

Department of Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Announces to Delist Gray Wolf from ESA, Granting Management and Protection to the States

On October 29, 2020, The Department of the Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the removal of the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of the United States. This decision was based on science and law and is a tribute to the success of the gray wolf recovery. For more than 45 years, the gray wolf has been protected under the ESA. Attending this announcement at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was MSCA President Elect Grant Breitkreutz and Executive Director, Allison VanDerWal.

For many years, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association has been communicating to legislators, biologists and government agencies the concerns and economic impact of wolf predation on beef operations as the gray wolf population has continued to increase. Although the MSCA staff, board of directors and members over the years have been at the forefront of the effort, we know we could not have reached this point without help from legislators such as Minnesota

Congressmen Collin Peterson, Pete Stauber and Tom Emmer.

The management and protection of the gray wolf is now in the hands of state officials who can make management decisions based on our states needs and cultivate a landscape for livestock and gray wolves to thrive together. The final rule will be effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. This announcement is timely for the state of Minnesota, as the Department of Natural Resources is currently working to update Minnesota's Wolf Management Plan. Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association's Cow/Calf Council Chairman Jake Thompson is one of a couple livestock producers on the DNR's advisory committee. We encourage producers to participate and comment online on the wolf management plan. Comment period is open until November 20th and details about the current plan, timeline for the new plan and other wolf management details can be found on the DNR website, www.dnr.state.mn.us/wolves.



Grant and Allison with Secretary Bernhardt



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



2020 Minnesota Cattle Industry **Convention Update – Virtual Event**

The 2020 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention is less than one month away and this year you can join us easier than ever before! The 2020 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention will now be held virtually December 3rd and 4th and will be free for all MSCA members! Convention will kick off on Thursday evening with the Cattlemen's Education Series at 7:00 pm and will conclude Friday afternoon. Visit mnsca.org/events/convention to register and learn more!

Educational Sessions:

FIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

NEWS

<u>Thursday December 3rd 7:00 – 8:30 pm</u> Profitability in the MN Cow/Calf Industry: What is the Market Telling Us?

Make sure you attend the Cow/Calf Council Meeting to listen to Extension Specialists, Eric Mosel and Dr. Alfredo DiCostanzo, talk about profitability in the Minnesota cow/calf industry.

they and what you need to know to make pleted registration form found on the back of the best strategy for your operation. Brad Kooima, President of Kooima, Kooima and Varilek Trading will discuss market-55359. ing options and strategies.

MSCA Quarterly and Annual Meeting

During the annual membership meeting, all MSCA members have the opportunity

to set the future direction for MSCA. We'll get to business, adopt policy resolutions,

and elect leaders to represent MSCA members throughout the coming year. If you're a

member, do not miss this opportunity to lend your voice to the future direction of our association!

Policy Briefing – State and National

Friday afternoon during the MSCA Quarterly and Annual Meeting, attendees will hear about agricultural policy on both the state and national level from Bruce Kleven, MSCA Legislative Consultant, and Ethan Lane, Vice President of Government Affairs, NCBA.

Register Today for the 2020 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention. www.mnsca. Fed cattle marketing options: what are org/events/convention or mail in a comthis newspaper to the Minnesota Cattlemen's Association, PO Box 12 Maple Plain, MN

Friday December 4th: Noon – 4:00 pm

Keynote Speaker:

Alisa Harrison, Senior Vice President of Global Marketing and Research, and Bridget Wasser Senior Executive Director, Product Research & Education from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, will share important insights and discoveries in marketing beef to the consumer.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB AT

www.mnsca.org



ALLISON VANDERWAL Executive Director

Where has this year gone? This has been one of the longest years for many, however as I reflect, I am not sure where the last 11 months have gone. November will be my sixth month with the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association and Minnesota Beef Council, and despite starting in the midst of a global pandemic, I am happy to say it has been an enjoyable six months. The

staff I join, as well as the board members of the Council and Cattlemen's Association, have been wonderful mentors during this time of transition. From learning how both the Council and Association operate to issues the Association has been working on, I know there is someone in this circle who I can call to help me understand what is needed to be able to represent you all effectively as members. As Minnesota State Cattlemen Association members and producers who pay into The Checkoff, you should be excited about the staff and board members representing your regions. Although farming can provide flexibility in schedules, it also is a 24/7 occupation and your to-do list can be quickly affected by weather and animal needs. Despite this, our board members are devoting their time to attend meetings, review materials and keep current with beef industry issues. As we are getting closer to our annual meeting, current board positions will

become open and as always, we are looking for willing producers who are wanting to be involved. By being a part of the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association board, you are the governing body of the association and carry out the dictates of the membership. Within these responsibilities, you will have the opportunity to represent the association at local affiliate, state and national meetings. In the past six months alone, board members and I have participated in meetings discussing cattle marketing programs, NCBA Summer Business Meeting, a new wolf management plan, farm safety programs, section 179, manure permits, water quality and fees, plus many more. If you want to get involved, but do not want to jump right into a board position, get involved in your local affiliate organization! Over twenty county cattlemen groups are affiliated with

... continued on page 15



JAKE THOMPSON Chairman, Cow/Calf Council

Hello fellow cattlemen and cattlewomen. As I write this, the snow is falling and this seems to be the trend for the middle of October over the past couple of years. For me, winter has come to early, but one can hope that November will bring some nice weather. Remember to sign up for the CARES 2 livestock payment if you haven't already. Sign up at your local FSA office now until December 11th. The payment rate is \$55/head for the highest inventory of feeder calves from May 15th - August 30th. This will help some for the down feeder calf prices, but it definitely isn't enough. Seems as though when the corn prices go up, the feeder calf market takes a hit.

As this is my last article as Cow/Calf Chairman due to term limit, so I would like to thank the Association for this opportunity. If you know of anyone that would be a good fit, encourage them to run for the position.



