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Time to fire up for the Beef House!

The State Fair (August 13-23) will be here before we know it. MCA is contacting county leaders to schedule each county's work shifts during those 10 days. MCA can use as many volunteer as a county can offer, so **please contact your county leader to sign up for your county's shift at the Beef House.**

Stand up for the industry!

Released by Cattlemen's Beef Board on the MBIC Blog 6/5/09

A number of media outlets have recently featured individuals or organizations that blame the cattle industry for global warming. Among others, "Supreme Master Television" issued a Public Service Announcement (PSA) claiming a connection between beef consumption and global warming, which has been airing on a number of television outlets, including FOX News affiliate stations and on the Discovery Channel. PSAs are non-paid forms of publicity, but these stations have chosen to run this editorialized piece promoting veganism, charging the organization nor offering counterpoint, for some reason.

You need to be aware of this piece and of the extremist organization that created it so you can respond to people who may have seen it and choose to pass its messages along. Supreme Master Television is a free-to-air satellite broadcasting channel run by a self-described spiritual teacher, Ching Hai, who claims to be "God's Direct Contact." The group, which also maintains Web sites at www.letsActNow.org and www.AskMoreNow.com to spread their word, maintains that the "single most effective tool to fight global warming" is vegetarianism and that a hamburger is "more responsible for global warming" than a "gas-guzzling SUV."

Supreme Master Television engaged in a similar campaign in Australia late last year with the same call to action to become vegetarian. Your checkoff-funded issues management team has engaged with beef counterparts in Australia to get more information about the activist group's tactics and has alerted our partners at the Center for Consumer Freedom, whose leadership has responded to these claims.

If you see any airings of this PSA or similar information in television or print,

[welfare regulations proposed for Ohio](#)

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Henry County

June 12, 6 p.m.

Artesian Park Shelter #2

Clinton, Mo.

MCA All-Breeds Junior Show

June 12-14

Missouri State Fair Grounds

Sedalia, Mo.

Vernon County

June 13

10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Bushwhacker Days

Nevada, Mo.

MCA Board of Directors Meeting and Steak Fry

June 25

Missouri Beef House

Sedalia, Mo.

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we encourage you to respond. For some talking points about the beef industry and the environment, including emissions, you might want to refer back to [Beef's Long Shadow](#); or to discuss the attributes of animal vs. plant protein, click [here](#). Click [here](#) for more appropriate talking points regarding the Supreme Master Television PSA.

Steak Fry approaches quickly

The MCA Board of Directors Meeting and Steak Fry will be held Thursday, June 25 at the Missouri Beef House in Sedalia, MO. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. There will be a social from 4-6:30 p.m. Dinner will follow at 6:30 p.m., and the auction will begin immediately following dinner.

REMINDER: MCA is requesting that each county donates an item to be sold in the evening's auction.

See the www.mocattle.com or the monthly magazine for the Steak Fry registration form.

Senators introduce resolution to bolster Kansas City area economy

Bipartisan-Bi-state Senators Designate Region as the Kansas City Animal Health & Nutrition Corridor

Released by the press office of Senator Kit Bond 6/9/09

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Recognizing the high number of animal health and nutrition businesses and educational and research assets available in the Kansas City area, U.S. Senators Kit Bond (R-MO), Sam Brownback (R-KS), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), and Pat Roberts (R-KS) today introduced a resolution to bolster jobs by designating the region from Manhattan, Kansas to Columbia, Missouri as the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor.

"This resolution would recognize the Kansas City region's long-time leadership in animal health. The innovative work done right here in the Heartland provides high-paying jobs and critical contributions to global animal health and nutrition," said **Senator Kit Bond**. "This is a much deserved designation that will help the region continue to be the nation's leader in this industry, attract new businesses, and create jobs."

Senator Brownback said, "This resolution only states what the people and businesses within the Animal Health Corridor already know: that Kansas City and the surrounding areas from Manhattan to Columbia has the highest concentration of animal health technology and jobs anywhere in the world. I applaud the local leaders in these communities for recognizing the advantages this designation provides and seeking to build off the foundation already established. This will create jobs and economic opportunity for this region for years to come."

"It's about time we recognized the important contribution that this region is making to the animal health industry," **Senator McCaskill** said. "Over one third of the growing industry is located here in the heartland and this designation will help to give the local economy a boost by attracting even more jobs and businesses in this important field."

