



**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 36

OCTOBER 4, 2012

Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns

NCBA: NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife Program a 'Step in the Right Direction'

Last month the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced an agreement that the agencies hope will provide long-term regulatory certainty for up to 30 years to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners participating in the NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) program. WLFW participants voluntarily implement conservation practices designed to protect wildlife habitat, including several at risk species.

"NRCS worked with various state livestock groups and the [National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#) (NCBA) on this initiative," said NRCS Chief Dave White. "Through voluntary, incentive based proactive conservation we are hopeful that we

won't have to list more species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA)."

NRCS announced last spring a \$33 million initiative dedicated toward livestock producers who develop and implement conservation plans to manage and restore habitats for seven wildlife species across the country. The species are greater sage grouse, New England cottontail, bog turtle, golden-winged warbler, gopher tortoise, lesser prairie-chicken and the southwestern willow flycatcher. According to NRCS, farmers and ranchers who implement conservation practices as part of the WLFW, such as marking barbed wire fences so that the low-flying sage grouse can see the fence, will have addressed their regulatory ESA responsibilities for 30 years.

NCBA Director of Federal Lands Dustin Van Liew said that though the initiative is a step in the right direction, there needs to be more certainty for cattle producers.

"Though this is a good start to a working partnership between the federal government and ranchers, it exemplifies the need for modernizing the ESA," said Van Liew. "Cattlemen are the original stewards of the land and have been implementing conservation practices for generations. There must be regulatory and legal certainty for ranchers so that they know they can continue their operations for years to come without being burdened by more ESA overregulation or legal action."

NCBA Accepting Applications for Cattle Industry Convention Internship

The [National Cattlemen's Beef Association's](#) (NCBA) government affairs office in Washington, D.C., is accepting applications for internships during the 2013 Cattle Industry Convention in Tampa, Fla, Feb. 6-9, 2013. The deadline to submit an application for this opportunity is Nov. 4, 2012.

The Cattle Industry Convention is the oldest and largest convention for the cattle business. The 2013 event 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 and create policy for the industry.

"Our internship positions provide a unique opportunity for students to gain first-hand experience and to interact with leaders from every segment of the cattle and beef industry," said NCBA Public Policy Analyst Mallory Gaines. "The convention internship program provides an excellent opportunity to network with people throughout the beef industry. NCBA strives to provide time for students to maximize their opportunities to network and learn."

The annual Cattle Industry Convention boasts over 5,500 attendees and a trade show with more than 250 booths. Interns are offered a unique, behind-the-scenes experience of

setting up the trade show, manning the NCBA-Political Action Committee (PAC) booth, assisting with the NCBA-PAC auction, helping members vote on NCBA policy, working with the media and helping to guide cattlemen and women to convention events.

The internship dates are Feb. 4-9, 2013. To apply, interested college juniors, seniors or graduate students should submit the convention internship 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](#).

House Races Across the Country Heat Up

With Election Day less than five weeks away and political campaigns entering the home stretch, the [National Cattlemen's Beef Association's](#) Political Action Committee (PAC) Director Anna Lee said that the organization is closely watching more than 50 races which will fill House seats come January 2013.

"These are all critical races in states where agriculture is a vital part of the economy. Farmers and ranchers must realize that as a voter, they have the ability to choose who represents them and their needs in Washington, D.C.," said Lee. "With all 435 House seats up for grabs, every vote counts."

It's incumbent vs. incumbent in Iowa, with Republican Rep. Tom Latham up against Democratic Rep. Leonard Boswell. Due to redistricting, Latham and Boswell are now vying for the same district, which is one of two districts that have incumbents running against each other for the same seat. Both candidates have roots in rural Iowa, and the close race in this Republican-leaning district is drawing the attention of political action committees across the nation.

Another Iowa race to watch is that between Republican Rep. Steve King and his Democratic opponent, Christie Vilsack, wife of U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. During his last

five campaigns King has easily won re-election, but polls show that the race between the candidates is close. Iowa records show the district's registered voters are 38 percent Republican, 27 percent Democrat, and 35 percent no party.

In Texas, Republican Rep. Francisco "Quico" Canseco, who represents District 23, is running for reelection against Democratic challenger Pete Gallego. According to *The Dallas Morning News*, polling data released earlier this week by the Canseco campaign shows him ahead of Gallego by 10 percentage points.

Andy Barr (R-Ky.) is battling against Democratic incumbent Ben Chandler for a House seat in Kentucky's District 6. Barr, an attorney, worked for former Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher. According to a new poll by the National Republican Congressional Committee, Barr holds a lead over Chandler by 49 percent to 46 percent.

