

# Industry Link

## U.S. cattle on feed up 1%

Cattle and calves on feed for harvest in the United States for feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.5 million head Nov. 1, 2005. The inventory was 1% above the same time last year and 4% above Nov. 1, 2003, figures.

Placements in feedlots during October 2005 totaled 2.80 million, 3% above 2004 figures and 1% above 2003 figures. Net placements were 2.74 million head.

Marketings of fed cattle during October 2005 totaled 1.74 million, 3% below 2004 figures and 6% below 2003 figures. This is the second-lowest fed-cattle marketings for the month of October since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 58,000 during October 2005, 12% below 2004 figures and 43% below 2003 figures.

**Table 1: No. of cattle on feed, placements, marketings and other disappearance, 1,000+-head-capacity U.S. feedlots, Nov. 1, 2003-2005**

	No. of head (1,000 head)			2005 as % of	
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004
On feed Oct. 1 <sup>a</sup>	10,218	10,502	10,482	103	100
Placed on feed during Oct.	2,781	2,701	2,795	101	103
Fed cattle marketed during Oct.	1,855	1,803	1,744	94	97
Other disappearance during Oct. <sup>b</sup>	101	66	58	57	88
On feed Nov. 1 <sup>a</sup>	11,043	11,334	11,475	104	101

<sup>a</sup>Cattle and calves on feed are animals for harvest being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade USDA Select or better.

<sup>b</sup>Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

**Source:** National Agricultural Statistics Service.

## Japan opens borders to U.S. beef

After approximately two years of hard-fought negotiations between U.S. and Japanese officials, the Japanese government Dec. 12 declared its borders open to U.S. beef imports. The government made the announcement just days after its Food Safety Commission (FSC) declared U.S. beef to be as safe as its own.

At press time, Japanese media were predicting the country would begin receiving U.S. and Canadian beef before the end of December 2005.

As the national cattle industry rejoices, both U.S. and Japanese officials are quick to point out the market arrangement has its limitations. The border has opened only to U.S. beef from cattle aged up to 20 months, provided specified materials are removed from product being shipped. Plus, many Japanese consumers have voiced concern about eating U.S. beef.

Yasuhiro Yoshikawa, a member of the FSC panel that considered the safety of U.S. beef in relation to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), told *The Associated Press* (AP) that more than 50% of public comments the commission collected prior to making its decision were against the resumption of U.S. imports. Consumers voiced similar concern in a *Kyodo News* survey early December, the article noted, with three-fourths of respondents saying they would be unwilling to eat U.S. beef.

Government officials and commission members have defended their findings,

however, maintaining that U.S. beef poses no greater risk of BSE infection than Japanese beef, provided import restrictions are met.

## USDA amends restrictions on Canadian beef, ruminants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in mid-November proposed lifting all BSE restrictions on imported Canadian cattle older than 30 months, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Administrator Ron DeHaven said.

The restrictions, in place since Canada's first case of BSE was disclosed in 2003, were previously eased to allow cattle younger than 30 months to enter the U.S. DeHaven expects the new rule will be proposed within the next few months and will be followed by a public comment period.

"There would still be an age ceiling, because they'd have to be animals born after Canada instituted an effective feed ban. So, only animals born after 1997 could cross," USDA spokesman Hallie Pickhardt said.

APHIS also announced it is amending regulations regarding the handling of shipments of ruminants from Canada and the transloading of ruminant products and byproducts that travel across the United States by land from Canada to Mexico or to another country.

In the interim rule, the agency proposes the seals on vehicles used to move animals from Canada — either to a feedlot or to a harvesting facility — must be broken by an authorized USDA

representative to allow animals in transit to be offloaded in a timely manner at their destination, while still maintaining the integrity of the shipment.

An authorized USDA representative is defined as an APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) employee; a USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) inspector; a state representative; an accredited veterinarian; or an employee of an accredited veterinarian, harvesting establishment, or feedlot who is designated by the accredited veterinarian or management of the harvesting establishment or feedlot to perform the function involved.

Visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) for more information.

### **Mineral recommendations available**

The University of Kentucky (UK) College of Agriculture's Beef Integrated Resource Management (IRM) program released recommendations aimed at providing the most up-to-date mineral information available to beef producers.

There are three formula recommendations from UK, including a basic cow-calf formulation, a pre- and early-lactation high-magnesium (Mg) formula to use when conditions for grass tetany exist, and a formula containing monensin for stocker cattle.

