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Spotlight on SIMMENTAL

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Phone: 919-552-9111
Email: mail@nccattle.com
Website: www.nccattle.com

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STAFF

Manager, N.C.	MILO LEWIS
Manager, S.C.	TRAVIS MITCHELL
Editor & Advertising Director	CASEY HINNANT
N.C. Circulation	KIM BURDGE
S.C. Circulation	TRAVIS MITCHELL

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P.O. Box 207 • Saluda, SC 29138

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Website: www.sccattlemen.wildapricot.org

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By MILO LEWIS, N.C. Cattlemen's Association

Director's Report

From Heat to Harvest

– Enduring Summer & Planning for Success

As the summer sun bears down across North Carolina, cattle producers are digging deep and managing through heat stress and long days. But we know that even in these challenging months, cattlemen and cattlemen are already looking ahead. Whether you're preparing for fall calving, planning forage improvements, or setting year end goals, this is the time to lay the groundwork for success.

At the N.C. Cattlemen's Association (NCCA), we're doing the same. Pushing through the heat while staying focused on helping our members not only endure the present but also build for the future, and that includes growing our team and strengthening the voice of our industry.

Planning for the Season and the Future – NCCA continues to focus on the core needs of producers – advocacy, education, and industry growth.

- **Advocating for You** – We're actively engaged at the state and federal levels on everything from livestock related budget negotiations to regulatory issues that directly impact producers. This includes our involvement in the Jordan Lake and High Rock watershed cattle exclusion proposals. We are alongside county agents and local officials to ensure that producer voices are heard and practical, science based solutions are prioritized.

- **Delivering Timely Resources** – Our partnerships with the N.C. Department of Agriculture, N.C. Cooperative Extension, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association help us provide you with the tools and information you need. From managing heat stress and pasture planning to tracking emerging threats like the New World screwworm, we are committed to putting expert information into your hands.

- **Promoting and Protecting the Beef Industry** – We're not just working behind the scenes; we are also engaging directly with consumers and the public. From local beef promotion campaigns and media outreach to global discussions such as our recent meeting with Ambassador Mophuting of Botswana to exploring agricultural partnerships through the N.C. National Guard State Partnership Program, NCCA is committed to preserving our industry's reputation and increasing demand for our product.

Building the Team That Builds the Industry – As we plan for the future, we're also working to grow our membership. The strength of the association is rooted in its members. A larger, more

engaged membership means a stronger voice for North Carolina cattle producers at every level.

That's why we're excited to remind you about two long standing member recruitment incentive programs:

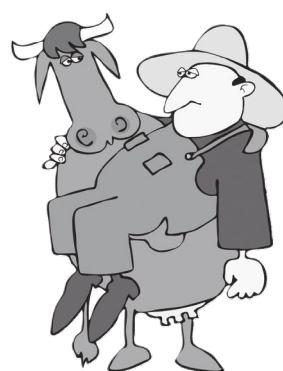
- **Pasture Management's "Mile of Fence" County Challenge** – We've partnered with Pasture Management Systems Inc., and they've generously committed to donating one mile of fencing materials to the county association that recruits the most new members by the end of the year. This is a great opportunity to improve infrastructure in your area while building a stronger local cattlemen's group.

- **Carolinas Animal Health's Prize Pack Raffle** – Thanks to our friends at Carolinas Animal Health, every current NCCA member who recruits a new member is entered into a drawing to win a prize pack filled with useful products for your herd and your operation. The more you recruit, the more chances you have to win!

From Heat to Harvest – We Are in This Together – At NCCA, we believe in the power of community. We are here to support you through the toughest seasons and to help you plan for long term success. As you look toward the fall and the opportunities it brings, we invite you to help us build an even stronger association.

Encourage your neighbors, family, and fellow producers to join the association. Tell them what it means to you. Together, we can withstand the heat, harvest the rewards, and grow a cattle industry that thrives for generations to come.

To learn more about membership benefits or to join online, visit www.nccattle.com. Questions? Contact our office. We would love to hear from you!



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SPOTLIGHT on Simmental

History of the Simmental Breed

By THE AMERICAN SIMMENTAL ASSOCIATION

The Simmental is among the oldest and most widely distributed of all breeds of cattle in the world. Although the first official herdbook was established in the Swiss Canton of Berne in 1806, there is evidence of large, productive “red and white” cattle being found much earlier in ecclesiastical and secular property records of Western Switzerland. Those red and white animals were highly sought because of their “rapid growth development, outstanding production of milk, butter, and cheese, and for their use as draught (draft) animals.” They were known for their gentle nature, impressive stature, and excellent dairy qualities.

As early as 1785, the Swiss Parliament limited exports because of a shortage of cattle to meet its own needs. The Swiss “Red and White Spotted Simmental Cattle Association” was formed in 1890. Since its origin in Switzerland, the breed has spread to all six continents. Total numbers are estimated to be between 40 and 60 million Simmental cattle worldwide, with more than half in Europe. The worldwide spread was gradual until the late 1960s. Records show that a few animals were exported to Italy as early as the 1400s. During the 19th century, Simmental were distributed through most of Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and Russia, ultimately reaching South Africa in 1895. Guatemala imported the first Simmental cattle into the Western Hemisphere in 1897, with Brazil following in 1918 and



Argentina in 1922.

There are unsubstantiated reports from a variety of sources indicating Simmental cattle arrived in the United States before the turn of the century. Simmental were reported as early as 1887 in Illinois, according to one source; in 1895 in New Jersey; and in New York and New Mexico around the 1916–1920 period. An ad in an 1896 issue of the *Breeder's Gazette*, published in Chicago, also made



reference to “Simmenthal” cattle. Apparently, those early imports did not capture the imagination of the American cattleman, and the Simmental influence died quietly away until they were reintroduced in the late 1960s.

The breed made its most recent appearance in North America when a Canadian, Travers Smith, imported the famed bull Parisien from France in 1967. Semen was introduced into the United States that same year, with the first half blood Simmental calf born at Geyser, Mont., in February of 1968. The American Simmental Association was formed in October of 1968. Simmental spread to Britain, Ireland, and Norway in 1970 and to Sweden and other Northern European countries shortly thereafter. The first purebred bull was imported into the United States in 1971, and Australia received Simmental semen and live animals in 1972. The World Simmental Federation (WSF) was formed in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, in 1974. In 1976, Simmental cattle were shipped to the Republic of China. The purpose of the WSF was to unify Simmental breeders around the world and provide them with a vehicle through which they could exchange research and information and increase the influence and importance of the Simmental breed.

Selection in Europe was initially for three features — milk, meat, and as draft animals. The demand for working animals is greatly reduced today, but muscularity and high milk production are still important to the success of Simmental. The breed is known by a variety of names, including Fleckvieh in Germany; Pie Rouge, Montbeliarde, and Abondance in France; and Pezzata Rosa in Italy. The Simmental name is derived from their original location, the Simme Valley of Switzerland. In German, Thal or Tal means valley; thus, the name literally means Simme Valley.

Simmental have a number of important attributes. They are widely distributed throughout the world, implying adaptability to varied environments and management practices. They have continued to thrive over hundreds of years, implying utility, functional efficiency, and productivity, and they are second in numbers, only to Brahman, among all breeds worldwide.



The American Simmental Association (ASA) was founded by a contingent of breeders who came from other breed backgrounds and shared a common goal of establishing a breed based on sound performance principles. Thus, in its 30+ years of existence, ASA has often been at the forefront of beef industry innovation and progress. In 1971, ASA published the first beef breed sire summary, and since that time has:

- 1) initiated a cow recognition program;
- 2) developed Simbrah — a heat tolerant, insect resistant breed combining the genetics of Simmental and Brahman; 3) developed the first multi-breed EPDs;
- 4) been a leader in incorporating performance data into the show ring; and, 5) more recently, established the industry standard for proving carcass merit. Most other breeds have followed the

Simmental History continued on the next page



Simmental History continued from the previous page

leadership of ASA. The growth of Simmental cattle in North America is really a reflection of what has already occurred in most agricultural countries of the world. It appears certain that Simmental will continue to play an important role in the future of the American beef producer.

Why American Simmental?

- *Emphasis Upon Beef Production* – Only in the United States are Simmental measured and selected totally for efficient, economical production of quality beef. Unlike most of the European performance programs involving Simmental cattle where emphasis is on the measurement of milk production, ASA has developed performance programs that focus on meat production.

As a result of performance programs, the ASA was the first breed association to publish a sire summary. The American Simmental resulting from this effort meets today's demand for a beef animal that can thrive under a variety of conditions. They have bred-in ability to adapt to hot and cold temperatures, to dry or humid climates, and to range conditions or confinement rearing.

- *Breeder Selectivity* – Changing the genetic composition of any breed has traditionally been a slow and painstaking process. Often times this has been further hindered by restrictive policies


or practices that were unrelated to the goal of profitable beef production.

The American Simmental Association has been innovative and flexible in allowing for breeder selectivity in all programs. Furthermore, no color restrictions are imposed. Performance has always been given far greater emphasis than color or other superficial attributes.

- *A Blend Of The Best* – America has been known as the melting pot of nationalities. The same concept is true for the Simmental breed. European countries have specialized in the development of particular strains and traits of Simmental. A great deal of pride is associated with the product that has been developed by each country and, in some cases, by specific herd books within countries. Only in America has there been an opportunity for an expansive within-breed blending or melting pot effect to take place. The result has been greater performance and productivity because only the best cattle coming from the various countries are utilized in the composition of the superior American Simmental. The resulting product is capable of expressing the superior traits from all European strains, providing for even greater flexibility and opportunities for innovative and creative cattle breeders.

