



**National Cattlemen's
Beef Association**



Beltway Beef

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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

Lean Beef a Solution to Meet Nutrient Needs for School Children

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) on April 13, 2011, submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) regarding its proposed rule entitled "Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs."

NCBA Executive Director of Legislative Affairs Kristina Butts said NCBA supports efforts to improve the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and urges USDA to consider lean beef as a solution to meet nutrient needs for school children. She added that beef is a naturally nutrient rich food that enhances school meals. On average, a lean cut of beef provides only 154 calories yet it supplies a good-to-excellent source of 10 essential nutrients, including many that are often limited in the typical diet like choline and iron.

"As USDA updates the nutrition standards for the school lunch and breakfast programs, lean beef should be emphasized as it contributes significantly to intakes of protein and many other key nutrients without providing significantly to intakes of total fat, saturated fatty acids or sodium," said Scott George, NCBA vice president and Wyoming cattle producer.

time," Butts said. "Schools now have the option to serve 95 percent lean beef patties and sliced roast beef as a leaner beef option for school meals."

NCBA raised concern with a recommendation to discourage processed foods. Emerging innovation is resulting in processed meats that are lower in fat and sodium. These processed meats contribute high quality protein and nutrients to a healthy diet for growing children.

George said cattlemen are committed to providing wholesome, nutritious food for consumers.

*"As USDA updates the nutrition standards for the school lunch and breakfast programs, lean beef should be emphasized."
-Scott George, NCBA vice president*

NCBA supports the proposed average saturated fat content to be less than 10 percent of total calories as this falls in line with the 2010 Dietary Guidelines. More than 95 percent of the saturated fat in the American diet comes from foods other than beef.

"The entire beef industry has worked hard to produce a leaner beef product for consumers, and it is becoming increasingly more available all the

"The NSLP and SBP play an important role in helping children develop a healthy lifestyle, which includes a well-balanced diet coupled with physical activity," he said. "Lean beef is a naturally nutrient rich food option for schools and we appreciate USDA's continued recognition of the important role it plays in the diets of Americans and especially school children."

NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen to Host Live Call-In Show

National Cattlemen's Beef Association President (NCBA) Bill Donald said there are many legislative and regulatory issues pending in Washington, D.C., that have potential to majorly impact cattlemen and women. During a NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen special live call-in show, expert panelists will field questions about important policy issues. The panel will include Donald as well as Colin Woodall, NCBA vice president of

government affairs; Kristina Butts, NCBA executive director of legislative affairs; and NCBA Deputy Environmental Counsel Ashley Lyon

The show will air on Tues., April 19, 2011, and will be broadcast on RFD-TV starting at 8:30 p.m. eastern daylight time (EDT). Cattlemen and women will be able to ask questions of the panelists by calling 1-888-824-6688 or by emailing C2C@beef.org.

"From finalizing three pending trade agreements to reining in the Environmental Protection Agency and stopping the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed livestock marketing rule – cattle producers need to know what's happening in Washington, D.C.," said Donald. "This live program will give them a chance to get their questions answered, as well as air some of their own concerns."

NCBA: Reduce Debt, Cut Ethanol Mandates —Supporting Renewable Energy and Deepening US Debt Shouldn't be Synonymous

During a Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee hearing this week focused on domestic renewable energy policy, specifically ethanol policy, the future of corn-based ethanol subsidies was a major topic of discussion. National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) President Bill Donald said cattlemen oppose intervention in the marketplace, including the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC) and the tariff on imported ethanol.

"Cattlemen aren't opposed to ethanol. We're opposed to the taxpayers subsidizing an industry that should be able to stand on its own. We want to compete on a level playing field for a bushel of corn," Donald said. "Congress should allow the VEETC to expire and stop perpetuating this industry's reliance on taxpayer support."

