

Our Mission:

To advance and protect the interests of all cattlemen by enhancing profitability through representation, promotion and information sharing.

Working for YOU!

SDCA 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:

Trade: The recent flu epidemic, originally termed swine flu and now referred to as H1N1, is an example of how quickly an issue can affect trade. In extreme knee-jerk reactions on the part of our trading partners, several countries banned ALL MEAT imports from the U.S. due to unfounded fears that the H1N1 virus was a food safety concern. SDCA and NCBA support science-based trade policies that put U.S. producers on a level playing field and ensure market stability and we continue to advocate for beef trade protocols based on OIE Guidelines.

Environment: SDCA supports regulatory policies based on sound science and we continually work to ensure your business isn't threatened by burdensome environmental regulations. We work with NCBA to monitor proposals for "Climate Change" legislation (formerly referred to as global warming) and we'll strive to ensure agriculture is included as part of the solution, not considered part of the problem. Last month, we also took advantage of Earth Day celebrations to remind the public that cattlemen are "everyday environmentalists" who care for our animals and the natural resources entrusted to our stewardship.

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 successfully defeated a measure in the state Legislature that would have subjected cattlemen to a stringent definition of animal torture which was proposed by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), an activist group with a stated mission of ending animal agriculture in our country. We also continue to oppose efforts to ban the harvest of horses, or transportation of horses to harvest, and we're monitoring Congressional efforts to impose much more stringent regulations on water.

We are your voice on ALL THE ISSUES that affect your livelihood!

SDCA issues and comments can be found on our website at
www.sd cattlemen.org.

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**

May, 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!

Since 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:

Death Tax: In late March and early April, Congress debated the fiscal 2010 Budget Resolution. The Budget Resolution acts as the guiding document as Congress debates the fiscal 2010 budget. Of interest to cattle producers was the Lincoln-Kyl Amendment which would have raised the exemption level for the Death Tax to \$5 million per individual and \$10 million per couple at a maximum tax rate of 35%. THANKS to everyone who helped in our grassroots efforts to garner support for this amendment, we were able to generate a large number of calls in a short period of time and had a huge impact on the outcome of the amendment vote. In what was considered an historic vote, the Senate approved the Lincoln-Kyl Amendment by a vote of 51-48. However, early this month the Conference Committee released their final take on the Budget Resolution and, unfortunately, the Lincoln-Kyl Amendment did not make it into the final version of the bill.

NCBA is disappointed the Lincoln-Kyl Amendment was not included in the final fiscal 2010 Budget Resolution. However, we continue to work with members in both chambers to urge for further Death Tax reform. Congress is expected to bring up Death Tax reform this fall, so NCBA is collecting stories about how the Death Tax affects cattle producers. If you have a story you would be willing to share, please e-mail it to Elizabeth Bostdorff at ebostdorff@beef.org.

Clean Water Restoration Act: Congress has once again introduced the Clean Water Restoration Act (S. 787). Currently, waters under the jurisdiction of the federal Clean Water Act are defined as "navigable waters of the United States." S. 787 seeks to remove the word "navigable" from the definition. It has been assigned to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee where it has been scheduled for a mark-up in early May. Removing the word "navigable" could expand the jurisdiction of the federal government so that any water would be covered, including small and intermittent streams, mudflats, sloughs, mud holes, wet meadows, groundwater, ditches, pipes, wet farmland, drain tiles, and more. This is essentially a huge land grab by the federal government and challenges your private property rights to care for any waters on your land. NCBA strongly opposes this bill and is urging the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to postpone the bill's mark-up. Cattle producers from all over the country have been calling their senators and asking them to oppose S. 787. To participate in these efforts, please visit <http://capwiz.com/beefusa> and join the Action E-List.

NCBA continues to work as your voice in Washington, D.C. 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.

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