



January 16, 2009

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6:30 PM - Centennial Hall,  
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**Gentry County** - February 7  
5:30 PM - Hundley Whaley

### CALL TO ACTION: Oppose Dairy Buyout in Stimulus Package

Yesterday, NCBA issued a press release, in conjunction with a letter to the Senate, opposing the proposed government buy-out of the dairy industry. A copy of the press release is below.

In grassroots efforts, we have posted two letters and an op-ed on CAPWIZ for producers to send to their Senators. These letters are available at [www.capwiz.com/beefusa](http://www.capwiz.com/beefusa) and all three are highlighted on the front page.

We need your help as well on fighting the inclusion of this plan in the Senate's economic stimulus package. Please our letters as a template and send your own letters, or make phone calls to your Senators Washington, D.C. and state offices urging them to oppose the dairy buy-out.

The proposed buy-out would remove 6.5 billion gallons of milk from production. This would result in nearly 320,000 cull cows flooding into the markets and could potentially drive down the price for cull cows by 24-49%.

The Senate is still putting together their economic stimulus package and as of right now the dairy buy-out is not included. However, we are continuing to fight against the possible inclusion of this plan.

We are monitoring this very closely and will keep you informed with any updates. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me, Elizabeth Bostdorff, at 202 879 9128 or

Learning Center, Albany

**Henry County** - February 10  
6:30 PM - First Baptist Church,  
Clinton

For more industry events visit  
the [Missouri Farmer Today  
Website](#).  
([www.missourifarmertoday.com](http://www.missourifarmertoday.com))

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[Missouri Cattlemen's Association](#)

[Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation](#)

[Missouri Beef Industry Council](#)

[National Cattlemen's Beef  
Association](#)

[Missouri Department of  
Agriculture](#)

[ebostdorff@beef.org](mailto:ebostdorff@beef.org).

## **NCBA Asks Congress to Oppose Dairy Buyout in Stimulus Package**

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) sent a letter to members of the U.S. Senate today opposing an effort to include a dairy buyout in the stimulus package.

The proposal would use taxpayer dollars to raise dairy prices by buying older dairy cows from farmers, taking approximately 6.5 billion gallons of milk off the market. This would result in nearly 320,000 additional head of cattle entering the beef market, which could drastically reduce the price of beef cattle.

"The cattle industry is not subsidized by the government, nor do we wish to be," said NCBA President and Arizona rancher Andy Groseta. "However, we are subject to the unintended consequences of policy directed towards other sectors of agriculture, such as the dairy industry. Flooding the market with beef and driving down the price for our products will be devastating for America's cattle producers."

Cattle producers continue to experience record-high feed and forage costs which resulted in over \$1.5 billion in losses to the feeding sector last year. Additionally, higher fuel prices, land values, and input costs caused decreased revenue for producers. "All of agriculture is experiencing the impact of the current economic downturn, and the cattle industry is no different," Groseta explained.

Proponents of the buyout suggest lessening the consequences for the cattle industry by using United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Section 32 funds to purchase ground beef. A similar plan was implemented in 1986, which did not prevent the cattle market from crashing. The 1986 buy-out resulted in a 25 percent decrease in the price paid to producers for beef cattle and sent the cattle markets to the lowest point we have seen in the last 30 years. In total, the beef industry saw a \$1 billion loss from the buy-out in 1986.

"NCBA does not support utilizing taxpayer dollars to both fund this proposed buy-out and to try and mitigate its ill effects on the cattle business," Groseta stated. "This is a flawed proposal and we urge Congress not to include it in the stimulus package."

*Released by NCBA 1/22/09.*

### **Register Your Premise**

As cattlemen we encourage all producers to take part in premise registration as it is the best method for immediate notification in case of a disease outbreak. MCA takes animal health very seriously in order to protect the state's livestock industry. Registering your premise is a primary step in accomplishing this goal. To register your premise visit the [Missouri Department of Agriculture website](#).

**Join our list**



## **NCBA Convention to be held next week in Phoenix**

### **Cattlemen from Coast to Coast to Get Live Look at 2009 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show**

*RFD-TV Program to Capture Flavor of Event from Phoenix Jan. 28*

Cattle producers across the country will be able to "virtually attend" the 2009 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show in Phoenix Jan. 28 when RFD-TV carries a live two-hour show from the trade show floor. RFD-TV and NCBA Live! will run from 6 to 8 p.m. MST (8-10 p.m. EST) on RFD-TV.