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack noted that distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS), a co-product of U.S. ethanol production that is used as a livestock feed supplement, offer an export opportunity to U.S. producers. In fact, in 2010, the U.S. exported nearly 9 million metric tons of DDGS.

"Secretary Vilsack touted DDGS exports during the hearing. Cattlemen are some of the staunchest supporters of expanding trade opportunities for U.S. products, but it's concerning that in addition to supporting policies that artificially inflate the price of corn, he clearly supports displacing feed for our cattle. This makes me further question the administration's commitment to the U.S. livestock

industry," Donald said. "Rather than propping up the corn-based ethanol industry with more than \$6 billion in subsidies each year that it doesn't need, end the subsidy and let the market work."



NCBA President Bill Donald

Between 2005 and 2008, corn prices quadrupled, reaching a record high of \$8 a bushel. Donald said volatility in the marketplace over the past six years was a result of ethanol mandates artificially pushing feed costs higher.

"If our government leaders are serious about reducing the debt and growing the economy, then ending the unnecessary corn-based ethanol subsidies should be part of the answer," he said. "The current subsidies pit agriculture against agriculture, and in the end, we all lose. Instead, let's save taxpayer's money. Level the playing field for all end-users of corn."

Legislative Watch

H.R. 1259 – To fully and permanently repeal the estate tax

NCBA urges a **YES** vote on H.R. 1259.

Key Sponsors: Reps. Kevin Brady (R-Texas), Mike Ross (R-Ark.)

H.R. 1341 – Establishing Public Accountability Act of 2011

Would require the Environmental Protection Agency to include in any notice of rule making a statement regarding the impact of the rule on jobs loss or creation.

NCBA urges a **YES** vote on H.R. 1341.

Key Sponsor: Pete Olson (R-Texas)

H.R. 1287 / S. 706: 3D: Domestic Jobs, Domestic Energy, and Deficit Reduction Act of 2011

Provisions of legislation would amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act and the Equal Access to Justice Act to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens on ranchers primarily located in the Western United States.

NCBA urges a **YES** vote on H. R. 1287 and S. 706

Key Sponsors: Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Sen. David Vitter (R-La.)

H.R.1505 – National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act

To prohibit the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture from taking action on public lands which impede border security on such lands.

NCBA urges a **YES** vote on H.R. 1505

Key Sponsor: Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah)

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 U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed rule on school nutrition standards; an update about an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "guidance" document that could allow EPA

to expand its authority under the Clean Water Act; and more. 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.

Learning From the Good Guys...the DC Cowboys

By Jeralyn Stephens

From the outside looking in, Washington D.C., is perceived as a corrupt and heartless city, where people will do just about anything to get ahead. How do I know this? I felt the same way before I left my Texas town to move up North.

The month prior to starting my internship in Washington, I was constantly warned, "Don't let those politicians turn you greedy." I will admit I received mixed signals when I told people I would be interning in Washington. However, I would simply respond, "I won't let the city corrupt me and anyways I will be working for the good guys – people advocating for the cattleman."

In fact, when I informed my family and friends that I would be interning for the National Cattleman's Beef Association (NCBA), I witnessed a bit of relief in their eyes. This relief stemmed from the great NCBA reputation and from their understanding that fellow beef advocates would be educating me, rather than politicians.

Before I moved to Washington, D.C., I had my opinions and misconceptions about the work conducted on Capitol Hill. I expected the city to be ruthless and embody a "kick you while your down" atmosphere. I also expected the NCBA office to be more consumed with political agendas than the policy issues important to NCBA members. Well if you are wondering, my perceptions were incorrect.

It's true. Washington is not Texas. Even though is not as heart-warming as my hometown, the city is not as cruel as you may think. Specifically, the agricultural world in D.C. is a tight knit and supportive group. I expected the fight against regulations to be an "on your own" competition but it is amazing to see agricultural groups support and work together to combat issues.

