

THE NC POST

NEBRASKA CATTLEMEN — REPRESENTING THE STATE'S LARGEST AG INDUSTRY

Issue No. 5

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

From Hearings to Action. This is the last week of hearings for the 101st Legislature. With the conclusion of committee hearings, more focus will be given to advanced bills from the respective committees. NC leaders and staff have testified at many of the hearings.

NC IN ACTION

- NC Farmer-Stockman Council Chairman Greg Wiedel testified in the Revenue Committee in support of LB 469, which would create the Agricultural Land Valuation Task Force. NC has long-standing policy in support of Ag Land Valuation. The policy supports legislation based earning capacity rather than being assessed on its market value. Senator Russ Karpisek from Wilbur has renewed his efforts in studying this concept to benefit farmers and ranchers.
- Another bill of interest involving NC testimony is LB 516, which would require compensation for certain structures located on the Nebraska State Fairgrounds in Lancaster County. NC Executive Vice President Michael Kelsey testified on behalf NC's interest in the Beef Pit building located on State Fair Park. Since the passage of LB 1116 last year, which approved moving the location of Nebraska's State Fair to Grand Island, NC and the Sheriff's Association have been seeking compensation for their buildings located on State Fair Park. Both groups privately owned their buildings and were seeking to be paid from unallocated interest waiting to be dispersed to the State Fair Board. After the hearing, the State specified the allocation of funds earned from the interest off the State Fair Relocation Cash Fund directly to the State Fair Board. Wanting not to harm State Fair Board in its efforts to build facilities and promote its efforts in Grand Island, NC has withdrawn its efforts regarding LB 516.
- NC's Michael Kelsey also testified on LB 575, which would change initiative and referendum petition provisions. Kelsey presented testimony clarifying NC's support of the notion a stronger and more clarified petition process helps petition drives on a whole for our state. NC's long range perspective in relation to LB 575 is to help protect Nebraska livestock producers from petitions such as was recently approved in California. NC thanks Senator Kent Rogert from Tekamah in his efforts to support NC's against groups that want to restrict the beef industry in Nebraska.

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

NC in D.C. Nebraska Cattlemen EVP Michael Kelsey was in DC last week for two sets of meetings. First, he went to every Nebraska representatives office to visit about several issues including: exempting the beef industry from Green House Gas emission regulations, trade, COOL, Climate Change and Card Check. Kelsey spoke with all five offices about these important issues.

NC IN ACTION

- NC's Michael Kelsey also attended a meeting held at NCBA's DC office with USDA-APHIS. The meeting agenda allowed for discussion of rules concerning cattle movement related to TB. This issue is relative to both the importation of live cattle and the interstate movement of cattle.
- FDA BSE Feed Ban Rule. NC continues to push for FDA to reopen the feed ban rule to allow producer comment as it relates to rendering of cattle over 30 months. To date, Nebraska's Senators Johanns and Nelson have sent a letter to FDA with almost 25 percent of the senate signing on. Nebraska's Adrian Smith (3rd District) is the lead on a letter from the House with a goal of 100+ signatures. Nebraska's other two representatives Fortenberry and Terry have signed onto the letter. Preliminary reports indicate that FDA is positive toward reopening the rule but has yet to make a formal announcement.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Tick Infestation Alert. Dustin Oedekoven, acting State Veterinarian for South Dakota reports that there are at least five cattle herds in south central S.D. with significant death loss, and weak cattle with high numbers of wood ticks! In addition, S.D. Game and Parks has found large numbers of dead or down deer heavily infested with ticks in the last three weeks. Blood samples of cattle are being evaluated for possible Anaplasmosis, Eperythrozoonosis, Babesiosis, etc. related to the tick infestations. Oedekoven stated that the infected cattle herds are using injectable Ivomec, and it seems to be working. Producers and veterinarians, especially in north central Nebraska, are advised to monitor for cattle or deer that may be dying or showing signs of anemia and weakness. Nebraska State Veterinarian Dennis Hughes can be reached at (402)471-6834 or email at dennis.hughes@nebraska.gov

Wanted: Trich Bulls. Jeff Ondrak, UNL veterinarian who is stationed at MARC is doing research on Trichomoniasis fetus. He is looking for trich positive bulls. He has a facility to keep them near MARC so that he might do multiple tests on these bulls for research. As you test bulls before turning them out this spring keep this in mind. Contact Jeff Ondrak at (402)762-4505 or at jondrak2@unl.edu.

MARKETS

Tightening. Fed cattle supplies have tightened considerably in Nebraska and Iowa over the past thirty days, as fed yearling numbers have thinned and most calf-fed cattle remain at least thirty days from market-ready weights. (NC-MRS subscribers can refer to the "NC/MRS Wkly Neb. Showlist Model" chart on the Market Reporting Service website.) The seasonal tightening in supplies along with this week's early firmness in the boxed beef trade should lend underlying support to the fed cattle trade, and the possibility of a significant winter weather event in Western Kansas later in the week has been a topic of conversations among market watchers to start this week as well. Although there have been few serious conversations between buyers and sellers as of this late Tuesday afternoon writing, it is likely that most showlists will be priced in the area of \$135-136 dressed or \$85+ live when buyer interest starts to intensify.