"This designation provides an opportunity to focus greater federal, state and local resources on further development of our critical animal health research community - already a powerhouse in our regional economy," **Senator Roberts** said. "We will look forward to enhancing this success by improving

transportation, safety, education and research infrastructure in support of this industry."

The Kansas City Animal Health Corridor designation will grow the animal health and nutrition industry and in turn benefit the economy, universities, businesses, and youth pursuing animal health careers. The Senators stressed that this designation will attract new companies, create more jobs and take advantage of the wealth of resources available in the area.

Currently, more than 120 animal health companies, and about 34 percent of the animal health industry sales worldwide, are based in the Kansas City region. More than 45 percent of the fed cattle in the United States, 40 percent of the hogs produced, and 20 percent of the nation's beef cows and calves are located within 350 miles of Kansas City.

With the animal health industry continuing to grow in the Kansas City region, the Department of Homeland Security recently selected Manhattan, Kansas as the future location for the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF). The NBAF will provide area economic development opportunities by employing 300 people, with an annual payroll of up to \$30 million and over 1,500 construction jobs.

In addition to the Bio and Agro-defense Facility, several leading veterinary colleges and animal research centers are located in Kansas and Missouri including the College of Veterinary Medicine, the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources' Division of Animal Sciences, the Life Sciences Center, the National Swine Resource and Research Center, and the Research Animal Diagnostic Laboratory of the University of Missouri, and the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Biosecurity Research Institute of Kansas State University that contribute to the animal health industry in the area.

This resolution received bi-partisan support in the House of Representatives. Rep. Dennis Moore (D-KS) introduced the resolution and Reps. Lynn Jenkins (R-KS), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO), Sam Graves (R-MO), and Ike Skelton (D-MO) co-sponsored the House bill.

Is your email address changing?

We have received word that alltel.net addresses will be changing to windstream.net addresses. Rather than searching through thousands of members in the database, the simplest way to take care of this will be for you to **email us if your email address is changing.**

Aside from the change to windstream.net, we would like ANYONE who has changed or is changing their email address to let us know so that you can continue to receive Prime Cuts weekly.

Please email me as soon as possible at kaity@mocattle.com with any email address changes.

First MJCA Beef Leadership conference is a huge success!

Written by Rachel Bartholomew, vice president of activities for the MJCA Board of Directors

The Missouri Junior Cattlemen's Association (MJCA) Board of Directors hosted their first Missouri Beef Leadership Conference June 4-6th in Columbia. Members of the MJCA Board have been planning and fundraising for this event for a total of 5 years and it was incredibly exciting to see it finally come together! The true purpose for the conference is to allow students with an

interest in the beef industry gather and create networks with one another, gain practical industry knowledge, and become engaged in Missouri's beef industry.

Twenty-seven students aged 13-17 from across the state of Missouri gathered for this three day conference. On Thursday, students gathered at the Missouri Cattle Industry Headquarters to an action-packed afternoon of icebreakers and challenge activities, a key note motivational speaker, Mrs. Brenda Black, a "Mock-tail" Networking party with Mrs. Stephanie Chipman, dinner, and an evening of roller skating.

Friday was filled with an abundance of beef industry workshops and talks. Students spent the day on the University of Missouri campus learning about cattle selection, touring the MU Veterinary College, speaking with a large animal veterinarian, gaining media training and social media knowledge, getting hands-on with reproductive tracts when learning about beef reproduction, and learning about carcass quality and grading. Evening activities were held at Buckman Farms in Hallsville, MO. Students were given a farm tour, a wonderful dinner, and spent the evening dancing and socializing.

The conference concluded Saturday morning by learning about MCA, MCF, and MBIC; participating in current industry topic debates, and a preview of what the MJCA Board does each year.

The conference exceeded all of the board's expectations and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone involved! We would like to extend a HUGE thank you to our conference sponsors and speakers, as well as our conference participants. Without them, this truly could not have been a success. Please visit www.mocattle.com and see the "Leaders Conference" page to view a full list of those involved in the 2009 "Show-Me Beef" Missouri beef Leadership Conference. We could not have asked for a better group of people to work with for this first event.