JOE WAGNER Chairman, Feeder Council

As I sit here writing this letter on October 20th, we have 6-8" of snow on the ground with another 6-10" forecasted for the next 24 hours. Crazy weather. The weather up until now has been fantastic. It was ideal harvest and calf weaning weather. The health on the weaned calves has been excellent up to this point. The yields in our area were slightly below

expectations on the beans and slightly better on the corn. The row crop market has held the rally through harvest along with a basis that has strengthened. That is quite impressive. Unfortunately, the cattle market has been on the decline as of late. Higher priced corn and lower live cattle prices are really putting the squeeze on feeder cattle prices. It appears as though it might be a good year to background the calves, add some weight and market them at a later date. It will be interesting to watch, over the next few weeks and months. It seems as if though it usually takes suffering for some to allow the rest to prosper.

I hope everyone had a safe, productive and bountiful 2020 harvest season.



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it, and there is snow predicted four days in the next week! Welcome to winter in Minnesota!

As with every organization since mid-March, we have not been able to do in person events. We miss sharing our stories, telling about our farms and visiting with our consumers. Minnesota CattleWomen have been busy doing what we can on social media sites and planning for the time when we can meet face-to-face.

One of our major events, the Beef Ambassador Contest has been changed to online judging on November 14. Watch for information on our 2021 team members after November 14th! and the agenda. If you are not a member and would like more information, contact me. You can reach me at 218-330-0042, or dchute59@ gmail.com.

It is hard to believe this will be my last column as your Minnesota CattleWomen's president. My term will end at our annual meeting on December 4th when our next president is elected. The past two years have gone by very fast. It has been an honor and privilege to lead this group of amazing, hard-working women!! We may be small in membership numbers, but we accomplish a lot. While my term as president may be ending, I will still be involved with CattleWomen, both with Minnesota and ANCW organizations. From the Chute Family Farm in Aitkin county to yours - Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! May your holiday season be filled with family, friends, safe travels and many blessings. May 2021 bring you peace, health and happiness. As we put up a new calendar, the new year give us the perfect chance to start something new and fresh. Let us all do a little bit to make the world a better place for everyone.



Hello once again from Central Minnesota. I hope this column finds everyone healthy, that you are having a good harvest season and getting your fall field work done. We are preparing for winter on our cattle farm, and none too soon, as we had snow over the weekend. The temperatures over the next two weeks do not look warm enough to melt I want to extend an invitation to all to attend the Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention Thursday and Friday, December 3 – 4th. This is a change of location and dates from what I reported in my October article. Please join Minnesota CattleWomen for our annual meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 4th. We hope the pandemic permits travel between states, as one of our officers from American National CattleWomen (ANCW) plans to join us at our annual meeting and convention. We welcome anyone to attend our meetings and events. Watch your emails for more details
 Region – 9
 Ted Brenny

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Minnesota Cattleman

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MIKE LANDUYT President, Minnesota State **Cattlemen's Association**

As I write this, we are dealing with a sloppy mess. The wet, heavy snow has brought everything to a standstill. Why not have the earliest three plus inch snowfall in recorded history? After all, it's 2020 and nothing about this year is normal. Fortunately, in my area most of the harvest has been completed. Everyone was taking advantage of the incredibly good weather we had been having. At my place, the crop is harvested and the corn stalk bales are made and stalked. Most of the manure has been hauled, and all of the fall calves have been delivered. All of these jobs were finished early compared to average.

Allison has been busy this fall with many policy and ac-

tion items. Even in the midst of harvest and a pandemic, the forces that wish to end animal agriculture are still working against us. She is busy working on all of these issues while we are busy working on our farms and ranches. That is the value of membership.

It is really starting to set in that my time as your MSCA President is almost over. Part of me feels like just last month was my first column after convention and my time was just starting. On the other hand, part of me feels like this last year was really ten in one and wouldn't ever end. Please know that we didn't get everything right this year. we did the best we could with the information we had and the best interest of all of Minnesota's cattle producers in mind. I do believe that many things that will help producers for a long time have been accomplished.

As I wrap up my last time writing to you. I have to take time and thank a few people that have had a huge and lasting impact on me. First, Don Schiefelbein for lighting the fire that got me to attend my first "Cattleman at the Capitol" event. Next, Minnesota Beef Alliance Members

THANK-YOU to the following businesses that have committed to support members of the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association as part of the Minnesota Beef Alliance for 2020. If you are interested in learning more about the Beef Alliance program, contact Allison VanDerWal at 763-479-1011 or allison@mnsca.org

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* Indicates giving above base level for that category!

Upcoming Events/Important Dates:

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

December: 3-4th: MSCA Annual Convention

Mark Malecek and Krist Wollum for seeing something in me and convincing me to join the Executive Committee as the Feeder Chair. Of course, the members who voted for me when I ran for each position I have held within MSCA and the many board members I have had the opportunity to work with. So many of you have provided great input to this organization. Last and certainly not least, is the incredible staff we have helping us all. If it were not for Allison, Katie, Kelly, Ashley and Karin, I would have been completely lost in this position and had my head under water. You always had at your fingertips the infor-

mation I needed, researched what I needed to be educated on, and when needed, gave me a course correction to keep me headed the right direction. And finally, my family - I could never have made it through this without my incredible family.

Thank you all for being MSCA members. Thank you for having faith in me and allowing me to serve as your president. Thank you for the incredible memories and opportunities.

Stay safe, healthy and remember all of your blessings!

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OCTOBER MBC UPDATE





Beef Promotion, Education & Research www.mnbeef.org • www.meatmnbeef.com •

Minneapolis American Culinary Federation

The Minnesota Beef Council presented the educational segment for the Minneapolis American Culinary Federation October meeting. Royalee Rhoads, Director of Industry Relations, presented about the Beef Foodservice app. The app is intended for the foodservice industry and features infographics, cuts, beef training courses and allows app users to connect with their local state beef council.





J & B Beef Presentation

Director of Industry Relations, Royalee Rhoads, along with Dr. Ryan Cox, Meat Science Professor at the University of Minnesota, presented to the customer service team at J & B Group on September 29th. Royalee presented about beef and resources available from Minnesota Beef Council and *Beef. It's What's for Dinner*. Ryan Cox did a beef cutting demo for the team. We have already been asked to come back in the future to present again.

