

Presidential Candidate Addresses Cattlemen

Overregulation, death tax high priority for Herman Cain.

Story by
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Attendees of the Cattle Industry Summer Conference were presented a unique opportunity at this year's event, which was Aug. 1-4 in Kissimmee, Fla.

General Session I, the highlight of Tuesday's jam-packed schedule of committee meetings and informational sessions, featured keynote speaker Herman Cain. A Georgia native, Cain announced his candidacy for president of the United States in May.

As a past guru of the food industry, Cain was effective in relating to the crowded room of cattlemen and women who gathered, standing room only, to hear his address. Cain is a past CEO of Godfather's Pizza, where he currently serves as co-owner. He is also a past CEO of the National Restaurant Association, and has been employed by The Coca-Cola Co., Pillsbury and Burger King.

"The pursuit of happiness is under attack in this nation. And this attack has me, you, my business, your businesses,

right in the crosshairs," he began. "Even though the American dream is under attack, I believe that collectively we can take it back."

Overregulation

Overregulation by the government — specifically the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) — was on the top of Cain's issues list. He compared the GIPSA crisis to that of medical malpractice lawsuits.

"Your industry is under attack by all of the regulations that are trying to be thrust upon you. Frivolous lawsuits drive up [doctors'] costs of medical liability insurance, so doctors practice defensive medicine," he explained. "If they are able to follow through with this GIPSA ruling, it's going to force you to do defensive marketing. That's a waste of your time."

Cain said defensive marketing ultimately hurts America's free-market system.

"When you start messing with the free-market system," he explained, "you are messing with what has helped to make

this one of the greatest economic nations on the planet."

The platform of Cain's presidential campaign, "commonsense solutions," is what he believes will be the best approach to solving the overregulation issue faced by agriculturalists today.

"If you want to know the solution to the problem, go to the source closest to the problem. Who knows best about the overreach of the EPA than the people who have been abused by the EPA? We have got to use commonsense solutions in order to make a deal with them," he declared.

The border and other issues

In addition to government overregulation, Cain touched on the economic, spending, energy, immigration and foreign policy crises. He received a large amount of applause when he declared that the U.S. border must be truly secured, and an even higher amount



NCBA President Bill Donald welcomes Herman Cain to the stage during the 2011 Cattle Industry Summer Conference.

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when he insisted that the death tax be dismissed.

Despite the problems agriculture, U.S. cattlemen and the country as a whole face today, Cain remains optimistic about the future, and about the role the American people will play in it.

"I'm optimistic. I'm optimistic that the American people have awakened a sleeping giant called 'we the people.' They have awakened it. And I don't believe that they're going back to sleep."



Editor's Note: Author Katie Gazda is continuing her internship with the Angus Productions Inc. (API) editorial team this fall as she returns to the University of Georgia to work toward her degree.