My time here in Washington has been a wonderful experience where I have learned why the presence of NCBA on Capitol Hill is important for cattle producers. The Washington D.C., team works continuously to ensure cattlemen from all over the country have a voice on the Hill. They work each day to battle the top issues, so

producers can remain at home checking cows and feeding the world. Issues such as potential dust regulations, the proposed U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's proposed livestock marketing rule and ethanol could negatively affect producers. However, the team here in Washington keeps a hard thumb on lawmakers and the administration and is always the first to respond when issues harm the beef industry. Each day there are phone calls being made and letters being sent to administrators, elected officials on the Hill and even President Obama opposing rules that could affect the producer's pocketbook. Being a NCBA member, I can appreciate

the work that occurs here because if it were not for this team's continuous efforts, the future of the beef industry would be in jeopardy.

As a Capitol Hill outsider and a young producer, I was hit with a heap of information my first week here. The first thing I learned and I appreciate the most is that NCBA's presence on Capitol Hill is unique and highly respected. It is unique in the sense that the people fighting are currently or once were beef producers. Their fights are personal.

The staff is not only highly educated on the issues, but they are passionate. It is the combination of passion and knowledge that puts NCBA on a

level that should make all members proud. The remarkable reputation of NCBA was refreshing to me and continues to be refreshing when members of Congress and Capitol Hill staff regard NCBA as a knowledgeable, reputable organization.

As a NCBA member and worker, I am proud of the successes and efforts of NCBA because I have witnessed them firsthand. I have witnessed progress in resolving trade issues and Environmental Protection Agency concerns because the DC staff always has their boots on the ground constantly meeting with members of Congress so the cattlemen and women can rest easier at night. This internship has given me an exclusive viewpoint that allows me to rest easier at night because I know the beef industry is in good hands with the NCBA's Washington D.C., office.



Jeralyn Stephens and Congressman Stephen Fincher (R-Tenn.) at the NCBA Washington, D.C., office.

***Jeralyn Stephens is serving as the policy and communications intern in NCBA's Washington, D.C., office. Upon completion of her internship, she will return to Tarleton State University and graduate with a degree in agricultural communications and a minor in animal science.

CattleFax Update

The fed market continued to trade near last week's highs depending on region. Tighter supplies in the North allowed for cash trade in the beef, but prices were off \$2 from a week ago. In the South, where supplies are seasonally more adequate, cash traded from \$123 to \$124 live, which was up \$1 to \$3 from a week ago. Live cattle futures cooled \$1 to \$2 this week. Box beef volumes were down slightly, and prices were steady to higher for the week despite weaker end meat purchases. The Choice and Select cutouts had improved \$3.50 and \$2.50, respectively, early in the week. Feeder cattle values were even to \$3 higher, and the feeder index reached an all-time high at \$136.03. Sale volumes are light, but calves were quoted \$2 lower to \$5 higher on the week. Slaughter cows were mostly steady, but still at very high levels. Corn prices were steady to slightly higher on the week, but remain over \$1.50 higher than their lows three weeks ago.

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 LIVE edition of NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen* on Tues., April 19, 2011, at 8:30pm eastern daylight time. NCBA President Bill Donald; Vice President of Government Affairs Colin Woodall; Executive Director of Legislative Affairs Kristina Butts; and Deputy Environmental Counsel Ashley Lyon will take questions on important policy issues. Call in with your question at 1-888-824-6688 or email it to C2C@beef.org.

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: Representative Bill Flores (R-Texas) spent time at the office of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) getting a better understanding of issues affecting U.S. cattlemen and women as well as agricultural producers in other sectors of production agriculture. Rep. Flores was elected last November to his first term representing the 17th congressional district in Texas. Flores said he is committed to stopping costly regulations at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior. He also said he is concerned with ranchers' safety along the U.S., Mexico border and said he would work to improve border security.

Representative Flores sits on the House Natural Resources Committee as well as the House Budget Committee and the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.



NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Colin Woodall and Representative Bill Flores



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.