



February 27, 2009

Upcoming Cattlemen's Events & Meetings

Audrain County

February 28
5:00 - Audrain County
Fairgrounds

Crawford County

February 28
6:00 - Golden Echoes,
Steelville

Monett Beef Conference

March 3
3:30 pm - National Guard
Armory, Monett

Boone County

March 5
6:00 - Cattle Visions, Clark

Lafayette County

March 7
Trade Show 5:30
Dinner 7:00
American Legion Hall,
Higginsville

St. Charles County

March 7
Dinner 6:00
Dance 8:00
Lion's Club, Wright City

Court of Appeals Denies Petition for Review of EPA Dust Regulation Rule

The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday issued a decision to deny a petition for review of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) rule that regulates dust under the Clean Air Act. The petition was filed by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and other groups.

"We are very disappointed with the Court's decision," NCBA Chief Environmental Counsel Tamara Thies said. "There is no scientific evidence that agriculture dust causes adverse health effects, and its regulation under the Clean Air Act is completely unjustified."

The regulation of agriculture dust means that activities ranging from soil tilling, cattle movements in feedyards, driving on unpaved roads, and planting and harvesting crops could all come under the regulatory strong-arm of the EPA.

"Our producers already carry out stringent dust control measures each and every day," says Thies. "But the requirements imposed by EPA's rule are simply unnecessary and unattainable. In today's tough economic times, this unwarranted and burdensome government interference could prove to be devastating for America's cattle producers."

EPA released a final rule on regulating particles in the air under the Clean Air Act in October 2006, which says that states should focus on regulating dust in urban areas instead of rural areas because of a lack of scientific data on health or environmental affects of agriculture dust. However, the EPA stopped short of exempting agriculture dust from regulation. Consequently, NCBA filed

Vernon County
March 7
6:00 - Eagles Lodge, Nevada

Dallas County
March 10
6:30 - Simm's Restaurant,
Buffalo

St. Clair County
March 10
5:30 - Brownsberger
Veterinarian Clinic, Appleton
City

Gentry County
March 11
6:30 - Stanberry Community
Center, Stanberry

Henry County
March 12
6:30 - First Baptist Church,
Clinton

an appeal of the rule in the DC. Circuit Court of Appeals. Oral arguments were held on September 15, 2008.

Every five years, the EPA is required to review scientific studies associated with pollutants regulated under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of the Clean Air Act to determine if the pollutant is regulated appropriately. Dust has been included as a pollutant, despite the fact that health studies do not show it is a concern. In order to regulate a pollutant under NAAQS, scientific studies are supposed to show that the pollutant causes adverse effects on health or the environment.

"The Clean Air Act is intended to regulate pollutants that cause adverse health or environmental effects," Thies explains. "Clearly, expanding this to include the regulation of agriculture dust goes beyond the intent of the Act."

Released by NCBA 'Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns' on 2/23/09.

16 Attend this Year's Young Cattlemen's College

The Missouri Cattlemen's Association hosted 16 cattle industry leaders on February 24 and 25 during their annual Young Cattlemen's College. Kicking off on Tuesday morning the participants learned about the day to day operations of the association as well as the Missouri Beef Industry Council and Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation. During the afternoon the participants took part in a handful of sessions focused on bettering their county affiliate organizations, building memberships and communicating with the media.

On Wednesday, the 16 attendees traveled to Jefferson City to visit with their legislators at the State Capitol about the importance of their business and livelihood. During their visit to the Capitol they were also able to sit in on a session and see how lawmakers work day to day.

Those who participated in the MCA Young Cattlemen's College were: Grady Flower, Benton County; Greg Buckman, Boone County; Kasey Hunt, Carroll County; Luke Jackson, Clinton County; Larry Day, Cooper County; Gloria Stroud and Pat DeOme, Dallas County; Barry and Antoinette Bullock, Henry County; Melissa Page, Moniteau County; Ryan and Casey Goose, Polk County; Stephanie Fizette, Southwest Cattlemen; Donnie Kops, St. Charles County; Chuck Golden, Texas County; and Sheryl Brewe, Warren County.

MCA Young Cattlemen's College was sponsored by the Missouri Corn Growers Association, the Missouri Beef Industry Council and McDonald's of Mid-Missouri.