If you would like to hear students speak on their experiences at the conference or view a slide show of photos taken throughout the conference, plan to attend the Missouri Junior Cattlemen's Association annual meeting this Saturday, June 12th at 6:00 pm in the Youth Building Sales Arena on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. Thank you again to all involved in this conference, we look forward to seeing and working with you next year!

Last Chance for MCF License Plates!!!

Foundation License Plates are available through July 1. Time is running out, so don't miss this deadline!

In order to send in applications on this date, we must have 200 applications. Right now, we have 80. Without 120 more, we cannot order any at all. **This really is the last chance to order.** The money made from these license plates will go to youth scholarships.

For more details contact MCF office at (573) 499-9162.

Missouri Agriculture proactively tells story of agriculture

Released by MBIC 6/8/09

Missouri Agriculture's Lunch and Learn series is educating folks about the

state's agricultural industry for a third consecutive year. The summer program is the product of partnerships between state organizations including the Missouri Beef Industry Council and other commodity groups.

Each event allows elected officials, community leaders, and local residents to visit a farming operation to get a personal look at Missouri agriculture. The mid-day gatherings give key influencers the opportunity to learn how agriculture positively impacts their communities.

While each tour is organized by the commodity organization representing the type of operation on showcase, the cooperative effort from various industry leaders sends a strong and unified message about the importance of agriculture as a whole.

So far, the 2009 Lunch & Learn visits include the following locations:

- May 14-Henderson Ranch in Warsaw, beef operation
- May 21-Case Farms in La Plata, beef operation
- May 27-Willow Bend Pork in Taylor, hog operation
- June 2-M&M Dairy in Rogersville, dairy operation
- June 3-Feezor Turkey Farm in California, turkey and composting operation

In reviewing post-event evaluations, the program has received positive feedback from folks outside of agriculture. Here are two written comments from the questionnaires:

"Had no clue Missouri was such a strong cattle state. It takes a lot more than just grass and a few cows to upkeep a cattle/dairy operation."

"I was surprised to learn that most beef and dairy farms kept smaller herds and that large producers are in the minority."

For detailed re-caps of each event, check out the blog at www.lunchlearn.com.

There's still time for you to see what the excitement is about at one of the remaining events:

- June 18-Salyer Feedlot in Higginsville, beef operation
- June 24-Oberholtzer Farm in Wyaconda, hog operation
- July 23-Thiel Farms in Marshall, row crop operation

If you'd like to learn more about the remaining events, call Whitney at 573-817-0899 or email her at whitney@mobeef.org.

Register for Beef Check-Off Elections

Be sure to register for the Beef Check-Off Elections before July 20, 2009. This can be done at your county Farm Service Agency office.

This election determines the Missouri Beef Industry Council Board of Directors. This board allocates Missouri's check-off funds. This will be your chance to elect board members who represent your voice in the allocation of those funds.

NCBA urges Congress to make changes to On-Farm Inspection Provisions in Food Safety Bill

Released by NCBA 6/10/09

WASHINGTON D.C. - The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is urging members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee to address unresolved issues in a proposed food safety bill before moving it forward. The Food Safety and Enhancement Act of 2009, introduced by Reps. John Dingell (D-MI) and Henry Waxman (D-CA), would pose a myriad of unintended consequences, especially for the meat industry which is regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"The United States has the safest food supply in the world," said Kristina Butts, NCBA manager, legislative affairs. "Any changes to that system should be carefully considered to ensure they provide additional benefits without detracting from successful processes."

Among other things, the bill would authorize the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to conduct on-farm inspections, undermining USDA's regulatory authority in ensuring the safety of meat and poultry products. FDA does not have the money, employees, or expertise to properly oversee the livestock and poultry industry.

"We all agree that food safety is extremely important, and beef producers remain committed to producing safe, nutritious and wholesome beef products. But giving additional broad authority for on-farm food safety plans will not improve food safety and will be an economic burden, not only for beef producers but for the FDA," said Butts. "Using precious FDA resources for this purpose would be duplicative and would undermine the strong process we currently have in place."

In addition to calling for on-farm FDA inspections, the bill would require FDA to create a tracing system for the complete pedigree of all food, including meat which is not regulated by the FDA. This type of on-farm system would increase production and technology costs for cattle producers and would be overly burdensome for both producers and the FDA.

The legislation would also give FDA the authority to create farm safety standards, including manure use and animal control-which are outside of the expertise of FDA, and already handled by several other regulatory bodies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, and USDA.

