

Cow Country Reporter



July 2010

Volume 2 Issue 7

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Mark Your Calendar



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NEWS FROM YOUR CEO

Mark your calendar's to attend two very informative meetings in July. CPL is sponsoring a forum on competition in the market place at the Delhi Community Center at 6:00 pm on July 15. Fred Stokes, Executive Director of Organization of Complete Markets and Bill Bullard CEO R-Calf USA will explain their views on competition and how it affects the cow/calf producers and grain farmers. Moving from Production to Profit is the theme for a one day event featuring Kit Pharo, Colorado ranchers and Dr. Fred Proveza rancher, Utah State University Professor and Research Scientist. Plan to attend on Saturday, July 17 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at the Pineville Convention Center, Pineville, LA to increase your knowledge on the utilization of forages.

July will be an important month to keep up to date with the market place. Slaughter cow numbers have been running 15 to 20 percent higher than a year ago in Louisiana (10% higher in the U.S.) and total cows in the supply mix is still over 30% at many sales and has been as high as 40-45% of the supply. One would think that with this huge reduction in our cow numbers, calf numbers should be less next year and replacement cows

will be in good demand this year. Speaking of calves, this month has some major video sales, special sales and sales that feature replacements throughout the U.S. The prices paid for calves for fall delivery will have an impact on what the price of our fall calves will be. Check our website for price information so that you can be better informed on calf prices. Now is the time to sharpen your pencil and know what your breakevens are so you can be in a position to make a profit. The national corn crop is shaping up to be bigger than last year, but somewhat below what the experts predicted for the July 1 crop estimate. A lot can happen between now and harvest, but for us cow/calf producers a large corn crop will help the demand for our calves. If you haven't renewed your membership please do it today. We value your input and want to keep you up to speed in the cattle business. Remember July could be a turning point in the market place so call our toll free number (888-528-6999) and select option 3 for weekly market updates.

Dave Foster

*Don't forget to renew your membership.
Look on page 4 for more information.*

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE CUTS NAIS FUNDING TO ZERO

By: Rita Jane Gabbett, MeatingPlace.com

The House Appropriations subcommittee that funds USDA and FDA programs announced a fiscal 2011 funding bill that would stop funding USDA's voluntary National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

"We have spent over \$147 million on this program since 2004. And six years later, we still have not seen a clear plan from USDA on successful implementation, even after they shifted to a more fragmented system in 2010," said Subcommittee Chairman Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) in a statement. USDA had asked for \$14.2 million for the program.

"We do not feel it is a good use of resources to fund NAIS until the agency develops a clear plan for a mandatory system with measurable goals, long-term funding levels, and a plan for successful implementation," she added.

Overall, the subcommittee funded USDA at \$20.26 billion, just \$18.7 million less than the Obama administration had requested. It funded FDA at \$2.57 billion, which was \$55 million above the budget request.

The subcommittee cut \$13 million from USDA's APHIS Avian Influenza Program compared to fiscal 2010.

FSIS funding

The bill fully funds the president's request at \$1 billion for the Food Safety Inspection Service.

DeLauro noted the bill would establish a science-based panel to analyze the food safety system at FSIS and develop recommendations on how to modernize it.

To develop the panel process the subcommittee worked with a wide variety of stakeholders, including industry representatives from Cargill, Perdue, Sara Lee and Tyson Foods. Consumer-group stakeholders included representatives from the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Consumer Federation of America, Safe Tables Our Priority, and Food and Water Watch. Union interests were represented by the American Federation of Government Employees and the United Food and Commercial Workers.

Nutrition

Child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program, were funded at \$19 billion, on par with the administration's request. That funding included a \$95 million increase over fiscal 2010 funding for nutrition research, outreach and education efforts to combat both hunger and obesity.

First lady Michelle Obama's Healthy Food Financing Initiative to supply more healthy food to underserved urban and rural communities was funded at \$40 million.

Funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative was increased by 19 percent from last year to \$312 million.

