



**National Cattlemen's  
Beef Association**

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*Beltway Beef is a weekly report from Washington, D.C., giving an up-to-date summary of top policy initiatives concerning the cattle industry; direct from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). Please feel free to reprint in full or in part. If you would like to include NCBA's logo, contact us at 303-694-0305.*



# Beltway Beef

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 31

AUGUST 23, 2012

## Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns

### Beef Community Condemns Animal Abuse

Federal regulators suspended operations of a Central California slaughterhouse after receiving undercover video showing alleged abuse to dairy cows. Officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which inspects meat facilities, suspended operations Monday at Central Valley Meat Co. in Hanford, Calif.

Animal care expert, Dr. Dave Daley, Associate Dean for the College of Agriculture at California State University and an active member of the cattle community, said any mistreatment of animals cannot be tolerated. He said cattlemen take their responsibility of caring for livestock very seriously.

"The vast majority of cattlemen stand firm in adhering to the absolute best

animal care and handling guidelines established by veterinarians and other experts. We do not condone any mishandling of livestock on the farm or ranch or in the packing facility. In fact, we firmly believe that those knowingly and willfully committing any abuse to animals should not be in the business – period. The actions depicted in these videos are disgraceful and not representative of the cattle community.

Daley said USDA inspectors have a very serious responsibility and obligation to make certain that packing plants are vigorously following the guidelines in place that ensure animal care from pasture to plate.

"Cattlemen put their livestock above their own needs and truly develop a bond with the land and livestock," said Daley. "Cattlemen work hard every

day to give animals the proper care and handling they deserve and expect proper treatment to continue after they leave America's family farms and ranches."

Daley referenced the farmer and rancher code of conduct within Beef Quality Assurance (BQA), which has been in place since 1996 and condemns the mistreatment of animals. He said any individual who witnesses inappropriate animal treatment is responsible for making every effort to stop it immediately.

Daley said the livestock community must work together to stop any abuse and support punishment of any individuals participating in abuse in accordance with the law.

### More States Urge EPA to Issue RFS Waiver

As reported last week, state governors are issuing letters and statements urging Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson to waive the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and bring much-needed relief to the thousands of farmers and ranchers across the country who are experiencing the effects of the nation's worst drought in almost 50 years. Now, Georgia and New Mexico have joined the coalition, with both state governors submitting letters to Jackson.

"New Mexico's agricultural economy is primarily composed of dairy and range livestock production. These two industries require large feed inputs for their animals due to the drought,

resulting in an exponential increase in food costs," said Gov. Susana Martinez (R-N.M.). "Approving this waiver would help ease the burden of increased feed costs, food products supply and the continued hardships current economic conditions are inflicting on producers and consumers alike."

According to a [new study](#) by three agricultural economists from Purdue University, even a partial waiver of the RFS mandate could cause a 20 percent reduction in corn prices next year. EPA has announced that it will accept public comments on a waiver proposal. The agency has until Nov. 13 to make a decision.

In the meantime, livestock producers continue to pay high feed costs and look for innovative ways to continue their operations despite the dry conditions crippling the country. The coalition supporting waiving the RFS mandate continues to grow.

"Georgia is experiencing severe economic harm during this crisis, and important economic sectors in the state are in serious economic jeopardy," said Gov. Nathan Deal (R-Ga.). "The reality of this current crisis is that consumers will have to pay more for protein and other food items, or they simply will not be able to afford certain food items."

## New York University Students Hop on the B.A.N.D. Wagon



The [Beef Checkoff Program](#), through a partnership between the Northeast Beef Promotion Initiative (NEBPI), the New York Beef Council and the South Dakota Beef Council, hosted 30 dietetic interns and

registered dietitians from New York University (NYU) on the first B.A.N.D. Wagon (Beef Awareness, Nutritious and Delicious) Farm Tour on Aug. 15.

A majority of the NYU dietetic interns had never been on a farm, but were very eager to learn more about the beef industry and how cattle are raised. One student even mentioned that the closest she has ever been to nature is in Central Park; the 2,800 acre seedstock operation at Rally Farm in Millbrook, N.Y., was an eye-opening experience for the students.

