



National Cattlemen's Beef Association

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Beltway Beef is a weekly report from Washington, D.C., giving an up-to-date summary of top policy initiatives concerning the cattle industry; direct from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). Please feel free to reprint in full or in part. If you would like to include NCBA's logo, contact us at 303-694-0305.



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Beltway Beef

Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns Farm Bill Continues to Top NCBA Priority List

August is typically a slow month in Washington, D.C. Members of Congress are on their five-week congressional recess, visiting with constituents in their home states.

However, for the **National Cattlemen's Beef Association** (NCBA), the work does not stop. The association's policy division continues to work on the top priority for cattlemen and women across the country, which is the passage of the 2013 Farm Bill.

While the House and Senate have both passed their own versions of the 2013 Farm Bill, there are differences in each one. The next action to be taken is a meeting of a House and Senate conference committee that will

be made up of Agriculture Committee members who will attempt to reach a consensus on a compromise. The Senate has named their conferees, but the House has yet to do so.

"Congress has about ten working days to address the 2013 Farm Bill once they return to Washington on Sept. 9. The extension which was passed earlier this year as part of the fiscal cliff package expires on Sept. 30," said NCBA's Executive Director of Legislative Affairs Kristina Butts. "NCBA's number one priority continues to be that we want a five year farm bill and we want it done before the end of September."

Butts went on to urge cattle producers across the country to meet with their elected officials while they are still in their home states by way of town halls and stopping by district offices. She stressed the importance of having priorities such as disaster assistance included in the farm bill.

"The disaster assistance included in this legislation is critical to a lot of producers who have been hit by some form of a natural disaster over the last two years because we haven't had the safety nets in place," said Butts. "We need efforts by our members and producers everywhere to get engaged and help push this farm bill across the finish line."

Public Lands Council to Hold Annual Meeting in South Dakota

The **Public Lands Council** (PLC) is hosting its 45th annual meeting Sept. 4-7 at the Deadwood Mountain Grand Hotel and Casino in Deadwood, S.D. PLC's Annual Meeting is a time for the organization to come together to learn about new issues and plan for future activities. Members will get insight from public land management agencies, congressional representatives and industry leaders. This "meeting of the minds" also allows leaders in the organization and members to plan and develop policies that will guide PLC in upcoming years.

"We look forward to this event. Thanks to the leadership and creativity of our executive committee, board, delegates, and active membership, we always come away from it with inspiration for new, innovative projects and approaches," said Dustin Van

Liew, PLC's executive director. "It gives our leadership and us as staff a kick-start for the upcoming year."

The meeting takes off on Wed., Sept. 4, with a welcome barbecue, followed by two days of meetings. Participants will hear from a national grasslands panel; the directors of NRCS' Sage Grouse Initiative; BLM and Forest Service Range Staff and officials from Washington; a panel of congressional staff; the president of Society for Range Management; and more. Members will discuss PLC's plan of action regarding matters such as the federal wild horse program; documenting the socioeconomic importance of grazing on public lands; and the PLC Board of Directors' selection of projects for funding by Public Lands Endowment Trust. The On Friday afternoon, attendees will

hear updates from PLC's affiliates, including the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the American Sheep Industry Association, the Association of National Grasslands, and state affiliates. Friday evening features the annual PLC banquet. On Saturday, meeting-goers will load on a bus for a scenic tour of Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park, Spearfish Canyon and the old mining town of Lead.

Sponsors of the event include New Holland, Dow AgroSciences, Zoetis, RANGE Magazine, and local affiliates.

"We have a lot packed in to just a few days," said Van Liew. "We're just grateful to the men and women who sacrifice their time, attention and resources to come and be leaders for the industry. I don't know where we'd be without them."

Colorado Ranchers Stay in Business While Protecting the Sage Grouse

In lush valleys threaded with free-flowing rivers and linked by sagebrush uplands to aspen forests flanking high peaks, ranchers in Northwest Colorado are embracing conservation easements and restoration projects at an unprecedented rate. A partnership built on trust is showing the results of Farm Bill funding since 2010, when the Natural Resources Conservation Service launched the [Sage Grouse Initiative](#). The initiative's goal is to proactively conserve sage grouse and the working lands that support them, and prevent a need for an endangered species listing.

