



**National Cattlemen's
Beef Association**



Beltway Beef

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In this Issue

[Greenhouse Gas Regulation](#)

[Border Security](#)

[Clean Water Act Ruling](#)

[Legislative Watch](#)

[New on the Web](#)

[Corduroy not Necessary to Stand up for Agriculture](#)

[Cattlemen to Cattlemen](#)

[Cattle Fax Update](#)

[Your NCBA](#)

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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 Advances Bill to Block Greenhouse Gas Regulations

Legislation supported by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) to halt the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed greenhouse gas regulations advanced through the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee and could come to a vote before the full House before the Easter congressional break. NCBA Chief Environmental Counsel Tamara Thies said federal regulations should be based on sound, peer reviewed science. However, she said the science isn't conclusive on this issue and personal political agendas appear to be behind EPA's efforts to regulate greenhouse gases.

"The unintended consequences of regulating without a solid scientific foundation is dangerous for rural America and the entire U.S. economy," said Thies. "There is some concern that EPA officials are using their positions as political platforms.

We need our government officials to be fair and objective."

The Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011 was introduced in the House by Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton (R-Mich.) and Energy and

charge of setting the energy and environmental policies that will allow our nation to create jobs, bring down prices at the pump, and make America more secure and energy independent."

*"The unintended consequences of regulating without a solid scientific foundation is dangerous for rural America and the entire U.S. economy."
~ Tamara Thies*

Thies said the decision to regulate greenhouse gases should come from Congress. However, she noted that attempts to do so failed in the 111th Congress.

"We have a new Congress. With that means new opportunities for a science-

Power Subcommittee Chairman Ed Whitfield (R-Ky.) and passed the committee by a vote of 34-19.

"This bill says 'stop' to an EPA attempting to impose policies we cannot afford and that destroy jobs we cannot afford to lose," Chairman Upton penned in prepared remarks about this legislation. "By passing this bill, we can put Congress back in

based approach to protecting and sustaining our environment and natural resources," said Thies. "Farmers and ranchers take their environmental stewardship responsibilities very seriously, but imposing unnecessary and unscientific regulations on them is unacceptable."

NCBA Supports Strengthening Border Security

Violence along the southern border of the United States poses a threat to those living and working along the border, but according to Kristina Butts, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) executive director of legislative affairs, it poses a threat to the beef industry as well.

Butts said NCBA members passed policy during its recent Cattle Industry Convention to affirm the association's support of an 18-point "Restore Our Border" plan developed by the

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association. Specifically, NCBA's policy calls for securing the border along the international boundary; adding sufficient personnel to secure the border; providing personnel with modern technology and resources necessary to enforce security at the border; and enhancing civil and governmental communications to provide full coverage throughout the border region.

The issue of border security was

discussed at great length during a recent House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee budget hearing on Southwest border enforcement. Congressman John Carter (R-Texas) questioned administration officials about the effectiveness of patrolling on public lands in Arizona and about current border security programs. He said the federal government's efforts to date have left farmers and ranchers in harms way. [Click here](#) to watch the hearing.

US Federal Court Rules EPA Exceeded Statutory Authority

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) calls the March 15 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in New Orleans a victory for animal agriculture. Specifically, the court has ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cannot require livestock operations to obtain Clean Water Act (CWA) permits unless they are actually discharging into a U.S. waterway. In the final ruling, the federal court determined that EPA exceeded its statutory authority in requiring concentrated animal feeding operations to obtain CWA permits, when there was only a "potential" for a discharge.

"The court's decision confirmed that EPA continues to try to regulate farmers and ranchers without comprehension or care for statutory limits," said NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Colin Woodall. "I commend the agricultural organizations that took EPA to court. It is unfortunate that lawsuits are even necessary. EPA and its activists turned government

officials put their anti-animal agriculture agenda first and overlook the confines of the law as passed by our democratically elected Congress."

According to Woodall, EPA's rule ignored a 2005 U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit in New York City ruling that CWA requires permits only for producers who actually discharge. The most recent ruling upheld the 2005 ruling.