BQA Bags provide Guidelines to Producing Healthier Cattle

For months now "BQA Bags" have been circulating the state. As it is every producer's obligation to utilize management and judgement that ultimately leads to a positive eating experience for the consumer the protective bags are provided by veterinarians and co-ops around the state when producers purchase vaccines.

On one side of the BQA Bag you will find vaccination and cattle welfare guidelines. These guidelines are used by producers to produce healthy beef cattle. Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) is essential to the success of our industry.

The BQA Bags are provided by Allflex, Fort Dodge, Prime Protection, the Missouri Beef Industry Council, and the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

For more information about the BQA Bags call the MCA office at (573) 499-9162.

The Missouri Beef Quality Assurance Program (MO-BQA) is designed to improve standards of cattle handling and production by providing information on industry issues and practices that will benefit both the producer and consumer.

The program allows producers to maintain a fair value and a continued share of the market for their calves. The program provides producers a standardized tool to build the reputation of, and increase the demand for, Missouri feeder cattle.

In addition, the program increases the producers' accountability for the product and allows participating producers to be more pro-active when dealing with cattle buyers, feeders, packers and ultimately, consumers.

The beef industry must improve the quality and consistency of its product and become more competitive with alternative protein sources.

For more information on MO-BQA visit www.mocattle.com/bqa.htm.

BeefTalk: Alfalfa is a Great Supplement

There was a pleasant view as I went to the auction barn the other day. The semi-trailer truck was sitting in the parking lot with a load of alfalfa hay. Under many situations, no one would really notice, but the long, drawn-out winter has many producers checking their hay inventory as frequently as the weather forecast.

Sometime ago, the late Joe Whiteman from Oklahoma State University mentioned that livestock husbandry should be simple. He said that we tend to complicate the ins and outs and sometimes even get confused as to whether we are "in" or "out." So, Whiteman believed in alfalfa. He fed sheep alfalfa for years with very few problems.

"It was the alfalfa," he always would say. Having a rather strong sheep background and

having taught many producers how to raise sheep, I adopted the same principle. If in doubt, give the ewe a cake of alfalfa hay. That cake, in terms of a herd, would be a pound per head prior to lambing.

The old saying, "A sick sheep is a dead sheep," never held true when the ration was right and that cake of alfalfa hay was available. You might be asking why in the world beef producers need to know about feeding sheep. Well, grandpa always said sheep get the hay first, cows second and the horses third. In fact, the truth be told, we generally couldn't find the horses. They were camped somewhere enjoying winter because ample roughage was available and they had good pickings.

Back to the cattle pens. Those cows need feed and, in winters like this, if production is to be maintained, Whiteman's sheep philosophy raises a point. In a round-about way, the well-being of ruminates (cows, sheep and the many other four-stomached, four-legged, four-hoofed animals) comes down to having a mix of roughages available.

Usually, summer brings abundant green grass. The winter is quite dependent on some of that green grass being preserved. The key to having good nutrition is the word "green." As cattle are confined and the availability of forage becomes physically restrictive or cost prohibitive, the green tends to disappear from the ration. More and more feed is delivered, but it is brownish, which is the color of mature, older forage. The other feed is gold, which is the color of straw and many of the grain products that are cattle supplements.

All rations need balance. The correct supplements must be added under the advice of a good nutritionist. These rations will work, but, if push comes to shove and you have more low-quality feed, there is a very real possibility there will be detrimental effects to the late-pregnancy or early-lactating cows. Therefore, that semi-trailer load of alfalfa certainly reminded me of what Whiteman would say, "Feed some alfalfa."

Often, the price seems high, but one is not going to feed alfalfa to beef cows at an all-you-can-eat rate. Just like the ewe, a pound of alfalfa a day really helps and a cow is no different. To start calculating a ration, 5 to 7 pounds of alfalfa a day would be a great starting point for any nutritionist. Unfortunately, the alfalfa is not always available, but the feed dealer may have some alfalfa-based supplements or cubes that certainly would help a cow.

The point is relatively simple. The world is better off with a mix of things and so are cows. Having some variety helps cover up things one type of feed may be lacking.

In the cow business, we tend to start feeding a stack of hay, which is unlike the feedlot calf that gets a balanced ration every day. The cow may be stuck eating out of one haystack. If that stack is brown or golden, with no evidence of well preserved green plants, look for a supplement.

