



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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Beltway Beef

Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns

NCBA Applauds USDA on Final Animal Disease Traceability Rule

With the publication of the final Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule in the Federal Register on Jan. 9, the [National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#) (NCBA) complimented the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on creating a final rule that includes many of the comments submitted by NCBA on behalf of cattle producers across the country.

"We are encouraged that many of the priorities of cattlemen and women have been included in this final rule," said NCBA Chief Veterinarian Dr. Kathy Simmons. "USDA APHIS listened to the voices of livestock

producers when drafting this rule and the final product is one that will help reduce the number of animals involved in an investigation, reduce the time needed to respond and decrease the cost to producers."

The final ADT rule establishes general regulations for improving the traceability of U.S. livestock moving interstate. Under the rule, unless specifically exempted, livestock moved interstate must be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection or other documentation, such as ownership statements or brand certificates. The final rule accepts the use of brands, tattoos and brand

registration as official identification when accepted by the shipping and receiving states or tribes. Backtags will be accepted as an alternative to official eartags for cattle and bison moved directly to slaughter.

Most important to cattle producers, according to Simmons, is the announcement by USDA APHIS that a separate rulemaking process will take place for beef cattle under 18 months of age. They are exempt from the rule unless they are moved interstate for shows, exhibitions, rodeos or recreational events.

Now that it has been published, the rule becomes effective Mar. 11, 2013.

Nominations Open for USDA Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) last month posted a notice of intent in the Federal Register to renew the charter for the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee, along with announcing that it is requesting nominations for two-year membership terms.

The committee advises the Secretary of Agriculture on matters broadly affecting new farmers and ranchers and assisting in leveraging best practices to enhance agency goals for new farming and ranching operations. The committee also considers goals and objectives necessary to implement its recommendations from the prior term, and meets annually to discuss the unique challenges that beginning farmers and ranchers, as well as those with small operations,

may face. USDA defines beginning farmers and ranchers as those who have operated a farm or ranch for 10 years or less.

USDA is soliciting nominations from interested organizations and individuals involved in agriculture such as producers, related government, state agricultural agencies, academic institutions, commercial banking entities, trade associations and related nonprofit enterprises. [National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#) (NCBA) Vice President of Government Affairs Colin Woodall said it's a great opportunity for cattle producers looking to become more involved in policy decisions.

"It's extremely important that cattlemen have a seat at the table

when it comes to agriculture issues," Woodall said. "Having members of the cattle industry serve on this committee and advising the Secretary of Agriculture on what is going on in rural America for farmers and ranchers just starting out in this business is crucial to the future of the U.S. beef industry."

The deadline for submitting nominations is Jan. 16, 2013. Nomination packages should include a nomination form along with a cover letter or resume that documents the nominee's background and experience. An organization may nominate individuals from within or outside its membership; alternatively, an individual may nominate herself or himself. Forms are available [here](#).

NCBA Environmental Stewardship Award Program Winner to be Announced at Convention

Among the many activities and events happening during the [2013 Cattle Industry Convention](#) and [National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#) (NCBA) Trade Show in Tampa, Fla., will be the announcement of the Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) national award winner. The winner will be announced during an evening reception on Thurs., Feb. 7.

Established in 1991 by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), the program has recognized the outstanding stewardship practices and conservation achievements of U.S. cattle producers for more than two decades. Award winners are honored for their commitment to protecting the environment and improving fish and wildlife habitat while operating profitable cattle businesses.

During the 2012 Cattle Industry Summer Conference in Denver, Colo., seven regional winners were announced. Bold Ranch, Winifred, Mont.; Circle Square Ranch, Ocala, Fla.; Funk Farms Trust, Shirley, Ill.; Glenowen Farm, Round Hill, Va.; Slovek Ranch, Philip, S.D.; Sparrow Livestock, Clements, Calif.; and 77 Ranch,

Blooming Grove, Texas will be judged on management of water, wildlife, vegetation and soil, as well as the nominee's leadership and the sustainability of his or her business as a whole, with a national winner chosen from the seven finalists.



“America's farmers and ranchers are passionate about their land, and it shows through conservation and environmental stewardship efforts,” said NCBA President J.D. Alexander. “The cattle industry is continually improving upon our environmental sustainability, and these seven finalists set an example that we should all strive to achieve. We look forward to naming one of these operations as our national ESAP winner next month in Tampa.”

The ESAP award reception will begin at 6 p.m., and is sponsored by Dow AgroSciences; the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the National Cattlemen's Foundation (NCF); and NCBA. For more information, visit www.environmentalstewardship.org.

