



**National Cattlemen's
Beef Association**



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Contacts:

Mike Deering,
mdeering@beef.org

Mary Geiger,
mgeiger@beef.org

202-347-0228

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

USDA Delays Effective Date for Mandatory Nutrition Labeling Rule

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) [announced](#) it would delay for two months, until March 1, 2012, the effective date for enforcement of the "Nutrition Labeling of Single-Ingredient Products and Ground or Chopped Meat and Poultry Products" final rule. The announcement was made in response to a request from a coalition of organizations representing food, agriculture and retail associations that will be affected by the final rule to ensure they have time to implement the newly required nutrition labels.

Included in the coalition are the American Lamb Board; the American Meat Institute; the Food Marketing Institute; the National Cattlemen's Beef Association; the National Chicken Council; the National Grocers Association; the National Pork Board; the National Pork Producers Council; and the National Turkey Federation.

"The mandatory nutrition labeling rule will have a significant impact on the regulated entities, and we commend FSIS for recognizing the challenges we face and for extending the effective date. When FSIS announced this final rule last December, we began working to understand the new requirements to ensure implementation," the coalition penned in a statement in response to the FSIS announcement. "Over the past 11 months, we have worked with FSIS to fully understand the rule's requirements, but we still have questions that need to be answered before a smooth implementation can occur."

The final rule will require mandatory nutrition labeling of the major cuts of single-ingredient, raw meat and poultry products. The nutrition information is required to be either on the label or at the point-of-purchase. The coalition said the two-month delay

will give them more time to work with FSIS to the fine rule is implemented in a smooth process.

"While we support efforts to educate consumers about the nutritional profile of meat and poultry products, it is crucial to get it right. Delaying the effective date for two months will give retailers and others in the food production chain additional time to implement labeling systems, to obtain necessary software and scales to properly label the products and to educate employees about the new requirements. We look forward to continuing to work with FSIS over the next five months to find the least disruptive and most cost-effective way to implement the rule."

NCBA Monitoring MF Global Bankruptcy

MF Global, a securities and broker-dealer regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and a futures commission merchant regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, on Oct. 31, 2011, filed for bankruptcy. National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Vice President of Government Affairs Colin Woodall said NCBA is closely monitoring the situation and added that U.S. [Senator Pat Roberts](#) has requested information from CFTC.

"While information is still being learned, it is important for NCBA to monitor this situation on behalf of cattle producers nationwide," Woodall said. "MF Global needs to work with

SEC, CFTC and [Securities Investor Protection Corporation \(SIPC\)](#) to return funds and other assets to their customers as quickly as possible."

Woodall said SIPC is a non-government organization authorized by Congress under the Securities Investor Protection Act (SIPA) to step in when a brokerage fails to return customers' cash and other assets.

The Court appointed a SIPA trustee for the liquidation to act on behalf of customers and creditors of MF Global to satisfy claims. Woodall said it is important to note that while the SIPA trustee will work on behalf of both securities and futures customers, the

SIPC fund will only be available to make whole customers' who lost securities positions with MF Global.

On Nov. 2, 2011, the Court approved applications by clearinghouses to begin transferring customer accounts from MF Global to other clearing members. On Fri., Nov. 4, 2011, the [CME Group announced](#) it had transferred nearly 5,300 MF Global accounts to other clearing members and that it expects to transfer more.

Woodall said direct investors with questions related to the MF Global proceeding should contact the SIPA trust directly at 1-888-236-0808 or MFGITrustee@hugheshubbard.com.

NCBA Partners with Roper and Stetson to Offer Member Benefits — Join NCBA Today to Receive a 50 Percent Off Coupon

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is excited to offer its members an outstanding new opportunity through an exclusive partnership with Roper and Stetson. Under the partnership, new and existing NCBA members will receive significant discounts on Roper and Stetson apparel and footwear.