- *American Simmental Have Evolved From a Wide Genetic Base* – Only a small proportion of any generation is truly genetically superior. The larger the population base, the greater the potential for selection of superior individuals. Through innovative programs, such as performance testing, carcass evaluation, total herd enrollment, and a nationwide sire summary evaluation, the opportunity to select for improvement of economically important traits is enhanced even more.


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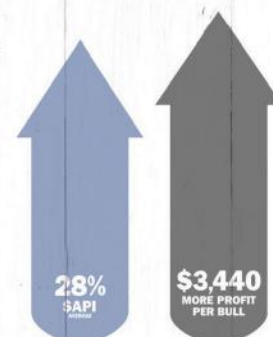
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SIMMENTAL

Executive Vice President Report

By JON DeCLERCK, *American Simmental Association*

Dear American Simmental Association Members,

I stepped into the role of executive vice president (EVP) of the American Simmental Association (ASA) on July 1. It's a tremendous honor to serve this progressive membership and represent a breed I've long respected for its versatility, performance, and quality. As our industry continues to evolve, and as new challenges arise, my goal is to uphold ASA's mission while leveraging tools to position the association as both a problem solver and a leader in the beef business.

Serving as incoming EVP, I've had the great privilege of learning from two extraordinary leaders: retiring EVP Dr. Wade Shafer and retiring COO/CFO Linda Kesler. Their commitment to ASA and its members has left an indelible mark on this organization. Their leadership has helped make ASA the forward thinking, mission driven association it is today, and I'm grateful for the time they've invested in preparing me for this next chapter.

As I step into this new role, I do so with a deep respect for the legacy of this breed and the bold mission that has guided ASA since its founding in 1968. Our founders were rebels — visionaries who believed in building better cattle through science, objectivity, and performance. They didn't chase trends; they laid a foundation built on measurable results, and that spirit still drives us today.

ASA's mission — to serve the broader beef industry first — is unique among traditional breed associations. It sets us apart. It keeps us focused on improving efficiency, genetic predictability, and economically relevant traits for cattle producers across the industry. The strategic vision of founding International Genetic Solutions (IGS) has positioned our association as a pioneer and leader in multi-breed evaluation, data collaboration, and genetic progress.

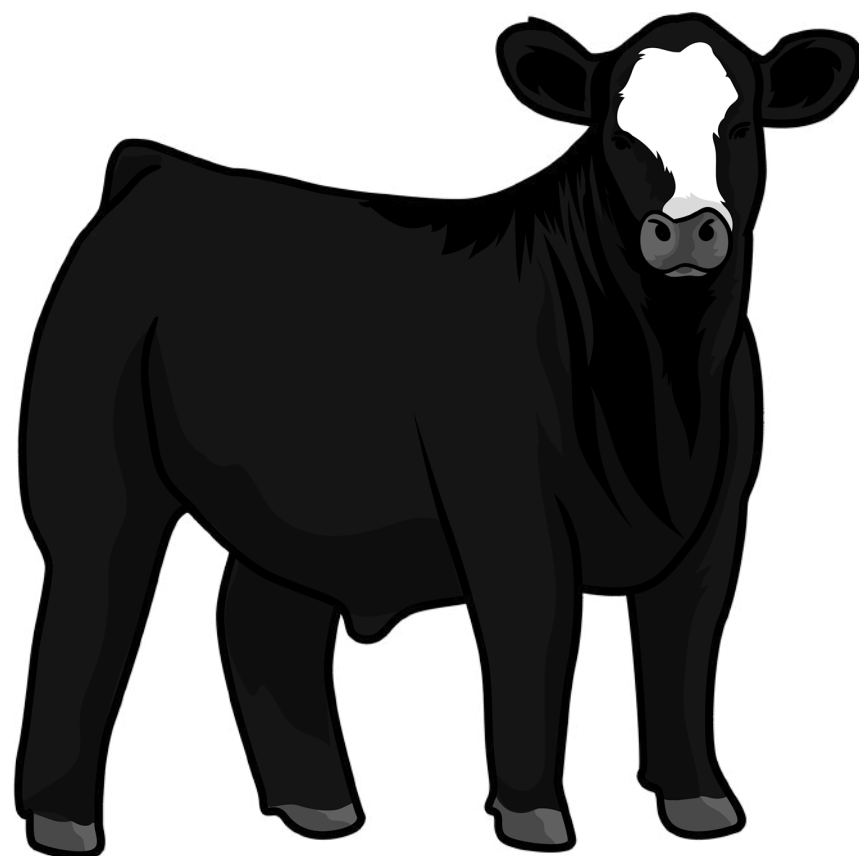
Looking ahead, my vision is to expand the SimGenetics footprint. This includes increasing the breed's presence in bull sales and broadening our influence in underserved markets. I believe SimGenetics deserves a larger share of the commercial bull market, and we currently have the tools and are breeding the cattle to make that happen.

We will continue to strengthen youth programs — not only to grow the next generation of ASA members, but also to develop tomorrow's leaders. Our junior program is one of the best in the country, and I intend to build on that success to attract and engage new families, students, and lifelong members.

We will also continue to be led by science and embrace data driven decision making. By enhancing our genetic evaluation tools, expanding our reach through IGS, and building new partnerships with industry stakeholders and other breed associations, we'll ensure that ASA remains relevant and innovative in an increasingly competitive beef industry.

This is an exciting time for the ASA. We have a talented staff, passionate membership, and cattle with the versatility to thrive in every environment. SimGenetics offer the rare combination of performance and phenotype — they have the quality to excel in the show ring and the functionality to advance commercial programs, ultimately adding value regardless of marketing avenue. I'm eager to get out, meet more of our members, listen to your ideas and perspectives, and collaborate to move the ASA forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I'm proud to be part of this mission, and I look forward to working with you.



SPOTLIGHT on Simmental

Jennie Rucker – A Dedicated Simmental Leader

By **BROOKE HARWARD**, *N.C. Simmental Association*

Jennie Rucker has been synonymous with North Carolina Simmental for over 30 years — and for good reason. As the executive secretary for the N.C. Simmental Association (NCSA), Jennie played a pivotal role in the advancement and success of the breed. Her involvement over the years included planning events for the NCSA, helping run sales, assisting with the N.C. Junior Simmental Association, and always being a positive and adamant advocate for the Simmental breed.



A dedicated cattlegwoman and leader.

Jennie grew up in South Carolina and attended Clemson University, majoring in animal science and participating on the Clemson Livestock Judging Team in 1983. She credits her time and the connections she made at Clemson with providing her valuable knowledge about the cattle industry — especially the purebred industry. While at Clemson, Jennie met her future husband, Phil Rucker. She credits Phil with helping her learn more about the purebred cattle side of the industry and about exhibiting cattle. However, Jennie says she also learned more about the Simmental breed while at Clemson when she worked for Dr. Carl Thompson, who raised Simmental cattle.

Jennie and Phil worked various jobs in agriculture after college but eventually settled down in Hamptonville, North Carolina. Now North Carolina residents, the Ruckers started a family and began the careers that would take them through the next 30+ years. Phil began working for the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, and Jennie began working for NCSA. Jennie recounts how she was approached by a Simmental breeder regarding her interest in working for NCSA. “This was a part time job I could do at home without leaving my



The Rucker family at the Fall Harvest Sale.

kids.” However, as anyone who knows Jennie or has interacted with her over the years knows, she dedicated much more of her time and efforts to the association than just a “part time” job.

One of the most visible parts of her job was helping with the N.C. Simmental Fall Harvest Sale, the longest running state consignment sale. Jennie has continued to help consignors and sellers alike with many aspects before, during, and after the sale to ensure the sale’s continued success. Other than just working with the sale, Jennie also



Premier Exhibitor at the Dixie Classic Fair.



Part of the Rucker family in 2022.

worked the NCSA booth at the N.C. Cattlemen's Association Annual Conference every year, provided updates to the NCSA website and Facebook pages, managed the annual NCSA directory, wrote monthly articles for *The Carolina Cattle Connection*, wrote producer spotlight articles every year, kept the financial accounts, organized meetings, maintained membership lists, and much more.

Jennie also played an essential role in the N.C. Junior Simmental Association program, always encouraging juniors to show Simmental and participate in events. She helped plan and host two AJSA Regional Classics during her tenure. I can personally say, on behalf of my time in the junior program, Jennie — or Miss Jennie, as we say — was one of the most constant, friendliest faces you would see at a junior event. I can confidently say it was her encouragement and kindness that helped many juniors enjoy showing Simmental. In recognition of her lifelong commitment to promoting the Simmental breed, Jennie received the Golden Book Award from the American Simmental Association in 2015.

While working and raising a family, the Ruckers also started their herd and established Rucker Family Farm. Although they had worked with several different breeds of cattle during their lives, it came as no surprise that the Ruckers focused mostly on Simmental for their herd. With all four of their children showing Simmental, the Ruckers

again became synonymous with the breed. They showed cattle on the local, state, and even regional levels as juniors and young adults and had great success in the showing. Their success included grand champions at the N.C. State Fair, the Dixie Classic (now Carolina Classic Fair), the N.C. Junior Beef Round-Up, and high placings at the AJSA Eastern Regional show as well as premier Simmental exhibitor and/or breeder at shows during their time in the showing.