"It is hard to imagine what it is going to take to convince EPA that it is important to comply with that law. There should be a zero tolerance for activism in our executive branch," said Woodall. "That's why it is so important for members of

Congress to hold EPA accountable for its arrogant, activist-based and unscientific regulatory rampage against U.S. agriculture."

Legislative Watch

S. 248 / H.R. 910 - Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011

Amends the Clean Air Act to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from promulgating any regulation concerning, taking action relating to, or taking into consideration the emission of a greenhouse gas to address climate change, and for other purposes.

NCBA urges a **YES** vote on S. 248 / H.R. 910

Key Sponsors: Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.)

S.520 – To repeal the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit

NCBA urges a **YES** vote on S. 520

Key Sponsors: Sens. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) and Ben Cardin (D-Md.)

S. 407 / H.R. 758 – National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act

Requires the administration to seek congressional approval before designating future national monuments. This oversight is intended to ensure that the impacts on the local economy, ranching, national energy security, and other uses associated with the land, are taken into consideration before a designation takes effect.

NCBA urges a **YES** vote on S. 407 / H.R. 758

Key Sponsors: Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Rep. Devin Nunes (R-Calif.)

H.R.965 – Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act of 2011

Would stop veterinarians and producers from preventing disease in livestock, which would ultimately harm animal welfare, animal health, food safety, and food security. Prevention of disease is a cornerstone in both human and animal medicine. Taking away this tool undermines preventative medicine, and healthy animals are the foundation of a safe food supply.

NCBA urges a **NO** vote on H.R. 965

Key Sponsor: Rep. Louise Slaughter (R-NY)

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 includes news about the reorganization of the House Beef Caucus; an update on legislation NCBA supports to stop EPA from regulating greenhouse gases; an Ag Day message; and the pending trade agreement with

South Korea. 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.

Corduroy Not Necessary to Stand up for Agriculture

By Mary Geiger



Black skirt – just at the knees. Check.

White shirt – long sleeved, buttoned to the top. Yep – it's there.

Tie. Got it.

National blue corduroy jacket zipped to the top. Check.

Ten years ago that was a fairly regular morning routine for me as I prepared for official events of the Kansas FFA Association. Ten years later though – who cares, right? Get over it. Move on with your life.

As I made my way home Mon., March 14, 2011, after spending some time with some young advocates visiting Washington, D.C., for Ag Day, I was reminded of my days in FFA and 4-H. I was reminded of public speaking and parliamentary procedure contests; conventions; and days spent learning about production agriculture in my agricultural education classes. I was reminded how thankful I am for my rural upbringing on a small farm in northeast Kansas. And, yes, how thankful I am for my days in the National FFA Organization.

I wish the feeling I had was one that I had each day, but it's not. You see, after graduating from Kansas State nearly four years ago, I made the decision that many young people make. I decided not to return home to the farm in Troy. I left.

One of the major challenges to the sustainability of the U.S. beef industry and all of American agriculture is that fewer and fewer young men and women are returning to the family operation. To this day, I feel a little twinge of guilt every time someone talks about the need for young farmers and ranchers in our country. How can I nod my head and agree when I am part of the problem? Talking to students from Indiana, Texas, Iowa and Tennessee, though, I was reminded why I made that decision.

My morning routine doesn't include feeding and watering livestock or checking crops. However, it does include heading to work at the [National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#) (NCBA), where I am part of a team of individuals working each day to ensure ranchers like my father and the nearly one million cattle producers across this country are able to continue doing their

jobs. At NCBA, we all come from an agricultural background or grew up in rural America. We are all dedicated to sustaining this industry for this generation and the next.

I may not have to worry about feed rations and checking the cows hourly during calving season. But, everyday, I work to communicate about how legislation and federal regulations will affect U.S. cattlemen and women and their operations.

Agriculture in our nation has evolved. It's not just plows, sows and cows any longer. In order to deliver the world's rapidly growing population with an abundant, affordable, safe and healthy food supply, we have to adapt to changing market realities and consumer preferences. We really don't have a choice. We're farmers and ranchers, but we're also advocates; teachers; salesmen and women; mechanics and technicians, veterinarians and scientists. We're also students. We're continually learning, adapting, growing and changing our practices to improve our industry.