Minnesota Beef Council seeking candidates for council board of directors

Minnesota Producer on James Beard Webinar

Katie Brenny, Minnesota Beef Council Board of Director, was a panelist on a James Beard Foundation webinar on September 22th. Speaking to the audience of chefs and foodservice professionals, Katie and fellow panelists shared their role in raising beef from pasture to plate. They thoughtfully shared the beef community's commitment to raising cattle in a safe, humane and environmentally- sustainable way. The webinar can be found on James Beard Foundations website. The Minnesota Beef Council is seeking candidates for our council board of directors. There are six director positions up for election this year. These three-year terms will begin July 2021. All interested producers must complete required paperwork and return to the Minnesota Beef Council office by January 25, 2021. For more information and to access the required paperwork, please visit www.mnbeef.org or call 763-479-1011. Want to vote in these director elections? Call the Minnesota Beef Council office at 763-479-1011 to get your name added to the mailing list.

MBC Board Meeting

The next Minnesota Beef Council Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 25th.

Beef's Role as a First Food: Informing Health Professionals of the Science and Recommendations

Childhood nutrition is a popular topic amongst parents and health experts, especially when it comes to first foods for infants. Health professional experts agree that good nutrition supports a child's ability to grow and meet developmental milestones, both physically and cognitively. The first 24 months of life is a critical period of growth where healthy eating habits should be encouraged to ensure proper growth and development. Beginning around 6 months of age, infants are at risk of falling short of certain key nutrients for growth and development, therefore, it is recommended that parents introduce nutrient-dense complementary foods to ensure nutrient needs are met. Beef is a nutrient-dense food that supplies essential nutrients, like protein, iron, zinc, choline, and B-vitamins, that help promote proper growth, development and wellbeing in the early years. For many years, the Beef Checkoff has invested in nutrition research to understand how adequate nutrition, that includes beef, in the early years can impact short- and long-term health outcomes. It is now clear that the science supports beef as a nutrient-rich first food for babies.

Up until this year, nutrition recommendations for children under 2 years of age were excluded from national dietary guidance. However, for the first time ever, the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) Committee has addressed the importance of developing nutrition recommendations for children from birth to 24 months of age. Importantly, the Committee recommended animal-sourced foods, such as beef, as a foundational food for healthy growth in the early years.

In an effort to elevate awareness and acceptance of beef as a first food for infants amongst health professionals and nutrition researchers, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, is hosting an immersive virtual experience, called Eating in the Early Years E-Vent: An Immersive Virtual Experience on Beef's Role in Early Childhood Nutrition, taking place September 14-17, 2020. This virtual educational event will highlight the latest nutrition recommendations for birth to 24 months of age and will emphasize the science surrounding beef as a first food. Leading child nutrition experts will share what and how to feed infants and toddlers and will identify ways health professionals can inspire behavior change to improve nutrition outcomes amongst infants and toddlers. All educational sessions will be submitted for continuing education to the Commission on Dietetic Registration.



(Photo courtesy of BeefIt'sWhatsforDinner.com)

It is a momentous year for the DGAs, and this event is expected to attract health professionals and nutrition researchers from all across the country as they will have the opportunity to interact and collaborate with leading pediatric nutrition experts on this very important topic. For more information, please visit https://www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com/ nutrition/early-years-e-vent.



Beef Around the World

Ninety-six percent of the world's population lives outside of the U.S. That equates to thousands of different cultures with different food preferences. The Beef Checkoff is investing dollars to drive demand around the world and gain foreign market access for U.S. beef. Part of that mission includes identifying different cultural preferences and aligning those in accordance with beef cuts and market opportunities. Overall, the goal of growing exports is to build value through the entire carcass by moving different cuts to different markets.



Our neighbor to the south, Mexico, primarily imports U.S. tripe and frozen beef lips. Both of these products underperform in the U.S., but when exported to desiring countries, offer great return value. These products add \$3.20 and \$1.35 per head, respectively.

The U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF), a subcontractor to the Beef Checkoff, carries out the checkoff's foreign market mission. USMEF attends various international events, conducts demonstrations with chefs around the world, hosts cooking competitions to incentivize the use of U.S. beef in dishes, and works with retailers to encourage the promotion and sale of U.S. beef products. Driving beef demand is a multi-faceted effort. To ensure that beef remains the world's top protein, the checkoff is dedicated to investigating market opportunities at every turn.

Japan is the number one export market for U.S. beef followed by South Korea and Mexico. In Japan, beef tongue, short plates and intestines are high premium opportunities for U.S. beef. When compared to how those products perform in the U.S., the premiums are 62 percent higher for tongues and 118

percent higher for short plates, adding \$11.44 per head and \$28.59 per head respectively.

Korea has become a booming market for U.S. beef products. Korea's main U.S. beef cut is short ribs, a very popu-

lar item in both retail and foodservice. When compared to the short rib product performance in the U.S., the premiums are 31 percent higher in Korea. In fact, Costco recently switched from Australian to all U.S. beef sold in their Korean stores.

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Recently Introduced Cattle Legislation

The Haulers of Agriculture and Livestock Safety (Hauls) Act

The Hauls Act was introduced by Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb) and would update legislation introduced by Senator Fischer in the 2018 Farm Bill.