After their kids aged out of the junior program, the Ruckers did not show, but they continued to raise Simmental and commercial cattle. They utilized the N.C. BCIP Bull Test Sales to market their bulls and had some of the top gaining bulls while they were there. Today Rucker Family Farms has dispersed their cow herd but continues to support the cattle industry and the Simmental breed.



The 2015 ASA Golden Book Award winner.

After 31 years of serving as the NCSA executive secretary, Jennie stepped down to spend more time with her family. All four of their children now have children of their own, making Jennie and Phil grandparents to seven! So, although Jennie may not be spending as much time with the NCSA, her time is being filled up enjoying life with her children, grandchildren, and all the friends she has made through the Simmental breed over the years.

Despite Jennie's contribution and dedication, she has always credited many others for the success of the NCSA. While it does take a village, I would like to say thank you again for all the personal contributions Jennie has made to the NCSA and the Simmental breed over the years. Her dedication and commitment to the breed and all its producers is unmatched. As she said in her last Simmental Trail article, "I have truly enjoyed getting to know cattle producers across the state and even in other states. Cattle people are the best people. Thank you so much for the memories!" Jennie, thank you for making the NCSA what it is today and providing all of us with just as many memories to cherish.



The entire Rucker family today.

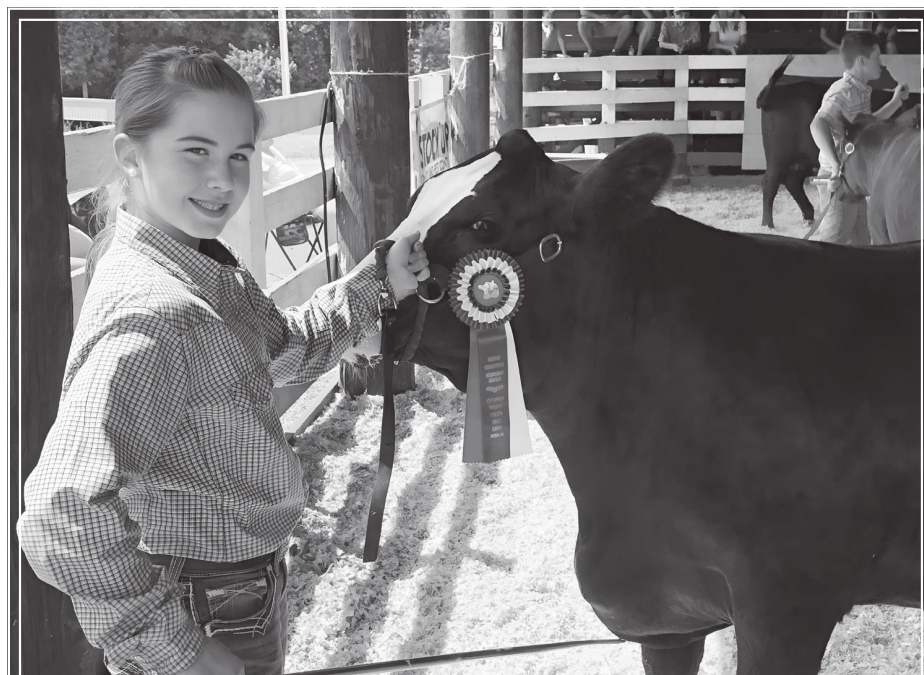
SPOTLIGHT on Simmental

JS Farm – Turning Showring Achievements Into a Successful Breeding Program

By **BROOKE HARWARD**, *N.C. Simmental Association*

What started as a junior show project for Shelby Candler has created a winning breeding program for the Candler family of Weaverville, North Carolina. John, Jodi, and Shelby Candler own JS Farm, where they raise cattle in the North Carolina mountains. While they were already raising cattle before showing, over the past several years it is easy to see that showing cattle began a new chapter for JS Farm.

John and Jodi's daughter Shelby had been involved with showing horses but began showing heifers at local western North Carolina shows and fairs in 2017. Over the years, Shelby has had experience in showing everything from horses to goats to even broiler chickens at the county fair, but it was quickly evident that she really loved and excelled in showing cattle. Starting with commercial and Simmental cattle, Shelby received help and guidance from local



Shelby showing at the 2018 Catawba Valley Youth Expo.



producers in the community and through the FFA show program. Anna and Jeff English of Lonesome Valley Investments have been a big support from very early on in her show career. Shelby saw success in the show ring with her Lonesome Valley heifers as well as a lot of success in the showmanship ring those first few years.

In 2019, Shelby received a great opportunity from another local Simmental breeder through the Kenneth Ambrose Memorial Heifer Scholarship. As the first chosen recipient that year, Shelby was able to acquire a heifer from Martin Farms in Tennessee. That heifer, MF Gossip, a $\frac{3}{4}$ SimAngus heifer sired by TJ Main Event and out of a Pays to Dream cow, did her fair share of winning. She also created the "GiGi" cow family for the Candlers that has become a foundation cow family for their program. In just a few short years, the GiGi cow has already produced the champion purebred Simmental female at the N.C. State Fair and the 9th overall bred-and-owned (B&O) purebred female at the 2024 AJSA National Classic, as well as the 4th



The Candler family and friends at the 2023 N.C. State Fair.

overall B&O percentage bull at the 2025 AJSA National Classic.

Over the years, the Candler family has shown cattle at all levels of competition and has had great achievements. While Shelby has shown several breeds, including Simmental, Hereford, Gelbvieh, and Charolais, some of her greatest successes have come from the Simmental breed. Just a few of these wins with her Simmental cattle include the reserve supreme female and champion N.C. Born & Bred female at the 2024 Mountain State Fair, the reserve supreme open female at the 2024 N.C. State Fair, the reserve supreme female at the 2023 Mountain State Fair, as well as countless grand and reserve champion Simmental and showmanship wins at local and state shows.

This past summer, Shelby had another successful show run with top placings at the AJSA Eastern Regional and National Classic. At the Eastern Regional in Harrisonburg, Va., Shelby took home several

banners with her owned and B&O animals. She won grand champion B&O percentage bull with her bull JSF3 Jet Lag M422, reserve champion B&O percentage heifer with JSF3 Donna Jean 91M2, and reserve champion purebred heifer with Bailey's Bianca 432M. She also won 2nd in senior livestock judging and 10th in senior sales talk. Just a few weeks later in Madison, Wis., at the AJSA National Classic, she won 3rd overall B&O percentage heifer, 4th overall percentage bull, 12th overall owned purebred heifer, and 5th place Division 3 owned percentage heifer. She also again won 2nd place in senior livestock judging and was 13th overall senior in points for the show.



Reserve supreme female at the 2023 N.C. State Fair.

In addition to showing cattle, Shelby, with the support of her parents, has been very active in other livestock and agriculture activities as well. She was active with the North Buncombe High School FFA and served as president and received the N.C. FFA State Star Farmer award for her cattle operation. She participated in the Perry & Doris Teeter Beef Leadership Institute, and she competed in multiple FFA contests and livestock judging events. She has seen as much success in livestock judging contests as she has in the showing, placing in the top 10 and winning several individual and overall FFA and 4-H awards.

After graduating high school with highest honors in 2023, Shelby attended Redlands Community College in Oklahoma for judging. Most recently, while on the judging team, Shelby placed as the 6th overall high individual at the 2025 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. This fall, Shelby will continue her collegiate academic and judging careers at Texas Tech University. After her undergraduate degree is completed, she hopes to pursue her DVM degree to work as an embryologist.

Today, JS Farm is still purchasing show heifers that will serve as donors for their herd but are also focusing on breeding their herd to create profitable and successful cattle. They utilize artificial insemination and are involved in embryo transfer work with their partnership cows but have also seen the value of investing in good natural service sires for their herd. In fact, Shelby's recent 4th overall bull at the National Classic was sired by their herd sire, Lonesome Style 9025, who was raised by fellow N.C. Simmental breeders and the people that helped them when they started showing, Lonesome Valley



Shelby acquired MF Gossip from Martin Farms in 2019.

JS Farm continued on the next page

JS Farm continued from the previous page



Showing at the 2023 Mountain State Fair.



Supreme champion Got to Be N.C. heifer at the 2024 Mountain State Fair.

Investments. JS Farm has marketed cattle through private treaty off the farm, through the N.C. Fall Harvest Sale, and through partnerships with other producers such as the Green Hills Cattle Bull and Heifer Sales.

When describing her time showing livestock, Shelby says it best. “Growing up showing livestock was one of the most influential things that I could have been involved in. I made new connections with people from many different states — many of those are some of my closest friends today. My favorite show memories don’t come

from inside the showing but from outside in the barn with friends or at home with my family from late nights in the barn. One of the biggest lessons I learned was even though you don’t always find success it is the lessons in the losses that are the most beneficial. Yes, I saw lots of success in the showing but that means nothing if you don’t thank the people and team behind you.”

With the continued success and advancements of their program, it is easy to imagine what a bright future JS Farm and the Candler family will have in the industry. Be sure to be on the lookout for JS Farm and the JSF3 prefix at upcoming shows and sales!

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SPOTLIGHT on Simmental

Triple D Farms – Creating Quality Commercial Cattle

By LILLY PLATTS, ASA Publication, Inc

Commercial producer Jamie Dail goes above and beyond in collecting, submitting, and analyzing data for Triple D Farms. His herd of commercial SimGenetics females is expected to consistently produce high performing calves each year.

