



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.



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Beltway Beef

Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns

US and EU Agree to Continued Beef Trade

On Monday, Oct. 21, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced the United States and Europe Union (EU) signed an agreement to extend Phase II of the current Memorandum of Understand (MOU) for another two years, through Aug. 2, 2015. Under Phase II, the U.S. will be able to provide up to 45,000 metric tons of beef from "non-hormone treated cattle" at zero tariff duty.

The U.S. and EU have been entangled in a WTO dispute since the 1980's over the EU's ban on growth promotants in cattle and their subsequent ban on imports of beef from cattle that use growth promotants. This dispute resulted in

100 percent tariffs on certain EU goods to the United States in retaliation for the ban on U.S. beef.

In an effort to resolve this issue, the MOU was announced on May 6, 2009. The agreement stated that the EU would provide additional duty-free access to its market for high-quality beef produced from cattle that have not been treated with growth-promoting hormones - 20,000 tons in the first three years and increasing to 45,000 tons beginning in the fourth year.

In 2012, European consumers purchased approximately 25,000 metric tons of U.S. beef at cost of

nearly \$236 million, making the EU one of our top ten export markets for beef. Europe presents a wealth of opportunity for U.S. beef exports, however the several non-science based trade barriers erected by the EU prevents us from providing our European consumers with U.S. beef. Extending the MOU for another two years will give our negotiators room to focus on the future trade relationship between America and the EU in the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement and to address the non-science based barriers to the EU market without compromising our position on technologies.

House and Senate Meet to Discuss Farm Bill

Progress continues on the farm bill front as the Senate and House have announced they will begin their conference to discuss the farm bill. The first public meeting for all conferees will be Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 1:00 p.m. ET in room 1100 of the Longworth House Office Building. This will begin the discussion to work out the differences between the two versions of the bill.

As we move forward into the conference we urge our members to stay engaged and continue talking to their elected officials, even if they are not a conferee. Once the conferees agree on a final bill, the entire House and Senate will vote on the conference report before it can be signed into law by the president.

House conferees:

Rep. Frank D. Lucas (R-OK)
Rep. Steve King (R-IA)
Rep. Randy Neugebauer (R-TX)
Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)
Rep. Michael Conaway (R-TX)
Rep. Glenn 'GT' Thompson (R-PA)
Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA)
Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR)
Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL)
Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD)
Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA)
Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL)
Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN)
Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC)
Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)
Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN)
Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR)
Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)
Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA)
Rep. Gloria Negrete McLeod (D-CA)
Rep. Filemon Vela (D-TX)

Rep. Steve Southerland (R-FL)
Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH)
Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA)
Rep. Tom Marino (R-PA)
Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY)
Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI)
Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX)
Rep. Sandy Levin (D-MI)

Senate conferees:

Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)
Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)
Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)
Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS)
Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS)
Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)
Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)
Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)

PLC and NCBA Support Legislation to Prevent Federal Water Grab

The Public Lands Council (PLC) and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) hailed introduction and urge support of H.R. 3189 the Water Rights Protection Act (WRPA). The bipartisan bill was introduced earlier this month by Congressman Scott Tipton (R-Colo.) and co-sponsors, Mark Amodei (R-Nev.), Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.) and Jared Polis (D-Colo.).

This legislation was developed to protect water rights from a recent directive by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) allowing them to potentially take water rights from private entities that are using water on federal lands. The USFS is attempting to acquire water rights for the federal government as a condition of issuing standard land use permits. The Forest Service, however, has failed to provide just compensation—a violation of the Fifth Amendment.

On Oct. 10, 2013 the House Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on the bill, inviting a panel of witnesses who testified on the importance of the established state water laws and the impact of this directive on their industries, including ski areas and agriculture. The witnesses stressed the importance of these water rights and the significance of protecting these rights to sustain western businesses and rural communities.

