

2007 Cattle Industry Annual Convention & NCBA Trade Show

Cattlemen Convene

Producers gather in Nashville for the 2007 Cattle Industry Annual Convention and NCBA Trade Show.

More than 6,500 cattle producers from across the nation descended on Nashville, Tenn., for the U.S. cattle industry's largest meeting, the Cattle Industry Annual Convention and NCBA Trade Show, Jan. 31-Feb. 3. The convention is hosted by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB), American National CattleWomen (ANCW), the National Cattlemen's Foundation (NCF) and Cattle-Fax.

Wednesday's Cattlemen's College® featured a full day of hands-on instruction and producer education. Sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health, this year's session featured 18 breakout workshops on a wide range of production and management topics.

Wednesday afternoon, the cattle industry's largest trade show opened a four-day run, featuring more than 270 exhibitors. For the first time ever, the



Tom Field of Colorado State University presented results of a survey to help establish priorities for the commercial cattle industry. See stories beginning on page 14 and 16 for more details.

trade show included a day that was free and open to the public.

Wednesday's general session featured Kevin Freiberg, who discussed

unconventional business practices and how entrepreneurs can use unique strategies to gain a competitive edge. The session also provided a preview of NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen* weekly television program that was to make its debut Feb. 6 on RFD-TV.

Cattle-Fax kicked off an information-packed Thursday schedule with its annual outlook seminar. Afterward, NCBA Beef Industry Issues Forums offered insights on animal identification (ID), natural and organic beef, the effect of ethanol and biofuels on the livestock industry, facts about foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), and recent task force recommendations for enhancing the Beef Checkoff Program.

Friday's keynote speaker was U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, who presented his comments on the farm bill and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) efforts to expand foreign market access.

Friday featured committee meetings in which NCBA members debated specific policy issues. Separate committees governing checkoff-funded programs received program updates and evaluated the progress toward this year's program goals. The committee meetings laid the groundwork for Saturday, when the convention concluded with meetings of the CBB and the NCBA Board of Directors.

"I'm glad to see so many cattlemen bringing energy and enthusiasm to the annual convention," said 2006 NCBA President Mike John, a cattleman from Huntsville, Mo. "It tells me that despite some difficult challenges, U.S. cattlemen want to play an active role in shaping their business climate and take charge of their future."

Angus Productions Inc. (API) is providing coverage of the event online at www.4cattlemen.com. Go to the newsroom to see highlights of the convention and trade show.

Only a sampling of API coverage is provided on the following pages of the *Angus Beef Bulletin*. See "NCBA members approve policies" for an overview of policy adopted at the NCBA business meeting. Summaries of three of the issues forums begin on page 39, and summaries of the Cattle-Fax outlook begin on page 34.

Visit the newsroom at www.4cattlemen.com to read proceedings of Cattlemen's College sessions, to listen to Cattlemen's College presentations and issues forums, to read summaries of many of the discussions, and to view products featured in the trade show. Materials will continue to be posted to the site as they are presented and prepared.

NCBA members approve policies

NCBA hosted its regular annual board and membership meetings Feb. 3, concluding the 2007 Cattle Industry Annual Convention and NCBA Trade Show.

Renewable energy was arguably the hottest topic of the four-day convention, due to the surging demand for ethanol and its effect on feedgrain prices. Rapidly increasing prices for corn and other feedgrains have raised operating costs for cattle feeders during the past four months, which in turn has contributed to lower calf and feeder-cattle prices.

The policy brought forward Friday by the NCBA Agriculture Policy Committee was approved in large part by NCBA members Saturday, with modest modifications in the policy resolution language. The resolution voiced support for the nation's commitment to reduced dependence on foreign energy, including efforts to develop renewable energy. But cattlemen called for transition to a market-based approach to renewable energy production, which would help level the playing field for cattle producers and other feedgrain users.

The resolution supports the "sunsetting" of fuel-blending tax credits and tariffs on imported ethanol, as these policies were primarily designed to boost the initial development in renewable fuel production and technology.

With alternative fuel production now growing at an astounding pace, cattlemen do not consider it appropriate for Congress to renew these mechanisms in their present form when they expire near the end of the decade. The 54¢-per-gallon



tariff on imported ethanol is set to expire in 2009, while the 51¢-per-gallon fuel-blending tax credit expires in 2010.

NCBA members also called for greater policy emphasis to be placed on development of cellulosic fuels. Production of these fuel types does not rely on feedgrains and would have a much smaller effect on grain prices.