In addition, the bill would grant FDA authority to quarantine a geographical area during a food health emergency. Giving FDA this type of authority would only serve to confuse and disrupt the strong food-emergency response process that has been handled for decades through a collaborative effort between USDA, the Department of Homeland Security, and States. NCBA is also concerned that the bill would open up the door for mandatory meat recalls by the FDA. USDA currently operates under a very successful voluntary recall process.

The Food Safety and Enhancement Act of 2009 passed by voice vote out of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health earlier today. It was stated during the markup that Committee members will continue to work on areas of concern with the legislation before it goes to the full Committee for markup next week.

Missouri Farmer Today

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JBS shifts ownership of Five Rivers Cattle Feeding

Released by BEEFmagazine.com 6/8/09

JBS S.A., the world's largest beef processor, has split ownership of its Five Rivers Cattle Feeding (FRCF), the largest cattle-feeding enterprise in the world with an annual capacity of 1.5 million head.

In making the decision, JBS S.A. officials cite the risk of potential legislation aimed at curbing packer ownership of cattle, as well as the significant working capital required to feed cattle.

Under terms of the agreement announced by JBS S.A., J&F Oklahoma will own the cattle fed in FRCF lots. J&F has agreed to keep those lots at least 85% full and sell at least 500,000 head of finished cattle to JBS-Swift annually through 2011. JBS retains ownership of the FRCF lots and will operate them as a commercial cattle-feeding company.

The most recent legislation aimed at packer ownership of cattle is the "Livestock Marketing Fairness Act" introduced last month by Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY). See the commentary "Increasing Competition Through Discrimination" elsewhere in this issue of BEEF Stocker Trends.

JBS S.A. is the parent company of JBS-Swift, the third-largest beef packer in the U.S. You'll recall that its efforts to buy National Beef last year, which would have made it the largest beef packer in the U.S., were blocked by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). In February JBS ended litigation with the DOJ. At the time, Wesley Batista, JBS USA's President and CEO said, "We disagree with the Department of Justice's decision to try and block this transaction. This transaction is highly pro-competitive and will generate significant efficiencies and synergies that will benefit our cattle suppliers and our beef customers."



Checking in on the Checkoff



The Missouri Beef Council has partnered with Inside Columbia magazine and several Mid Missouri restaurants to showcase beef as the perfect partner with wine. The attendees fit the exact demographics of "Food and Health Involved"- the audience we know can make a difference to increase beef demand!

The Economics of animal welfare regulations proposed for Ohio

Released by *BEEFmagazine.com* 6/10/09

Written by Luther Tweeten, Emeritus Chaired Professor, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, Ohio State University

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) seeks to phase out battery cages for Ohio's laying hens, gestation crates for its pregnant pigs, and crates for veal calves in favor of group housing (FarmPolicy [farmpolicy@gmail.com], May 5, 2009). As the nation's second largest producer of eggs (27 million laying hens) and a major producer of swine and dairy cattle, Ohio agriculture has a major stake in the outcome of this HSUS effort.

HSUS is likely to put its proposal before Ohio voters next year if poultry and livestock producers don't cooperate with HSUS to write legislation changing the way producers operate. This is no idle threat. Last year California voters approved a similar measure (Proposition 2 or Prop 2) mandating as of January 1, 2015 that it shall be a misdemeanor for any person to confine a pregnant pig, calf raised for veal, or egg-laying hen in a manner not allowing the animal to turn around freely, stand up, lie down, and fully extend its limbs. At least four other states have passed laws similar to California's Proposition 2.

Is such legislation a good idea? The following discussion is especially focused on laying hens, the enterprise likely to be most affected in Ohio. The following analysis addresses animal welfare dimensions of Prop 2-type regulations before addressing the economic dimensions.

Animal Welfare

First, it is important to recognize that nearly everyone including persons associated with large confinement feeding operations supports humane treatment of animals. At issue is what constitutes humane treatment. On the one hand, large confinement cage or crate operations would seem to reduce animal welfare by inhibiting the freedom of animals for nesting, sex, and exercise (Shields and Duncan 2009, pp. 2-5). Proponents contend that Prop 2-type legislation will enhance animal welfare, provide healthier food because animals will contract fewer air-borne diseases, and will reduce soil, water,

and air pollution.