Growing the Family Business – Jamie has built a uniform, consistent cow herd in a region where high performing commercial cow/calf herds are not common. Profit is the ultimate measure of success in the commercial cow/calf business, and by focusing on collecting, submitting, and analyzing data, the Dail family has met their goal of making a living in the beef industry.

Jamie grew up in agriculture, with his grandparents operating a laying farm. They always had a small herd of cattle around, which he was interested in from an early age. Following high school, he and his wife, Maria, purchased two cows, kicking off their own career in the cattle business. “That was our start,” he shares.



The Dail family – Grace, Cody, Jamie, Maria, Taylor, Nolan, and Fallon, holding Noah.



Triple D Farms has been incorporating Simmental genetics in their commercial herd for many years.

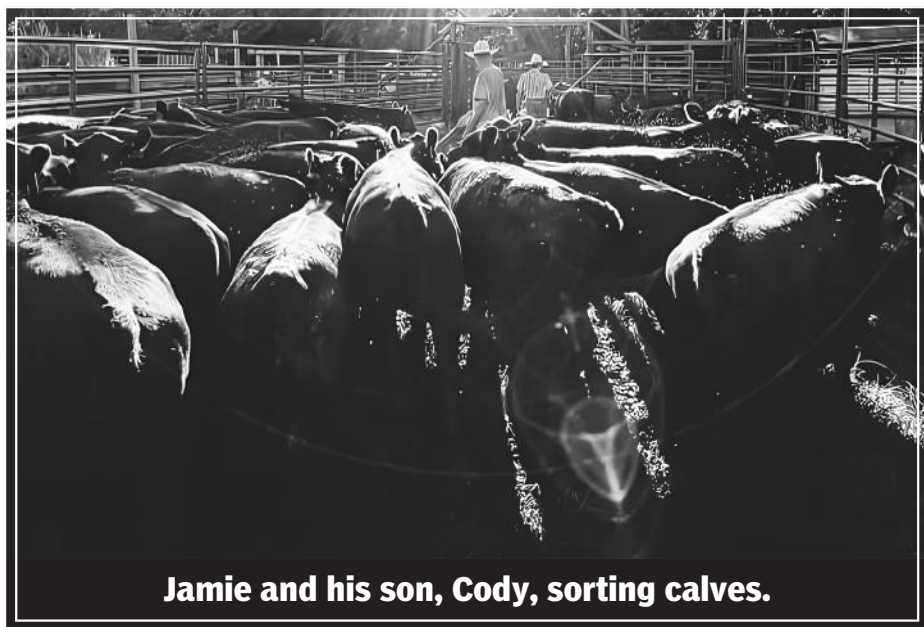
Officially bitten by the cattle business bug, they kept purchasing cows and land as they were able. “As my grandparents got older, I took over the cows they had, and we started buying a few here and there and land as we could. It snowballed from that point,” he recalls.

Jamie has since accumulated a sizable tract of continuous land, and the cow herd has grown to 800 head. Located only 30 minutes inland from the Atlantic, Triple D Farms is in a unique, productive area. Hot, often humid summers and cool winters are characteristic of southeast North Carolina. On average, the area receives the most rain from July to September; drought and heat can be a challenge, sometimes requiring early weaning.

Focusing on Profit – In the beginning, Jamie’s cattle were a range of breeds. Understanding that he would need to add value to make a profit, he identified and worked toward a well thought out breeding program.

“When I first started making breeding decisions, it was out of the ordinary,” he explains. “People in our area never had a breeding season. They just turned bulls out, and you got what you got. There wasn’t a paper trail. That was just normal because everyone was doing it for a hobby.”

Jamie also knew early on that they needed to add value to their calf crop and go beyond simply selling through the local auction barn. Taking advantage of heterosis was one essential part of this.



Jamie and his son, Cody, sorting calves.

Triple D Farms first introduced SimGenetics to their herd around 25 years ago.

In addition to the benefits of crossbreeding, Jamie points to the disposition, growth, and heat tolerance SimGenetics offers. "Disposition is a big deal for us. I also want my calves to shed off, and I like how they grow," he says.

Data was also an important factor in improving and expanding the business. "I probably have as much data, aside from genomics, on my cattle as any seedstock breeder," Jamie shares.

From birth to weaning, every piece of data that can be collected is saved and utilized later on in breeding decisions. Females are also tracked closely, and anything that isn't consistently producing a good calf is culled immediately. Triple D Farms keeps back a large group of females each year to account for this strict culling. Collecting data is a family effort, with Maria ensuring that information is saved and available chuteside when breeding and culling decisions are being made.

Jamie's longtime relationship with SimGenetics seedstock breeder Gibbs Farms has also been important in improving and growing the cow herd. Located near Ranburne, Ala., Gibbs Farms has a long history with the breed and is a trusted source for top producing SimGenetics bulls.

In addition to non-negotiable phenotypic traits, like foot structure and soundness, Dail relies on the All Purpose Index (\$API) when choosing herd bulls. The \$API index balances a number of traits, which works well both for the terminal side of the business and for keeping back replacement heifers.

Having a good relationship with a seedstock provider is extremely important for commercial producers, and Jamie has pointed to the quality

of Gibbs bulls, as well as their customer service. "When you spend the kind of money we do on bulls, I like to know that they believe in their product enough that they're going to stand behind it," he shares.

Yon Family Farms, located near Ridge Spring, S.C., is the Dail family's go-to source for quality Angus genetics.

Triple D Farms also participates in other value added programs, including Global Animal Partnership (GAP) certification. This program involves periodic visits to the farm by third party auditors to assess pasture access, the health of pastures, the age calves are

Triple D Farms continued on the next page



Docility and maternal instincts are traits of the Simmental breed that Dail values.

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Triple D Farms *continued from the previous page*



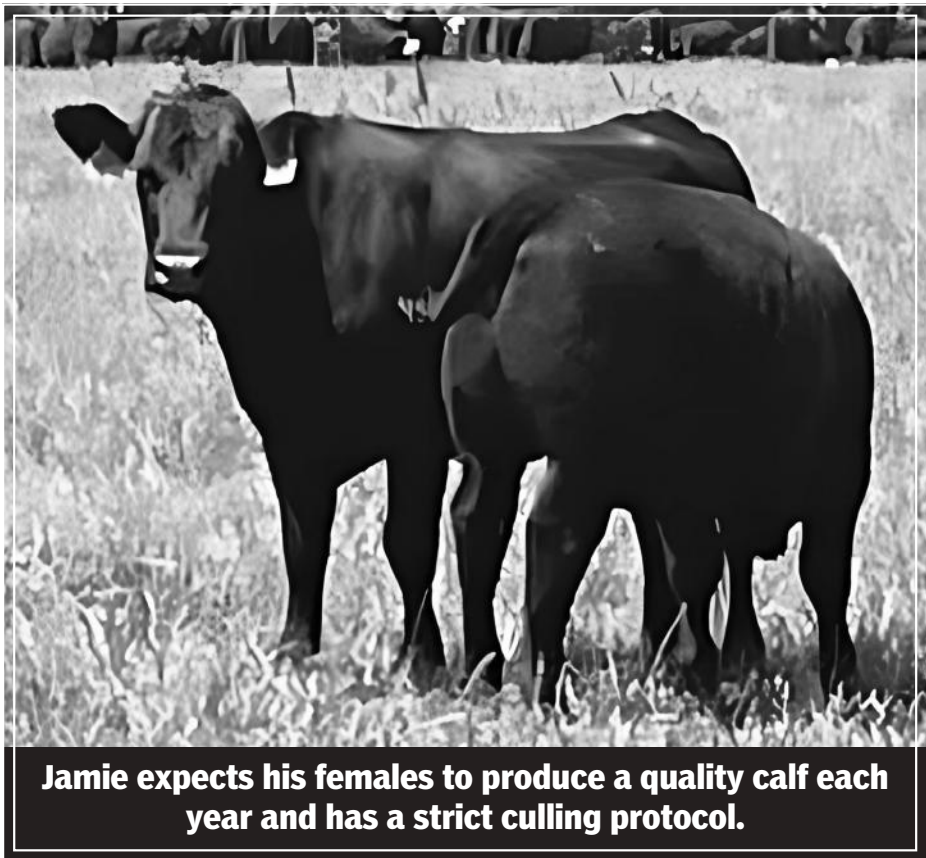
castrated and weaned, and more. This certification allows the Dail family to receive a premium per head each year.

A Family Affair – The entire Dail family is involved with the cow herd. Their oldest daughter, Fallon, lives close to the farm and is frequently there to help work cows. She and her husband, Nolan, have two young children named Ansley and Noah.

Son Cody and his fiancée, Grace Russ, are also extremely involved in the family business. “My son lives and breathes cattle,” Jamie shares.

Youngest daughter, Taylor, recently graduated from N.C. State University with a degree in agricultural business and is now working for AgCarolina Farm Credit.

Jamie’s wife, Maria, has been there from the beginning and is in charge of collecting, tracking, and submitting data. “She’s probably



Scan the code to watch an interview with Dail for the IGS Targeting the End Point feature.

more into the paperwork than I am,” he shares.

Maria has also implemented several practices important to the success of the farm, including keeping several milk cows around to nurse orphan calves. Calving season always presents challenges, and from twins to cows that have difficulty calving, orphaned calves are unavoidable. By having several Jersey milk cows on hand, these calves that would otherwise need to be bottle fed and weaned early are able to nurse and grow like normal. As Dail explains, the price of a Jersey milk cow far outweighs the cost of milk replacer and lost profit from an underperforming calf. “These calves can be just as good as they’d be on their mama,” he explains.