The Hauls Act has three major provisions:

- *Eliminates seasonality* –The HAULS Act strikes the language in statute that limits the ag and livestock HOS exemptions to state planting and harvesting periods, clarifying that the HOS exemptions are available across the country year-round.
- Adds 150 air-miles on the destination Current statute exempts ag and livestock haulers from HOS requirements within 150 air-miles of the source, or beginning location, of their haul. FMCSA released guidance in 2018 to clarify that haulers going beyond that 150 air-mile radius must begin recording their HOS time only once they cross that radius. The HAULS Act provides a similar 150 air-mile HOS exemption radius on the destination of an ag or livestock hauler's haul. The reason for the exemption on both sides of a haul is that farmers and ranchers need additional time to drive slowly on rural roads that are frequently less well maintained. This provision is particularly important to livestock haulers who move a live, perishable product. Without this exemption on the destination, livestock haulers can be caught in a regulatory bind between the HOS requirements and animal welfare laws.
- *Clarifies "agricultural commodity" definition* The current definition of "agricultural commodity" is, "any agricultural commodity, non-processed food, feed, fiber, or livestock," which even FMCSA recognized as "circular and ambiguous." The HAULS Act clarifies the "agricultural commodity" definition in statute by identifying general ag and livestock products that are either non-processed or minimally processed. Haulers moving these products would be eligible to use the ag and livestock HOS exemption.

Cattle Market Transparency Act

Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE) introduced the Cattle Market Transparency Act in an effort to increase regionally sufficient negotiated cash trade and ensure producers have information needed to make informed marketing decisions. There has been a companion piece of legislation introduced by Congresswomen Vicky Hartzler (R-MO) in the House.

1. Establishes regional minimum thresholds for negotiated trade volume (including both cash and negotiated grid sales) ensure robust price discovery in all USDA-LMR cattle marketing regions. It requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish regionally sufficient levels of negotiated trade, seek public comment on those levels and implement processes to monitor and maintain said levels within the next 12 months. Should a packer (of at least 150k head annual production and having more than 1 slaughter facility) fail to meet their minimums, they will face the civil penalty already in law of up to \$10k per violation.

2. Requires USDA to create and maintain a library of marketing contracts between packers and producers and requires packers to supply this information to USDA. This library is similar to the swine industry. Confidentiality would be maintained, and producers would not know what packer supplied the provisions stated in the reports. Nor would they know how the packer would combine these provisions in a contract.

3. Mandates that a packer report the number of cattle scheduled to be delivered for slaughter each day for the next 14 days. Again, something used in the swine industry, every morning beef packers would report the number of cattle they have scheduled to purchase each day for the next 14 calendar days. Although the cattle industry has a Committed Cattle report, this report only

"GT" Thompson (R-PA), Roger Marshall (R-KS), Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Frank Lucas (R-OK), Greg Gianforte (R-MT), David Rouzer (R-NC), Rick Crawford (R-AR), Jason Smith (R-MO), Tom Emmer (R-MN) and Jim Hagedorn (R-MN).

The PRICE Act has been described as an omnibus cattle bill which has taken many legislative ideas, some already proposed and some new, and has combined them into one large piece of legislation.

Section 2: Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to be appointed to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. CFIUS is an interagency committee authorized to review certain transactions involving foreign investment in the United States and certain real estate transactions by foreign persons, in order to determine the effect of such transactions on the national security of the United States.

Section 3: Reduces the financial burden to small and very small meat processors of paying overtime and holiday time to USDA-FSIS inspectors.

Sections 4 & 5: Incorporates the Direct Interstate Retail Exemption for Certain Transactions (DIRECT) Act, which allows retail quantities of state-inspected meat and poultry products to be shipped across state lines if the sale is transacted online.

Section 6: Authorizes federally guaranteed loans for the construction of certain new meat processing facilities, or the expansion of existing facilities.

Section 7: Authorizes federal grants for the construction of certain new meat processing facilities, or the expansion of existing facilities.

Section 8: Commissions research on meat and poultry processing.

Section 9: Incorporates the Livestock Risk Management and Education Act, which provides federal resources to be distributed to land-grant universities and other entities for the development of producer education modules to increase producer awareness of risk management tools.

Section 10: Commissions research to study the feasibility and potential effects of cash market mandates such as 50/14 and 30/14.

Section 11: Establishes a beef contract library at USDA, similar to the existing library for swine.

Section 12: Provides federal resources to disseminate information and training to farmers and agricultural workers on best practices used to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Section 14: Incorporates the Pandemic Authority Suitable To Utilize Reserve Easements (PASTURE) Act, which authorizes emergency grazing on CRP land during pandemics.

Landowner Easement Rights Act

This piece of legislation was Introduced by Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN) and Kelly Armstrong (R-ND) and would put an end to Fish and Wildlife permanent easements and give landowners more control over their land.

This bill would limit the term of conservation easements from the Department of Interior to 50 years. It would allow owners of pre-1976 easements created without corresponding maps the option to renegotiate or buy out of permanent easement upon enactment. It would allow owners of other permanent conservation easements to renegotiate or buy out of the easement once the easement has been in effect for 50 years. If a landowner chooses to renegotiate (renew) the easement, the new term shall be no longer than 50 years, and the Secretary shall pay the landowner an amount equal to the fair market value of the land minus the amount paid to the landowner who established the expiring easement. If a landowner wishes to remove the easement, the landowner will pay the Secretary the fair market value of the easement as determined by the Secretary.

covers total volume of committed cattle for 7 days.

a. Strikes "7-day" and inserts "14-day" for definition of "Cattle Committed" in Ag Marketing Act of 1946.

b. Adds following reporting requirement: "Packer purchase commitments, which shall be equal to the number of cattle, organized by cattle type, scheduled for delivery to a packer for slaughter for each of the next 14 calendar days."

4. Clarifies that all information collected via USDA-LMR should be reported in a manner that ensures confidentiality, and notes, "Nothing in this section permits the Secretary, or any officer or employee of the Secretary, to withhold from the public the information [required to be reported under LMR]."

Price Reform in Cattle Economics (PRICE) Act

The PRICE Act was introduced by Congressman Dusty Johnson (R-SD) and co-sponsored by Reps. Mike Conaway (R-TX), Darren Soto (D-FL), Glenn

Call for 2020 Resolutions

The Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention is rapidly approaching. As such, it is time to review the Minnesota State Cattlemen's policy. At our meetings, members will have the opportunity to review expiring policy, vote on interim policy, submit resolutions, and discuss this policy with other producers around the state. To view our current and expiring policy, please visit our website at www.mnsca.org/ resources/policy. Please submit any resolutions you plan to bring to convention by November 23rd to Allison VanDerWal – allison@mnsca.org. If you have any questions regarding current, expiring or resolutions please reach out to Allison or your MSCA leadership.

