. MSCA submitted a letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on reversing this decision.



### IMPORTANT DATES:

June 24, 2024 – **MSCA Quarterly Meeting**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Ralph Engelstad Arena (Imperial Room), Thief River Falls  
 June 24, 2024 – **MSCA PAC Event**, registration @ 5 p.m., Upper Concourse of the Ralph Engelstad Arena  
 June 25, 2024 – **Summer Tour** – hosted by Northwestern Stockmen’s Association – registration 6:30-7:30 a.m. @ the Ralph Engelstad Arena  
 Dec. 6-7, 2024 – **2024 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention** – River’s Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud

For more details on events listed above, visit [www.mnsca.org](http://www.mnsca.org)

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# MSCA PAC Event

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# Nutrition Research Packs A Punch

By Colin Woodall, NCBA CEO

Checkoff-funded research programs provide the solid foundation of knowledge required to promote and protect our industry. As a contractor to the national beef Checkoff, NCBA's Scientific Affairs team manages scientific research on product quality, beef safety, beef sustainability and human nutrition with Checkoff dollars. This month, I would like to dive deeper into the work we do on human nutrition research to advance the understanding of beef's role in a balanced and healthful diet.

Our collective cattle and beef industry goal is to build beef demand. To do that, we have to go beyond great taste and beef's heavenly aroma. We must provide data and facts to illustrate to the consumer that they can feel confident when it comes to the nutritional value of beef. However, we do not stop there. Our scientists go deeper to understand the emerging issues for beef, look at nutrition and diet trends, and to improve the overall quality of the nutrition science being conducted by others. To do that, our research programs are committed to rigor, integrity and transparency.

Many days, it seems we see yet another study questioning beef's nutritional benefits. Our research, coupled with our work to improve the quality of the nutrition research of others, provides the ammunition we need to fire back with accuracy. Our work on diet and its relation to cancer has weakened the evidence being used to try and link beef with that disease. That alone is a huge win for us as producers and more than justifies the Checkoff investment in this area.

Beef and its impact on heart health are also hot topics, especially among those who promote diets that do not include beef. The Beef in an Optimal Lean Diet, or BOLD, study shows 4-5 oz. of lean beef in a daily diet supports good health and can improve cholesterol and other heart health risk factors. February was proclaimed by the president as American Heart Month, and to help promote beef's status in a healthy diet, we sent more than 700 toolkits to cardiologists and family physicians in 48 states to be used as educational materials for themselves and their patients. While research data is important, we must also find ways to get the information in the hands of consumers, producers, scientists, nutritionists and more so it can be put into practice.

Beef nutrition research is best known for the work done to keep beef as part of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Most of you remember the old Food Guide Pyramid, or maybe you are familiar with the My Plate graphic used today. Both were graphical representations of the dietary guidelines. In 1977, the United States Senate Select

Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs established the Dietary Goals for the U.S. After a second report was published in 1980, the process for establishing dietary recommendations has been reviewed every five years. Now, I would bet very few of you have ever looked at the Dietary Guidelines, much less followed them. I would argue most Americans are in the same boat. However, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans influences what is served in every federal food or nutrition program. That is why they are important and why we must be at the table. Work is going on now for the development of the 2025-

2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and Checkoff-funded research is being used to keep beef in the center of the plate.

In 2020, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans recognized the importance of foods rich in iron and zinc as being important for the transition to solid foods for infants around the age of six months. This guidance was supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the World Health Organization. This was a significant development for us and led to the successful "Beef in the Early Years" campaign.

In the past five years, the nutrition

research program has generated 71 research papers that have been reviewed more than 570,000 times. That is not media attention, but rather the attention of scientists, researchers and academics. At the American Society for Nutrition's annual conference in 2023, the largest gathering of nutrition scientists in the U.S., there were 14 presentations based on Checkoff-funded studies. Beef nutrition research was also presented as part of an international symposium on dietary protein for human health co-or-

**Woodall . . .**  
**continued on page 17**

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## National ESAP Presented to Texas Ranch

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) announced on April 18 that G Bar C Ranch, in Rosston, Texas, is the 2023 National Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) winner. The award, which annually recognizes the outstanding stewardship practices and conservation achievements of cattle producers, was presented to the Ellis family during NCBA's annual Spring Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

"For our operation, this is a lifetime achievement award, and this is a moment I will remember for the rest of my life," said Meredith Ellis of G Bar C Ranch. "It took me going far away to college and coming home to realize just how special ranching is and how I want to be just like my greatest mentor, my father."