The next time you see a load of alfalfa hay, don't be so quick to dismiss the hay as dairy feed. Maybe, think twice about it and have some alfalfa delivered to your place.

May you find all your ear tags.

Your comments are always welcome at <http://www.BeefTalk.com>.

Released by CattleNetwork.com 2/27/09; Source: Kris Ringwall, Beef Specialist.

Cow Calf: Supplement or Replacer - What's the Difference?

Beef cow calf producers occasionally will need to provide commercial colostrum to baby calves that are born to two-year old heifers with very little milk, or to calves after a difficult birth. Some of these calves are very sluggish and slow to get up and find the teat. Therefore, they may not get the colostrum that they need to achieve successful passive transfer unless colostrum is provided by the cattle manager.

Knowing which products to use in different situations can be very helpful. Colostrum supplements are less expensive to purchase than colostrum replacers, but they may not be the best choice for the situation at hand.

The following excerpt from a Pennsylvania State University publication that is published on the E-Extension website helps to sort out the differences:

"Colostrum products that contain Immunoglobulin G (IgG) are regulated by the USDA Center for Veterinary Biologics. Supplement products are unable to raise the blood concentration of IgG above the species standard, which is 10 mg/ml. Any product that is able to raise serum IgG concentration above 10 mg/ml may be called a colostrum replacer. Typically, colostrum supplements contain less than 100 g of IgG per dose and are composed of bovine colostrum, other milk products, or bovine serum. Colostrum supplements can be used to increase the amount of IgG fed to calves when only low or medium quality colostrum is available. However, supplements cannot replace high quality colostrum. Even when a supplement is added to low quality colostrum, the IgG is often absorbed poorly, and antibody absorption is reduced compared to high quality maternal colostrum.

A limited number of products designed to replace colostrum are now on the market. These are bovine serum-based products and contain at least 100 g of IgG per liter plus fat, protein, vitamins, and minerals needed by the newborn calf. Colostrum replacer contains more immunoglobulin than supplement products and provides more antibodies than poor or moderate quality colostrum. In research trials, calves fed colostrum replacer have performed as well as calves fed maternal colostrum with no differences in IgG levels, efficiency of IgG absorption, incidence of scours, or growth rates." (Source: E-Extension website "Colostrum Supplements and Replacer", Authors: Sylvia Kehoe, Coleen Jones, Jud Heinrichs, The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Dairy and Animal Science).

Released by CattleNetwork.com on 2/25/09; Source: Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Beef Cattle specialist.

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Extremist Attacks on Global Food Chain Increase

Attacks on the global food chain from animal-rights and environmental extremists jumped 42 percent - from 155 in 2007 to 220 in 2008 - according to Arlington, Va.-based Animal Agriculture Alliance. Worse yet, claimed attacks on food retailers in the United States from groups like the Animal Liberation Front exploded 377 percent.

The alliance indicated that Bite Back magazine was its main source for compiling data on terrorist acts claimed by Animal Liberation Front; Earth Liberation Front; DBF, a branch of ALF found in Sweden and the Netherlands; and other animal-rights terrorist groups. But independent media reports and state agriculture groups also provided critical information.

The information compiled by the alliance showed that ALF, ELF, DBF and related groups claimed a total of 640 acts of sabotage, vandalism and arson in 2008, up from 467 in 2007, an increase of over 35 percent. The overall level of animal-rights extremist attacks in the United States on businesses that use animals - including medical research, consumer product safety, pets, circuses, rodeos, fur shops, hunting stores, farmers, ranchers, food retailers - surged nearly 40 percent. An even more troubling development is the massive expansion of damages inflicted upon food retailers. Claimed attacks on food retailers in the United States, especially the brand names of McDonald's, Burger King, KFC and Hardee's, increased from 9 in 2007 to 34 in 2008, an increase of 377 percent.

Destruction or defacement of property - especially smashing windows, etching windows, and painting (or paint bombing) windows, buildings, vans and billboards - were the techniques most frequently used by extremist groups in their attempts to intimidate food chain businesses to shut down. The groups also adopted a new unsavory technique this year, using sponges to block toilets and urinals to cause expensive flooding and extensive clean-up.