Having his family involved makes the challenge and daily work involved with being in the cattle business worth it. “My family seems to love it,” Jamie concludes. “We have a barn where the horses are in front of our house, with a big room inside. All of my kids and grandkids show up there every afternoon to eat. As long as they keep wanting to do that every day, I’m a rich man.”

Reprinted from Early Fall 2024 SimTalk

Regular copy deadline

is AUGUST 5 for the

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Spotlight material

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By BROOKE HARWARD, N.C. Simmental Association

Fall Harvest Sale. We are getting closer to this year's Fall Harvest Simmental Sale and are excited to see you next month! The sale will be held on September 6 at the Shuffler Sale Facility in Union Grove, North Carolina. We will have open heifers, both fall and spring calving bred heifers and cows, cow/calf pairs, and genetic lots for you to purchase. By the time this article goes to print, we will be very close to having the catalog out and are excited to show you what our consignors are bringing you for the 51st Annual Sale. Be sure to visit www.ncsimmental.com for more information on the sale. The catalog and videos will be posted on our website and our Facebook page as they become available, so be sure to check back regularly!



A bred heifer consigned to this year's Fall Harvest Sale.

A JSA National Classic Report. The NCJSA had another successful month showing their Simmental cattle. In July, Shelby Candler from North Carolina and Trey Davis from South Carolina traveled to Madison, Wis., for the AJSA National Classic held July 6–12. After a successful Eastern Regional in June, it was no surprise our juniors had more show ring triumphs in Wisconsin as well.

Unlike at regionals, juniors can show their bred-and-owned (B&O) females twice, if they choose, at the national show — in the B&O show and in the owned show. Both Shelby and Trey had great success with

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Shelby Candler, 3rd overall B&O percentage heifer.

their B&O percentage females in both shows. Shelby won 3rd overall female and Division 3 reserve champion in the B&O show and Division 3 5th overall in the owned show with JSF3 Donna Jean 91M2. Trey won 10th overall female and Division 3 4th overall in the B&O show and Division 6 9th overall in the owned show with Block Limitless Bucks 909M. Trey also showed S&S TSSC She Is Something in the owned percentage show and won Division 4 champion and 7th overall female.



Trey Davis, 10th overall B&O percentage heifer.

Shelby Candler won her class with JSF3 Jet Lag M422 and went on to win 4th overall in the B&O percentage bull show. In the owned purebred heifer show, Shelby won 12th overall female and Division 4 3rd overall with Bailey's Bianca 432M. Trey and Shelby both advanced to the semi-finals in their divisions in the showmanship contest, and



Shelby Candler, 4th overall B&O percentage bull.

Shelby won 2nd place in senior livestock judging and was the 13th overall senior for the week. Congratulations to both Trey and Shelby on an outstanding week! We look forward to seeing all our juniors out at shows this fall. We will kick off the fall with the S.C. Junior Beef Round-Up at the T. Ed Garrison Arena in Clemson on August 2–3, followed by the N.C. Junior Beef Round-Up on August 8–10 in Fletcher, N.C., at the N.C. Mountain State Fairgrounds.



Trey Davis, 7th overall percentage heifer.

Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing all of our current and prospective members on September 5 at the annual meeting and banquet. We will have a brief membership meeting along with a meal and our annual fundraising auction for both the NCSA and the NCJSA. If you are interested in donating items to the auction, please contact me, Anna English, or Amy Thomas. We look forward to seeing everyone to celebrate another year of Simmental cattle and plan for even more exciting times to come!

Membership. This is the last call for your membership dues if you want to be included in this year's printed handbook and membership directory. If you have not sent in your dues or are interested in joining the NCSA for the first time, please send in your dues promptly. Our 2025 handbook and directory will be going to print soon. You must be current on your dues to be included. Please contact me at ncsimmental@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Thank you all again for another great month working with Simmental cattle. I look forward to talking with many of you this month as we are preparing for the Fall Harvest Sale and hope you can all join us on September 6 in Union Grove!



Shelby Candler, 12th overall purebred heifer.

ASHLEY'S

BEEF CORNER

Sizzle, Grill, Repeat



By **ASHLEY HERRING**, *N.C. Cattlemen's Beef Council*

Our summer grilling campaign with southeast states has been sizzling. We've combined efforts with Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Virginia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Arkansas, and Tennessee to bring Beef. It's What's for Dinner to smart radio and Connected TV. The campaign is expected to have higher saturation in the Raleigh and Charlotte markets, in addition to Atlanta, Tampa, Nashville, Birmingham, and Louisville.

Here's how it works — while listening to music on digital audio platforms, the Beef. It's What's for Dinner ad will appear during a break promoting beef's message. These ads are unskippable and have an option to learn more on the BIWFD website. Audio platforms may include popular audio sites like Spotify, Pandora, and iHeart. Connected TV will display BIWFD ads during regular breaks. These are also non-skippable and the user must





watch the entire video to continue their show.

Our campaign started June 9 and will be completed on August 31. We'll have the full report with engagement details in September. We have another summer campaign that's in progress we will be sharing about soon!

Other recent events include the N.C. FFA convention and a beef cattle farmer interview video. Thanks to N.C. Farm Bureau's communications team, we were able to meet with Chelsie Metzler of Chatham County for a feature video on her farm. Chelsie raises Beefmaster cattle and is a first generation farmer from urban Pennsylvania. Chelsie's interest in beef cattle led to her starting a farm and a career in agriculture.

Neighboring farmers and their willingness to help one another are a big part of the success for everyone in her area, creating a network of farmers. I'm sure this is similar to many farming communities across our state, but we may not always think about sharing this with the public. We have shared the final videos on our social media channels and LinkedIn. Be sure to follow the N.C. Cattlemen's Beef Council there!

We hope you will help us by sharing the video as well. Our goal in producing the farmer videos is to share more about our farmers through channels such as the educational exhibit at the N.C. State Fair.

By showcasing our farmers and their stories, we can build relationships with consumers so that they understand more about agriculture and how food comes to our plates. The videos are conversation starters and build an understanding of the challenges and positives of farming and why it is important to all our communities.



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❖ AMAZING GRAZING ❖

Those Amazing Dung Beetles!

By DR. MATT POORE, N.C. State University



Author's note. This article appeared in The Carolina Cattle Connection several years ago. Due to the popularity of our dung beetle demonstrations at our workshops this summer, I am bringing it back to you this month. There is nothing more interesting in pastureland ecology than the mighty dung beetle, so I hope you enjoy reading this again.

I have run across many interesting things over my career, but none more so than dung beetles. My interest in pastureland ecology has grown over the years, and the way all species of plants and

animals interact in the pasture is one of the most fascinating and poorly appreciated processes on earth.

We take many things for granted — or don't even recognize many things — due to our busy lives, which are preoccupied with the grand challenges of life. As a child, I was especially interested in insects. Like many children, I had an ant farm where I could observe an ant colony in my own bedroom. My ant farm came to a crashing end when I took it to the elementary school hobby show and dropped it

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on the concrete floor! My teachers talked about the ant infestation I caused for years to come.

If I had discovered dung beetles at that early age, it might have sent me in a totally different direction with my career. As it turned out, specializing in beef cattle nutrition and grazing management allowed me to participate in interdisciplinary teams that included experts in soil health, veterinary entomology, forage agronomy, water quality, etc. All these important aspects of pastureland ecology should be considered in management plans because they are integrated into the system we know.

My colleague Wes Watson first got me interested in dung beetles in the 1990s. I had seen them on nature shows, almost exclusively the roller type that make a ball of manure and roll it across the pasture to be buried. These shows were typically filmed on the savannahs of Africa, and I never realized that dung beetles are actually found all over the planet, wherever there are animals and their associated piles of poop. My dad once met a field scientist in Alaska who had spent his entire career studying dung beetles specialized to use bear droppings!

Once we started talking about dung beetles with Wes, I showed my ignorance and indicated that I didn't think we had any on our farm. After he showed me how to look for them, I went home and found they were everywhere I looked. I can't believe they were there all that time, and I never knew it. As our conversations continued, we decided to study them more deeply.

Wes recruited a graduate student, Matt Bertone, to work on improving our understanding of dung beetles in our region. Matt conducted trapping studies in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain of North Carolina and also did work to show how manure nutrients were transported from the cow pie down into the soil profile. Matt went on to become Dr. Bertone, and he currently runs our Plant Disease and Insect Clinic.

Through this work, I started learning more about dung beetle ecology. There are three major categories of dung beetles, including 1) tunnelers, 2) dwellers, and 3) rollers. Tunnelers burrow under the cow pie for several days where they create brood chambers, which they then pack with manure and eggs. The tunnels may be up to 18 inches deep and are critical to the aeration and water infiltration capability of the soil. Dwellers stay in the cow pie most of the time and lay their eggs either in the cow pie or in the soil immediately underneath. A large population of dwellers can literally shred a cow pie or pile of horse manure in less than 24 hours, winning them their other common name — shredders. Finally, the rollers make a ball of manure, which they roll away from the cow pie before burying it with their eggs. In my experience, the rollers get all the press, but the tunnelers and dwellers do most of the work.