G Bar C Ranch, located north of Dallas, continues to improve ranching practices in ways that nurture the environment while remaining economically sustainable. The Ellis' see themselves as caretakers of the land, maintaining biodiversity, natural habitat and clean waterways. There have been more than 500 species of plants, animals and insects found thriving on the

ranch alongside grazing cattle. "Stewardship means that I am a shepherd and must take care of all the living things that call this place home," said Ellis. "No animal, plant or insect is too insignificant for consideration."

Established in 1991, ESAP identifies outstanding land stewards in the cattle industry. Each year, regional award winners are recognized with one being honored as the national winner. "Cattle producers across the country are committed to being good stewards of natural resources," said NCBA President Mark Eisele. "G Bar C Ranch is an exceptional example of the dedication required to share the land with future generations."

### 2023 Regional Winners:

Region I: Tuck Farms, Moneta, Virginia

Region II: JB Ranch, Immokalee, Florida

Region IV: G Bar C Ranch, Rosston, Texas

Region V: Tower Rock Ranch, LLC, Mansfield, Washington

Region VI: Hart Ranch, Montague, California

Region VII: Bartholomay Kattle Kompany, Sheldon, North Dakota

ESAP is generously spon-

sored by companies and federal agencies who share the cattle industry's commitment to caring for the environment and protecting natural resources. Sponsors including U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Corteva Agriscience, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service partner with NCBA to promote environmental stewardship throughout the beef supply chain. For more information, visit [environmentalstewardship.org](http://environmentalstewardship.org).

## Woodall . . . continued from page 15

ganized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Your Check-off-funded nutrition research is playing at the highest levels in highlighting the role of beef in the diet.

Our efforts are paying off. In addition to the examples above, the Checkoff-funded Consumer Beef Tracker shows the majority of consumers agree that beef is nutritious and a great source of protein. The Scientific Affairs team is committed to

providing factual, scientifically supported information about beef to help consumers make informed choices about what they eat. The facts and figures provided by beef nutrition research make it easy for consumers to keep choosing beef!

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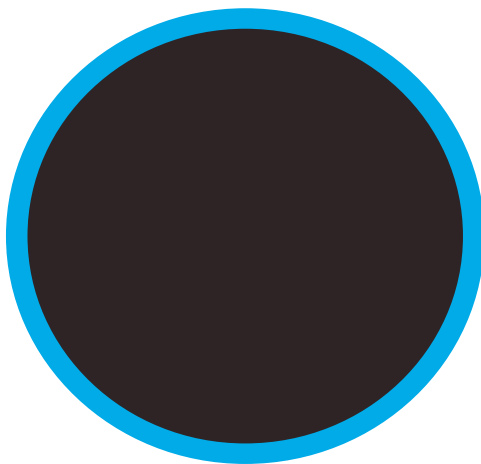
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# Leadership and Legacy Go Hand-in-Hand

By Mark Eisele, NCBA President

The NCBA Spring Legislative Conference is always a highlight of the year and, despite turmoil in Congress, this year was extremely beneficial for the cattlemen and women who traveled to Capitol Hill. One of my priorities as president is to expand NCBA's partnership opportunities. For more than a century, we have partnered with cattle producers across the country to protect and defend our common interests and this critical way of life we enjoy as stewards of cattle and the land. Those partnerships include state associations, and the strength of our bond was on full display in Washington, D.C., as more than 30 state associations worked together to advance the interests and needs of our members. It's this effort and these relationships that should instill pride in each of us.

Cattle producers have always been independent, and we always will be, but there are too few of us to leave our future to chance, and that's why opportunities to present our situation to members of Congress and federal agencies with jurisdiction over farmers and ranchers is critical to our past and future success. NCBA is the one national organization with the respect and ability to make progress on the challenges

we face in producing beef. I am proud to report that the partnerships NCBA's leadership have forged with members of Congress and key agency personnel are strong, and our priorities are moving forward in a way that will both advance the industry and protect us from government overreach.