Lee said that in these four races, NCBA is supporting the Republican candidates. "Whether you head to the polls on Election Day, vote by absentee ballot or choose to vote early, make sure that you exercise your right to vote," said Lee. "The NCBA-PAC enables the beef industry to assist political candidates who are committed to our vision. We must increase our participation in the political process to preserve the future of the cattle industry."

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.

As NCBA's New Communications Director, Adams Advocates for Agriculture



By Chase Adams, NCBA
Director of Communications

I am pleased to join the [National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#) (NCBA) as the Director of Communications for NCBA's Washington, D.C., office, filling the position left by Mike Deering, who returned to Missouri as the Executive Vice President of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

As a native of Wyoming, I grew up in cattle country. I have always had a passion

for agriculture and ranching. During my career I've held a number of positions in agriculture from working at the sale barn in Belle Fourche, S.D. to agriculture journalism, which was a nice change from doing to the work to talking about it. I received my bachelor's degree in political science from Black Hills State University in Spearfish, S.D. in 2005. After graduation I took a year off from school and started working for a large radio station, KBHB in Sturgis, S.D. KBHB has been broadcasting to the farming community since 1962, but had never had a farm director or been a member of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB).

I continued my education at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, where I earned my law degree in 2009. I came back to the Black Hills area and set up a small law practice in Sturgis. As an attorney, I intended to focus on property law, but was drawn to criminal defense and the courtroom. As a criminal attorney, I had the opportunity to take on a number of jury trials and gained tremendous experience in a short period of time. While practicing law I still worked as KBHB's radio farm director and was a member of NAFB. In addition I was a lobbyist in the South Dakota legislature for our state's sheep industry which gave me great insight into the state legislative process.

Throughout my career I have had the privilege to serve on a number of boards. Last year, I was elected from the broadcast council of NAFB to represent the Western region on the board of directors. I also served on the board for the Days of '76 Museum which celebrates Deadwood, South Dakota's historic rodeo. The museum's board oversaw the construction of a new \$6.5 million facility to house the museum's world class collection of historic

horse-drawn vehicles and the merger of Deadwood's four museums under one umbrella of Deadwood History, Inc.

The opportunity I have had to work as a farm broadcaster has been invaluable to be able to report on agriculture; not only in the High Plains region, but on issues across the nation. I have had the chance to meet with and get to know such a wide array of ranchers, farm groups, agricultural leaders and Congressional members. I look forward to bringing these experiences to the NCBA and our nation's capital for the benefit of our members and the beef community as a whole.

My passion has always been agriculture and communicating its triumphs and struggles. I am a firm believer in the work being done by NCBA on behalf of cattlemen and women and as communications director for the organization, I now have the opportunity to use my skills and my background to aid in that effort. I relish this opportunity as this is a vital time to be here in Washington D.C., working for our nation's cattlemen and women. With the farm bill, death tax and an abundance of rules and regulation on the forefront, I think it is more important now than ever to have NCBA leading the charge on these issues and I look forward to ensuring those messages are communicated back to the ranching community.

As director of communications for NCBA, it is my goal to use my understanding of the legal, legislative and rulemaking systems and my background and contacts in farm broadcasting to ensure we communicate to cattlemen and women the best information available about the issues that affect their livelihood. NCBA is the definitive voice of the beef industry, and I will work hard to make that voice heard loud and clear.

CattleFax Update

On Wed., Oct. 3, commodity markets were mostly lower. Crude oil futures experienced some of the largest losses - falling nearly \$4/bbl. Financial markets were mostly mixed. Live cattle and feeder cattle futures traded a few cents lower. The CME reported the Feeder Index at \$142.92, down \$0.22/cwt. Boxed beef values ended a few cents higher. Grain markets closed mixed and mostly flat - although the trading ranges were relatively wide. Corn futures closed down a penny per bushel. Soybean futures closed uneven and mostly flat. Chicago and Kansas City wheat futures also closed uneven.

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

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

Don't miss a special live edition of NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen* on Tues., Oct. 9, at 8:30 p.m. EST. Join host Kevin Ochsner for a discussion on the historic drought. Industry experts will take your questions live about the impact the severe weather is having on farms and ranches across the country. The phone lines will open at 8:30 p.m. EST on Oct. 9. To ask your question call 1-888-824-6688, or send an email to C2C@beef.org.

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

National Conference on Grazing Lands: The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) is hosting its 5th National Conference on Grazing Lands on Dec. 9-12, 2012, in Orlando, Fla. The conference will provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information and technology, an opportunity to identify research and program needs and a chance to see new products and services. For more information, click [here](#).

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 Heather Wilson (R-N.M.) stopped by the NCBA Washington, D.C. office for a staff luncheon. Wilson is pictured below with NCBA's Vice President of Government Affairs Colin Woodall (left) and NCBA's Director of Federal Lands Dustin Van Liew.



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.