NCBA members also approved policy with regard to live cattle trade with Canada. Currently, cattle and beef imports from Canada are limited to cattle 30 months of age or younger. A pending USDA proposal would allow beef from Canadian cattle of any age, and live cattle up to eight years of age.

Cattlemen did not reject the USDA proposal, but adopted a policy voicing concerns about its possible effect.

The policy resolution approved by NCBA members demands permanent identification (ID) of all live cattle imported from Canada through harvest, and calls for USDA to develop an orderly market transition plan before expanding the scope of cattle and beef imports from Canada.

“NCBA believes in treating our trading partners as we would like to be treated,” incoming NCBA President John Queen said. “But we want free, fair and reliable trade. USDA must look at the big picture and take steps to ensure that U.S. cattlemen are rewarded — not penalized — for opening our market to a wider range of imports.”

Cloning was also a topic of discussion at the convention, primarily because of the draft risk assessment announced by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in December. FDA's initial findings state that meat and milk from cloned animals and their offspring pose no health risk to consumers.

Cattlemen adopted a policy supporting the further development of cloning as one of many reproductive technologies that can be used to enhance the beef industry. But they also urged all technology companies and owners of cloned animals to voluntarily keep these animals and their offspring out of the food supply until FDA makes a final decision on its risk assessment.

NCBA members also proceeded with caution with regard to any changes in the Beef Checkoff Program. An industry-wide task force recently advanced a slate of recommendations for enhancing the checkoff, including an increase in the \$1-per-head checkoff rate (contingent on a producer referendum). But the policy resolution adopted by cattlemen seeks greater input and discussion on these task force recommendations before giving them renewed consideration at next year's convention.

New slate of officers

Queen, Waynesville, N.C., leads a full slate of new officers elected by NCBA members during the Saturday membership meeting. He succeeds Missouri cattleman Mike John as president. Guymon, Okla., cattle feeder

Paul Hitch is the new president-elect, while Andy Groseta of Cottonwood, Ariz., was chosen as vice president.

Illinois cattleman Steve Fogelsong will chair the NCBA Policy Division in 2007, with Montana rancher Bill Donald serving as vice chairman.

Gary Voogt of Michigan now chairs the Federation of State Beef Councils, with Iowa cattleman Alan Albright serving as vice chairman.

All policy adoptions and officer elections are now subject to approval by approximately 28,000 NCBA members

nationwide. Convention results become official only after the ballot process is completed.

—*Joe Schuele*



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Weather Outlook

Art Douglas, Creighton University, presented a weather outlook during the 38th Annual Cattle-Fax Outlook Seminar

at the 2007 Cattle Industry Annual Convention and NCBA Trade Show in Nashville, Tenn. Well-outlined topics

of discussion included current drought conditions, world weather conditions, the current El Niño status, and the spring and summer outlook.

The temperature patterns the U.S. has been experiencing have been prominent since 1998, and have been responsible for

widespread drought in the U.S., along with strong hurricane years in the Gulf and Atlantic states.

Regional droughts continue, especially in the North and West. However, a moderate El Niño effect in the equatorial Pacific has fueled a strong subtropical jet across northern Mexico and the southern Plains, easing drought conditions in these areas.

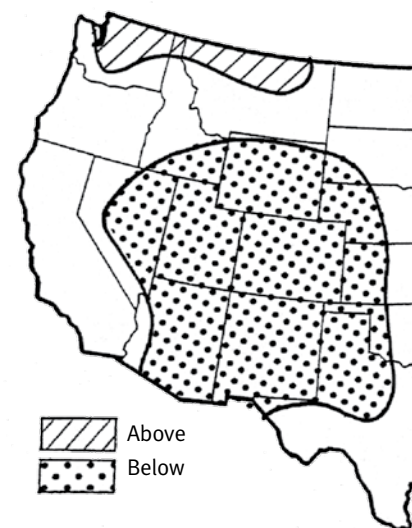
El Niño years, Douglas defined, are generally associated with warm waters along the West coast and cold waters in the central Pacific. However, 2007 had the opposite pattern.

Douglas explained cold water doesn't yield enough energy to produce storms, thus leaving land lax on precipitation. A strong ridge of high pressure formed, preventing Pacific storms from moving into California; therefore, much of California will miss out on a wet winter tied to El Niño.

