

Our Mission:

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

Working for YOU!

S DCA 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:

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.

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 ensure agriculture is part of the solution in "Climate Change" legislation, rather than being part of the problem. Likewise we continue to monitor the so-called "Clean Water Restoration Act" to ensure this onerous bill doesn't impact landowners. The CWRA proposes to remove the term navigable from the definition of waters of the U.S., bringing ALL water under the jurisdiction of EPA. SDCA is opposed to this legislation due to the inhibitions it would impose on private property rights.

Trade: The recent H1N1 flu epidemic is an example of how quickly an issue can affect trade. In extreme knee-jerk reactions, several countries banned ALL MEAT imports from the U.S. due to unfounded fears that the H1N1 virus was a food safety concern. SDCA supports 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.

Marketing: SDCA policy supports a producer's right to choose the best marketing methods for their cattle and we oppose the "Livestock Marketing Fairness Act" that would inhibit value-added marketing for livestock. We encourage cattlemen to contact Senator Johnson and let him know how this onerous bill would impact your operation.

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

SDCA issues and comments can be found on our website at www.sdcattlemen.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**

July, 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:

June was a busy month in Washington, D.C. as Congress took a swing at lofty legislative priorities. Below is a review of just some of the things that NCBA is doing for you.

Clean Water Restoration Act: In late June, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed S. 787, the Clean Water Restoration Act of 2009, by a 12-7 vote on party lines. This bill will redefine "waters of the United States". Following the vote, Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) placed a hold on the bill, meaning it can't come to the floor without 60 yes votes. During the debate, the committee accepted an amendment offered by Senators Baucus, Klobuchar and Boxer as a substitute version of the bill. The sponsors of the substitute assert it will address agricultural concerns by exempting prior-converted croplands from federal jurisdiction. While this is an improvement over the original bill, it does not go far enough to protect agriculture. The substitute does not address the likelihood that the EPA would work to regulate farm ponds, storm water retention ponds, drainage ditches and mud holes. The substitute fails to address the larger issue and still removes the word "navigable" from the definition of "waters of the United States". By removing the word "navigable" from the definition, private lands would be subject to federal jurisdiction, allowing extensive regulation by the federal government. NCBA remains actively opposed to this bill.

Climate Change: On June 26, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2454, the "American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009" (the Climate Change Bill), by a vote of 219 to 212. Amendments included in the final version of the bill would exempt agriculture from being regulated under an emissions cap and provide a list of eligible ag offsets. NCBA applauds the efforts of Agriculture Committee Chairman Colin Peterson in crafting these amendments. However, these changes do not address the significant economic burden the Climate Change Bill may impose on cattle producers. Some economists estimate the Climate Change Bill would cause farm income to decrease from \$8 billion (in the short term) to \$50 billion (long term), likely pushing many operations into insolvency. NCBA will work to improve the bill in the Senate.

Food Safety: In mid-June the House Energy and Commerce Committee passed the Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009. NCBA raised concerns about the bill because it seems to provide regulatory authority for meat products to both the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the USDA. During the Committee debate, members passed an amendment that appears to address some of our on-farm inspection concerns. However, NCBA continues to work with the Committee to ensure the final legislation does not grant the FDA duplicative regulatory responsibilities for meat and meat products that already are under the jurisdiction of USDA. NCBA will remain in close contact with the Committee to ensure that clarifying language is included.

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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