



**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.



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Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns

NCBA Educates Capitol Hill on Devastating Estate Tax Effects — Beef 101 Educational Series Reveals Realities of Death Tax

Representatives from the [National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#) (NCBA) today gave an overview to congressional staff members on the devastating impact of the estate tax on cattlemen and cattlemen as part of NCBA's "Beef 101" educational series.

"Tackling the death tax is the top priority for NCBA," said NCBA Associate Director of Legislative Affairs Kent Bacus. "The tax directly affects family-owned small businesses, such as farms and ranches, because of the burden it places on families hoping to pass their business on to the next generation."

"Beef 101" is an educational series for members of Congress and their staff. The program was developed to bridge the knowledge gap between elected

officials and the beef industry. The session featured a presentation by Bacus, who stressed to attendees that there must be permanency in the tax code. For now, estates worth more than \$5 million per individual and \$10 million per couple are taxed at a rate of 35 percent.

According to Bacus, 97 percent of American farms and ranches are owned and operated by families, and eliminating the death tax is an important step in stimulating the nation's economy. One of these family-owned ranches is Barthle Brothers Ranch, located in San Antonio, Fla., and owned by the Barthle family. Four generations of the Barthle family have called the ranch home. Randy Barthle and his daughter, Sarabeth Barthle-Simmons, attended the "Beef 101"

presentation and gave a first-hand account on how the death tax has affected their family's operation. Barthle said that when his grandfather passed away in 1971, the family was hit with a \$1 million estate tax, causing the family to have to take out additional loans in order to pay the tax within nine months.

"Being a cattle producer is a family business, and the death tax has a devastating effect on ranching families," said Randy Barthle. "It's all about family for us, along with preserving the land we ranch on. There are 17 children in the next generation of our family, and they all agree on one thing; they want our ranch and family's way of life to be preserved."

NCBA Connects with Members through Telephone Town Hall Meeting

Staff with the [National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#) (NCBA) made themselves available to all of NCBA's members during a telephone town hall meeting on Sept. 19. The one-hour meeting was designed to give members the opportunity to speak directly with NCBA leadership and ask questions about the cattle industry.

Initially used by members of Congress to host meetings with their constituents, telephone town halls are gaining popularity. The telephone town hall uses technology that allows organizations to call tens of thousands of people in minutes. Over the course of the event hundreds of thousands of calls can be placed, inviting people to listen in on a live discussion and ask

questions.

Wednesday's telephone town hall began with a welcome by NCBA President J.D. Alexander, who spoke about the drought affecting a large percentage of cattle country. NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Colin Woodall then gave an in-depth legislative update to those listening in. Woodall spoke about the 2012 Farm Bill, the death tax and other policy issues affecting cattlemen and cattlemen across the nation.

"Connecting with our members is extremely important. Our quarterly telephone town halls give our membership the chance to interact with NCBA staff and get those burning

questions answered," said Woodall. "Whether it be about the farm bill, the RFS waiver, the death tax or the drought, we make sure that we provide our members with access to NCBA leadership to discuss these topics."

NCBA connected with more than 3,400 of its members, up over 400 members from the last meeting.

"When it comes to policy and legislative issues, our members want to hear directly from those at NCBA who are involved in the process," said Woodall. "They want to know that we're doing our best to represent the cattle industry here in Washington, D.C., and across America."

'Caring for Animals' Site Features not so Caring Organization

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, responding to and recovering from all domestic disasters. The agency not only helps people, but animals, as well. FEMA provides a "Caring for Animals" website to help Americans with emergency preparedness for their pets and livestock.

Last week the [National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#) (NCBA) issued a letter to FEMA Administrator William Craig Fugate bringing attention to the fact that on the "Caring for Animals" website, the only source listed to find more information regarding pet preparedness is the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

According to the Center of Consumer Freedom, a nonprofit organization that monitors activities of tax exempted activist groups, 71 percent of Americans believe HSUS is an "umbrella" group for their local humane societies. In addition, Charity Watch, formerly known as the American Institute of Philanthropy, a nonprofit organization committed to educating the public on "wise giving" has given HSUS a "D" rating for the past six years.

"It is a well concealed fact that only one percent of the money raised for HSUS goes to pet shelters," said NCBA President J.D. Alexander. "HSUS is a well-known enemy of animal agriculture. It is

neither appropriate nor prudent for a government website to advertise on behalf of an organization as disingenuous as HSUS."

In the letter, Alexander said that FEMA neglects to include other animal welfare organizations, such as the American Humane Association (AHA) which was formed in 1878 and has led the way protecting children, pets and farm animals from abuse and neglect. According to the association's website, "AHA works to ensure the well-being, welfare, and wellness of children and animals. Millions of people are reached through AHA's services and the work AHA continues to do with organizations, agencies and businesses." AHA has had a letter of understanding with the American Red Cross since 1976 and is the primary contact for U.S. animal related disasters.

AHA is also a member of the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC). Created in 2006 after hurricane Katrina, NARSC has been working with states on a local level, educating them on disaster preparedness and collaborating when disaster strikes. HSUS is not a member of NARSC.

"We respectfully ask FEMA to recognize the work of both AHA and NARSC," said Alexander. We also recommend the removal of HSUS from the FEMA website."

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. 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.

National Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Week: Be Aware of the Dangers



By Mike Deering, NCBA Director of Communications

President Obama signed a proclamation last week declaring Sept. 16-22 National Farm Safety and Health Week. This week is a perfect time to focus on farm and ranch safety before it is too late. Let this week be your wakeup call.

Nearly everyone directly or indirectly involved in the farming and ranching business knows someone who has been injured, paralyzed or killed in a farm-or-ranch related accident. In fact, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, farming and ranching is the fourth most

dangerous occupation with 38.5 deaths per 100,000.

The main ingredient necessary to prevent farm and ranch injuries and deaths is a relatively simple concept – awareness. Farmers and ranchers are undoubtedly good at what they do, making it through treacherous weather and mercurial markets. However, along with being skilled, comes a routine – doing the same thing day after day, year after year – eventually having the ability to do the job blindfolded. Unfortunately, years of practice depletes the awareness. Getting caught in the routine is synonymous to getting caught off guard, which opens the door for deadly errors.

All it takes is making safety on the farm and ranch a core value. The concept is simple; look around and evaluate the potential hazards. If you have some blatant malfunction on your operation that you refuse to fix to save a buck or two – fix it, and a “make-do” repair won’t do. As naive as it may sound, baling wire and duct tape won’t fix everything. The possibility of farming and ranching ever being 100 percent safe is out of the question, but being aware of the dangers will allow you to avoid some costly consequences.

Another important component of farm safety involves youth. The recipe for preventing youth injuries and fatalities prescribed by the Department of Labor (DOL) earlier this year was a foolish move. They were essentially proposing to ban youth ages 16 and under from working on farms and ranches. Not only is that almost laughable, on a more serious note, it is just plain dangerous. We must introduce the next generation of farmers and ranchers to agriculture at a young age with the appropriate supervision. This will allow them to gain more knowledge of the workings of

the farm or ranch and increase awareness of potential hazards. Commonsense tells you that a regulation mandating youth to sit on the couch and play video games would do nothing to enhance safety. Rather, it would increase the likelihood of kids getting hurt on the farm or ranch. Could you imagine a young person going to work on his grandparent’s farm for the first time when he or she is 16 – nearing adulthood? Fortunately, this recipe for disaster was pulled by DOL because of the outcry from farm and ranch community.

In addition to the tragic fact that each year farmers and ranchers are being killed and seriously injured, insurance rates are skyrocketing. Insurance premiums are based on history, so each injury significantly contributes to a higher insurance bill across the next three years. Save yourself some unnecessary costs by making your operation safer. You will find that you can add to your bottom line and reduce worker’s compensation premiums by 10 percent to 15 percent. Saving some money and saving your life sounds like a win-win scenario.

I know a man who was a great rancher that was caught off guard. Driving a tractor to hay the herd in the early spring was a daily routine that ended in death. The mistake made was the result of bad weather and poor decision-making, driving over a muddy dam without fully evaluating the hazards. The man left behind a wife and two kids – the man is my dad.

After you’ve seen your mentor and best friend, your dad, pinned lifeless under a tractor at a young age, believe me; your perspective, passion and awareness changes dramatically. Don’t wait for something bad to happen before you change your ways.

“The main ingredient to prevent farm and ranch injuries and deaths is a relatively simple concept – awareness. Farmers and ranchers are undoubtedly good at what they do. However, along with being skilled comes a routine. Unfortunately, getting caught in the routine is synonymous to getting caught off guard.”

- Mike Deering

CattleFax Update

On Wed., Sept. 19, agricultural commodities traded mixed to higher, and crude oil lost more than \$3/bbl. Financial markets ended the day slightly higher. Live cattle futures traded a few cents higher. Feeder cattle futures contracts traded a few cents lower. The CME reported the Feeder Index at \$142.73/cwt., unchanged on the day. Boxed beef traded at mixed values. Grains traded sharply higher. Corn futures gained more than \$0.13/bu. Soybean futures added about \$0.30/bu. Chicago wheat and Kansas City wheat futures gained more than \$0.18/bu.

For recent market news and analysis, visit www.CattleFax.com.

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

Don't miss NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen* Sept. 25-29. Learn about the Florida Cattlemen's Association and how they're working for the cattle industry. Plus, a look at Sparrowk Livestock in Clements, Calif., and their efforts to sustain the land for future generations.

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

NCBA Accepting Applications for Public Policy Internship: NCBA's government affairs office in Washington, D.C., is accepting applications for a spring 2013 public policy internship. The deadline to submit an application for this opportunity is Oct. 19, 2012. The full-time internship will begin Jan. 14, 2013, and end May 10, 2013. To apply, interested college juniors, seniors or graduate students should submit the application, a college transcript, two letters of recommendation and a resume to internship@beef.org. More information and the internship application are available on NCBA's [website](#).

Register to Vote! This year is a critical election year and we need our members and cattle producers to vote. NCBA needs your vote to count in November and we encourage you to register to vote today. The CapWiz system makes it simple and easy to register right now! Click [here](#) to register to vote and help influence the future of the cattle industry.

NCBA-PAC in Action: U.S. Senate candidate Tommy Thompson (R-Wisc.) stopped by the NCBA Washington, D.C. office for a staff breakfast. Thompson is pictured below with NCBA's Vice President of Government Affairs Colin Woodall.



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.