Grants available through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has approximately \$50,000 for a grain storage facility cost-share program for the fiscal year 2021. This program has been developed to help Minnesota farmers buy, ship and install eligible safety equipment for on-farm grain bins or silos.

This program reimburses 75% of eligible expenses up to \$400 per bin or silo and with a limit of \$2,400 per farm per fiscal year.

Eligible equipment includes:

- 1. Fall protection systems
- 2. Engineering controls that prevent contact with an auger or other moving parts
- 3. Dust collection systems to minimize explosion hazards
- 4. Personal protective equipment to increase survivability in the event of a grain-bin-related emergency
- 5. Grain silo air quality monitoring equipment
- 6. Other grain storage facility safety equipment with prior approval from the MDA

The MDA is currently accepting applications until June 30, 2021 or until funds run out. To learn more about the program and apply, visit the MDA website.

If you cannot apply online, you can fill out the application at the end of the Request for Proposals, which can be found on the AGRI Livestock Investment website, www.mda.state. mn.us.

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Member Spotlight Hoge Family

Kevin and Carol Hoge live near Aitkin in east central Minnesota where they run a 50-60 head cow-calf operation. They started Flat Rock Farm soon after they were married in 1981. They have two daughters who are both involved with the farming operation. Their oldest daughter, Leah, bought her first bred heifers in 2014 after she finished college. She is an Occupational Therapist and married to Jim Pederson. They just had their first child in April, a son named Nathan. Sara bought her first bred heifers in 2018. She is married to Erik Fredberg, and she works as a Veterinarian in Lewiston, MN.

In the early 80's, they started with just pasturing yearling calves for the summers. In 1984, the first bred heifers were purchased. These first heifers were Herefords. The herd has evolved into an Angus Gelbvieh Cross herd. Kevin and Carol started an A.I. program in the mid-90's. Currently, all cows are synchronized and artificially inseminated once and then a clean-up bull is used. In the early 2000's, they started grouping calves with other local producers and selling them in larger groups to feedlots. For the last six years, they have retained ownership in their own calves, and they are sent to a feed-lot in Stapleton, Nebraska.

Kevin and Carol have been members of several local cattlemen's associations throughout the years, but their primary group is the Central Minnesota Cattlemen's Association. In 1988, Kevin joined the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association after being invited to a Snake River Valley Cattlemen's meeting. Little did he know how important MNSCA and NCBA would become to him, his family and their ranching operation. Kevin is glad he got involved because the state and national groups are always on the lookout for the best interest of all cattlemen, whether it be cow-calf operations or feedlots, big or small. Kevin says, "The money spent on membership is well worth it. We always have someone staying up to date on the current issues and watching out for the beef industry.

Kevin stepped up and became a Region 6 Director for two terms in the mid-90's when Dennis Bottem was the MNSCA President. Around 2007, MNSCA President Tom Pyfferoen asked Kevin to be secretary for the organization, and he is still holding that office. Carol has also been a member of the Minnesota Cattlewomen since the late 1990's. She has held the offices of secretary, president and currently serving as treasurer.



Kevin and Carol think that being members and working with MSCA, Minnesota Beef Council and MCW has created a lot of camaraderie and longlasting friendships in the beef industry. If everyone just does a little part, the whole organization will go far. Kevin hopes to be looking ahead and looking out for the cattle industry for many years to come.



Minnesota Legislative update:

During the fifth special session of the Minnesota Legislator in Mid-October, the long-awaited HF 1 passed with strong bi-partisan support. Within this bill contained full conformity of Section 179 beginning in tax year 2020. The bill also included a provision to retroactively fix tax increases for like-kind exchanges under Section 179 expensing in 2018 and 2019, which are the years federal Tax Cut and Jobs Act changes were effective for federal purposes.

This bill passed the House at 100-34 and the Senate by a vote of 63-3. Full conformity of Section 179 has not only been a priority of the Cattlemen, but of all Minnesota agricultural organizations. During the third special session, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association signed on to a letter with nine other Minnesota agricultural groups urging Minnesota legislators to pass Section 179 in full conformity. The passing of full Section 179 conformity will provide more than \$200 million in tax relief to Minnesota farmers.

This \$1.9 billion bonding bill is one of the largest in the state's history and contains more than just tax relief. The bill contains \$1.36 billion in general obligation bonding of which will go to \$700 million in road and bridge projects, \$300 million for truck highway bonds, \$75 million for local road improvement grants, \$5 million for township roads and \$30 million for local bridge replacements. On October 19th, Governor Walz announced that administration will use \$7.7 million of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES ACT) to provide financial support to Minnesota agriculture. The majority of this funding (\$5.7 million) is being used in direct payments to turkey and pork producers who had losses incurred from unavoidable depopulation and disposal which also hindered their ability to apply for other COVID-19 agriculture relief funds. Another \$1 million is directed towards a cost share program to expand or open meatpacking facilities.

webinal Series

Nebraska Webinar Series

The Nebraska Cattlemen, Minnesota State Cattlemen and Kentucky Cattlemen are presenting a webinar each first Tuesday of the month. The latest webinar was presented on October 6th, and discussed the U.S. and China trade agreement and how technology-based products are playing a role in the trade agreement. All prior webinar recordings can be found on the Minnesota State Cattlemen's website: www.mnsca.org/communications/webinars.

We have partnered with University of Nebraska and University of Kentucky to present these educational webinars. Watch the Policy Pen, Facebook and our website for future topics. If you wish to submit a question prior to the webinar, please email info@necattlemen.org, and we will forward it to our speakers.