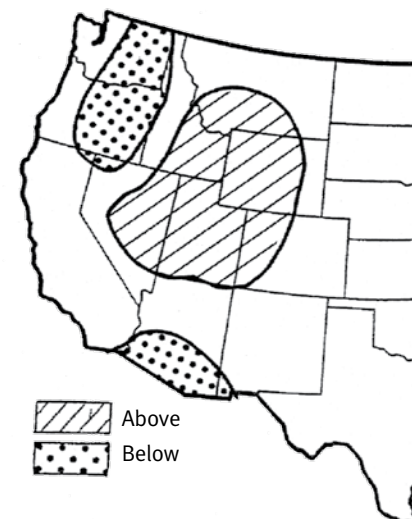
Moving into world weather conditions, Douglas predicted the Northern Hemisphere weather patterns to be shaped by the influence of warm

Fig. 1: March-May 2007 Cattle-Fax Weather Outlook

Temperature Outlook



Precipitation Outlook



Source: Reprinted with permission from Cattle-Fax



waters in the North Atlantic and cold waters in the East Pacific.

Parts of the Southern Hemisphere are experiencing extreme drought, especially Australia. Other parts, South America in particular, are experiencing conditions bordering on too wet, but allowing for optimum crop conditions.

With so many changes taking place, Douglas predicted the end of El Niño in March or April of this year, bringing with it a hot summer.

But before summer arrives, the U.S. will experience more cold weather. A high-pressure pattern along the West and East coasts has protected the country from cold air, Douglas said. That pattern has changed, allowing cold air into much of the country. This pattern, peaking in the first half of February, will continue, allowing cold temperatures in much of the country.

The western and northern half of the country will be drier than normal in February, with only moderate accumulations of snow, Douglas said. But March should bring higher

temperatures in the east-central U.S.

The summer weather pattern will bring a stronger upper-level high-pressure system in the Great Lakes region, bringing with it a warm, dry summer across the crop areas of the north central U.S., while the Pacific Northwest will be slightly cooler than

normal under a weak upper-level trough. A weak trough of low pressure is also forecast to form in the Southeast and will probably become a focal point for tropical storm tracks in the summer, Douglas said.

The cold-water pool in the eastern Pacific also favors drought in the

Southwest. This unfavorable sea surface temperature pattern will probably dominate weather patterns in the winter of 2007-2008.

— by Micky Wilson



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Forecasting the Numbers

“Prices on all classes of cattle are past the cycle high,” Kevin Good, senior market analyst, said Feb. 1 during the

38th Annual Cattle-Fax Outlook Seminar during the 2007 Cattle Industry Annual Convention and NCBA Trade Show in

Nashville, Tenn. Price trends are expected to decrease over the next three to four years as production expands.

This, Good said, is a time to focus on opportunities.

Total cattle numbers have increased 2.7 million head in the last three years, Good said. The total inventory as of Jan. 1 was expected to be at 97.6 million head, up 5% compared to a year earlier.

Also in 2006, cow slaughter was up 12%, totaling 5.43 million head. “The largest increases in beef cow slaughter occurred in the Southern Plains due to drought conditions,” he expounded. Beef cow slaughter is expected to be up in 2007, but just slightly.

Feeder-cattle and calf supplies are expected to be up 2% in 2007, totaling 28.75 million. Good projected higher grain costs will result in cattle staying out of feedyards longer. Feeders will realize lower costs of gain on grazing and backgrounding programs.

Imports of Mexican and Canadian feeder cattle are projected to decrease this year, primarily due to higher costs of gain in the U.S. and lower feeder-cattle and calf values. Good said he doesn't expect much change in imports from these countries in the five-year average.

At 774 pounds (lb.), average carcass weights increased by 12 lb. in 2006, Good reported. Cattle are expected to be on feed for fewer days, again due to expected high costs of gain, resulting in slightly lighter carcass weights.

Beef production totaled 26.053 billion lb. in 2006 and is expected to increase slightly more than 1% in 2007. Net beef supplies were 28.059 billion lb. in 2006 and are expected to increase less than 0.5% in 2007.

This will result in a slight decline in beef consumption for the year. Looking a couple of years down the road, Good said, “Per capita supplies are expected to be flat in 2008 and 2009 as population growth will offset the growth in net beef supplies.”

— by Micky Wilson

Global market, trade

Analyst Brett Stuart gave a short geography lesson to begin Cattle-Fax's global market and trade outlook. He began by looking at simple things, like worldwide population densities and areas categorized by income. Stuart explained that large populations don't always equate to large incomes, which are typically associated with larger per capita consumption of beef. Still, small percentage increases among large populations can add up fast.