"Once again, the federal government is overstepping its bounds," PLC president and Colo. rancher Brice Lee said. "The Forest Service is offering special use permits only in exchange for these

takes, rather than providing just compensation. Not only does their attempt to seize these rights abuse holders of those rights and prove the disregard USFS has for the individuals that rely on these permits; further, they are blatantly ignoring state sovereignty in governing water law. The level of bureaucracy we have seen with this directive is reminiscent of the Environmental Protection Agency's work—it is both overreaching and incredibly damaging for the individuals impacted."

H.R. 3189 would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from, wrongfully transferring water rights from private to federal hands. Additionally, the bill supports deep-rooted state water laws, clarifying water rights are unique to states and it is the jurisdiction of each of the states to govern its water law.

"The fact that federal land ranchers are in this position is a testament to the lack of consideration the USFS has," NCBA president Scott George and Wyo. rancher said. "We encourage Congress to support and quickly pass this legislation—it is absolutely imperative western producers have the assurance they will not be subject to arbitrary take of their rights. The Forest Service's attempt to usurp water rights is a gross transgress—especially since they are snubbing eminent domain laws."

Lee and George ask the House to take up and pass this legislation without delay.

Legislative Watch

S. 258 and H.R. 657— Grazing Improvement Act

To amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing leases and permits, and for other purposes. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on S. 258 and H.R. 657. Key Sponsors: Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Rep. Raúl Labrador (R-Idaho)

H.R. 1462 — Renewable Fuel Standard Reform Act

Amends the Clean Air Act to revise the renewable fuel program. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on H.R. 1462. Key Sponsor: Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.)

S. 1343 — Farmer Identity Protection Act

Protects the personal information of livestock producers from being distributed to third parties. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on S. 1343. Key Sponsors: Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.)

H.R. 3189 — Water Rights Protection Act

Provides a means to combat the recent directive that allows the United States Forest Service (USFS) to seize private water rights without just compensation. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on H.R. 3189. Key Sponsor: Rep. Scott Tipton (R-Colo.).

H.R. 311 — Farmers Undertake Environmental Land Stewardship (FUELS) Act

Directs EPA to change the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule to consider a producer's risk when it comes to maintaining costly oil storage facilities. The bill would allow EPA to create practical exemptions for small farmers and ranchers. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on H.R. 311. Key Sponsor: Rep. Rick Crawford (R-Ark.)

New on the Web

Check out the [Beltway Beef blog](#) for inside perspectives on issues affecting U.S. cattlemen and women. 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.

The Fight Continues



By Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa)

Thanks to Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK) and Ranking Member Collin Peterson's (D-MN) determination, we continue to make progress on completing a five-year farm bill. Conferees have been named in both the Senate and the House. I am pleased to have been named as a conferee and will do all I can to see get a 2013 Farm Bill across the finish line straight to the President's desk.

Many of the battles that have been fought on this farm bill for the past two years will continue into the conference committee process. It is critical that we maintain protections for livestock and support fellow producers who are facing devastating losses due to the recent weather in South Dakota.

As many producers across the country know, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), whom I often refer to as "the vegan lobby", is the most active opponent of livestock production. HSUS has made it very clear that one of their top priorities in this farm bill, if not their top priority, is to defeat the "King Amendment", my interstate commerce amendment.

By way of background, California passed a ballot proposition (Proposition 2) in 2008 that, among other provisions, required California egg producers to double the cage size for their laying hens. If California wants to impose restrictions on California farmers, it is their constitutional right to do so but they have no right to impose California restrictions on every other state. California did not cross this Constitutional line until 2010, when then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a law mandating that no eggs can be brought into or sold in the state if they are not laid by hens housed in "humane" facilities beginning in 2015. By passing this law, California, as one of our nation's most populated states with millions of consumers, is essentially forcing producers around the country to comply with their unreasonable and arbitrary standards.

What California is doing is called protectionism, which has failed throughout history. Such policies undermine the efficient system of trade we have always enjoyed, and the burden of regulation will drive food costs up.