Keep an eye out in the Policy Pen for upcoming webinar announcements and registration







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Thursday, December 3

7:00 pm-8:30 pm......Cattlemen's Educational Series

- Profitability in the MN Cow-Calf Industry: Eric Mousel and Alfredo DiCostanzo, University of Minnesota Extension
- Marketing options and Strategies: Brad Kooima, Kooima Kooima Varilek Trading

Friday, December 4

Noon - 1:00 pm.....Convention Kickoff! Cattle industry highlights awards and more...

1:00 pm-2:00 pm......Keynote Address Important insights and discoveries in marketing beef to the consumer: Alisa Harrison and Bridget Wasser, National Cattlemen's Beef Association

2:00 pm-4:00 pm.....MSCA Quarterly and Annual Meetings

- State Policy Update: Bruce Kleven, MSCA Legislative Consultant
- National Policy Update: Ethan Lane, National Cattlemen's Beef Association

#MnCattleCon2020

Meet your 2020 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention Speakers

Eric Mousel -Cow Calf Management Extension Educator – University of Minnesota

Eric Mousel is a native of Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Eric and his wife Alaina raise Red



Angus seedstock on their farm near Jacobson, MN.

Alfredo Di-Costanzo, Ph.D. – Professor and Extension Animal Scientist – University of Minnesota

Alfredo DiCostanzo is a Professor and Extension Animal Scientist with responsibilities for state-wide program-



ming in beef cattle nutrition and management. He has been with the University of Minnesota Extension Service for 27 years. His programs focus on researching, developing and disseminating strategic nutrition and management interventions that enhance beef cattle production and economic efficiency.

Brad Kooima – I am President of Kooima Kooima Varilek Trading. I have been a broker since 1980. I grew up on a family farm in northwest Iowa and still am engaged in farming with my son. I have been feeding cattle



since 1974. I am a member of the Feedlot Council for the ICA, I am also a member of the NCBA Working Group Committee. My passion is to work for the independent cattle producer and work towards policy that ensures that those cattlemen have opportunity to maintain their business and their way of life.

Bruce Kleven -MSCA Legislative Advisor

Bruce Kleven has extensive skills and experience as a lobbyist, attor-



Ethan Lane – Vice President of Government Affairs, National Cattlemen's Beef Association

Ethan Lane is the Vice President of Government Affairs at the National Cattlemen's



Beef Association. Ethan is a fifth generation Arizonan with more than 20 years of experience in natural resources, land use issues and advocacy on behalf of the cattle industry.

Prior to his role as the Vice President of Government Affairs, Ethan was the Executive Director for the Public Lands Council and Senior Executive Director of the NCBA Federal Lands portfolio. Before joining PLC and NCBA, Ethan operated a consulting firm where he worked on multiple high-profile political campaigns and advised a variety of private companies and industries on regulatory and legislative issues impacting their businesses.

Prior to moving to Washington, Ethan spent ten years helping to grow and manage a large real estate and ranch portfolio in Arizona. His diverse background gives him a unique perspective on the challenges which producers face on a daily basis.

Bridget Wasser – Senior Executive Director, Product Research & Education at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association

Bridget Wasser is Senior Executive Director of Product Research



and Education at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) in Centennial, CO. She is ... continued on page 13

Thank you to our 2020 Minnesota Cattle Industry Convention Sponsors



ney and mediator, political strategist, speaker and parliamentarian. His

areas of focus include agriculture, the environment, energy and transportation. He works with clients ranging from individuals to multinational corporations. Bruce is a native of west central Minnesota where his family of 5th generation farmers emigrated from Norway in the 1870's. He grew up working on the family farm, which produces sugar beets, soybeans and corn. He currently lives in the Twin Cities with his family.



Convention Speakers... continued from page 12

responsible for the strategic direction, planning, development and implementation of the beef quality research program and technical, meat science activities intended to increase consumer demand for beef and beef products and to optimize beef's quality and taste equity. Additionally, she leads strategic direction and implementation of the Beef. It's What's for Dinner. brand to the beef supply chain audience, including leading business-to-business brand ambassadors that support the brand across various supply chain segments such as processors, manufacturers, distributors, retail and foodservice. She leads the Food and Culinary thought leadership program targeting prominent influencers who focus on beef in the recipes and cooking inspiration they share with their followers. And, she leads the Beef. It's What's for Dinner. culinary program facilitated through NCBA's Culinary Center, which is funded by The Beef Checkoff. Bridget earned a B.S. and M.S. in Animal Science with a focus on Meat Science from Texas A&M University. She has been on staff at NCBA since November 2005.

Alisa Harrison - Senior Vice President of Global Marketing and Research at the National Cattlemen's **Beef Association**

Alisa Harrison is Senior

Vice President of Global

Marketing and Research at

the National Cattlemen's

Beef Association (NCBA).

In her role, she leads a team

of marketing and communications specialists that work together to grow beef demand through the Beef Checkoff funded Beef. It's What's for Dinner. campaign.

Alisa re-joined NCBA in October 2016 after serving in various trade associations and public affairs agencies where advised on strategic positioning, media relations, corporate responsibility, crisis management and government affairs activities to position them positively among various domestic and international audiences.

Alisa served as Director of Communications and Press Secretary at the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 2001 to 2005. She also served as a strategic advisor to U.S. Agriculture Secretary, Ann Veneman, on communications matters involving the entire USDA portfolio including rural development programs, farm bill implementation, biotechnology, forestry, food safety, health and nutrition and international trade and farm policy. During her tenure at USDA, Alisa managed communications efforts in response to the first U.S. case of Mad Cow Disease in 2003 and other high-profile food safety incidents.

Prior to joining USDA, Alisa served in various positions at NCBA, including most recently as Executive Director of Public Relations where she directed all public relations

Ruminate on That -Commentary from Dr. Joe.

Quality colostrum consumption is the most significant factor for calf health in both beef and dairy animals. We have long recognized the benefit of increasing colostrum quality using vaccines such as Scour Bos®, Guardian® and ScourGuard[®], but are you taking advantage of the same process for the preweaning respiratory health of your calves?

