

R-CALF USA Announces Meeting

The Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA) will conduct its eighth annual convention Jan. 17-20 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Denver, Colo.

"This year, we've expanded the

convention by a day so folks can participate in a property rights seminar, scheduled for 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 17," says Chuck Kiker, R-CALF USA president and Region V director. "R-CALF members voted last spring to

create a Property Rights Committee, and I know the speakers lined up for this new event will be making some exceptional presentations."

Opening ceremonies will start at 8 a.m. Mountain time, Thursday, Jan. 18.

Activities will conclude Saturday, Jan. 20, with the business session, where members decide which proposed resolutions will go forward in the spring to the entire membership for a vote. Members who wish to submit policy resolutions can do so by contacting R-CALF USA headquarters immediately. The deadline for presenting policy resolutions during the convention is 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19, with the exception of proposed policy related to trade, which has a 5 p.m. deadline that day.

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns will be the featured speaker Friday morning, Kiker notes. "There are just so many issues affecting the domestic live-cattle industry that will be coming before Congress next year that we wanted to make certain our members are well-informed when it's time for them to contact their senators and representatives to make their voices heard on those important matters."

Speakers

Experts from these agencies and organizations will participate in a number of panel discussions, which include topics of animal identification (ID), animal health concerns, country-of-origin labeling (sometimes referred to as COL or COOL), the beef checkoff, international trade, captive-supply, transparency issues and economic outlooks.

"It's also important to note that USDA has agreed to meet with representatives of all 17 brand states during our convention to discuss how to incorporate the use of hot-iron brands into various animal identification programs," Kiker says.

Trade show

Participants are encouraged to visit with vendors of the trade show. Thursday's convention wraps up with a cowboy social followed by a shuttle ride to watch the rodeo at the historic National Western Stock Show (NWSS). Friday formalities conclude with an evening reception, followed by the awards presentation, banquet and entertainment. Saturday winds up the convention with a business session and closing comments from Kiker.

Convention registration is \$70 per person, plus meals, after Jan. 10. For registration information, contact R-CALF USA Membership Services Coordinator Jenni Ries at (406) 252-2516.

The convention will again be at the DoubleTree Hotel Denver. Call the DoubleTree directly at (303) 321-3333 to make reservations. Upon arrival at the hotel, please stop by R-CALF USA's registration desk to pick up a convention packet.



Editor's Notes: This article was adapted from a release by Shae Dodson, communications coordinator of R-CALF USA, which provided the release.