Anyone who joins NCBA will receive a 50 percent off coupon for Roper and Stetson apparel and current members will receive quarterly 25 percent off coupons through the National Cattlemen publication. Additionally, participants who pay a full registration at the 2012 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show will receive a Roper and Stetson coupon to use at the trade show. NCBA Vice President of Membership and Association Marketing Marvin Kokes said the partnership showcases the organization's outstanding



Take advantage of exclusive member discounts on Roper and Stetson apparel and footwear

reputation and commitment to its membership.

"Our most important partner in the development of our association is our members," Kokes said. "The partnership with Roper and Stetson allows our members to benefit from their commitment to our association and entices new members to get involved with NCBA."

Kokes said NCBA has a history of working with some of the country's most respected companies to offer exclusive opportunities to its members. These companies believe in NCBA's mission and cattlemen as a marketing opportunity. In order to become an NCBA member and take advantage of the Roper and Stetson partnership or see other great membership benefits offered by NCBA, visit www.beefusa.org or contact the membership department at membership@beef.org.

Legislative Watch

The Renewable Fuels Flexibility Act of 2011

To partially waive the renewable fuel standard when corn inventories are low. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on the RFS Flexibility Act. Key Sponsors: Reps. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) and Jim Costa (D-Calif.)

S. 1061 / H.R. 1996 - Government Litigation Savings Act

Will amend the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) to prohibit organizations with a net worth exceeding \$7 million from filing for EAJA funds; require that EAJA filers show a "direct and personal monetary interest" in the action to be eligible for payments; and cap the attorney fees. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on S. 1061 / H.R. 1996

Key Sponsors: Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.)

S. 1528/H.R. 1633 - Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act

To establish a temporary prohibition against revising any national ambient air quality standard applicable to coarse particulate matter (dust), to limit Federal regulation of nuisance dust in areas in which such dust is regulated under State, tribal, or local law, and for other purposes. NCBA urges a **YES** vote S. 1528 / H.R. 1633. Key Sponsors: Sen. Mike Johanns (R-Neb.), Rep. Kristi Noem (R-S.D.)

Amendment to H.R. 2354, the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill

The U.S. Senate is expected to begin consideration of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill as soon as this week. Senators John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Dean Heller (R-Nev.) are expected to offer an amendment to defund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) attempt to expand its jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act through guidance documents and/or regulation. NCBA urges all Senators to vote **YES** on the Barrasso-Heller amendment.

H.R. 2414-Farmers' Freedom Act of 2011

Exempts certain farm vehicles from certain federal requirements (for a commercial driver's license, drug testing, medical certificates and hours of service). Prohibits federal transportation funding to a state from being terminated, limited, or otherwise interfered with as a result of the state's exempting a covered farm vehicle from any state requirements governing the operation of that vehicle.

Key Sponsor: Rep. James Lankford (R-Okla). NCBA urges a **YES** vote on H.R. 2414.

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. This week's features include updates on NCBA member benefits, the proposed GIPSA rule 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.

Time to Move on Highway Bill

By Kent Bacus, NCBA manager of legislative affairs



Over the years, U.S. beef producers have been anxiously waiting for Congress to vote on legislation to address our concerns with antiquated and inconsistent transportation rules and regulations that hinder the flow of commerce for small businesses. Legislative solutions are typically consolidated into one piece of multi-year authorizing legislation commonly known as the highway bill. Instead of keeping our transit laws current and

reflective of the needs of today's economy, Congress has the unfortunate habit of kicking the can down the road by extending the existing highway bill to a time when political and fiscal forecasts seem brighter. In fact, the previous highway bill expired in October 2009 and has been extended several times. The current extension of transportation programs will expire at the end of March 2012. All signs from Capitol Hill suggested that no further action would happen on the highway bill until early 2012.

Fortunately, we are finally starting to see movement on the transportation front. On Wed., Nov. 9, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works voted unanimously in support of S. 1813, "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act," commonly referred to as the highway bill. The [bill](#) is a two year bill that consolidates existing surface transportation programs and reallocates funding to other transportation programs.