"This annual event is the premier occasion for cattlemen throughout the United States," says Melissa Tessitore, executive producer of NCBA's award-winning Cattlemen to Cattlemen television program on RFD-TV. "We're thrilled to be able to partner with RFD to bring a small segment of the convention and trade show to those who aren't able to be with us in person."

The program will carry interviews with new National Cattlemen's Beef Association CEO Forrest Roberts and President-elect Gary Voogt. Tom Field, NCBA director of producer education, will provide producer education tips and NCBA Executive Director of Legislative Affairs Colin Woodall will summarize cattle industry needs as a new administration and congress gets rolling in Washington, D.C.

In addition, the program will allow viewers to visually stroll through the massive trade show, where 260 exhibitors will be sharing their wares and services. The industry's largest and most comprehensive trade show, the event annually brings together the most innovative products and services for farmers, ranchers and others involved with cattle.

More than 5,000 people involved in the cattle industry are expected to attend the convention and trade show, held at the Phoenix Convention Center Jan. 28-31. In addition to the trade show, meetings will be held that will help establish policy and checkoff direction for the future while attendees are able to re-establish personal and business relationships with their fellow cattle producers.

"Obviously, this show is not the same as on-site participation," says Tessitore. "But not everyone can be in Phoenix. We're proud to be able to share many of the event's experiences in this way. We know producers watching will be both informed and entertained."

*Released by NCBA 1/19/09.*

**Due to the staffs attendance at the NCBA Convention next week the MCA office will be closed from Tuesday, January 27 through Friday, January 30.**

**Also, Prime Cuts will not be released next week and will resume the Friday of February 6.**

## Proposed Non-Ambulatory Ban in Senate Economic Package

Several Senators are trying to include a ban on the processing of disabled/non-ambulatory cattle in the Senate's Economic Stimulus Package. Currently, NCBA is urging the removal of this language and we need your help by contacting your Senator on the Appropriations Committee. The Senators below can help us by removing the provision from the bill: (Senator's contact information is below) Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Tom Harkin (D-IA), Patty Murray (D-WA), Bryon Dorgan (D-ND), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Ben Nelson (D-NE).

A message is going out on CAPWIZ to our members within these states asking them to also contact their members. Earlier today NCBA sent a letter to Senate opposing a ban on non-ambulatory processing, which is attached.

Please share any personal stories about custom processing of otherwise healthy animals for own personal use.

Below are some talking points about the issue to help when you contact your Senator.

1. The non-ambulatory provision needs to be removed as it has negative economic impacts on cattle producers who are currently undergoing tough economic times.
2. Cattle producers strongly support the exclusion of any disabled/non-ambulatory cattle from the commercial food supply. However, cattlemen also support their right to keep their investment, when an otherwise healthy animal, for instance, sustains a leg injury and can be custom processed for their own personal use.
3. The Economic Stimulus Package is intended to help revitalize the economy by creating jobs, building infrastructure and to pump money into the economy - not to serve as means for Congress to misuse taxpayer dollars on an issue that is being addressed by USDA.
4. USDA is currently in the process of completing the final rule with regards to the processing of non-ambulatory cattle. We support USDA's efforts to release the final rule and as a regulatory body USDA is the more appropriate government branch to address this important issue.
5. The provision is cattle-specific, which is discriminatory and should be removed as USDA is underway with the rule process.

NCBA will continue to monitor this issue and will keep you updated to any new developments.

If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please contact either me, Elizabeth Bostdorff, at [ebostdorff@beef.org](mailto:ebostdorff@beef.org) or 202-879-9128.

### Senators Contact Information

*Name - State*  
*Phone Number*

Daniel Inouye - Hawaii

(202) 224-3934

Tom Harkin - Iowa  
(202) 224-3254

Patty Murray - Washington  
(202) 224-2621

Bryon Dorgan - North Dakota  
(202) 224-2551

Dianne Feinstein - California  
(202) 224-3841

Tim Johnson - South Dakota  
(202) 224-5842

Ben Nelson - Nebraska  
(202) 224-6551

*Released by NCBA 1/23/09.*

# Beef Quality Assurance

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or [www.bqa.org](http://www.bqa.org)

To get certified online, visit:

[www.mocattle.com/BQA/certification.htm](http://www.mocattle.com/BQA/certification.htm)

For more information on BQA programs contact Missouri Cattlemen's Association  
at (573) 499-9162 or [cattleinfo@mocattle.com](mailto:cattleinfo@mocattle.com)

## **"Who wouldn't buy a soldier a steak?"**

"Who wouldn't buy a soldier a steak?" is the byline for the All American Beef Battalion. AABB was founded in August 2007 with a vision of supporting the troops fighting the war on terror while promoting American Beef.