Visit [www.ca.uky.edu/agc/news/2005/Nov/mineral.htm](http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/news/2005/Nov/mineral.htm) for more information.

### **Researchers test retinal scan technology**

New Mexico State University (NMSU) researchers are testing advanced retinal imaging technology on cattle and studying its applications for a national animal health tracking system.

The project, the first of its kind, included tests on 35 market steers using eye-scanning technology alongside radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tags for animal ID evaluation, NMSU reports.

The retinal imaging technology flashes a beam of light into the animal's eyeball and records the unique pattern of veins in the eye. The image is downloaded to a computer database, providing quick, accurate and traceable animal ID.

For more information visit <http://spectre.nmsu.edu:16080/media/news2.lasso?i=844>.

### **\$2.7 billion available for voluntary conservation**

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced the release of nearly \$2.7 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2006 for voluntary conservation programs on working lands.

The early release of funds ensures farmers and ranchers in the nation's 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Pacific Basin have more time to make sound decisions regarding their conservation practices. States will receive their allocations much earlier than in the past.

With financial and technical assistance from the Natural Resources

Conservation Service (NRCS), farmers, ranchers and other landowners will continue to address resource concerns on agricultural working lands, promote environmental quality, address challenges in water quality and quantity, protect prime farmland and grazing lands, and protect valuable wetlands ecosystems and wildlife habitat.

Additional information about NRCS

programs is available at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs). Landowners who want specific information regarding program participation should contact their local USDA Service Center or NRCS office.

### **South Dakota beef program gains momentum**

Participants in the South Dakota

Certified™ Beef program say the state project to promote local beef is beginning to pay off, AP reported.

South Dakota Agriculture Secretary Larry Gabriel said approximately 90 ranchers have been trained and licensed for the program, and about 6,000 cattle have been enrolled. According to the article, ranchers must use RFID tags on all

*(Continued on page 116)*

## Industry Link *(from page 115)*

enrolled cattle. Four small plants in South Dakota are processing the beef products.

### **USDA awards grants for rural development research**

Secretary Johanns announced Dec. 2, 2005, eight grants totaling \$2.4 million for research on rural development.

According to the USDA, the funded rural development projects examine the social, economic, technological and demographic factors that affect quality of life for rural Americans. Topics covered include land use at the rural/urban fringe; investments of financial, social and human capital for rural economic

development; and intergenerational assistance among rural and farm families.

The average award size was \$299,000. Visit [www.usda.gov/2005/12/0522.xml](http://www.usda.gov/2005/12/0522.xml) for more information.

### **Funds designated for markets, trade research**

Secretary Johanns also announced 11 grants totaling \$2.2 million awarded for

research on agricultural markets and trade. The grants support research examining trade barriers, consumer behavior and choice, market mechanisms, and organizational structures of agriculture and agricultural research investments, according to USDA.

USDA reports that research from the grants will benefit, among others, the livestock sector in addition to producers of genetically modified grain and consumers around the world. The average award size was \$199,500. Visit [www.usda.gov/2005/12/0524.xml](http://www.usda.gov/2005/12/0524.xml) for more information.

### **Video explains beef checkoff program**

The Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board (CBB) released a 28-minute Internet video that examines the Beef Checkoff Program from its 1986 beginning to today.

The video, "The Beef Checkoff — Building Beef Demand," contains information about what initiated the mandatory beef checkoff, what beef producers are saying about the program today and the effect it has had on the beef industry in the United States. The CBB administers the program, and it is overseen by the USDA.

To access the video, visit [www.beefboard.org/checkoffprograms.aspx](http://www.beefboard.org/checkoffprograms.aspx). Contact Christian Hawley at (303) 850-3354 to receive the movie on a DVD.

## **Washington Watch**

### **House discusses manure use**

The U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials conducted a hearing in mid-November regarding the regulation of rural livestock manure, titled "Superfund Laws and Animal Agriculture."

According to a National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) release, some members of Congress are considering regulating manure applications on ranches and farms under Superfund waste laws — accompanied by reporting requirements created to provide for cleanup of toxic waste dumps and hazardous chemical spills.

According to NCBA, if manure use falls under such regulations, every livestock and poultry operation or farming operation could become subject to comprehensive cleanup guidelines. For more information visit <http://hill.beef.org>.

### **Grizzlies could be removed from ESA list**

NCBA reported that Interior Secretary Gale Norton proposed removing the greater Yellowstone population of grizzly bears from the list of federal endangered species.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA)

listings often require ranchers remove livestock from grazing areas determined to be "conflict areas."