On the other hand, confinement is associated with protection of animals from extreme temperatures, predators, and soil-borne diseases and parasites. Animals in confinement can be monitored closely for health. Confinement systems deliver fresh, clean eggs to consumers. Confinement operations use less land, labor, and other resources per animal unit. Opponents of Prop 2-type legislation contend that with sound management, large confinement operations have demonstrated they can produce without harm to the environment or animal welfare.

The public looks to objective scientific findings to narrow differences of opinion between supporters and opponents of Prop 2-type measures. That strategy has met with only partial success as apparent from studies measuring how specific engineering-type provisions (such as space provided per animal) affect animal welfare. In Austria for example, Zaludik et al. (2007) evaluated the usefulness of the government's Animal Needs Index (ANI) auditing how hen welfare is affected by floor space, feeder space, and the like for organic laying hen production. No relationship was found between a good score on the ANI and hen welfare as assessed by mortality, injury, measures of abnormal behavior, and footpad and breast lesions. This and other empirical studies give conflicting results regarding the contribution of a "favorable" environment to animal welfare (Shields and Duncan 2009, pp. 12, 13). After an excellent review of existing scientific studies, Mench et al. (2009, p. 44) conclude that "...we still have little understanding of how all of the complex inputs on commercial farms (whether those are husbandry inputs or genetic inputs) interact to cause or minimize animal welfare problems."

Economic Implications

The economic implications of Prop 2-type regulations imposed on Ohio's agriculture are more clear than the foregoing animal welfare implications. Market forces help protect animals to the extent that abused and diseased animals reduce profits, forcing animal producers to use more humane practices. In part out of concern for animal product demand and profit, the livestock (including poultry) industry has voluntarily changed production practices. Experts on animal welfare and ethics, though noting the absence of federal regulation of animal production, cite the recent voluntary development and enforcement of animal care standards by producer groups and retailers. Animal welfare scientists (Mench et al., 2009, p.2) conclude that "These standards have resulted in some striking improvements in animal welfare..." along the entire supply chain of animals and their products.

Socially acceptable production practices for animal welfare ultimately rest on the public's values and attitudes and not just on science. Such values range from indifferent observers to animal rightists who object to animal confinement and would end use of animals as sources of food, clothing (leather), fiber, draft-power, or companionship (pets). Even among those who make animal products a part of their diet, the range of preferred animal production practices stretches from conventional to organic, to free range. Markets can serve discriminating consumers over this broad range of preferences. The key is to label animal products by production practices. Preferred animal welfare practices may be more costly to producers, but consumers can "vote" their preferences with dollars in the market.

Labeling, a means for producers to receive premium prices for humane and more costly animal welfare practices, seems an ideal solution because it allows each consumer to uniquely express demand for traditional or enhanced animal welfare practices in the market. Mench et al. (2009, p.3) note that such labeling has attracted few customers. That is, animal welfare enhanced products remain a small, niche market, suggesting either that consumers are not well informed or they place little value on these enhanced production practices.

Disappointed with outcomes, the Humane Society of the United States seeks public intervention in Ohio with government regulation to reach its animal welfare objectives well beyond what market labeling and voluntary industry reforms have achieved.

Animal welfare and environmental regulations are unlikely to eliminate the current cost advantage of large farms over small farms. Numerous studies indicate that the cost of producing a unit of animal products is lower on large farms than on small farms (see Tweeten 2003, p. 85). Most such studies can be faulted for including only costs to farms. That is, the economic studies ignore full incremental cost of production which includes environmental or animal welfare costs accruing to society but not to farms (externalities in economist's jargon). However, experts such as Martin and Zering (1997, p.20) and Boehlje et al. (1996) conclude that unit production costs would be lower on large farms than on small farms even if all externalities were internalized. Other things equal, risk increases with scale of operations. But economies of size provide the wherewithal for larger farms to afford the able management required to cope with risk.