The Farm Bill is a key priority for NCBA members this year, and both state and national leaders had countless discussions with our members of Congress during visits on the Hill. We also had the opportunity to hear directly from House Agriculture Committee Chairman, GT Thompson, who remains committed to advancing a Farm Bill this year. His leadership and partnership on the Farm Bill, combined with the work of the cattlemen and women who were present for Legislative Conference, will help complete this important task, despite the ongoing turmoil preventing many other groups from advancing their agendas. Without partnerships on both sides of the aisle, the strong bond between NCBA and state associations, and the commitment of grassroots cattle producer members of both state and national organizations, we wouldn't be nearly as successful as we have been in protecting our future.

Each of us has a different leadership path in life, but each path is critical, and if you're not engaged with your state association, you should be. Fewer than 2% of Americans are engaged in agriculture, and our voices could easily be overwhelmed by the majority if we fail to work together on important issues. State cattle associations are the front line in protecting our way of life. If you haven't been to your state association meeting, I would strongly encourage you to take that first step and attend. The opportunity to work with neighbors and like-minded cattlemen and women is invigorating and important to ensuring the future of your family business is protected. If you're already a state leader, I want to thank you for the important work you're doing and encourage you to take the next step and join NCBA's leaders in working at the national level. We're always in need of grassroots members who will share their stories, engage in committees, and serve as leaders of the association.

The work we do at the local, state and national level advances our interests and protects our future. Our industry's ongoing survival and ability to thrive depends on women and men like you sharing your story with decisionmakers

at every level of government. By working together to strengthen our partnerships and our voice, NCBA and your state associations can build on more than a century of advocacy work that has overcome turmoil, change and time to make sure cattle producers thrive despite all of those who have aligned against us throughout past years.

There is no doubt our industry is strong, but it can always be stronger. I hope you'll take the first step and make sure your local, state and national membership dues are paid. Once that's done, reach further and get involved. As we head into summer, NCBA leadership will be traveling across the country to state meetings and working with state leaders, so I hope I'll see you there.

**CHECK US OUT  
ON THE WEB  
AT  
[WWW.MNSCA.ORG](http://WWW.MNSCA.ORG)**



WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

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50TH ANNUAL MN STATE CATTLEMENS TOUR

June 25, 2024

HOSTED BY:  
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HEADQUARTERS: THIEF RIVER FALLS

Early Bird Registration Deadline – June 1  
\$25 per person before June 1, students \$10 – includes free t-shirt\*  
Tour stops include a feedlot and cow/calf operation, a robotic dairy, DigiKey Electronics—the fifth largest electric component distributor in the world—and more!

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Contact Martyn Novacek at:  
mtnovacek@gmail.com.

\*t-shirt not included with student pricing  
For more information, visit: [www.mnsca.org/summer-tour](http://www.mnsca.org/summer-tour)

Sign Up a New Member Today - Help MSCA Grow!

Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association/National Cattlemen's Beef Association

MSCA/NCBA Partnered Membership Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ YES I would like to receive the Policy Pen E-Bulletin

MN State Cattlemen's Association Dues .....\$100

Junior Dues .....\$25

Local Cattleman Association Dues (Optional)  
Contact your local association to join

NCBA Membership Dues (Optional)  
(Select the appropriate classification and add to MN State Cattlemen dues)

1-100 - \$160	Stocker/feeder - (#hd _____ x38¢) + \$2027 =
101-250 - \$320	
251-500 - \$480	Associate Dues
501-750 - \$693	Individual - \$160 (NCBA Dues →) _____
751-1000 - \$960	Business - \$213
1001 -1250 - \$1227	Student (24 or younger) - \$53
1251 - 1500- \$1493	
1501 - 1750 - \$1760	
1751 - 2000 - \$2027	

Total Dues Enclosed This Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Credit Card Type: ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: "MSCA" (No Cash Please)  
Return Form & Payment To: MSCA Treasurer

PO Box 12, Maple Plain, MN 55359

Recruited By: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions Call: (763) 479-1011 or email: [mnsca@mnsca.org](mailto:mnsca@mnsca.org)