This week, across the country, individuals involved with the agricultural industry sang praises of our industry. That's not enough. With well-funded activists throwing millions of dollars behind campaigns put a stop to our industry; with an increasing number of elected officials who have never stepped foot on a farm; and yes, with more and more farmers and ranchers reaching retirement, we have to stand up for our industry.

You don't need a blue and gold corduroy jacket to be an advocate; you just need to be willing to fight for the sustainability of the beef industry and of production agriculture. That might mean calling your member of Congress and asking him or her to sign a letter to Environmental Protection Agency opposing efforts to regulate dust; sending a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture opposing its proposed livestock marketing rule; or simply educating your neighbor about the innovative ways you manage resources and remain profitable.

I've often said that agriculture is not a Republican or Democrat issue but a way of life. Unfortunately, it's a way of life that is under attack on many fronts. In order to ensure the sustainability of the industry for this generation and for generations to come, we've all got to come together to tell our story.

Mary Geiger is NCBA associate director of communications.

****NCBA was a sponsor of Ag Day this year and participated in various events in Washington to celebrate the day.*

Your NCBA

"Beef 101" is Next Week on Capitol Hill: The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is kicking off its Beef 101 educational series on Capitol Hill next week. NCBA is inviting Capitol Hill staffers to attend educational briefings, scheduled on March 22 that will introduce hill staffers to the challenges facing the U.S. beef industry. Dr. Tom Field, NCBA executive director of producer education, will be on hand for the briefing to help educate staffers about the industry. For more information, contact Kristina Butts at kbutts@beef.org.

CattleFax Update

The fed cattle market was sharply higher this week as it set new record highs. In the North, trade was collected at \$117 to \$119 live, the bulk at \$118. Dressed trade occurred at \$188 to \$192, the bulk at \$190. For the South, most of the trade occurred at \$118. This is fully \$5 higher than last week. Trade volumes were moderate. Boxed beef values were higher as well, with asking prices raised quickly once the fed cattle market was established. Sale volumes on that side were moderate as well. Feeder cattle prices were softer early but rallied past midweek, closing the week steady to \$2 higher. Calves and stockers were \$2 to \$5 better with demand staying very good for lighter weight cattle. Slaughter cows advanced by \$2 to \$3. Corn prices were lower this week as a USDA report issued Thursday morning indicated more world stocks for many of the grains.

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

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

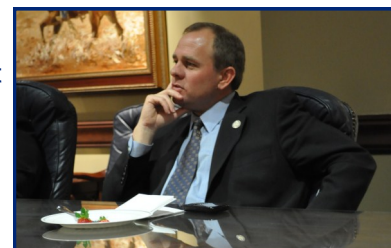
Don't miss NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen*, March 22-26. We'll learn why having a good spring vaccination program in place can mean a more profitable herd. Plus, viewers will learn how a beef quiz bowl is preparing the next generation of cattle industry leaders. [Click here](#) for a preview of the show.

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

Your NCBA PAC in Action: U.S. Representative Steve Fincher (R-Tenn.) spent some time this week visiting with representatives of U.S. livestock industries talking about his priorities in the House of Representatives during the 112th Congress. Rep. Fincher, a row-crop farmer by trade, is serving his first term in the House of Representatives and has seats on the House Agriculture Committee as well as the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. During the event, he pledged to work to rein in the Environmental Protection Agency, expand trade opportunities for U.S. products in international markets, restore stability to the U.S. economy and provide certainty in the U.S. tax code.



Woodall Reaffirms NCBA Support of Korea trade agreement: During a roundtable discussion hosted by *AgriTalk* with agricultural leaders in Washington, D.C., NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Colin Woodall reiterated NCBA's support of immediate passage of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement. He said the government-to-government deal is the "gold standard" because it is based on standards set by the World Organization for Animal Health. He said the agreement would, over a period of 15 years, completely eliminate Korea's current 40 percent tariff on U.S. beef imports.



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.