Unfortunately, the bill does not include language to address cattlemen's immediate concerns with increasing truck weights with an additional axle or to allow agricultural permits for drivers to haul up to 100,000 pounds. While the bill does not include language critical to cattlemen, it is important to remember that this is just the beginning of a long process. The House has indicated it may move forward with a transportation bill by the end of this year. NCBA will continue meeting with members of Congress and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to help them understand why cattlemen's concerns should be addressed in the highway bill.

Specifically, cattlemen urge Congress to include the following provisions in the highway bill:

- Give states the option to increase truck-weight limits to 97,000 pounds with inclusion of a sixth axle on trucks. Increasing hauling capacity will result in fewer trucks on the roads. We greatly appreciate Congressman Michael Michaud (D-Maine) and Congresswoman Jean Schmidt (R-Ohio) for introducing the Safe and Efficient Transportation Act of 2011 (H.R. 763), and for Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) for introducing the Senate version (S. 747).
- Allow the purchase of permits for commercial vehicles to haul farm commodities up to 100,000 pounds.
- Create a uniform mileage exemption for farm use vehicles exceeding 26,000 pounds. We need uniformity and reciprocity of farm exemptions across state lines for drivers licenses and we strongly oppose any federal requirement of commercial driver's licenses for farmers and ranchers. We are grateful to Congressman Sam Graves (R-Mo.) for introducing H.R. 3265, which waives certain driving restrictions during planting and harvest seasons for producers who are transporting agricultural goods. We also commend Congressman James Lankford (R-Okla.) for introducing the Farmers' Freedom Act of 2011 (H.R. 2414). This legislation exempts certain farm vehicles (including the individual operating the vehicle) from certain federal requirements (for a commercial driver's license, drug testing, medical certificates and hours of service) governing the operation of motor vehicles.

To all of our producers and anyone engaged in agribusiness, we need your help. We need a commonsense highway bill that addresses the needs of rural America and we need it now. Contact your elected officials in the [House](#) and [Senate](#) and urge them to include these provisions in the highway bill to create a safer and more efficient transportation system in our nation.

CattleFax Update

On Wed., Nov. 9, prices trended lower for financial and commodity markets. Live cattle futures closed mixed with prices in front contract months ending lower. Feeder cattle futures closed mostly higher despite the front contract months trading steady to lower. The CME reported the feeder index at \$141.98/cwt., up \$0.01. Boxed beef prices ended the day mixed. The Choice-Select spread is at roughly \$17.50, which is still seasonally high but less than the annual high of \$19.27. Hide and offal values remain near 12-month lows, and packer margins continue to be poor. The U.S. Department of Agriculture released its World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report. Stocks-to-use estimates for most commodities were within trade expectations. Grains traded closed lower. December corn traded \$0.04/bu. lower, while back months lost as much as \$0.16/bu. Soybeans and wheat closed around \$0.20/bu. lower.

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*, Nov. 15-19. We'll learn how one Colorado rancher is using both tradition and technology to help prevent calf respiratory disease. Plus, viewers will learn how a sustained nutrition program is helping one Texas operation ride out the drought.

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

Meeting in Nashville is Music to My Ears: Join your fellow cattlemen in Nashville, Tenn., Feb 1-4. Registration and housing are now open and can be found online at <http://www.beefusa.org/convregistration.aspx>. For more information visit www.beefusa.org or call 303-694-0305.

NCBA Leaders Participate in National Association of Farm Broadcasters Trade Talk: National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) leaders headed to Kansas City, Mo., this week for Trade Talk, an event held annually in conjunction with the National Association of Farm Broadcasters convention. NCBA President-Elect J.D. Alexander, NCBA Federation Chairman David Dick and NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Colin Woodall participated in Trade Talk and networked with more than 100 farm broadcasters during the event.



Left: NCBA President-Elect J.D. Alexander speaks with Chad Moyer, a farm broadcaster with KRVN out of Lexington, Neb.



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.