"For us, it's always been about staying in agriculture, protecting the wildlife, and restricting development that we don't want anyway," said multi-generational rancher Jay Yust. He and his father Jim spoke on their historic ranch by the Colorado River near Kremmling, the first stop of a five county tour in early August hosted by the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) and the Sage Grouse Initiative.

Landowner-led efforts were on full display over three days. Northwest Colorado is home to the largest populations of sage grouse in the state and the least developed private ranchlands remaining.

Sixty miles north of Kremmling in North Park, the most intact valley remaining in Colorado, 10 landowners have placed some 17,000 acres in conservation easements through CCALT. Seven have Sage Grouse Initiative funding that speeded up the process and helped ranchers keep their operations in the black. John Rich, who's a North Park rancher, a municipal judge, and

former county commissioner, is entering a conservation easement project this year with Sage Grouse Initiative dollars. He said the money he will receive will help with ranch labor that's getting harder for him to do as he and his wife Donna grow older, and the easement itself offers peace of mind.

"I can be assured that in another 100 years, people will be raising cattle on land that my grandpa started," he said. "If you start busting it up, the rancher and that little bird have trouble making it," Rich said. "You can have both. You can have agriculture and you can have the bird."

Throughout the tour, a common theme emerged of ranchers seeking ways to keep their lands viable for ranching, while diversifying their income from raising livestock to include hunting and other wildlife recreation. Conservation easements help them succeed, and so does range enhancement. Both programs are intended to be flexible to meet the needs of working operations.

Across the five counties spanning the tour, one rancher after another shared a philosophy of stewardship and dedication to the future of ranching for their children and for the nation's food independence. For the sage grouse, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will make its listing decision in 2015. At the heart of conservation partnerships is the Farm Bill. That's where Colorado's delegation works together across party lines to assure the funding continues at a critical time. Find out more at www.sagegrouseinitiative.com.

Legislative Watch

S. 258 and H.R. 657— Grazing Improvement Act

To amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing leases and permits, and for other purposes. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on S. 258 and H.R. 657. Key Sponsors: Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Rep. Raúl Labrador (R-Idaho)

S. 1195 — Renewable Fuel Standard Repeal Act

Would repeal the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) in its entirety. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on S. 1195. Key Sponsors: Sens. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) and Mark Pryor (D-Ark.).

S. 1343 — Farmer Identity Protection Act

Protects the personal information of livestock producers from being distributed to third parties. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on S. 1343. Key Sponsors: Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.).

S. 1420 and H.R. 317 — Judgment Fund Transparency Act

Requires a public accounting of the taxpayer funds distributed to litigants who bring prevailing claims against the federal government. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on S. 1420 and H.R. 317. Key Sponsors: Sens. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) and Rep. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.).

New on the Web

Check out the [Beltway Beef blog](#) for inside perspectives on issues affecting U.S. cattlemen and women. You can sign up on the blog to receive an email when new information is posted. You can also follow

us on [Twitter](#), be a fan of us on [Facebook](#), check out our latest photos on [Flickr](#) or watch video updates on our [YouTube](#) page. For audio, visit our website at www.BeefUSA.org.

Time to Kill the Death Tax — For Good



By Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Texas)

This summer, I introduced The Death Tax Repeal Act of 2013 with Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), who is leading the effort in the United States Senate. While many advocates of the death -- or estate -- tax claim it is a matter of economic fairness, in reality it serves only to create an illusion of fairness. The truth of the matter is that it accomplishes little at great economic cost.

By every measure, the death tax has failed to achieve even the misguided goals that Congress established when it was first enacted nearly a century ago. It fails to generate significant revenue, it fails to boost the economy or redistribute income, and it fails to meet any basic standard of fairness.

Effective taxation requires efficiency to achieve the greatest amount of revenue and should not distort output, employment or growth. The death tax fails on all counts. Intended as a tool of redistribution, the death tax generates the least amount of federal revenue of any source and there are extensive costs from the dissolution of family businesses, slower growth of the capital stock, and the resulting loss of output and income over time.