Legislative Watch

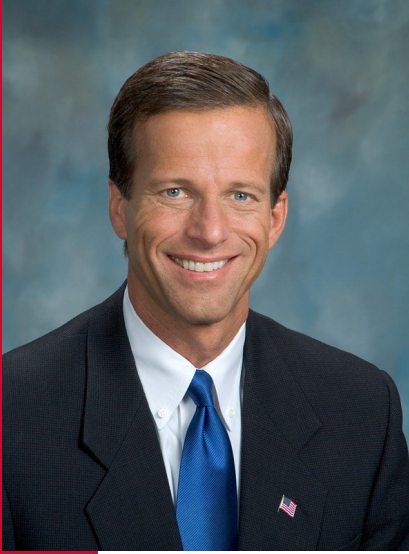
Jan. 3, 2013, is the start of the 113th Congress. For a full list of legislation NCBA is monitoring [click here](#).

New on the Web

Check out the [Beltway Beef blog](#) for inside perspectives on issues affecting U.S. cattlemen and women. You 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.

In 2013 We Need a Farm Bill, Spending Cuts



By Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.)

As we ring in the new year, we reflect on the hope, promise and challenges that 2013 will hold. Many individuals stop to consider the personal improvements and changes they can make to their lives to ensure that 2013 holds even more opportunity than 2012. As we begin this new year, Congress must try even harder to solve short-term problems and achieve long-term goals that will keep America secure and financially stable.

The drought-stricken landscape and the loss of crops, hay and pastures in 2012 presented numerous challenges for cattlemen and women not only in my home state of South Dakota, but across our nation. Following the excessive spring moisture and record floods of 2011, no one would have predicted that 2012 would bring extreme heat, a crippling moisture shortage and the worst drought in decades. Because the weather is so unpredictable, Congress must pursue fiscally responsible agriculture policies that ensure farmers and ranchers can continue to produce a reliable, safe and inexpensive food supply with the appropriate level of regulatory oversight and at the least cost to taxpayers.

Farmers and ranchers deserve to have the certainty that a full farm bill will bring. Cattle producers must have the ability to make management decisions in a timely manner when faced with drought or other natural disasters. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I will continue to work with producers and stakeholders to secure our nation's agriculture industry and food supply for 2013 and future years.

Other important issues facing our nation include high unemployment, a soaring federal debt and a decline in global competitiveness, all of which are taking a toll on American businesses, large and small. This year the average price of gasoline hit a record high, giving new

meaning to the term "pain at the pump." Overreaching government bureaucracies and an overabundance of unnecessary federal regulations have also severely restricted many of our entrepreneurs and job creators from making investments, adding new workers and ultimately jump-starting the lagging economy. This economic firestorm has affected all Americans. To start this new year out on the right foot, Congress must get to work stimulating the economy with pro-growth legislation and diligently work to cut federal spending, bureaucratic red tape and burdensome government regulations. Achieving this would ensure we put our country back on the right track. I assure you that I will continue to support legislation and initiatives that will allow our vibrant agricultural economy to continue thriving.

The beginning of a new year is always a good time for reflecting on the past and planning for the future. I look forward to new opportunities to serve South Dakota and the United States in the coming year as we embark on a new Congress. My wife Kimberley and I wish you all a happy, safe and healthy new year.

"Congress must pursue fiscally responsible agriculture policies that ensure farmers and ranchers can continue to produce a reliable, safe and inexpensive food supply with the appropriate level of regulatory oversight and at the least cost to taxpayers. Farmers and ranchers deserve to have the certainty that a full farm bill will bring."

- Sen. John Thune

CattleFax Update

On Wed., Jan. 9, commodity markets traded mixed to lower on the day. Equities traded steady to higher. Live cattle futures traded more than \$0.70/cwt. lower. Actively traded feeder cattle futures traded more than \$0.80/cwt. lower. The CME reported the seven-day average Feeder Index at \$150.83, up \$0.12/cwt. Wholesale boxed beef values were steady. The Select cutout continues to gradually gain on Choice. Grains traded mostly higher ahead of the Friday release of the USDA quarterly grain stocks and monthly WASDE reports. Corn futures closed more than \$0.01/bu. higher. Soybean futures closed uneven. Chicago wheat closed softer, while Kansas City wheat futures traded a few cents higher.

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 edition of NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen* Jan. 15–19. Experts discuss the results of 2011 National Beef Quality Audit and what it means for the beef industry.

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

Pre-Registration for the 2013 Cattle Industry Convention Ends Soon: Get your boots on the bay! Pre-registration and housing for the 2013 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show are closing on Jan. 11. Anyone needing to register after that date will need to do so onsite at the Tampa Convention Center and will need to call hotels directly for a reservation. Don't wait and register today! For more information call 303-694-0305 or click [here](#).

NCBA Youth Contests: Helping young people prepare for future leadership roles in agriculture is a key part of ensuring the beef industry continues to be progressive. As part of its role in shaping the future of the cattle industry, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) will host a number of youth contests at the 2013 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show. NCBA encourages all youth interested in agriculture to participate in the NCBA youth contests that will be held Feb. 6-9, 2013, in Tampa, Fla. Visit www.beefusa.org for more information.



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.