The organization carries out projects that provide support and morale to the members of the United State Armed Forces Military Services. These projects include organizing and sponsoring steak feeds, entertainment, programs, meetings, and projects with Service Members and their families. Overall the organization seeks to foster among the people of the United States an appreciation, respect, and honor for our Armed Forces Military Services Members whose sacrifices have and will continue to make our freedoms possible.

All American Beef Battalion held their first steak feed for the 731st Transportation Company on April 26, 2008 in Olathe, Kansas whose guard members had just returned from tour of duty in Iraq. Since then AABB have held 13 more steak feeds in Kansas, Colorado, Montana, and Texas. Although, AABB hasn't held a steak feed in Missouri, it is something they are looking forward to doing.

The organization holds steak feeds for troops deploying, on their homecoming and for wounded warrior battalions. While serving 1¼ inch ribeyes on the plates of men and women serving our country and their families, AABB is able to promote American Beef and support the men and women helping to protect it.

The All American Beef Battalion was developed from a desire of Bill Broadie of Ashland, Kansas to show his support of U.S. troops around the world. Broadie is a Vietnam War Veteran and Kansas cattleman.

So, would you buy a soldier a steak?

For more information on the efforts of the All American Beef Battalion visit [www.steaksfortroops.com](http://www.steaksfortroops.com) or contact Bill Broadie at (620) 635-0544.

## **AGR Classic to be held February 7 & 8**

The 2009 MCA Points Show Season will be kicked off with the AGR Classic on the weekend of February 7 and 8 at Midway Expo Center in Columbia, Missouri. The 2009 MCA Points Show System has undergone several changes since last year. This year MCA will only be awarding points in the most active shows in the program: Alpha Gamma Rho Classic, Mizzou Block and Bridle Show, Missouri State Block and Bridle Show, MCA All-Breeds Junior Show, and the Missouri State Fair.

### **2009 MCA Points Show Schedule**

AGR Classic- February 7 & 8 (Columbia)  
Mizzou Block and Bridle- March 21 & 22 (Columbia)  
Missouri State Block and Bridle- April 4 (Springfield)  
MCA All-Breeds Junior Show- June 12-14 (Sedalia)  
Missouri State Fair- August 13-23 (Sedalia)

For more information visit [www.mocattle.com](http://www.mocattle.com) or contact Rachel Bartholomew at (573) 499-9162 or by email at [rachel@mocattle.com](mailto:rachel@mocattle.com).

### **Standards for Natural Meat**

The US Department of Agriculture has issued a voluntary standard for naturally raised livestock and meat marketing claims.

The standard will be published as a notice in the Federal Register and is titled "United States Standards for Livestock and Meat Marketing Claims, Naturally Raised Claim for Livestock and the Meat and Meat Products Derived from such Livestock."

The naturally raised marketing claim standard states that livestock used for the production of meat and meat products have been raised entirely without growth promotants, antibiotics (except for ionophores used as coccidiostats for parasite control), and have never been fed animal by-products. The voluntary standard will establish the minimum requirements for those producers who choose to operate a USDA-verified program involving a naturally raised claim. USDA analyzed over 44,000 comments from producers, processors, consumers, and other interested parties in the development of this standard.

The segment of the marketplace that includes specific animal raising claims has experienced exponential growth in the past five years. Use of a naturally raised marketing claim standard has the potential to increase the available supply of US meat products eligible for niche marketing programs in the United States, the European Union, and other export markets that require livestock to be raised without the administration of growth promotants.