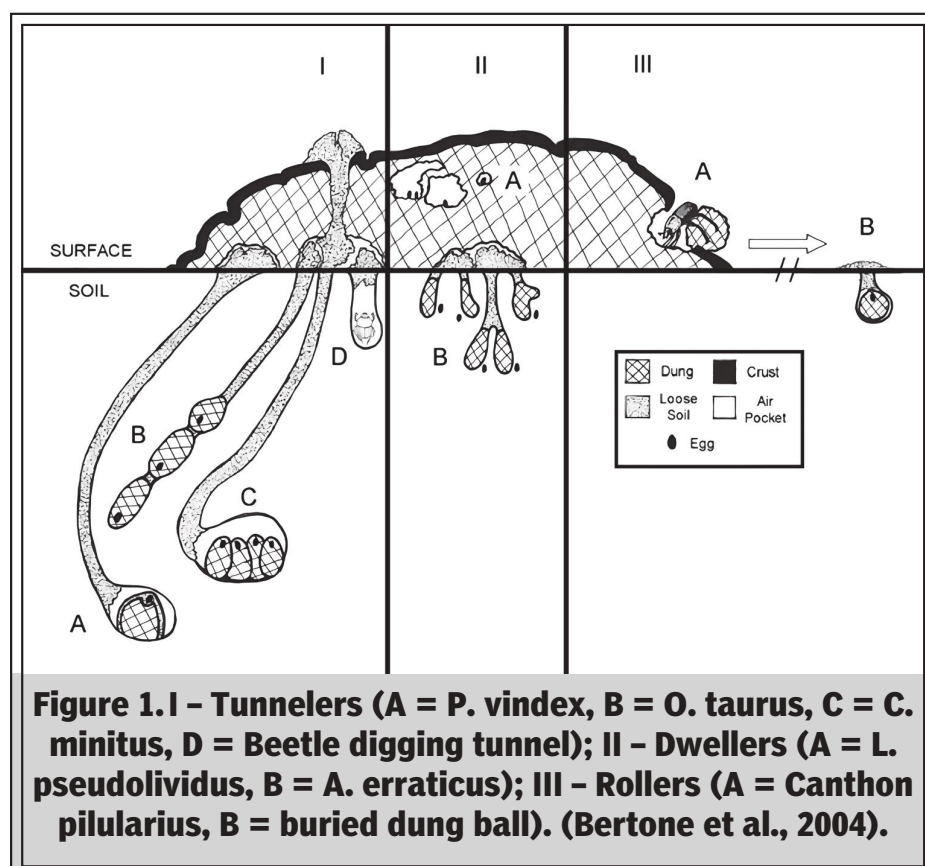
Dung beetles are very beneficial because they increase soil aeration, improve water infiltration, destroy fly and parasite habitat, and incorporate manure nutrients deep in the soil. An added benefit shown in recent research at N.C. State University is that they actually reduce the production of greenhouse gases associated with the breakdown of feces and urine in the soil.

In Matt Bertone's trapping studies, we identified 28 species in the Coastal Plain and 14 species in the central Piedmont. At all locations, the vast majority of beetles we found were of the tunneler

Onthophagus taurus – The dweller *Labarus pseudolividus* was the second most common. About 70 percent of the total beetles trapped were *O. taurus*, and 15 percent were *L. pseudolividus*. This is consistent with my observations since that time; we see many species, but it seems the most common and abundant are these two. They both emerge in March and are active through November when the fly season is underway. Both of these species were unintentionally introduced from Europe and have now spread across much of the United States. *Onthophagus taurus* was first found in the U.S. in Florida in 1971. Since that time, it has spread over a wide geographic region.

Of course, there are also many other insects that are attracted to fresh cow pies. Many of them are important in dung breakdown, like the beetles, and some of them are pests, including face and horn flies. An active population of dung beetles and other dung dependent insects can reduce fly populations through competition for food resources and destruction of the habitat needed for fly larvae development.

We did a series of eight Amazing Grazing workshops across the state of North Carolina. At each of these, we discussed dung beetles, and participants were able to see large numbers — especially *O. taurus* and *L. pseudolividus*. We also had a few *Digitonthophagus gazella*, *Phanaeus vindex*, *Parataenius simulator*, and *Sphaeridium scarabaeoide* to show. We discussed some fun facts about dung beetles, including how they were revered by the ancient Egyptians, how they were introduced into Australia, Hawaii, and other places where cattle had been imported but there were no dung beetles to degrade their manure, and how *Onthophagus taurus* is widely



Amazing Grazing continued from the previous page

considered to be the earth's strongest animal pound for pound.

We had many questions about how to increase dung beetle populations. It is possible to purchase dung beetles at the current time, but they are expensive, and the legality of commercially moving insects across state lines without regulatory approval is questionable. The truth is, if your farm is a good dung beetle habitat, they are probably already there.

The first step in getting more dung beetles is to go to the pasture and look for dung beetles to make sure you don't already have a lot. The best time to do this is in early summer when it is warm and moist. Look for fresh cow pies that have holes in the top and appear flattened and uneven on the surface. Slip a flat shovel under the cow pie, wait 30 seconds, and then turn it over. Dung beetles will have dug down to the surface of the shovel and will be obvious. You can also dunk the cow pie into a bucket of water and stir it up. Gradually, dung beetles will float to the surface and can be easily skimmed off.

If you disturb a cow pie and it appears that it has dead dung beetles in it, just wait a few seconds. Their normal behavior is to play dead to fool birds. After a short time of being still, they will pop back to life and rapidly dig into the cow pie!

If you really don't have any dung beetles, it might be due to things you are doing to your cattle. All things are connected, and research has shown that compounds like ivermectin and other pesticides do reduce populations at least for a short time. If you infrequently use these inputs, they might not cause problems, but aggressive treatment for internal and external parasites undoubtedly reduces populations of some of these species.

To reduce the impact, reduce the frequency at which you

use the pesticides, and don't treat all animals at the same time. Unfortunately, it is probably true that the most effective internal and external parasite control programs probably also reduce dung beetle populations. Reserving these treatments for situations where they are really needed most will help. For example, deworming only young cattle — but not mature cows — can help keep worm populations under control while reducing impact on dung beetles.

Using less toxic compounds whenever you can will also help. An example of this would be to use a white dewormer — which is less persistent in manure — rather than an ivermectin type, which will remain in manure for up to a month. Also, using these compounds late in the season after most of the dung beetle activity slows down can also help. Don't destroy their habitat if you can avoid it. We have known many cattlemen who drag pastures to scatter manure. This is recommended after winter feeding when there are many stacked up cow pies, but during the grazing season, let the biology do its work.

Fly control products in the mineral are also something to think about. Methoprene — the active ingredient in Altosid — is thought to only have a small impact on dung beetles while diflubenzuron — the active ingredient in ClariFly — is thought to have a greater impact.

Products with a very long residual period need to be carefully considered. Once, there were slow release ivermectin boluses that paid out the compound all grazing season. These worked great on worms but led to severe decreases in dung beetle populations. Those boluses are no longer on the market in the U.S., but there are other long acting ivermectin family products that undoubtedly have the same impact. Using products known to impact dung beetles can have less effect if used outside of the March to October active time period for the most abundant species.

Finally, recent research shows that toxic Kentucky-31 tall fescue results in a reduction in dung beetle breeding success compared to feces from cattle grazing novel endophyte tall fescue. Both *O. taurus* and *D. gazella* were less successful in KY-31 feces, and when given a choice, they preferred feces from cows fed novel endophyte tall fescue. This is yet another place that the toxins in KY-31 tall fescue play a destructive role in pastureland ecology. Conversion of KY-31 pastures into non-toxic forages would be very beneficial not only to the cattle, but also to the other biology at play in your pastures.

Dung beetles are just one more reason to get interested in the ecology of your pastures. Once you find them and start thinking about how to improve your populations, you will be on the way to improving your pastures in general!

For more on dung beetles, go to our Amazing Grazing Resource page at <https://go.ncsu.edu/amazinggrazingresources>.



Onthophagus taurus (♀)
Size: 1/4-3/8"

Figure 2. Photo by Dr. Matt Bertone

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Seller's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Seller's Signature _____

Buyer's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Buyer's Signature _____

National Beef Checkoff

Total Number of Cattle Sold _____ x \$1.00/head = \$ _____

North Carolina Cattle Industry Assessment

Total Number of Cattle Sold _____ x \$1.00/head = \$ _____

Total Amount Remitted \$ _____

Person remitting assessment ☐ Seller ☐ Buyer

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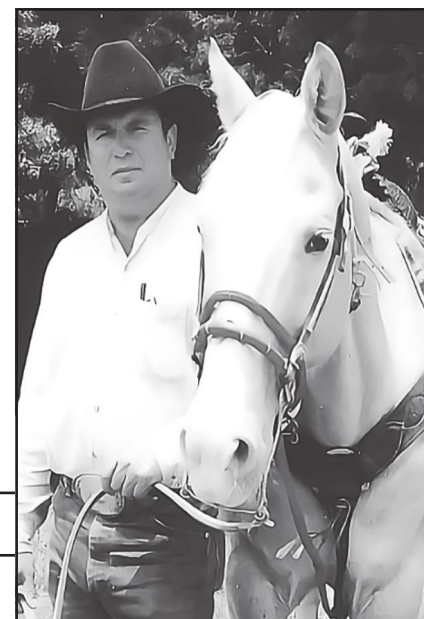
Check No.: _____

Postmark Date: _____

❖ E.B.'s VIEW FROM THE COW PASTURE ❖

In a Tight Spot

By E.B. HARRIS, Warrenton, N.C.