Prop 2 for California is similar to HSUS' proposal for Ohio. In addition, livestock production conditions in Ohio are sufficiently similar to those in California so that economic analysis for California provided a strong basis to begin assessing the situation in Ohio. Scientists at the University of California-Davis (Sumner et al. 2008, p. 36) concluded that under Prop 2 "variable costs of production [for eggs in California] would rise by at least 20 percent and perhaps substantially more. Underlying these higher costs per dozen eggs are higher feed use per bird, higher cost per pullet, lower average productive life of a hen, higher mortality rates, fewer eggs of premium size or acceptable marketability, fewer birds per facility, and higher labor costs." Other studies have estimated that total cost per dozen eggs are 26 percent higher for barn production and 45 percent higher with free range production compared to conventional cage egg production (Agra CEAS 2004, p.45).

Ohio is surrounded by states with competitive laying hen enterprises. Indiana's 24 million average number of laying hens and Pennsylvania's 21 million hens were not far behind Ohio's average inventory of 27 million hens in 2007. Eggs produced under conventional cage systems in surrounding states would have a 20 percent or more cost advantage over Ohio 's farms producing under Prop 2-type regulations. Ohio laying hen producers would not be competitive. To protect its producers, California has proposed trade barriers to egg imports from other states. Such barriers seem unachievable because they conflict with the interstate commerce clause of the U.S. constitution and likely would be ruled unconstitutional.

In short, according to Sumner et al. (2008, iv):

Our analysis [of Proposition 2 regulations applied to California agriculture] indicates that the expected impact would be the almost complete elimination of egg production in California within the six-year adjustment period. Non-cage production costs are simply too far above the costs of the cage systems used in other states to allow California producers to compete with imported eggs in the conventional egg market. The most likely outcome, therefore, is the elimination of almost all of the California egg industry over a few years.

The authors noted the exception of a very small residual of local specialty producers that would supply part of the California market for eggs produced in non-cage systems.

Sumner et al. (2008, pp. 46-47) go on to add that

The elimination of most of the California egg industry would have broader economic implications. The loss of about 3,000 jobs in the industry would be multiplied by a factor of about 0.9 to imply a statewide loss of jobs of about 5,750 jobs. The loss in overall economic activity in the state is also larger

than the gross [egg] sales of about \$370 million in 2007 because of the ripple effects that affect upstream and downstream industries.

Conclusions

Who would be the economic gainers and losers from imposition of Prop 2-type regulations on Ohio's agriculture? Ohio would lose: laborers, livestock and crop producers, and the economy as a whole. Ohio's laying hen enterprise, second only in the nation to that of Iowa and 38 percent greater than that of California in 2007, would be decimated. Applying the latter percentage to the available estimate of job loss in California, Ohio's loss from Prop 2-type legislation would total 7,928 jobs and associated income.

Diminished animal agriculture means diminished crop agriculture in Ohio -- less demand for livestock means less demand for corn and soybeans. The state's livestock agriculture directly consumed 22 percent of the state's corn crop and a sizable percentage of the soybean crop in 2008. Including distillers' grain byproducts (from corn feedstocks for ethanol production) and corn silage, some 30 percent of the state's corn crop is fed to livestock.

Ohio's consumers would lose as workers and income-earners, but Ohioans would face little if any higher food prices with imposition of Prop 2-type regulations as surrounding states supply low-cost animal products. Thus other states would gain jobs and income at Ohio's expense as animal products consumed in Ohio would be produced elsewhere. Those products would be produced using current practices, so overall animal welfare would be unaffected.

To avoid interstate trade that abrogates the intended animal welfare gains from Prop 2-type regulations, the HSUS can be expected to pursue national legislation to impose regulations on all U.S. livestock producers. Even if such measures were enacted they would be severely undermined over time by livestock product imports from Canada, Mexico, and other countries -- often under animal welfare conditions below Ohio's standards.

Exciting times! Do not miss the deadline!

Are you 70 1/2 or older? Do you know someone who is 70 1/2 or older?
Do you or they own an IRA or other tax qualified asset?
Time is running out!

You only have until December 31, 2009 to make the most tax efficient donation to the Missouri Cattlemen Foundation that the IRS has probably ever allowed.

You will probably never have this chance again to help to children of Missouri with the help of the IRS. Yes, the IRS will help you contribute to the foundation.

Call your tax preparer and call our partners at APEX Financial LLC to find out if you qualify for this exciting opportunity. Call 800-843-9429 or 573-876-6011 and tell them you want to talk about a Missouri Cattlemen Foundation Contribution.

Remember time is running out!

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 Kaity Kerwin at (573) 499-9162 (Ext. 233) or
kaity@mocattle.com.