In terms of terrorist activities, global animal-rights extremist groups combined to claim over 600 separate terrorist acts, including:

- Arson
- Firebombing autos and trucks
- Paint bombs
- Death threats
- Theft
- bomb threats
- Product tampering hoaxes
- Vandalizing gravesites
- Acid-etching windows
- Gluing locks
- Paint stripping cars
- Slashing tires
- Flooding facilities
- Cutting off utilities to restaurants
- Hacking web sites
- Damaging equipment

Extremists claimed responsibility for the "liberation" of thousands of animals during the year and millions of dollars in damage. Mexico appears to be an emerging center for animal-rights terrorism. In 2008, extremist groups in Mexico claimed more than double the amount of attacks than were claimed in the United States.

As disturbing as this news might be, the geographic array of attacks in the United States is equally disturbing. "We have seen a significant change in extremist activity directed against the food chain," said Kay Johnson Smith, executive vice president of the Animal Agriculture Alliance. "The numbers of attacks against food retailers in hotbeds of extremism like California and New York were noticeably lower, while attacks in other areas not widely associated with animal-rights extremism increased markedly. For instance, the greater Kansas City, Kan., area appears to be the new home of an ALF cell, with two attacks having been claimed in the second half of 2008, one in Lenexa and the other in Overland Park. An ALF cell in Georgia claimed five actions. One targeted a butcher shop, another hit a meat company and three more were aimed at quick-serve restaurants. Further, ALF cells in North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah and Texas all claimed actions.

"The message is loud and clear that the agenda of these groups is focused solely on advancing a vegan agenda through destruction and intimidation," Johnson Smith said. "The fact that extremists are willing to massively increase their attacks on the food chain during a serious economic downturn should cause major alarm for all companies and organizations responsible for feeding people. The exponential escalation of attacks is shocking and disturbing. All companies in the food chain need to be vigilant, enhance their security efforts and be sure to report all incidents to their local police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

For more information on securing your facilities, contact the Animal Agriculture Alliance at info@animalagalliance.org or visit the Web site at www.animalagalliance.org.
Released by Drovers.com 2/25/09.

ACC Annual Scholarship Dinner, Auction & Dance

Audrain County Cattlemen's Annual Scholarship Dinner, Auction & Dance will be held Saturday, February 28 at the Audrain County Fairgrounds on Highway D in Mexico, Missouri. The evening will kick off with a social hour at 5:00 pm. The Ribeye Steak dinner will begin at 6:00 pm followed by the auction and then entertainment from 9:00 pm to midnight.

All of the proceeds from this event go towards Audrain County Cattlemen's Scholarship Program. In 2008, ACC had the pleasure of awarding \$9000 in scholarships to area youth.

The highlight of the evening will be entertainment by Becky Blackaby. Blackaby, of Paris, MO, has performed all over the state of Missouri and draws large crowds for each performance. For a little preview of Blackaby's talent visit her website at www.beckyblackaby.com. Blackaby will take the stage at 9:00 pm.

Dinner, Show & Dance Tickets
\$30 couple/\$15 single

Show & Dance Only Tickets
\$10 each

Tickets for the evening can be purchased at MFA Agri-Services (573) 581-6868 or you can RSVP to Teresa Carlson at tcarlson@mfa-inc.com or during the evening at (573) 581-7465.

Come out to support your area youth and take in an evening of excellent food, entertainment and friends!!

Missouri Beef Leadership Conference Registration to Open March 1st

The Missouri Junior Cattlemen's Association will be hosting the first Missouri Beef Leadership Conference "Show Me Beef Leadership" on June 4th through 6th in Columbia, Missouri. The conference will have a leadership and industry focus and will be open to teens entering the 8th grade through 12th grade.

Registration will open March 1st and is limited to the first 60 applicants.

If your business or county organization is interested in help sponsoring this youth event please contact Rachel Bartholomew at (573) 499-9162 Ext. 235 or by email at rachel@mocattle.com.

Be watching for more information and registration on the MCA website www.mocattle.com.

As always, MCA Membership is the key to the success of the organization. Without producers who back our association our voice is not as strong. Ask your friend, neighbor and fellow cattlemen to join the thousands of cattlemen in supporting the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

For more industry news visit:

[Missouri Cattlemen's Association Website](#)

[Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation Website](#)

[Missouri Beef Industry Council Website](#)

[National Cattlemen's Beef Association Website](#)

[Missouri Department of Agriculture Website](#)

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If so, please contact Maureen Hamill at (573) 499-9162 (Ext. 233) or maureen@mocattle.com.