As of 2008, the death tax has cumulatively reduced the amount of capital stock in the U.S. economy by approximately \$1.1 trillion, or 3.2 percent. This is roughly equal to the \$1.3 trillion in revenues collected over the entirety of the tax's near century long existence.

This reduction in the economy's capital stock has reduced incomes, output and employment. And yet still does not reduce economic inequality. A 2006 study from the National Center for Policy Analysis that examined wealth, inheritance and the death tax found that even if every dollar resulting from inheritance were taxed away, it would only reduce the top one percent's share of the nation's total wealth by only four percentage points. It would reduce the top five percent's share by a mere seven percentage

points.

The death tax is a significant hindrance to entrepreneurial activity. Too many family businesses lack sufficient liquid assets to pay death tax liabilities. In addition, economic inefficiencies due to the distortionary effects of the death tax are burdensome and impose significant compliance costs on the economy. The Tax Foundation estimated that in 2005 alone the tax imposed a compliance cost of \$88.2 million and 2.3 million hours. By contrast, the gift tax required an additional \$66.0 million and 1.7 million hours to comply.

Many studies have also indicated that repealing the death tax would actually increase overall federal tax revenues. For example, in a recent study by former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy at the Department of the Treasury, Stephen Entin, the increase in other federal government tax revenue would exceed the revenue lost from repeal of the death tax by \$89 billion through 2021.

The death tax's time has passed. Our economy, employment and federal tax revenues will grow faster if it is simply abolished. Congress should move quickly to eliminate this drag on our nation's economy and job creation. It's time to strike a blow on behalf of hardworking entrepreneurs and family businesses. Bury the death tax once and for all.

In addition to being a senior member of the House Ways & Means Committee, Texas Congressman Kevin Brady also chairs the Joint Economic Committee.

CattleFax Update

On Wed., Aug. 28, trade continued to be mixed across commodity markets with energy contracts continuing to strengthen on Middle East chaos. Equity markets did recover after pressure from activity in Syria. Live cattle futures closed around \$0.35/cwt. higher. Most feeder cattle futures prices added more than \$0.65/cwt. The CME reported the seven-day average Feeder Index at \$154.93/cwt., down \$0.07. Wholesale boxed beef values ended the day uneven. Grain futures traded unevenly as well. Corn futures prices dropped around \$0.05/bu. Soybean futures traded \$0.02 to \$0.19/bu. higher. Chicago and Kansas City wheat futures closed steady to \$0.04/bu. lower.

For recent market news and analysis, visit www.CattleFax.com.

Don't Miss Out on NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen!

This week's edition of NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen*, starts the new 2013 fall season. This week's new show focuses on the results of the recently-certified Beef Industry Sustainability Assessment. We'll also take a look at the immigration discussion in Washington D.C. and how cattlemen and women are controlling bovine respiratory disease. Our show will also feature one operation that's helping get their calves off to a great start. The fall season of NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen* premieres Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. Eastern on RFD-TV.

NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen* debuts each Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. The show also airs Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and on Saturday at 9 a.m. (all times are Eastern). Don't forget that you can also [watch NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen online](#) anytime by visiting our website. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and become a fan on [Facebook](#).



Your NCBA

Follow Me to Tennessee! The [NCBA Trade Show](#) is the largest, most important national show for anyone in the cattle business. The NCBA Trade show allows industry members the opportunity to come face-to-face with decision makers in a unique, fun environment. If you're in the cattle business then you need to be in Nashville, Tenn., from Feb. 4-6, 2014.

NCBA Weather Blog: The cooler temperatures and increased precipitation this summer as compared to the summer of 2012 has led to a modest increase in USA hay harvested acreage projections between the March Prospective Plantings and June Acreage reports. Read more at the [NCBA Weather Blog](#).



**National Cattlemen's
Beef Association**

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) has represented America's cattle producers since 1898, preserving the heritage and strength of the industry through education and public policy. As the largest association of cattle producers, NCBA works to create new markets and increase demand for beef. Efforts are made possible through membership contributions. To join, contact NCBA at 1-866-BEEF-USA or membership@beef.org.