While at Rally Farms, the students heard from Dr. Mike Baker, beef cattle specialist from Cornell University. Baker spoke about “Beef on the American Dinner Plate: From Farm to Fork,” which educated the students on all of the segments of the beef industry, choices of beef

and cattle nutrition. The students also took a hay ride through the rolling hills of Rally Farms. The tour focused on cattle production from farm to market, feeding and watering facilities, fencing and housing, cattle handling and healthcare practices.

After the farm tour, the students engaged in professional development with Daren Williams, executive director of communications for the [National Cattlemen’s Beef Association](#), contractor to the Beef Checkoff Program, who focused on tips and techniques for a successful media interview.

“These are the people consumers turn to for information, not only about the role of beef in a healthful diet, but also about how their food is grown and raised. We need to make sure they have opportunities to see it up close and personal rather than rely on getting their information from movies or mainstream media,” said Williams.

Kristin Wilkins, director of public relations for the NEBPI, said, “the B.A.N.D. Wagon Farm Tour was a wonderful opportunity for these upcoming nutrition professionals to learn how cattle are raised. When the students were asked if any of them could trace their heritage to agriculture, very few had any connections. In a society where consumers are turning to dietitians and nutrition professionals for information on food and agriculture, educating these young professionals is becoming even more important.”

### Legislative Watch

#### H.R. 1259 / S. 2242 – Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act

To fully and permanently repeal the estate tax. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on the Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act. Key Sponsors: Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Texas), Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.)

#### S. 1129 – Grazing Improvement Act

To make improvements to the efficiency and stability of the federal lands grazing permit process. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on S. 1129. Key Sponsor: Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.)

#### H.R. 5961 – Farmer’s Privacy Act

To provide reasonable limits, control, and oversight over the Environmental Protection Agency’s use of aerial surveillance of America’s farmers. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on H.R. 5961. Key Sponsor: Shelley Moore Capito (R-W. Va.)

#### H.R. 6083 – Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act

The House version of the 2012 Farm Bill. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on H.R. 6083. Key Sponsor: Frank Lucas (R-Okla.)

*For a full list of legislation NCBA is monitoring [click here](#).*

### New on the Web

Check out the [Beltway Beef blog](#) for inside perspectives on issues affecting U.S. cattlemen and women. You will find updates on border security and a comprehensive rule for BSE. You can sign up on the blog to receive an email when new information is posted. You can also follow us on [Twitter](#), be a fan of us on [Facebook](#), check out our

latest photos on [Flickr](#) or watch video updates on our [YouTube](#) page. For audio, visit and subscribe to the Beltway Beef [Podcast](#). You can also subscribe to our [podcast](#) on iTunes.

## Yoho Turns His Focus to the Health of America — After 30 Years as a Livestock Veterinarian, Yoho is Ready to Bring Repair to Washington

By Dr. Ted Yoho



Last week, I was incredibly honored as the people of north central Florida's third congressional district chose me to be their Republican nominee for Congress. It was a great victory in so many ways. For one, we were a rag-tag campaign with only one paid staffer (our campaign manager, Kat Cammack) and a handful of dedicated interns and volunteers. We raised only \$300,000 compared to the massive war chest of \$2.5 million that my opponent Rep. Cliff Stearns was sitting on. I had never run for or held political office in my life. We were facing a

conservative congressman who had been in office for 24 years. There were two other local politicians in the race as well, making it a difficult contest. To say the least, the odds were against us.

I've been a large animal veterinarian and small business owner for the last 30 years. My wife Carolyn and I worked our way through college and built our version of the "American Dream." No one ever gave us anything – we worked for it. When we won, reporters descended on our campaign from all over the nation asking everything from how we won to what we were planning to do. A lot of them couldn't believe that a small country veterinarian could be Florida's next congressman. Reporters even asked if I owned a suit.

Going from farm to farm and ranch to ranch, you become acutely aware of how government affects people's lives and you pick up a kind of "barnyard philosophy." As a large animal veterinarian, you don't survive long without some common sense. It was through my work as a vet that I came to realize that our government was lacking the most basic principle in Washington; common sense.

