

**Our Mission:**

Working to advance the interests of South Dakota's Cattlemen through the representation and promotion of the beef industry.

Working for YOU!

**S**DCCA represents the **interests of cattlemen** and provides **influence with decision makers** by valuing honesty and integrity and speaking with a unified voice to ensure **long-term profitability for South Dakota's beef producers**.

Here are a few of the issues SDCA has been actively monitoring:

**Tax Relief:** Long-standing SDCA policy advocates property tax valuation based on productivity. We successfully passed legislation in 2008 that will determine ag land valuations based on the land's ability to produce. The Ag Land Assessment Advisory Task Force was also created and met last summer to gather data and create the appropriate framework to ensure fairness for all ag producers. As a result, the legislature will consider 2 proposals to help with the transition during the 2009 session. One extends the transition period by two years and protects the local school district funds. The other allows using cash rents as the basis for determining the value of pasture land, sets the landlord share of cropland at 35% of the annual gross return, and limits annual decreases (as well as increases) for ag land at a maximum of 15% per year. SDCA is actively lobbying for passage of these measures to ensure ag produces aren't taxed off the land.

**Activists:** Well-funded animal rights and environmental activist groups persistently oppose the continuation of animal agriculture. SDCA works proactively with our members and other advocacy groups to ensure your business is perceived in a positive light by the media and policy-makers locally, statewide, and nationally. We also work to remind the public that cattlemen strive to be good environmental stewards while caring for our animals utilizing industry-led guidelines based on scientific recommendations.

**Animal ID:** SDCA policy supports a voluntary system that addresses concerns with confidentiality of producer information and ensures no undue burden is placed on livestock producers. SDCA also supports a mandatory program to address breeding stock identification and traceability in South Dakota. SDCA has opposed proposed state legislation in recent years that would have required any animal identification program in the state to be implemented on a voluntary basis due to concerns it would tie the hands of the State Vet and the Animal Industry Board, resulting in limited options for dealing with animal disease outbreaks.

**Our Vision:**

SDCA will be South Dakota's premier beef organization that consumers and producers rely on for truth and integrity in the beef industry while promoting a healthy environment.



**National Cattlemen's  
Beef Association**

**January, 2009**

**Our Mission:**

Working to increase profit opportunities for the cattle and beef industry by enhancing the business climate and building consumer demand.

**Working for YOU!**

**S**ince its inception in 1898, NCBA has been the primary marketing and trade association for America's one million cattle ranchers. NCBA works for producers in all 50 states through a network of individual producers and state and breed affiliates. Ninety percent of NCBA's 27,000 individual members are cow/calf producers, stockers and feeders. Your NCBA is in the **court of public opinion** and the **court of public policy every day** working on **all the issues** that affect your business and **opportunity for profitability**. Here are a few of the issues NCBA has addressed this year:

*NCBA has been fighting for the cattle producer inside the beltway. Below is a review of some of our biggest victories in 2008.*

**Trade:** Export markets add approximately \$180 per head to the value of our animals. After Dec. 23, 2003, most international markets were closed to U.S. beef. However, we have been able to reopen all but a few of these markets. Most significantly, we were able to open the South Korean market in June. The next step will be for Congress to ratify the U.S.-Korean Free Trade Agreement. NCBA continues to argue for fair and open trade practices between all our trading partners and believes that trade should be based on International Animal Health (OIE) scientific guidelines. In 2009, NCBA will continue to push for the acceptance of the Korea, Colombian and Panamanian Free Trade Agreements. We'll also work to expand our access to other important markets, including Japan and the EU.

**COOL:** Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) is now mandatory for all beef, pork, chicken, lamb, goat meat and many other products. NCBA played a critical role in the 2008 Farm Bill debate to make COOL friendlier and less burdensome to cattle producers. NCBA's biggest victory was in the creation of an industry-wide producer affidavit that can be used throughout the cattle marketing chain to ease your paperwork burden. In late September, some COOL advocates disapproved of the way some processors intended to utilize the "Category B – Mixed Origin" label and asked Congress to pass another bill clarifying the intent of COOL labeling. This bill would have worked its way through Congress less than 10 days before COOL was to be implemented. NCBA met with congressional leaders and urged them to avoid costly and confusing last-minute changes, and instead to evaluate the effectiveness of the program during the six month implementation period. NCBA will be monitoring COOL's impact on beef markets and will work with our partners to implement any changes that may be deemed necessary.

**Horse Slaughter:** In late July, Congress made another attempt at banning the processing of horses for human consumption by introducing H.R. 6598, the "Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008." H.R. 6598, introduced by Congressman John Conyers (D-Mich.), would put a federal criminal penalty of 1-3 years in a federal prison for anyone knowingly owning, possessing, buying, selling or transporting a horse with the intent of slaughtering that horse for human consumption. This bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee, also chaired by Congressman Conyers, and quickly moved through the committee process. While H.R. 6598 was voted out of the House Judiciary Committee by a voice vote, NCBA was successful in having the bill sequentially referred to the House Agriculture Committee prior to it being considered for a floor vote. This referral means the jurisdiction of horse slaughter matters belongs before the House Agriculture Committee – and not in some other committee. The activist groups portray this as an animal welfare issue. However, since the closing of three horse slaughter plants by state laws, there has been a tremendous increase in the amount of horses that have been abandoned, neglected or abused.

*To contact Congress on these and other issues that are important to U.S. cattle producers, visit <http://capwiz.com/beefusa>.*

**Did you know?**

- ◆ For more information about how NCBA Works for You in DC, visit us online at <http://hill.beef.org>.
- ◆ NCBA has two distinct divisions: The Policy Division influences public policy and provides producer education, and the Federation of State Beef Councils oversees beef promotion, research, consumer information and related activities funded by voluntary investments from state beef councils through their portion of the beef checkoff.

**Denver Headquarters:**  
9110 East Nichols Ave., Suite 300  
Centennial, CO 80112  
866-BEEFUSA  
[www.beefusa.org](http://www.beefusa.org)  
**Washington DC Office:**  
1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
202-347-0228  
[www.hill.beef.org](http://www.hill.beef.org)