Fall and winter vaccination schedules are all about timing. To increase colostrum quality with a vaccination, we have to hit a specific window. Colostrum production begins quite early, usually around 16 weeks before calving. To influence the antibodies included in colostrum, resulting in targeted calf protection, give vaccines between 16 and 8 weeks before calving.

Often reproductive/respiratory vaccines are given at pregnancy diagnosis in the fall, usually long before colostrum production begins and outside our window to influence colostrum antibody composition. This timing makes sense if you are not working cows again later to give scours vaccine, as it minimizes trips through the chute. But, if they are coming through the chute again later anyway - you should consider pushing reproductive/respiratory vaccines to the colostrum-influencing window.

Am I saying to give zero vaccines at preg check? No. I am a big proponent of a once per year clostridial booster to prevent blackleg, tetanus and redwater. Giving this vaccine at preg check is a great time and keeps it spread out from the other two vaccines.

So what does this look like as a protocol?

My hypothetical herd is going to start calving on May 1st with a 60-day calving window.

August 1st – To start calving May 1st, my bull goes in August 1st and is either pulled October 1st or my veterinarian makes a strict cutoff based on calf age at preg check to achieve my 60-day calving window. No surprise here if you have heard me speak, or if I have worked with you in practice. Tight calving windows are more efficient and make more money.

November 1st – I wait 30 days after the end of my breeding season for preg checking and use ultrasound to get the most information. All of the pregnant cows in my calving window will be between 30 and 90 days pregnant. Using ultrasounding, I can confidently diagnose twins, fetal sex pregnancies between 55 and 75 days, check



nus and redwater.

January 1st - 16 weeks before calving, my heifers receive the first of two doses of their scours vaccine and their booster of their reproductive/respiratory vaccine. The scours vaccine is a killed vaccine and needs to be boostered, so they will have to come back 3 to 4 weeks later.

March 1st - 8 weeks before calving, my heifers are

due for their scours vaccine booster, and my cows also need their annual booster for their scours and reproduction/respiratory vaccines.

May 1st – We start calving.

Management will always be more important than vaccination, so look for a non-vaccine solution to preweaning pneumonia first. What should you look for? Glad you asked.

Cow body condition

Stable and consistent body condition across your heifer and cow groups is one of the most important management considerations for calf health. Cows should maintain a body condition of 5/9 while heifers should maintain a body condition of 5.5-6/9. Achieve this by properly separating age groups and limiting competition for food with proper bunk space.

Calf water access

Calves need water in addition to milk. If water is not accessible for calves, you end up with immunosuppressed calves due to dehydration or calves that drink from contaminated water sources (manure water).

Parasite control

Excess parasite load can hinder a calf's immune system. Working with your veterinarian to create a proper parasite control system is essential.

Low-stress handling

We can't have an article that doesn't reiterate the importance of low-stress handling and proper facilities. Stress-induced immunosuppression is real and should always be on your mind when working with cattle.

Preweaning calf pneumonia can be challenging to solve, but targeting colostrum quality for respiratory health is an excellent tool that is underutilized. Talk with your veterinarian to develop a vaccine protocol that fits your operation. If you consistently have preweaning calf pneumonia challenges, check your management, discuss your options with your veterinarian and

programs including public affairs, food marketing communications, crisis management and food safety and nutrition communications.

Alisa earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in communications and journalism from the University of Tennessee, where she currently serves on the Board of Visitors for the University of Tennessee College of Communication and Information Services.

Open animals and pregnant animals outside the a potential tool. calving window are either marketed immediate-

ly, retained to market after feeding or sold as pregnant animals that fit another producer's calving window. All retained heifers and cows receive a clostridial booster to cover for blackleg, teta-

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pregnancy viability and age fetuses accurately. consider the importance of colostrum quality as



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NCBA Wins in Court By Marty Smith, NCBA President

Typically, I use this column to highlight wins for our industry. Often,

these successes are the result of our work in Washington D.C., either on Capitol Hill or through administrative agencies. But NCBA utilizes all three branches of government - legislative, executive, and judicial - to accomplish our policy priorities. Recently, the Department of Transportations' Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration extended its COVID-19 emergency declaration. livestock exempting haulers from Hours of Service (HOS) regulations through the end of the year. After months of waiting for the federal government to issue eleventh hour 30day exemptions, producers across the country can breathe easy until 2021. The future after December 31st is uncertain, but NCBA will keep fighting for HOS and Electronic Logging Device (ELD) reforms.

The ELD delay is an excellent win for our industry, achieved through the executive branch. Often, when NCBA achieves regulatory reform through an administrative agency, it is met almost immediately with litigation from radical activist groups who hope to have new rules overturned. Court decisions not only determine the legality of a rule or regulation, but also impact everything that an agency does in the future. It is important to remember the large role our judicial branch plays in the lives of cattle producers and NCBA's role in protecting cattle producers through litigation.

Last month, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia blocked an attempt by activists to halt implementation of President Trump's revisions to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Defenders of Wildlife and a host of other environmental groups banded together to demand a nationwide preliminary injunction – a court order that would prevent implementation of the new rules. The NEPA revisions were finalized earlier this year and significantly reduce the regulatory burden for producers who utilize federal grazing permits or Farm Service Agency loans. NCBA joined this litigation to defend the Trump Administration's work and contributed to the effort to oppose the nationwide preliminary injunction. Our effort yielded the judge's denial of the activists' request, and the new NEPA rule became effective law across the country on September 14.

But one win in one case is small compared to the work NCBA does in federal courts across the country. While navigating the legal process can be more complex than lobbying Congress, wins in the judicial system secure regulatory reform and impact executive power. Looking back, some of NCBA's biggest policy wins have been in the courts.

Perhaps most well-known is NCBA's work fighting the 2015 Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) Rule. Enacted by the Obama administration, NCBA and other agricultural groups fought implementation of the rule for nearly five years in courts around the country, preventing implementation of the rule in 28 states. These court rulings provided the Trump administration necessary firepower to rescind and replace the 2015 WOTUS Rule with the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR). The NWPR pulls back the Obama Administration's federal overreach, while maintaining critical regulatory exemptions for agriculture. Now, participating as defendants, NCBA is back in the courts fighting to defend the Trump Administration's

an injunction on the NWPR, and it is now the law of the land.

