

NCBA NEWS

Additional NAIS Listening Sessions Scheduled

USDA has scheduled additional public listening sessions regarding the implementation of the National Animal Identification System. USDA held initial sessions at seven locations around the country, the last one being June 1 in Loveland, Colo. The May 22 Federal Register announced a new series of sessions (without giving specific location details), as follows: June 9 in Jefferson City, Mo.; June 11 in Rapid City, S.D.; June 16 in Albuquerque, N.M.; June 18 in Riverside, Calif.; June 25 in Raleigh, N.C.; and June 27 in Jasper, Fla.

NCBA Priority Policy Issues

What are NCBA's priority policy issues and why? Click on the links to learn more: [2009 Priority Policy Issues](#), [Clean Water Restoration Act](#), [Trade](#), [Enhanced Feed Ban](#), [Animal ID](#), [Country of Origin Labeling \(COOL\)](#), [Taxes](#), and [Renewable Energy](#).

Western Resources Legal Center Takes on Sage Grouse Case for PLC

The Western Resources Legal Center will be representing the Public Lands Council (PLC) on a case involving a lawsuit brought against the Bureau of Land Management by environmental groups. The groups are challenging BLM decisions in Idaho and Nevada for failure to adequately consider the impact of these decisions on sage grouse habitat.

[Learn More...](#)

World Organization for Animal Health Declares Climate Change Impact

Last week, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) participants voted to confirm that climate change has an impact on the emergence and re-emergence of animal disease. The three animal diseases most frequently mentioned by the OIE members that responded were bluetongue, Rift Valley fever and West Nile fever. OIE members were also expected to grant Controlled Risk Status to Japan for BSE. Meeting participants also discussed removing the 30-month restriction for trade in de-boned beef and removing another restriction from sourcing bone from controlled and undetermined risk countries for gelatin.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Profit Opportunities in Changing Times

Cattle Sense, Dr. Cathy Bandyk, Quality Liquid Feeds

Darrell Wilkes, U.S. Beef Supply Systems manager for ABS Global, recently addressed what he described as "fundamental and irreversible changes" in the market, and highlighted six forces that are spreading the market (difference in prices received) between high- and low-value cattle and calves. Wilkes proposed that this ongoing trend is an overdue market rationalization, not just a fad.

[Learn More...](#)

Economic Health of Rural Main Street

Creighton University

The overall index for the Rural Main Street economy increased for a third straight month, but continued to point to significant economic weakness, according to the May survey of bank CEOs in an 11-state region. The Rural Main Street Index, which ranges between 0 and 100, expanded to 36.2 from April's 21.7 and March's 18.7.

[Learn More...](#)

NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen: Economic Impacts

NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen*, June 2-6, will look at how this difficult economy is impacting beef demand. Viewers will also get fuel efficiency tips for farm equipment from John Deere, will "spend a day in the life" of a ranching family in western Arkansas, and will hear the latest from cowboy poet Baxter Black. This award-winning television program airs on RFD-TV each Tuesday at 8:30 p.m., and also Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and Saturday at 9 a.m. (all times are Eastern). Past programs can be viewed online anytime at www.CattlemenToCattlemen.org.



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Working Inside the Beltway, So You Don't Have To

NCBA's expert team in Washington, D.C., works every day to advance cattle and beef industry positions with our nation's leaders. Much of their work occurs behind the scenes and is often responsible for preventing unfavorable legislation or regulations from ever taking flight. Here is just a sample of recent and upcoming activities involving the D.C. office.

[Learn More...](#)

MARKET NEWS

U.S. Cattle on Feed, Down 3%

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States - for feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head - totaled 10.8 million head on May 1. The inventory was 3% below May 1, 2008.

[Learn More...](#)

Per Capita Beef Consumption Is Lower

Livestock Marketing Information Center

In the last quarter of 2008, U.S. beef, pork and poultry production were all below a year ago, as the livestock and poultry industries responded to financial losses. Those losses were largely due to surging costs of production, especially feedstuff costs. On a calendar year basis, that decline as well as larger exports and below year ago imports, caused U.S. per capita red meat and poultry consumption on a retail weight basis in 2008, to be the smallest since 2001.