I think it was last year that I wrote an article about a machine similar to this one. This skid steer is 100 hp, and it has a Fecon mulching head on the front of it that I think is pretty much indestructible.

It chews up brush and bushes and makes them into mulch. It also clears fence right-of-ways and the edges of fields — it's a working machine.

I have a man named Bo who helps me on the weekends. Bo is wide open. If I tell him something, it had better be quick. He will

be gone before I finish what I am saying, or I need to be walking along beside him to get my message across. In other words, he does not let any grass grow under his feet. If he is sitting on something, it had better be moving.

The other day, I sent him over to where this machine was and told him what I wanted him to do.

Anne and I were going to be gone for about an hour and a half, and I would have my phone cut off. When I cut my phone back on, there was a text from Bo's wife. The text said, "Bo is in the machine and can't get out."

I knew where Bo was, so Anne and I headed over that way. Before we got there, Bo's wife came to where he was, and he told her to go get Nick. When we got there, Nick Roberson — who was working a set of cattle at another farm about a mile away from Bo — was there trying to give Bo a hand to get him out of the machine. Bo had cut the machine off and could not get out. The hydraulics on the machine had quit, and they had left the machine boom head up just enough where he could not open the door, so he was stuck in the machine.



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~ E.B. Harris

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An environmentally friendly machine — cows will be grazing shortly behind where this machine worked.

Nick was trying to get him out when I got there. I told Bo to just sit tight a minute and asked if he was alright. He answered, “Augh, augh, augh...I need to get out of here. I don’t have claustrophobia, but I don’t need to be in here.”

The machine would still crank, and the air conditioning worked. It was not terribly hot that day, but you could tell he wanted to get out of there. I kidded with Bo and said, “I got you where I want you. You can’t go anywhere,” which got a laugh out of Bo.

I had another machine with a frontend loader right up the path. Nick said he thought he could get it and put the forks under the head to raise it a little bit, so the door would open. I knew Shane was out

spraying and asked him to stop by. He and Nick figured out that they could loosen a couple of lines and get a little bit of the hydraulic fluid out and let the boom down, which worked.

Bo’s wife had already gone home before we got there, but she called him back just about the time we got him out. What happened was a hose had come off the bottom of the machine which affected the hydraulics, and that shut the hydraulics down. The machine would crank but not move.

I could hear Bo talking to his wife. I spoke up and told Bo to ask her if she could cook him supper and bring it to him along with a pillow to sleep on. Bo just smiled, pointed his finger at me, and laughed.

Rajo Named New Assistant Professor and Mountain Livestock Specialist

By FELIPE SILVA, *N.C. State University*

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Benjamin Rajo has joined the Department of Animal Science as our new Assistant Professor and Mountain Livestock Specialist, with an appointment split between 75 percent extension and 25 percent research.

Benjamin, a native of Honduras, managed a beef cattle operation in his home country for nearly eight years following the completion of his B.S. in 2012 from Zamorano Panamerican Agriculture University. He went on to earn both his M.S. (2023) and Ph.D. (2025) at N.C. State University, where his doctoral research focused on investigating the role and interplay of physiological and nutritional parameters in optimizing efficiency and productivity in beef cattle.

His extension and research programs will focus on evaluating the interactions between environmental variables and the physiological and genetic mechanisms that influence variations in animal performance and productivity. Ultimately, these programs aim to enhance the productivity, efficiency, and quality of livestock raised in Western North Carolina and beyond.

In addition to his passion for agriculture and livestock production, Benjamin enjoys soccer, cooking (especially grilling steaks!), playing board games, and spending quality time outdoors with his wife, Carolina, and their two young sons, Benjamin and Martin.

Benjamin can be contacted through email at ebrajo@ncsu.edu or by calling the Mountain Research Station’s office at 828-456-3943.



COWBOYS FOR CHRIST



THE CHAPLAIN'S CORRAL

Legacy on the Land – Training Up the Next Generation the Cowboy Way

By ANNA COWELL, Cowboys for Christ Chaplain

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6

Out here, under wide open skies and the watchful eye of God, we know a thing or two about legacy. The dust of the trail may settle at sunset, but the way we raise our children leaves a mark deeper than any boot print. *Proverbs 22:6* isn't just scripture; it's a way of life. In the cowboy tradition, it's as natural as saddling up at dawn or bowing your head before a meal. Teaching our children to ride, rope, respect, and revere — that's not a suggestion. It's a calling.

The Cowboy Code: More Than Boots and Branding – Cowboy life has always been about more than just cattle drives and rodeos. It's a code. It's loyalty to your family, reverence for your land, and faith in something greater than yourself. We teach our kids to shake hands firmly, look others in the eye, and say, “yes ma'am” and “no sir.” We show them how to mend a fence and also how to mend a broken spirit. We pass down more than skills; we pass down values. Honor. Grit. Perseverance. Truth.

That's what *Proverbs 22:6* calls us to do. Not just to raise a child, but to train them. Not just in what's convenient, but in what's eternal.

Family: Where Every Trail Begins – The family is the first arena where character is built. Before a child learns to hold the reins of a horse, they learn to hold your hand. And while ranch chores and livestock feedings are part of their routine, so are morning prayers and nighttime blessings.

One of my favorite reminders of this came unexpectedly one afternoon. My son, Jed, was playing with a stethoscope he'd gotten for Christmas. He walked up to his daddy and asked him to listen to his heart. My husband smiled, put the stethoscope on, and leaned in. “Can you hear it?” Jed asked with wide, expectant eyes. “I sure can,” my husband replied. But then Jed followed up with something that stopped us in our tracks. “Can you hear Jesus?”

We both looked at each other, unsure of what to say. After a beat, we smiled and told him, “Oh yes, I can hear Him.” Jed just nodded, satisfied. “Good! Because Jesus lives in there!”

What a blessing it is to know that our six-year-old already knows who Jesus is, and more than that, that Jesus lives in his heart. That's not just parenting. That's discipleship. That's training up a child in

the way he should go.

We as parents, grandparents, and guardians need to pray over our children daily. This kind of training isn't just in what we say — it's in what we pray. Covering them in prayer is our greatest responsibility and our most powerful tool as we shape their future.

While at the legislative quarterly meetings back in March, I had the opportunity to sit down and chat with Chuck Cruse. I was telling him how my children enjoy watching Bible stories on YouTube and how, as the 2024–2025 Chaplain for Florida CattleWomen Inc., I found it much easier to pray with my children and my husband than in front of a room full of like minded adults. He looked at me kindly and said, “Keep praying with your kids.” He went on to share that his 22-year-old son still calls him sometimes and says, “Dad, can you pray with me?”

I truly love that and will carry that with me. My goal as a mother is to make sure my children grow up to be honest, Christian adults who know how to talk to the Lord and aren't afraid to ask others to do the same.

God and Country: Tied at the Heart – The American cowboy isn't just a figure of strength and toughness; he's a symbol of something deeply rooted in our nation's soul: faith and freedom. Out on the range, the line between God and country isn't blurred — it's bound.

We raise our kids to stand for the flag and kneel in prayer. We teach them that true freedom is found not just in the wide open land, but in a life surrendered to the Lord. That there's power in obedience and strength in humility. That even the most rugged cowboy needs grace.

And when they see that, when they watch us bow our heads at sunrise and serve others before ourselves, they learn that being a child of God isn't separate from being a good citizen. It's part of it.

Building a Legacy That Lasts – We don't just want our children to succeed; we want them to stand. We want them to carry forward the legacy of faith, family, and integrity. That means we have to be intentional. We don't just hope they'll turn out alright — we invest in them every day. We teach them right from wrong, even when it's unpopular. We discipline with love, lead by example, and correct with grace.

Legacy isn't built in one grand gesture. It's built in daily decisions. It's in the early mornings mucking stalls and the late nights talking around the fire. It's in Sunday morning services and Wednesday night Bible studies. It's in the way we speak about others

when they're not around. It's in how we treat the land and how we handle loss.

We're not raising cattle — we're raising Kingdom warriors. Young men and women who will one day lead not just ranches and families, but communities and churches. And that starts with us.

Children of God: Still Learning, Still Growing — One of the humbling truths about *Proverbs 22:6* is that it reminds us — we're children too. No matter our age or status, we're still learning under the watchful eye of our Heavenly Father. Every time we slip, He guides us back. Every time we feel lost, He lights the path.

So, as we train our children, we're also being trained. God's working on our hearts just as much as we're shaping theirs. It's a beautiful, messy, holy process. It requires us to stay rooted in the Word, consistent in our actions, and always teachable.

That's the beauty of legacy — it's not about perfection. It's about progression. It's about pointing our children to the One who never fails, even when we do.

The Future of Our Industry: In Good Hands — The agricultural world, especially the ranching life, is facing challenges. Fewer families are staying on the land. Technology is changing everything. But what won't change is the need for strong, God fearing, honest

young people to rise up and lead.

Our children are not just the future of our families; they're the future of our industry. If we don't train them now, the next generation of cowboys, cattlemen, and ranchers may lack the foundation that built this country.

But I'm hopeful, because I see the sparkle in a young girl's eyes as she saddles her first horse. I hear the wisdom in a boy's voice as he prays over supper. I see kids who work with their hands, lead with their hearts, and trust in the Lord.

They are the legacy. They are the light. And they will not depart from the way, because we trained them in it, not just with words, but with our lives.