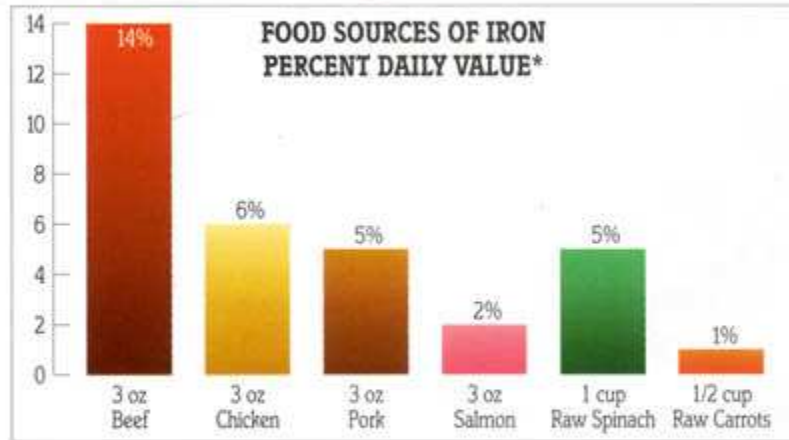
USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) works with industry representatives, academia, and other interested parties to establish or revise US standards for nearly 240 agricultural products.

The naturally raised marketing claim standard was published in the January 21, 2009, Federal Register.

*Released by The Cattle Business Weekly 1/22/09.*



## Checking in on the Checkoff



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### Reading Manure Piles is Good Way to Evaluate Nutritional Well-Being of Cattle

For many years, television and the movies have depicted the beef cattle business as a glamorous or even romantic way of life.

But at least one important management tool of the business -- reading manure piles -- isn't glamorous but can be an important part of beef cattle nutrition management.

Eldon Cole, a livestock specialist with University of Missouri Extension, says that when it comes to evaluating the nutritional well-being of cattle, close attention should be paid to the manure they deposit on the pasture. In fact, this skill is often stressed in the grazing schools.

"It's fairly easy to look at manure piles and get an idea about the ration quality. Coarse, mature forages move through the digestive system slowly and result in dry, hard, tall manure piles," said Cole. "In contrast, high-quality forages move right through the animal. Those droppings are softer, contain more moisture and spread out as they hit the ground."

The faster rate of passage results in more available energy for the cattle to use for weight gains, lactation and reproduction. Energy is measured as total digestible nutrients (TDN).

"A lot of hay was harvested two or three weeks later than usual in 2008 due to the rains. Thus the maturity resulted in higher levels of fiber in the hay which reduces the energy

value and in turn causes the dry, hard, tall manure piles," said Cole.

Cole says a person can actually kick or dig around in the manure and see the coarse fibers.

The best way to manage around the associated poor performance with high fiber rations is to supplement with protein and/or energy.

Good quality legume or legume-grass mixed hay may serve the purpose, especially for adult cows.

"Wintering calves or yearlings may also get by with the quality hay, but a concentrate supplement is required if higher weight gains are expected," said Cole.

Mature 1,200 pound cows that will calve in the next two to three months need about 25 pounds of hay per day that runs 8 percent or more protein and 54 percent plus of total digestible nutrients (TDN) according to Cole. After calving, the requirement for the same cow jumps 30 to 32 pounds of 10 percent protein hay that runs 58 percent TDN.

A 600-pound steer or heifer expected to gain 1.5 pounds per day, requires 14 to 15 pounds per day of a ration that contains 10 to 11 percent protein and 64 percent TDN. All the values are on a dry matter basis.

"Besides examining manure, laboratory testing forages for protein and energy levels is more certain, scientific method of evaluating forages. But realistically, many cattlemen will never get around to taking a forage test so manure pile reading is the next best evaluation technique," said Cole.

For more information, contact any of the MU Extension livestock specialists in southwest Missouri: Eldon Cole in Mt. Vernon, (417) 466-3102; Gary Naylor in Dallas County, (417) 345-7551; and Dona Funk in Cedar County, (417) 276-3313.

*Released by Seneca News-Dispatch 1/14/09.*

### **Young Cattlemen's College- February 24 & 25**

Missouri Cattlemen's Association annual Young Cattlemen's College will be held February 24 and 25 at the Missouri Cattle Industry Headquarters in Columbia, Missouri.

As in previous years each county may select one producer to attend. The event is limited to the first 25 registered.

This year's YCC is packed full with sessions on how to better your county organization and how to be successful in the industry. From media training to meeting with your legislator the two-day college is full of useful and informative sessions. Don't miss out, register NOW!

For more information please contact Lesley Snodgrass at (573) 499-9162 or by email at [lesley@mocattle.com](mailto:lesley@mocattle.com).

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Would you like to advertise in our newsletter?

If so, please contact Maureen Hamill at (573) 499-9162 (Ext. 233) or [maureen@mocattle.com](mailto:maureen@mocattle.com).