[Learn More...](#)

PRODUCER EDUCATION

Internal Parasite Control in Cattle

University of Georgia Cooperative Extension

In the United States, veterinarians, producers and economists estimate annual parasite-related losses to the livestock industry at more than \$100 million. Most parasite losses are subclinical, and losses go unnoticed; are not measurable and probably far exceed the estimates. University trials have shown paybacks from internal parasite control of \$25 to \$200 per head, which should make effective control one of the first goals of today's cattle producer.

[Learn More...](#)

Economic Advantages to Implanting Nursing Calves

Dr. Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University

Few technologies have the potential return on investment as do growth promoting implants for nursing calves. ... Research summaries have shown that implants given during the suckling phase will increase average daily gain of steer calves by 0.1 pound per day. The response in heifer calves is slightly higher, at 0.12 to 0.14 pound per day.

[Learn More...](#)

HEADS UP

Cattle Industry Annual Summer Conference, July 14-18

Make plans to join your friends at the Sheraton Downtown Denver Hotel in Colorado for the 2009 Cattle Industry Annual Summer Conference, July 14-18. Come to network, participate in industry planning and learn from the issues forums -- stay to vacation with your family in beautiful, historic Denver.

[Learn More...](#)

Stockmanship & Stewardship Tour

The Stockmanship & Stewardship Tour is an innovative series that uses live cattle demos to inform cattlemen about the benefits of proper cattle handling, and the critical role handling plays in increasing consumer confidence in beef. The tour includes special hands-on training sessions at livestock auction markets and other industry-sponsored field days. The sessions

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teach handling methods that improve gathering, penning, chute work, and hauling.

[Learn More...](#)

June 22 Nebraska Conference to Address DNA Technology

The use of DNA technology in beef cattle will be addressed at a June 22 conference at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Neb. Producers, extension personnel and others who attend the free meeting will learn about the history of DNA technology in beef production, its current status and where it is headed. For information, contact Matt Spangler at 402-472-6489 or Lori McGinnis at 402-472-0918.

New Scholarship Program for Veterinary Students

The American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) and Pfizer Animal Health have launched the AABP Foundation-Pfizer Animal Health Scholarship, to provide veterinary students with the opportunity to receive one of several scholarships. Offered to third-year veterinary students in the United States, the scholarship program will support students interested in food animal medicine. The application process is open until June 15.

[Learn More...](#)

Ag in Uncertain Times

Ag in Uncertain Times is an interactive Extension webinar series designed to assist ag professionals, including producers, in better understanding the changing conditions in today's economy. The series provides information to help producers make informed decisions and improve their ability to work with farm and ranch customers/clients. Each session is scheduled for 60 to 90 minutes, with plenty of opportunity for the participants to interact with the presenters.

[Learn More...](#)

Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns

Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns, a weekly report from the NCBA office in Washington, D.C., gives an up-to-date summary of top policy initiatives concerning the cattle industry.

[Learn More...](#)

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Benefits of Signing Up New Members

Recruit a new NCBA member by July 31 and receive a set of John Deere steak knives — the newly recruited member receives the same, plus all the benefits of NCBA membership. For information about this offer or the member-recruit-a-member [Top Hand Club](#), please contact Sheryl Slagle at 303-694-0305 or sslagle@beef.org.

Exclusive Member Discounts on Caterpillar Products and Services

Caterpillar is proud to be the Official Skid Steer Loader and Wheel Loader for NCBA members. As a member, you are eligible for exclusive member discounts on Caterpillar products and services. Please visit the Caterpillar Web site to [redeem your member discount voucher](#). If you do not know your local Caterpillar dealer, [click here](#), or call 1-888-OWN-A-CAT.

John Deere Incentives for NCBA Members

John Deere is adding more value to your NCBA membership by offering discounts on riding lawn equipment and compact utility tractors, through Oct. 31. See the [Member Services](#) section of NCBA's Web site for a listing of eligible equipment, to register, and to print your discount coupons. Visit the [John Deere Web site](#) for specific equipment questions and to locate your closest John Deere dealer.

Visit the Cattle Learning Center

Here is where you can download many of the presentations from the most recent Cattlemen's College®, plus information about Beef Improvement Federation meetings and other useful and educational material. Visit the Cattle Learning Center at <http://www.cattlelearningcenter.org/>.

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