To correct California's unconstitutional overreach, I offered an amendment to the farm bill that prohibits states from enacting laws that place restrictions on the means of production for agricultural goods that are sold within its own borders but are produced in other states. The "King Amendment", is both a reactive and preventative measure. It will ensure the federal government is able to put a halt to this unconstitutional movement among several states to exercise broad new powers that regulate how agriculture products are produced on farms.

When talking about the amendment, it is critical to note that it has no effect on any state's right to regulate the production of an agriculture product within its own borders, nor does it nullify any federal animal welfare laws. HSUS and others would like for you to believe that my amendment is a gross overreach and would nullify a slew of animal welfare provisions, but that is simply not true.

Not surprisingly, HSUS and others who oppose my amendment are not interested in lessening their opposition, and it's important that strong agriculture groups like NCBA and others stay engaged in the fight all the way through the conference process. Even though the amendment was added to the farm bill during the committee process in 2012 and in 2013, those who oppose this simple Constitutional measure refuse to relent in their opposition.

Now is the time to continue this fight both for PICA and the farm bill as a whole. Thank you to NCBA and to all their individual members for engaging in this fight with me. We must protect animal agriculture and not place onerous regulations and restrictions on how livestock is raised. I am honored you all are with me in this fight and appreciate all you are doing to advocate for my amendment and other shared priorities in the bill. I am determined to get this bill done and give America's farmers the five years of agriculture predictability they need, and am looking forward to beginning the conference committee process soon.

CattleFax Update

On Wed., Oct. 23, Commodity market values ended the day mixed - livestock contracts closed at mixed price levels, grains were steady to higher and energy values dropped. Equity values declined after posting five-consecutive days of higher values. Nearby live cattle futures closed \$0.70/cwt. higher. Prices in deferred live cattle contracts closed lower - pressuring actively traded feeder cattle futures contract prices around \$0.30 /cwt. lower. Boxed beef cutout values ended the day around \$1.50/cwt. higher. Grain futures closed higher. Corn futures prices added more than \$0.05/bu. Soybean futures closed \$0.07/bu. higher. Chicago wheat futures improved \$0.01 to \$0.02/bu., while Kansas City wheat futures added around \$0.04/bu.

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

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

On next week's edition of NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen we'll visit a ranch in Hawaii - the region six stewardship award winner! Plus we'll see how team beef, combines fitness, nutrition and beef promotion...that's this week on NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen debuting Tuesday night at 8:30 pm eastern, right here on RFD-TV.

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

Register NOW for the 2014 Cattle Industry Convention: Registration and housing is now open for the convention in Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 4-7, 2014! If you're in the cattle business then you need to be there. Click [here](#) to register today!

Rancher Relief Fund: South Dakota, Eastern Wyoming and the Black Hills region were hit hard by a blizzard Oct. 4. Some families have lost their entire livelihood. The South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, along with other producer organizations, has established the South Dakota Rancher Relief Fund with the Black Hills Area Community Foundation to provide support and relief assistance to those in the livestock industry impacted by the blizzard. Click [here](#) to donate today.

Oh, Say Can You Sing? NCBA is holding a National Anthem Singing Contest for those 18 and younger to determine the singer of the Star Spangled Banner at the 2014 Cattle Industry Annual Convention Opening General Session! For entry details and full contest rules, [Click Here!](#)

NCBA Weather Blog: October 2013 started off with a historic and devastating blizzard across South Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska. Since then it has been colder than normal for many areas of the Rockies and adjacent states to the east, while temperatures have been warmer in the far west and far eastern areas of the USA. This week will bring a shot of colder air into Upper Midwest and Great Lakes while the Rockies and far west will enjoy a nice stretch of fall weather. Some late effect snows will be possible and temperatures will plunge into freezing territory over portions of the Upper Midwest and even sections of central and northern Corn Belt by the end of the week. Read more about the weather in cattle country by following NCBA's Weather Blog [here](#).



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.