

# MARKETS UNDER INVESTIGATION

USDA provides update on investigation following 2019 Tyson beef plant closure and COVID-19 pandemic.

## Industry response

“We appreciate the USDA’s thorough examination of the beef markets. There’s little doubt that something is wrong when consumers are paying higher prices for meat and, at the same time, America’s farmers and ranchers are being paid less,” said American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall in a prepared statement.

Though pleased USDA responded to calls for an investigation, scrutiny of the markets is not concluded, Duvall pointed out.

“USDA indicates their examination continues and investigations by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, as well as the Department of Justice, are ongoing.”

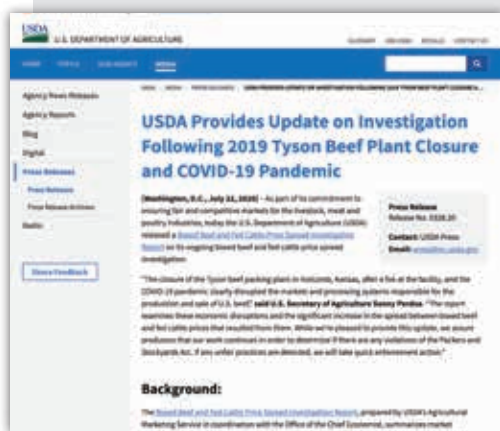
“We are pleased that USDA has produced a report into the market dynamics impacting cattle producers across the country,” said Ethan Lane,

National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) vice president of government affairs. “Since NCBA initially requested this investigation, this issue has remained a central topic of conversation for NCBA, our state affiliates and cattle producers throughout the country.”

Lane said that though the industry awaits results of the DOJ investigation, information in the report would be very helpful and timely to discussions of cattle markets and price discovery during NCBA’s Summer Business Meeting in Denver in late July.

“The top-line considerations detailed in this report provide a roadmap for returning transparency and true price discovery in the cattle marketplace,” said United States Cattlemen’s Association (USCA) President Brooke Miller. “USCA has long since advocated for making these changes through the reauthorization of Livestock Mandatory Reporting, a program which is due to expire on September 30, 2020.

“On July 1, USCA and 12 other organizations sent a letter to Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts requesting a hearing be held on the state of the U.S. cattle industry,” he continued. “It is simply unacceptable to be met with silence, while producers are asked to weather another year of declining farm and ranch income. Producer organizations have brought forth real, tangible marketplace solutions that are underscored in this report and that deserve to be brought forward for discussion on Capitol Hill.” |



Editor’s note: This article was compiled from news releases provided by the AFBF, USDA, NCBA and USCA.