



**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.

Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns

House Ag Chair Talks Farm Bill at NCBA Legislative Conference

Congressman Frank Lucas (R-Okla.), chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, welcomed more than 200 cattlemen and women to Washington, D.C., Wed., April 18, 2012. Ranchers from more than 30 states converged on the nation's Capital as part of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Legislative Conference. Chairman Lucas told attendees that he is committed to restoring important programs such as conservation and research within the 2012 Farm Bill and to reduce overall government intervention in the private marketplace.



"The agriculture committee has started the Farm Bill process by gathering

programs when we begin developing policy."

input from producers like you," Chairman Lucas said. "As a cattle producer myself, I know how valuable conservation programs can be. We will make every effort to strengthen those

Cattlemen talked face-to-face with their respective members of Congress. The 2012 Farm Bill, estate tax and government over reach will be top of mind for cattlemen across the country. Chairman Lucas said the regulatory environment in Washington is unprecedented.

"I'm well aware of the difficult regulatory environment facing cattlemen today. The Agriculture Committee has held a series of oversight hearings to hold regulators accountable," said Chairman Lucas. "It's critical that all rules are based on sound science and thorough cost-benefit analysis."

NCBA State Affiliates Recognized for Recruitment Efforts — NCBA Partners with New Holland to Award Grassroots Activation

National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) President J.D. Alexander said the partnership between the national organization and its state affiliates is the "shining star" of the cattle industry. He addressed nearly 200 NCBA members from more than 30 states at the organization's legislative conference in Washington, D.C. The grassroots policy process and the overall strength of the organization, according to Alexander, depend on the number of "troops on the ground." This is why NCBA partnered with New Holland Agriculture to provide incentives for NCBA state affiliates to recruit new NCBA members.

"We appreciate New Holland's support and their partnership. We are proud to honor those states that have made enormous efforts to increase NCBA membership," said Alexander. "This is a grassroots organization and our voice

is being heard. However, more troops on the ground will amplify our already effective voice inside the Beltway and around the world."

The top five NCBA state affiliate organizations recruiting the most NCBA members are – from fifth to first – Kansas Livestock Association; Colorado Cattlemen's Association; Tennessee Cattlemen's Association; Missouri Cattlemen's Association; and Nebraska Cattlemen. As the top NCBA membership recruitment state, Nebraska Cattlemen received a New Holland baler.

Twenty-three states increased their respective states NCBA membership by 15 percent in the first three months of the year and have 50 percent or more of their state members also belonging to NCBA. The states are Alabama Cattlemen's; California

Cattlemen's; Colorado Cattlemen's; Colorado Livestock; Florida Cattlemen's; Georgia Cattlemen's; Hawaii Cattlemen's; Independent Cattlemen's of Texas; Kansas Livestock; Kentucky Cattlemen's; Mississippi Cattlemen's; Missouri Cattlemen's; Nebraska Cattlemen's; Oregon Cattlemen's; Pennsylvania Cattlemen's; South Carolina Cattlemen's; South Dakota Cattlemen's; Tennessee Cattlemen's; Texas Cattle Feeders; Utah Cattlemen's; Washington Cattle Feeders; West Virginia Cattlemen's; and Wisconsin Cattlemen's. These states qualified for a drawing of two New Holland balers. The winners of the drawing and recipients of the New Holland balers were Kansas Livestock Association and Tennessee Cattlemen's Association.

Lawmakers, Livestock Groups Raise Concerns with Animal Production Mandates — NCBA President Says Federal Mandate on Livestock Production Compromises Animal Welfare

Lawmakers and representatives from animal agriculture joined forces to educate nearly 100 people about the deliberate emphasis farmers and ranchers place on caring for the health and well-being of their animals. During a briefing hosted by Congressmen Adrian Smith (R-Neb.) and Joe Courtney (D-Conn.), congressional staff learned about multiple voluntary animal care programs and about the concerns farmers and ranchers have with legislation introduced in the House that would mandate strict on-farm production practices.

Congressman Smith said science must be the driving force behind public policy decisions. He said farmers and ranchers are dedicated to caring for the health and well-being of their animals.

“Ensuring public policy is driven by sound science is critical to the continued success of agriculture, and in turn, the long term safety and security of our nation’s food supply. The landscape of American agriculture continues to evolve, but the concern and care farmers and ranchers show their livestock remains unchanged,” Rep. Smith said. “Improved housing, updated handling practices and modernized health and nutrition products are the result of generations of investment and research into raising high quality animals. Every day, our producers demonstrate their dedication to providing the highest quality, safest and most affordable products in the world.”

National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) President J.D. Alexander joined Amon Baer, an egg farmer from Minnesota; Betsy

Flores, director of regulatory affairs for the National Milk Producers Federation; and Bill Luckey, a hog producer from Nebraska on a panel to explain how they care for their livestock and poultry. Each speaker raised serious concern with H.R. 3798, legislation that would codify an agreement between the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the United Egg Producers (UEP) to seek federally mandated production practices for the egg industry. Alexander, who is a Nebraska beef producer, said a one-size-fits all approach to animal agriculture won’t work.

“No two farms or ranches are the same. What works for my neighbor may not work for me because all farmers and ranchers have to adapt to meet the needs of their animals, to comply with regulations and, ultimately, to satisfy consumer demand,” Alexander said. “My biggest concern with H.R. 3798 is that outside groups with no knowledge of the industry will be dictating my livelihood and potentially compromising the welfare of my livestock. This legislation creates a slippery slope. Today, it’s egg farmers but tomorrow it could be any other segment of animal agriculture and we’re not going to let that happen.”