Yearling and calf markets have been quoted as much as \$2-4.00 higher in many plains sale barns over the past week to ten days, as the pursuit of 500-750 weight steer cattle for grass turnout and the premium built into the October Live Cattle contract compared to current price levels have lent support to the trade.

TAXATION **New 2009 Tax Program for Small Businesses.** As a part of H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009 (the "Stimulus Bill"), provisions allow taxpayers who are Eligible Small Business owners (ESB) to elect for a 3, 4, or 5-year Net Operating Loss carryback for the 2008 tax year. These changes were made to Forms 1045 and 1139 and are usable when a small business has deductions that exceed their income resulting in a Net Operating Loss. For the 2008 tax year, ESBs with a net operating loss can choose to offset their 2008 loss against the income earned in and up to a five year period. The normal two-year carryback remains available for any ESB that does not choose to use the special carryback provision. If the loss exceeds the income for the carryback period, the ESB can continue to carry forward the remaining balance of the loss for up to 20 years.

More information from the IRS is available at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=205329,00.html>. NCBA continues to work with Congress and the Administration on various tax measures that affect cattle producers.

NC Resumes Weekly Radio Report

NC has resumed creating a weekly radio report that is being aired by KRVN, Lexington and sister stations, KNEB, Scottsbluff and KTIC, West Point. The 3-minute reports include interviews with NC leaders and staff on priority issues. The reports can be heard on KRVN (AM 880) at 12:40 Saturday afternoon, Thursday at 11:15 on KNEB (AM 960), and at an unassigned time Saturday on KTIC (AM 840).

DESERVING **Block & Bridle Honoree.** Homer Buell, NC past president, will be honored as the 75th member of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Block and Bridle Hall of Fame. He will be honored April 24 at the Department of Animal Science and Block and Bridle annual honors banquet at 6:30 p.m. in the Union on UNL's East Campus. Banquet tickets are \$20 and available from Nancy Savery, by April 17 at (402) 472-6440 or e-mailing nsavery1@unl.edu. A reception for Buell, his wife and past honorees will be held at 5:30 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY DEADLINE **Masters of Beef Advocacy.** The Masters of Beef Advocacy (MBA) program has been created - to equip beef producers to tell their story. It is a self-directed online training program. You can either enroll as part of a class, or complete the program on your own schedule. To enroll, send an e-mail to Ann Marie Bosshamer at amb@nebeef.org with the words MBA Enrollment in the subject line. Enrollment for the 2009 Class ends April 1.

Check out NC's website: www.nebraskacattlemen.org

CALENDAR & EVENTS

March

- 28 York-Hamilton County Cattlemen Beef Progress Show, York Fairgrounds. Contact Kim Regier (402) 362-5508.
- 28 Exeter Feeders and Breeders Banquet, Milligan Auditorium, 5:30 p.m. Entertainment: Hay Seed Cowboys. Contact John Plock (402) 759-0557.
- 30 Saunders County Cattlemen, 6:00 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. meal, Weston Fireman's Hall. Contact Dan Benes (402) 784-3153.
- 31 Ogallala Affiliate Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m. meal, Front Street Center, Ogallala. Michael Kelsey, Issues and Legislature Update. Cash bar meal. RSVP to John McConnel (308) 520-1452.

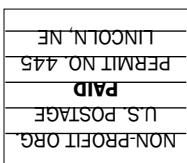
April

- 2 Dawson County Cattlemen's Meeting, 6:00 p.m. social, meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Tub's Pub in Sumner. Speaker: Ken Rahjes about his recent LEAD trip to China. Contact Sheryl Fellers (308) 324-5501.
- 2 Phelps/Gosper Feeders Meeting & Scholarship Fund Raiser, 6:00 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. meal, The Balcony, Loomis. Sponsors CPI, Overton Sand and Gravel. Contact Derik Bohr (308) 991-7749.
- 7-8 Margin Management for Optiomal Beef Returns, Chicago. See www.cihedging.com. for 50% Nebraska Cattlemen discount. Contact (312) 596-7755
- 11 Nebraska Beef Ambassador Contest, Buffalo Co. Extension Office., 11:00 a.m. Contact: Kelli Loos (308) 452-3157.
- 18 Cuming County Feeders Annual Banquet, Neilsen Community Center, West Point, 6:00 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. dinner. Gov. Heineman, NCBA Pres. Gary Voogt, Todd Schroeder. Contact Angie Ernesti (402) 372-3036, or cell (402) 372-8036.
- 18 Elkhorn Valley Cattlemen Annual Banquet, 6:00 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. meal, Stanton Co. Fairgrounds, Stanton. Comedian Ed Vos. Chuck Folken, NC Leadership updates. Tickets: Ron Tejkl (402) 439-2978, or Ed McClymont (402) 649-3630

* NC master calendar is at www.nebraskacattlemen.org

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