Don't Forget:

What: Moving From Production to Profit in Ranching Workdhop,

When: July 17, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Where: Pineville Convention Center, Country Inn & Suites, Monroe Highway, Pineville, LA

***Editors Note: The registration date has paseed, but if you are registered and need more information or to find out if space is still available, call Twin Valley RC&D at (318) 352-4946. If need information about workshop content, call Johanna Pate at (318) 473-7808 or email johanna.pate@la.usda.gov.

HOUSE AG COMMITTEE VOTES TO OPEN TRADE WITH CUBA

By: Delta Farm Press

In a move that could overturn 50 years of U.S. policy, the House Ag Committee voted Wednesday to allow expanded trade and travel with Cuba. The measure, "Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act" (H.R. 4645), passed on a 25-20 vote and now moves to the House Financial Services and Foreign Affairs committees.

Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN), chairman of the House Ag Committee, said: "the House Ag Committee took a courageous vote to end the short-sighted and failed policy that limits American ag's access to the Cuban market." Peterson, along with Rep. Jerry Moran (R-KS), co-sponsored the legislation. Moran was one of only four committee Republicans to vote for it, saying the bill's passage was "a step in the right direction and a victory for America's farmers and ranchers. This legislation will standardize our trade policies, increase export sales and create thousands of American jobs without increasing the deficit."

Peterson said the bill "won't end the U.S. embargo on Cuba and won't allow U.S. banks to extend credit to Cuba. The current U.S. policies have hand-delivered an export market in our own backyard to Brazilian and European producers and other competitors around the world."

To see the article, go to deltafarmpress.com/legislative/

Congratulations

Ronnie Anderson, a beef cattle producer and forage grower from Ethel, was re-elected President of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation for a 22nd term.

Marty Wooldridge, CPL Member and cattle producer from Oil City, was re-elected Chairman of the Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. As Chairman of YF&R, Marty serves as an Ex-Officio member of the Board of Directors.

Sam Irwin, Press Secretary for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture, was named the "Regnal Wallace Ag Communicator of the Year".

The Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation wrapped up its convention June 27. More than 1,200 farmers attended the annual event. The Farm Bureau is a non-profit, private volunteer membership organization of Louisiana farmers and ranchers.

REUSABLE GROCERY BAGS PRESENT SAFETY PROBLEMS

From: University of Arizona release

Reusable grocery bags can be a breeding ground for dangerous food-borne bacteria and pose a serious risk to public health, says a joint food-safety research report from the University of Arizona (UA) and Loma Linda University in California. The research study randomly tested reusable grocery bags carried by shoppers in Tucson, Los Angeles and San Francisco and found consumers were almost completely unaware of the need to regularly wash their bags.

"Our findings suggest a serious threat to public health, especially from coliform bacteria including E. coli, which were detected in half of the bags sampled," says Charles Gerba, UA professor and co-author of the study. "Furthermore, consumers are alarmingly unaware of these risks and the critical need to sanitize their bags on a weekly basis."

Bacteria levels found in reusable bags were significant enough to cause a wide range of serious health problems, even death. At particular danger are young children, Gerba says.

The study also found that awareness of potential risks was very low; 97% of those interviewed said they never washed or bleached their reusable bags.

Some members of the California Legislature, through Assembly Bill 1998, are currently seeking to promote increased consumer use of reusable bags by banning plastic bags from California stores. The report notes that "a sudden or significant increase in use of reusable bags without a major public education campaign on how to reduce cross contamination would create the risk of significant adverse public health impact."

To see the report, go to uanews.org/node/32521.



Mark Your Calendar!

July 15, 2010

Delhi Community Center
6:00 p.m.

CPL is sponsoring a meeting on competition in the market place featuring Fred Stokes, Executive Director of Organization of Complete Markets and Bill Bullard CEO R-Calf USA

Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues

Please be sure to take a moment to make sure your membership dues are up-to-date. Your membership dues are crucial to further advancing our mission. If you have already paid your dues, we thank you. Please use this form to sign up your neighbor. Dues are just \$50. If you have not yet paid your dues, visit our website (www.lacattle.org) and use the online form or fill out the form below. Your dues are the only source of income for our organization and without them we would not be able to ensure that our goals are seen through. If you have any questions, comments or ideas, please feel free to call 1-888-528-6999.

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