A look at global beef production showed that in the past four years, beef production has been on the rise, led by increases in most of the largest beef-producing countries, including the U.S., Brazil, China and India. Global beef production is predicted to continue to increase in 2007.

Where will that beef go? Stuart predicted beef consumption to increase 2.58 billion pounds in 2007, with countries including China, Brazil, the U.S., India, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, the European Union (EU), Australia and



New Zealand leading growth. On the other hand, beef consumption is expected to decrease in Argentina, the Ukraine, Russia, Canada, Bulgaria and Egypt.

While the U.S. is the largest consumer of beef in the world, it is also the largest producer of beef and depends on exports to maintain fed-cattle prices. The U.S. has been regaining some of the exports that were lost after the December 2003 incidence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Considering only open markets (excluding Japan, South Korea, China and Russia), 2006 export volumes were 7% above pre-BSE levels, Stuart reported. But continued export growth will require additional market access in those markets.

South Korea is an important area of concern. It remains at a political stalemate with the U.S. regarding beef trade and free trade agreement (FTA) talks.

The U.S. also needs to work with Japan regarding the 30-month-of-age rule, Stuart commented. Current World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) discussions may affect the trade picture. In Paris, scientists are going to determine safety levels of cattle-exporting countries, and U.S. beef is expected to move to either controlled or negative-risk status. Either one will increase the marketability for U.S. beef internationally.

Japan isn't forced to accept or change its policies based on the new risk level assigned to U.S. cattle; however, Japanese officials tend to be influenced by OIE standards, Stuart said.

There are still some wildcards, Stuart said. A foreign disease could cause a loss of confidence among trading partners and consumers. And trade policies and foreign exchange policies could change rapidly.

But opportunities are still very much there, Stuart said. China has a huge population that could continue to open a bigger market, and the EU has a lot of high-income people to buy high-quality beef. There are also growing high-quality global niche markets. Wherever there are resorts or hotels across the world, there is a demand for high-quality meat.

The opportunities are out there, Stuart said. The beef industry must go get them.

— by *Mathew Elliott*

Corn, ethanol situation

Demand for corn is up 50% since the 1990s, Cattle-Fax analyst Mike Murphy told attendees as he presented Cattle-Fax's corn and ethanol situation and outlook. Corn acreage is expected to expand by 7-9 million acres to 85-87 million in 2007.

Ethanol production capacity is increasing rapidly. The Renewable Fuels Association states that there are 111 plants in operation today, with 75 plants being built, Murphy reported. The combined capacity of these plants could utilize 4.1 billion bushels (bu.) of corn during the 2007-2008 marketing year.

With this increase in corn demand for ethanol uses, the price of corn will

go up, Murphy predicted. Beef producers must learn to use ethanol coproducts to their advantage. Wet distillers' grains (WDG) are going to become very important. For every bushel of corn [56 pounds (lb.)], 17-18 lb. of distillers' grains can be produced. Coproduct feeding

could displace 25%-30% of corn used for livestock feeding, he added.

World corn consumption is also steadily increasing, while production has leveled off. The U.S. has produced an average of 41% of the world's corn. China is second with 21%, but it has

been exporting less corn due to increased domestic demand. Due to the increased consumption and leveling production, corn prices could trade from \$3 to \$4, Murphy predicted.

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Numbers *(from page 37)*

This shift in higher corn prices is expected to reflect a long-term shift, Murphy said. The basis levels are expected to remain stronger than ever. This could cause a shift in the beef industry — a subtle

shift to feeding cattle further north.

Another factor to look at is how the weather will affect the corn crop. As reported in the Cattle-Fax weather report, a drought could affect the 2007 growing season. This will provide a very volatile corn market that needs to be watched carefully.

Murphy concluded by saying that ethanol is here to stay; it's not going away. Higher corn prices will have a negative effect on calf and feeder-cattle prices. This can provide opportunities for some, and others will have to adjust. Higher corn prices are expected to affect the pork and poultry

industries more than the beef industry.
— *by Mathew Elliott*

Price outlook: 2007 and beyond

Presenting the Cattle-Fax price outlook for 2007, analyst Kevin Good noted record large numbers of cattle on feed (11.9 million) as of Jan. 1. Good said he expects total feedyard tallies to decline through the first half of 2007, as higher grain prices discourage new placements. Due to higher costs of gain, cattle feeders are likely to place heavier cattle and turn them quicker than they have in recent years.