The proposal to delist the grizzly bear was published in the *Federal Register* on Nov. 17. More information is posted at <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov>.



### **GAO asked to evaluate animal ID**

Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) has asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate the USDA's plans for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

Harkin is asking GAO to evaluate and determine the cost of implementing NAIS, costs to producers and government, and to determine how effectively USDA has used money for developing NAIS.

"After two years of discussions, USDA has no clear plan for moving forward with a workable system. Producers are getting upset that they still don't know how much the system will cost them and who will run it," Harkin said.



### **Senate urges USDA to consider digital RFID**

The U.S. Senate has set aside more than \$33 million for projects related to the NAIS in its version of the FY 2006 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, according to *Yahoo Financial News*.

According to the news service, the Senate's version suggests USDA consider Digital Angel Corp.'s RFID technology. The company currently provides the government with electronic tags and scanners to track salmon in Northwest fisheries.

producers on current industry topics, will begin in Tecumseh, Neb., Jan. 11, then it travels to Holton, Kan. On Jan. 12, the conference will begin in Savannah, Mo., followed by Lewis, Iowa, in the afternoon.

Topics during the sessions will include sire selection and expected progeny difference (EPD) interpretation, marker-assisted selection for tenderness and marbling, minimizing calf health losses,

and summer feeding alternatives for the cow herd.

Registration, which will begin at 9:30 a.m. for morning sessions and at 3:30 p.m. for afternoon sessions, is \$25 per person and is due Jan. 6. Registration includes a meal and a copy of conference proceedings.

For more information or to register, contact your local county Extension office

or the Jackson County Extension office at (785) 364-4125. Visit [www.extension.iastate.edu/feci/4StBeef](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/feci/4StBeef) for further information.



### **NDSA Feeder Council meeting Jan. 12, Bismarck, N.D.**

The North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) Feeder Council will  
(Continued on page 118)

## **Industry Events**



### **2006 Feedlot Management School**

**Jan. 10-Feb. 28, Mount Vernon, Ohio**

Ohio State University Extension is offering feedlot operators and cattle producers a chance to increase their knowledge of feedlot management. The university will conduct an eight-week program of finishing cattle and feedlot courses. Courses will take place every Tuesday from Jan. 10 through Feb. 28 at the Knox County Agriculture Center in Wooster, Ohio.

Topics will include profitability in feedlots, anatomy and function of ruminant digestive systems, grain processing methods, feedbunk management and feed intake control, USDA grades, grid pricing, and more.

Registration, which includes a resource notebook and refreshments, is \$50. Contact Jeff McCutcheon at (740) 397-0401 or [mccutcheon.30@osu.edu](mailto:mccutcheon.30@osu.edu) for more information.



### **Four-State Beef Conference**

**Jan. 11-12, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa**

The 22nd annual beef conference, designed to update cow-calf and stocker

**Industry Link** *(from page 117)*

host a free educational seminar, titled "Beyond the Bunk: Advice for the Cattle-Feeding Professional," beginning at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck.

Program topics will include financial programs available to producers, new programs available for cattle feeders

from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), feeder procurement and marketing alternatives, managing operational margins, current nutrition trends in the feeding sector, and more.

Registration for the free seminar will be taken on site. For more information call Scott Ressler at (701) 223-2522.

**2006 R-CALF National Convention****Jan. 18-21, Denver, Colo.**

Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers Association (R-CALF USA) will host its 2006 national convention at the Doubletree hotel in Denver.

The convention will begin with officer and committee reports, a country-of-origin labeling (also referred to as COL or

COOL) panel, a trade panel, animal ID discussions, and BSE-related issues. Regional caucuses will take place, and policy development and nominations for directors are scheduled. Social events, an awards banquet, fundraisers and a tradeshow are also scheduled to occur during the four-day convention.

Early registration is \$50 per attendee, plus meals. After Jan. 10, the registration increases to \$60 per person. Call (406) 252-2516 to register.

Visit [www.r-calfusa.com/Events/2006\\_convention.htm](http://www.r-calfusa.com/Events/2006_convention.htm) for more information.

**2006 Intermountain Nutrition Conference****Jan. 24-25, Salt Lake City, Utah**

The eighth annual Intermountain Nutrition Conference will take place at the Red Lion Hotel, at 161 W. 600 S., Salt Lake City. The conference will provide current information on nutrition and nutrition-related management issues pertaining to the dairy and beef industries.

Topics to be addressed include selenium nutrition, understanding cow behavior, variations in silage quality, fat and fatty acid digestion in ruminants, and feed management.