The briefing was hosted a coalition of agricultural organizations working to stop H.R. 3798. The coalition includes NCBA; the Egg Farmers of America; the National Pork Producers Council; the National Milk Producers Federation; the American Sheep Industry; and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

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 / H.R. 4234 – 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 / H.R. 4234. Key Sponsors: Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Rep. Raul Labrador (R-Idaho)

S. 2245 – Preserve the Waters of the United States Act

To prevent the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corp of Engineers (Corps) from using their “guidance” document to expand their jurisdiction of waters under the Clean Water Act.

NCBA urges a **Yes** vote on S. 2245. Key Sponsors: Sens. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Dean Heller (R-Nev.) and Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.)

H.R. 4157 – Preserving America’s Family Farms Act

To prohibit the Secretary of Labor from finalizing a proposed rule under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 relating to child labor.

NCBA urges a **YES** vote on the Preserving America’s Family Farms Act

Key Sponsor: Rep. Tom Latham (R-Iowa)

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 the Department of Labor’s proposed regulations and more. 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.

Science Must Guide Ag Policy

By U.S. Representative Adrian Smith (R-Neb.)



Policymaking should be grounded in sound science. When politics becomes the primary consideration, the end result is almost always harmful. We have seen this phenomenon play out in many areas with detrimental results for our economy and security.

The recent manufactured controversy over lean, finely textured beef, for example, began with a baseless media scare which has been devastating to the beef production industry. Even while this beef has an impeccable safety record, it has been reported more than 650 workers in three states have

been temporarily laid off and, according to the National Meat Association, as many as 3,000 American jobs have been affected by the misinformation and manufactured hysteria.

Legislation introduced earlier this year to give the federal government control over on-farm production practices is another example of politics trumping sound science. I would argue, you the producer, along with veterinarians and animal care experts, know more about the needs of your operation than bureaucrats in Washington. Representing cattle country, I fully appreciate your commitment to product safety and humane practices. It's simple, really: producing high quality products depends on comfortable, healthy animals.

Beef production supports more than 1.4 million jobs in the U.S. and is the number one industry in my home state of Nebraska. Cattle are produced in all 50 states and their economic impact contributes to virtually every locale in the country, driving the economies of rural communities like those in Nebraska's Third District.

In order to further my commitment to science-based agriculture policy, I currently serve as chairman of the

bipartisan Modern Agriculture Caucus. Recently, the caucus hosted a briefing along with NCBA and your President, J.D. Alexander, to educate congressional staff about how farmers and ranchers care for their livestock and poultry. Ensuring policymakers have the right information is critical if we are to preserve America's vibrant agricultural sector.

Pursuing strong, science-based standards also has been a top priority for me on the House Ways and Means Committee where I have been working on a bipartisan basis to open new export markets for producers, while removing barriers with our existing trade partners.

All too often, foreign governments have unfairly blocked U.S. beef products based on arbitrary guidelines. It is vital science determines the import standards for U.S. producers.

As the Ways and Means Committee continues to work on new and stronger trade relationships like the Trans-Pacific Partnership, I will continue to ensure our farmers and ranchers are not put at a competitive disadvantage by non-tariff and unscientific trade barriers.

America's beef producers continue to demonstrate they are dedicated to providing the highest

quality, safest, and most affordable food in the world. Ultimately we must together ensure agriculture policy is driven by facts and not political ideology. The continued success of agriculture, and in turn the long term safety and security of our nation's food supply, depends on our unwavering commitment to science.

For more information about this issue, the latest developments in Congress, or to sign up for Congressman Smith's e-mail newsletter, please visit <http://adriansmith.house.gov>.



CattleFax Update

On Wed., April 18, commodity and equity market prices traded generally lower on the day. Live cattle futures contracts traded more than \$1/cwt. lower. Actively traded feeder cattle futures were more than \$0.75/cwt. lower. The CME reported the Feeder Index at \$150.42/cwt., up \$0.05. The boxed beef cutout on the spot market was up nearly \$2/cwt. for the fourth-consecutive day. Spot market wholesale beef prices trade about par with last year's value. Estimated packer margins have improved. Lean hog futures lost more than \$2/cwt., and June prices are the lowest level since February 2011 when the contract began trading. Grains traded lower. Corn futures fell about \$0.13/bu. on old crop and new crop lost \$0.01/bu. Soybeans dropped mostly \$0.18/bu. Chicago and Kansas City wheat futures fell over \$0.04/bu.

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*, April 24-28, as expert cattlemen and leaders from Land O'Lakes Purina Feed discuss the benefits of a sustained nutrition program.

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-PAC In Action: House Natural Resources Chairman Doc Hastings (R-Wash.) met with NCBA staff and cattle farmers and ranchers this week to discuss key policy issues, including the fiscal year 2013 federal budget, the Endangered Species Act, federal lands grazing, the estate tax and more.

NCBA-PAC is gearing up for the 2012 Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC) May 31-June 7, 2012. The 2011 YCC class raised a record-breaking \$74,000 for the NCBA-PAC during a live auction. We need your help surpassing that record. This is possible with your generous contributions of items for the 2012 YCC auction. If you have an item to donate to the auction, please contact NCBA-PAC Director Anna Lee at alee@beef.org or at 202-879-9129. All items must be received by June 1, 2012.



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.