With higher fed beef production, sellers have less leverage over packers, prompting slightly softer prices compared to last year. Good predicted fed steers will average about \$85 per hundredweight (cwt.). The Choice-Select spread should range from \$8 to \$25, averaging \$14 per cwt. in 2007.

With feedlot operators facing negative margins and increased supplies of feeder cattle and calves, prices should trend lower. Calves weighing 550 lb. could average \$110 per cwt. in 2007, with heavier feeders averaging around \$98. Good said bred cow prices peaked in 2005, declined by nearly \$100 per head in 2006, and are projected to decline by more than \$100 in 2007. Cow-calf profitability will remain strong enough to fuel only moderate herd expansion.

Looking farther into the future, Cattle-Fax Executive Vice President Randy Blach said ethanol-driven, sharply higher corn prices will be lasting. He urged cow-calf producers and stocker operators to take advantage of low-cost forages to add weight and meet feedlot demand for heavier cattle.

While some pundits predict the cattle-feeding industry is moving northward, Blach said a wholesale shift isn't likely. While northern cattle feeders enjoy an advantage in cost of gain, it is offset by a southern advantage in feeder-cattle purchase price and a marketing advantage due to close proximity to more packing plants.

And while beef export markets are rebounding, greater access to foreign markets is needed to reach export levels achieved prior to the United States' first case of BSE. Reaching those 2003 levels could have a \$6- to \$7-per-cwt. effect on long-term fed-cattle prices and add \$12 to the price of calves.

Blach foresees demand for more high-quality beef, which will support a respectable Choice-Select spread. He called instrument grading of carcasses a positive change for the industry that will create more pricing points for both yield and quality grade.

"Nothing is going to stay the same. It never has," Blach stated. "Change is constant. Those who accept change and adapt will prosper."

— *by Troy Smith*



Ethanol Fuels Talk

Ethanol is here, Keith Hansen, Hereford, Texas, told attendees at Thursday's Issues Forum addressing "Bio-Energy's Impact on the Beef Industry." The consulting nutritionist and vice president of XF Ent encouraged participants to accept the fact ethanol is here to stay and to look for ways to make ethanol work for the beef industry.

Ethanol is going to produce valuable products the cattle industry can take advantage of, Hansen said. The key is to find the ethanol plants that are producing an ethanol coproduct as opposed to the ethanol plants that are producing ethanol byproducts.

The difference, he explained, is that an ethanol coproduct is controlled. The nutrient value will be the same in everything that comes from the plant. Unfortunately, the nutrient value will differ from plant to plant. Ethanol byproducts will vary greatly in nutrient value, even from the same plant.

Products that can be useful to the beef industry include corn distillers' grains with solubles, corn distillers' grains, corn oil and low-fat corn distillers' grains.

The problem will be the above-mentioned differences between ethanol plants when producing the coproducts, Hansen said. There could be differences in levels of protein, energy (fat, starch and structural carbohydrates) and minerals, especially phosphorus and sulfur.

Bill Holbrook, ProExporter Network, said his goal was to take a complicated issue and not make it any more complicated. He said the hype and press might have gotten a little out of control for the industry.

"There's no doubt that the expansion rate is rapid," Holbrook said. "The magnitude of this expansion needs to be studied to make sure all of the plants are really going up. All it takes to say that a plant is being built is a little dirt to have been moved."

It was discussed that the corn supply will not be able to sustain demand given the projected acreage to be planted and the price. "I don't believe that the supply and demand will be able to handle some of the change," he said. "The key factor here is going to be the cost of crude oil, and that is out of our hands."

Gregg Doud, chief economist for NCBA, explained NCBA had no official position on ethanol yet. He mentioned that if NCBA members wanted to change that, the convention was the time to establish policy.

Doud said subsidies such as blender's credits and import tariffs were things to watch. "As we grow, we need to make sure that we have the corn to keep a reliable supply," he said. "What will happen if or when we can't grow that much corn?"

Doud concluded his part of the forum by addressing some of the new issues in biofuels, such as cellulosic energy and

soy diesel. These new products can be scary, he said, but they must be dealt with in the future.

After the speakers finished their formal presentations, audience members were given the opportunity to ask questions about biofuel issues.

— by Mathew Elliott

Editor's Note: The February Angus Journal, which was themed "Feeding and Feedstuffs," contained several articles related to corn coproducts and the effects of the biofuel industry on the beef industry. You can access the articles online at www.angusjournal.com.