NCBA's work in the court system is not disjointed from our lobbying efforts. Often, these endeavors work together to create the foundation of laws and regulations from which we operate. In the 1980's, Congress passed two laws intended to protect Americans from toxic chemical spills known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and the Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). In 2008, activists sued the Bush administration, and eventually won their case in 2017, requiring livestock producers across the country to submit detailed reports to the government under CERCLA and EPCRA. NCBA lobbied Congress to achieve a statutory exclusion for farms, which kicked in before the court's ruling took effect. Currently, NCBA is in court defending the farm exclusion against legal attacks from activists. Due to our efforts, cattle producers do not report to the government under CERCLA or EPCRA.

On a personal note, I have been involved in NCBA's litigation efforts

rule. Activist groups were unable to get for more than 20 years. Together with the number of attorneys who were also cattlemen, I have worked to strengthen our presence in the judicial arena, particularly to protect private property rights and to counter expensive and unnecessary regulation of our industry and of our management.

> Litigation is not a hurdle for accomplishing our policy goals. Rather, it is an important tool that NCBA uses to tell our story. As the Trump Administration works to reform burdensome regulations, we will be there to defend their efforts. With our dues increase a few years ago, we were able to set aside specific funds so that we could strengthen our participation in these important cases. While none of us want to be involved in lawsuits, those that oppose our industry and our way of life continue to use the courts as a major battleground. I am extremely proud of the efforts that we have made, and NCBA will continue to stand up for the rights and interests of its members in all three branches of government. Thank you for your support, and understand that your membership is what makes this possible. Let us continue the fight and work towards strengthening our position.







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A Voluntary Framework to Achieve Price Discovery in the Fed Cattle Market

At the 2020 Cattle Industry Summer Business Meeting in Denver, Colorado, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Live Cattle Marketing Committee and Board of Directors unanimously adopted policy M 1.10 – Fed Cattle Price Discovery (this policy can be found on NCBA's website in their policy manual), which established a sub working group of the Live Cattle Marketing Committee and tasked them with developing a voluntary framework, to include triggers, which "increases frequent and transparent negotiated trade to regionally sufficient levels, to achieve price discovery determined by NCBA funded and directed research in all major cattle feeding regions." The subgroups were chaired by NCBA President-Elect Jerry Bohn, and a cattle producer from Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Iowa Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Livestock Association, Kansas Live-stock Association and Nebraska Cattlemen.

This subgroup met twice weekly and developed a framework called "The 75% Plan" which outlines specific objectives to measure progress towards achieving robust price discovery in the major cattle feeding regions. Under the 75% plan, the subgroup will analyze weekly data collected under Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) on a quarterly basis in arrears. Members of the subgroup will evaluate each region's performance in terms of negotiated trade and packer participation.

To avoid tripping a trigger, each region must:

- Achieve no less than 75% of the weekly negotiated trade volume that current academic literature indicates is necessary for "robust" price discovery in that specific region,
- Achieve this negotiated trade threshold no less than 75% of the reporting weeks in a quarter,
- Achieve no less than 75% of the weekly packer participation requirements assigned to each specific region,
- Achieve this packer participation threshold no less than 75% of the reporting weeks in a quarter.

In the event that triggers are tripped during any two out of four rolling quarters, the Subgroup will recommend NCBA pursues a legislative or regulatory solution to compel adequate price discovery in the fed cattle market. The Subgroup will periodically review the framework to account for new academic findings, technological advancements, or other changing conditions of supply and demand and will make adjustments on an as-needed basis. The framework also includes a Force Majeure provision which allows the Subgroup to on a case-by-case basis allow for flexibility under The 75% Plan in the event of major supply chain disruptions. The framework will be implemented on January 1, 2021, with the first quarterly analysis taking place shortly after March 31, 2021. MSCA, NCBA and subgroup members understand this framework is not a silver-bullet solution, but it does provide the industry, and all cattle market participants, a goal to strive toward.

Allison Vanderwal . . . continued from page 2

the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association. In these first six months, I have not only been surrounded by supportive board members, but have had the chance to meet numerous producers around the state who would be great additions to our board. If you have any questions about our board, open positions or how you can get involved, please feel free to contact me or any current or past board member!

The 2021 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show is officially on the move...to a new date of August 10-12, 2021!

The Cattle Industry Annual Convention and NCBA Trade Show is one of the industry's largest events each year, bringing together cattlemen and cattlewomen from across the nation to do the work of our industry. This event is the premier event for the beef cattle business!



Unfortunately, the current pandemic presents challenges that make bringing people together in February difficult. NCBA will hold some of its traditional business meetings in the January or February timeframe, in accordance with the association's bylaws.

Originally scheduled for February 3-5, 2021, the convention and trade show will now take place August 10-12, 2021. While the event may have a new date, both the convention and trade show will continue to take place at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

We hope you'll join us in-person in August for the 123rd anniversary of this legendary event. We're working behind the scenes to create a great line-up of education, speakers and a world-class trade show along with networking opportunities in a safe, responsible manner. We'd like to thank everyone involved in the event from our exhibitors, loyal sponsors and partners for being so patient as we've worked through this process. Together we are going to make this event one to remember.

Be sure to dial into our website convention.ncba.org over the coming months for all the details as we get ready to Tune in to Tennessee.





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Thank you for being a member of the Minnesota Cattlemen's Association Membership matters and allows our collective voices to be heard on issues in St Paul and Washington DC.

Remember to renew your membership for 2021 and help us to monitor issues affecting Minnesota cattlemen it's important to stay up to date on industry news. The Policy Pen is the MSCA weekly email providing a round up of news and events that have happened around the state and country. The email is delivered directly to your inbox every Friday afternoon. Sign up today on our website! https://www.mnsca.org/news-events/the-policy-pen



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