I have a story that I tell often on the campaign trail that really illustrates how government has lost its way. I have an acquaintance who is a watermelon farmer who also grows peanuts, and melons. He had a young man straight out of college visit his farm one day asking to inspect his operation. This young man was carrying a book about four inches thick that was filled with rules and regulations. After inspecting the facility where they cleaned and packaged the watermelons for delivery, the young man told my acquaintance, Freddy, that he could receive a fine for having a wood handled broom too close to the melons. He told Freddy that he would need a broom with a metal handle. When Freddy asked him why, the young man replied that wood is porous and thus could contaminate the watermelons with germs.

Freddy responded, "Son, we take a seed, put it in the dirt and a watermelon grows up from that dirt. It continues to sit on that dirt until we pick it, clean it off and then put it in a cardboard bin. That cardboard bin is made from cellulose, a wood product. Then we put that cardboard bin on top of a wooden pallet. On top of that, these watermelons have a rind about an inch thick. But you are telling me that if I have a wood handled broom too close to the watermelons, I could get a fine?" The young man stammered, "That's what the book says!"

Folks, there just isn't any common sense left in government. I can give example after example of just how out of touch the federal government and the administrative agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration have become. I do recognize that some regulations are necessary for safety purposes, but we have reached a point where these rules, regulations and mandates are killing our businesses, the agricultural community and our way of life.

As the Republican candidate for Florida's District 3, I plan to be a very strong advocate for not just the agricultural community but for common sense. I sincerely appreciate the support from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and hope that I can earn the support from its members, as well.

*"I have been rewarded by being able to work in my chosen field and blessed by many wonderful clients and patients over the years. I have lived the 'American Dream' in this great nation of ours and am committed to preserving it for future generations. We need leaders that are not entrenched in Washington but who will be in the trenches working for the people they represent."*

- Dr. Ted Yoho

## CattleFax Update

On Wed., Aug. 22, agricultural commodities traded relatively flat, while energy and financial markets closed mostly higher. Live cattle futures traded from \$0.43/cwt. lower to \$0.28/cwt. higher. Feeder cattle futures contracts ended around \$0.50/cwt. higher for most contracts. The CME reported the Feeder Index at \$139.64/cwt., down \$0.13. Boxed beef cutout values ended steady to lower on lighter demand. Grains traded mixed to lower. Corn futures traded \$0.04/bu. lower. Soybean futures traded \$0.05/bu. lower to \$0.06/bu. higher. Chicago and Kansas City wheat futures traded mostly \$0.05/bu. lower.

For recent market news and analysis, visit [www.CattleFax.com](http://www.CattleFax.com).

## Don't Miss Out on NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen!

Don't miss a special edition of NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen* August 28–September 1. Viewers will learn what the Region II winner of this year's Environmental Stewardship Award Program is doing to protect the last for future generations to enjoy. Plus, a look at what one Colorado operation is doing to stay sustainable on the western slope.

NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen* debuts each Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. The show also airs Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and on Saturday at 9 a.m. (all times are Eastern). Don't forget that you can also [watch NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen online](#) anytime by visiting our website. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and become a fan on [Facebook](#).



## Your NCBA

**Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show, Feb. 6-9, 2013:** Bring your boots to the bay; Tampa Bay, that is! The Cattle Industry Convention is the oldest and largest convention for the cattle business. The 2013 convention will be the 115th annual convention. The convention and trade show create a unique, fun environment for cattle industry members to come together to network, create policy for the industry and to have some fun! If you're in the cattle business, then you need to be in Tampa, Fla. Learn more [here](#).



## National Cattlemen's Beef Association

*The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) has represented America's cattle producers since 1898, preserving the heritage and strength of the industry through education and public policy. As the largest association of cattle producers, NCBA works to create new markets and increase demand for beef. Efforts are made possible through membership contributions. To join, contact NCBA at 1-866-BEEF-USA or [membership@beef.org](mailto:membership@beef.org).*