Exploring the Issues

NAIS Update

In an update about the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), Lynn Heinze, vice president of information services for the

U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF); Charles Miller, chairman of the U.S. Animal Identification Organization (USAIO); and

Bruce Knight, USDA undersecretary for marketing and regulatory programs, gave a rousing session about the voluntary animal identification (ID) program.

Heinze started the session by calling animal ID a marketing advantage, citing disease traceability, building branded

beef programs, and increasing quality through the entire production chain as advantages of the system.

He then informed audience members of similar programs and their respective frameworks in other countries, including a mandatory program in Canada, a partially mandatory program in South America, a transport traceability assurance program in Korea, a program for marketing purposes in China, a bookkeeping system in Japan, a voluntary program in Australia and a mandate in Europe.

Heinze suggested retail stores are setting the standards for a traceability system for meat safety. He stressed that a quick-response system is needed, as is a product verification program. Citing the programs in other countries, he closed saying action must be taken in the U.S. because the competition is already doing something.

Miller led into his presentation by stating the objectives of the USAIO:

1. putting an animal movement database in private hands;
2. protecting the core business interest;
3. securing the confidence of producers;
4. minimizing costs across the industry; and
5. making the essential data available to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and state authorities.

USAIO, he said, measures success by complying with an industry-driven, nonprofit data-collection structure and a USDA-approved animal tracking database; by issuing broad commitment for utilization; and by defining a business model minimizing cost and providing for sustainability.

At this point in time, industry-based funding has not been forthcoming and, thus, the USAIO is in an inactive status; however, the database won't be deployed as of yet. The industry, Miller concluded, must decide who will control the animal movement data, and USAIO will move ahead as the industry directs.

Throughout his presentation, Knight stressed the importance of taking the first step in the NAIS — registering your premises. Following premises registration, individual animal ID and traceability can come into play. Producers can choose to participate in any one of these three previously mentioned steps.

“Participation is an individual business decision,” Knight reiterated. He assured attendees the voluntary system would keep confidentiality a top priority.

To get the word out to producers and get that ever-important first step taken, Knight told attendees USDA is planning to cooperate with industry organizations as a source of outreach, though some may argue USDA has done its job already.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns made having 25% of premises registered by Jan. 31, 2007, a goal; Knight announced that goal had been met. Some 353,000 premises are currently registered.

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The importance behind the push for the NAIS, Knight said, is animal health in the event of a disease breakout. He said he's confident USDA has developed a modern system to enable quick response — within 48 hours to be exact. Closing, Knight said, "Protect your own herd health. Protect your animals. Protect your livelihood. Protect your future."

— by Micky Wilson

Checkoff Checkup

Recommendations of the industry-wide Beef Checkoff Task Force were the focus of one of Thursday morning's Issues Forums. According to Kansas cattleman and task force spokesman Tracy Brunner, representatives of 12 national organizations were involved in exploring enhancements to the Beef Research and Promotion Act and Order. Enacted 20 years ago, the Act and Order established the current \$1-per-head beef checkoff and the rules under which it operates.

"It was a big and bold move to open discussion of potential changes after the checkoff overcame a challenge of unconstitutionality, and conventional thought suggested the industry should then leave well enough alone," Brunner stated.

At its first meeting the task force agreed that further study of three areas was warranted. Those areas included increased funding by raising the checkoff assessment and perception that the checkoff was controlled by one national industry organization, namely the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). Also included was the question of accountability to producers and the feasibility of a periodic referendum.

Following two more sessions, the task force made the following enhancement recommendations:

- Checkoff collections would be adjusted to \$2 per head, maintaining the 50:50 split between state beef councils and the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB). A rate change would have to be approved through a producer referendum.
- The referendum process would be revised, allowing producers to petition every five years for a referendum on continuing the checkoff. Ten percent of producers signing the petition would trigger scheduling of a referendum within one year.
- Since there is widespread misunderstanding regarding the structure of the Federation of State Beef Councils, changing its name to the Beef Checkoff Federation should be considered.

- To make the checkoff more inclusive, any reference to the charter date of established national nonprofit, industry-governed organizations would be eliminated from definitions in the Beef Promotion and Research Order.

According to Brunner, grassroots

producer input is the next step. Producers are urged to consider the recommendations in their respective organizations' policy development processes. If given sufficient support, appropriate congressional committees and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be asked

to address enhancements through amendments to the Act and Order. Then, a producer referendum would be held to affirm the amendments.

— by Troy Smith