The conference is approved for eight American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) credits. Registration is \$100 if received by Jan. 7, and \$120 thereafter. The early registration fee for students is \$30. It is \$50 for regular, on-site student registration. Registration for farmers and ranchers is set at \$50.

A block of rooms at special conference rates will be reserved through Jan. 3. Contact Red Lion Hotel at (801) 521-7373 to make reservations.

For more information, visit [www.usu.edu/trdhiran/IMNC/Imnc.htm](http://www.usu.edu/trdhiran/IMNC/Imnc.htm) or contact Karma Wood at (435) 797-2145 or [karmaw@ext.usu.edu](mailto:karmaw@ext.usu.edu).

**Heart of America Grazing Conference****Jan. 25-26, Cave City, Ky.**

The Heart of America Grazing conference, which moves annually from state to state, targets producers in Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Missouri. This year's conference will take place at the Cave City Convention Center.

Conference topics include extended grazing to lower animal feed costs, the potential for year-round grazing, hay and silage quality, and information on improved grazing strategies for livestock.

The conference begins at 6 p.m. Jan. 25 and continues throughout the following day. Registration, which includes dinner, lunch and proceedings, is \$15 per person for one day and \$25 for both days. Preregistration is encouraged.

For more information or to register, visit [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage) or contact Garry Lacefield at (270) 365-7541, Ext. 202.

*(Continued on page 120)*

**Industry Link** *(from page 118)* **2006 Cattle Industry Annual Convention****Feb. 1-4, Denver, Colo.**

NCBA, the CBB, American National CattleWomen Inc. (ANCW), National Cattlemen's Foundation (NCF) and Cattle-Fax will host the conference, themed "Cowboy Up!" at the Colorado

Convention Center in downtown Denver.

The event will begin Wednesday morning with the popular Cattlemen's College®, sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health, at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) Complex. Low-stress animal handling demonstrations are scheduled, and breakout sessions will

cover animal ID, weaning strategies, live-cattle and feeder-cattle contracts and more. A Cattle-Fax outlook seminar will also offer insights on cattle markets.

Policy issues will be discussed throughout the event, with international trade, BSE testing and regulatory policy, animal ID, environmental issues, and property rights taking center stage. NCBA members will determine

organization policy and review checkoff-funded programs during the convention.

A trade show featuring more than 250 exhibitors will also take place, and an NCBA-PAC/PEF bull sale is scheduled for 2 p.m., Thursday.

For more information about the event, contact NCBA's Convention Department at (303) 694-0305 or visit [www.beefusa.org/annualconvention.aspx](http://www.beefusa.org/annualconvention.aspx).

 **2006 World Ag Expo****Feb. 14-16, Tulare, Calif.**

International trade and export seminars are scheduled during the expo, which will take place at the International Agri-Center in Tulare. The seminars are free with paid World Ag Expo admission.

Seminar topics will cover business, the Farm Bill, trade with China, emerging markets and related issues.

General admission is \$7, with a three-day pass available for \$18. For more information and a full schedule of events, visit [www.farmshow.org](http://www.farmshow.org) or call 1-800-999-9186.

 **USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum****Feb. 16-17, Arlington, Va.**

USDA will host the forum, titled "Prospering in Rural America," at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington.

Secretary Johanns, USDA officials, industry analysts, business leaders, farmers and other ag leaders are scheduled to speak. Topics will include rural development, economic outlook for commodities, conservation, globalization and U.S. trade, animal health, biotech development, and farm policy. Approximately 1,500 people are expected to attend the event.

Registration is \$285 and includes a choice of 30 sessions, CD-ROM of all 130 speeches, the *USDA Agricultural Baseline Projections by 2015*, two luncheons and a dinner event. For more information or to register, visit [www.usda.gov/oce/forum](http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum) or call 1-877-572-6043.

 **Mid-South Stocker Conference****Feb 16-17, Clarksville, Tenn.**

The conference, themed "Taking It to the Next Level," will take place at the Holiday Inn in Clarksville.

Kentucky and Tennessee Cooperative Extension Services and allied industries in the Mid-South region are planning the event, which is designed to help stocker feeders explore new ideas for feeding and producing healthy cattle. A tour of stocker operations in the area will kick off the conference, followed by presentations on economic feeding, electronic ID, branded beef and the industry's future. A trade show will also take place.

Contact Jim Neel at (865) 974-7294 or [jneel@utk.edu](mailto:jneel@utk.edu) for more information.