Proverbs 22:6 isn't a parenting hack or a shortcut — it's a sacred invitation. An invitation to build lives that matter, to raise children who carry truth in their hearts and grit in their hands. To trust that even when they stray, the foundation we've laid will hold firm.

So keep teaching. Keep loving. Keep praying. One day, when your child grows old and is leading their own, you'll see the fruit. And you'll know it was all worth it.

From the dust of the trail to the throne of grace, we are called to leave a legacy. Let's ride faithful!



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CATTLE & CARBON

Summarizing and Sealing This Series

By ALAN FRANZLUEBBERS, *USDA-Agricultural Research Service*



This finale in the series on cattle and carbon highlights some of the key issues and outcomes we can expect from managing pasture based livestock on the farm. As you are aware, and knowing the diverse readership of this magazine, cattle are not managed in isolation of all the other things that develop and that you engage in through your life. We all need to understand our limitations and, when possible, to stretch our boundaries — particularly in the space between our ears. Balance is important, so let's keep our heart and soul involved in our decisions too!

In Session 1, the basics of carbon were explored through the prevalence of carbon all around us. Everything living contains carbon! Carbon is in the organic molecules of grass that feed our cattle. Carbon is in the air as carbon dioxide that is absorbed by plants. Carbon is in the soil as part of soil organic matter that slowly decomposes to release nutrients to nourish grasses and forbs to feed the rumen of beef cattle. The cycling of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to organic molecules of carbohydrates in plants to the blood, hide, and meat in beef cattle is a part of nature that you, as a land manager, get to facilitate and enjoy. Turning this process into one that others can savor as tasty meat and milk products in a picturesque landscape setting should give you peace and joy!

Nature is both simple and complex. The idea of cattle consuming forages that eventually become food for us to consume and carry

on about our daily lives is elementary and often taken for granted. And yet, the biochemical processes needed to make this happen are miraculous in the form of photosynthesis that converts sunlight and carbon dioxide into simple sugars, which are transformed further into complex carbohydrates, proteins, fatty acids, flavonoids, and hormones that cattle can consume and make their own transformations into body tissue. Harvesting these processes as hay or meat products and distributing them to family, friends, and neighbors, as well as finding ways to prepare and celebrate these riches can be a hoe down that kindles our spirit.

Nature doesn't just bring us life but also requires the cycle to be completed through death and decay. This component is also normal and seemingly simple. And yet, the components of decay are also enormously complex, partly due to the millions of organisms that participate in this process and the diverse environmental conditions they face with fluctuations in temperature, moisture, and availability of organic and inorganic compounds.

The many forms of carbon found in soil were shared in Session 2 which focused on soil carbon storage in the Carolinas. Carbon is in organic matter, the diversity of soil microorganisms, and particulate and dissolved portions of organic matter that interact with minerals in soil. Carbon plays a vital role in ecosystem properties, processes, and functions. Healthy soil with abundant near surface carbon nurtures pastures while also protecting the environment and stabilizing ecosystems. Carbon concentration in soil varies widely in Carolina soils. Clearly, carbon declines in concentration with soil depth.

Carbon gives soil its vitality. Stabilized in soil as organic matter, it helps store abundant plant available nutrients, it loosens soil to allow rapid water infiltration and holds more water over time, and it provides the resources needed for soil microorganisms to be actively transforming soil into a fertile substrate. Carbon in soil is concentrated near the soil surface where it can provide the greatest benefit to the plants it nourishes.

Procedures for transforming a few soil samples into a carbon account over a farm landscape were described in Session 3 which focused on soil carbon calculations. Getting good estimates of farm level carbon accounting requires sampling of representative areas under different management and landscape features. Calculations



require some mathematical manipulations that are not so difficult once you have some understanding of the factors necessary for these computations. Some practice, persistence, and patience are needed too!

In Session 4, soil organic carbon stocks were reported across the diversity of forage and grazing lands in North Carolina. Stocks of soil organic carbon were greatest in the Blue Ridge region (109 Mt CO₂/acre), intermediate in the Piedmont region (90 Mt CO₂/acre), and lowest in the Coastal Plain region (75 Mt CO₂/acre). [Units are metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per acre]. Averaged across all forage and grazing lands, soil organic carbon stock was 92 Mt CO₂/acre. From 29 woodland fields that were also sampled in this survey, soil organic carbon stock was 106 Mt CO₂/acre. Results from this study suggest that soil organic carbon stocks under forage and grazing lands in North Carolina are (1) nearly comparable with woodlands in the region depending on management, (2) greater than under croplands in the region depending on management, and (3) greater than average land condition for the conterminous United States.

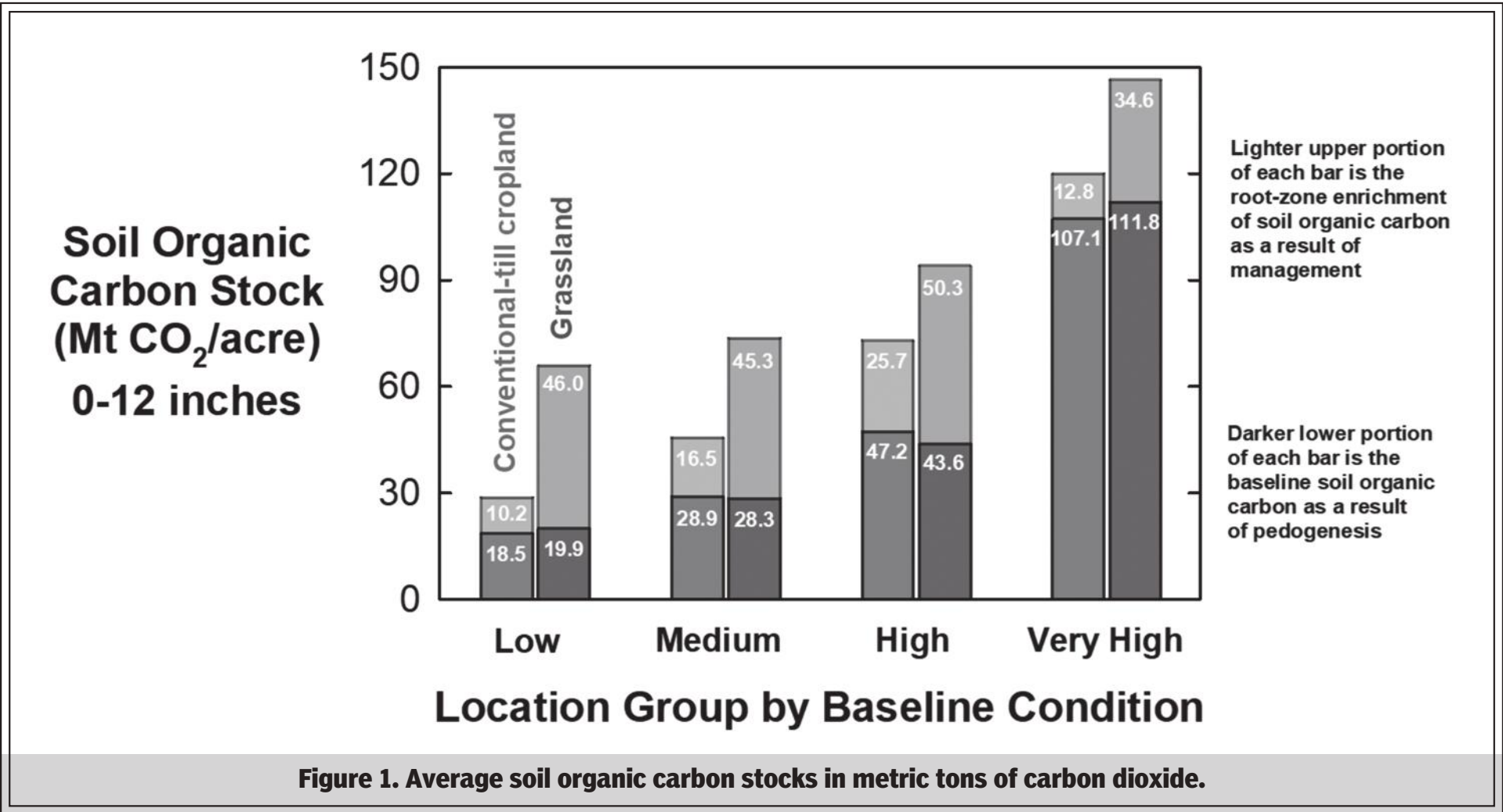
How soil organic carbon due to farm management could be distinguished from pedogenesis was explored in Session 5. Pedogenesis is the process of soil formation that occurs over thousands of years. Research is being conducted to separate management effects from pedogenesis by considering the carbon concentration below the primary rooting zone at 12 inch depth. This is the fundamental basis for the root zone enrichment calculation. Results presented in Figure 1 indicate that grassland management using this calculation approach on previous cropland would at least double the amount of carbon in the top foot of soil (50.3/25.7 = 2.0 in the high baseline condition). In the low baseline condition

at the left of the graphic, carbon accumulation with grassland was 4.5 times greater than with cropland (46.0/10.2 = 4.5). The root zone enrichment calculation approach will be valuable for making more accurate estimations in the future of how various pasture management approaches influence soil carbon.

Land use and forage management impacts on soil carbon were detailed in Session 6 from a sampling conducted throughout North Carolina in 2023. Root zone enrichment of soil organic carbon was greater under woodland than under grassland. Farm woodlands are often completely undisturbed land uses, whereas cattle and tractors impact grasslands. Root-zone enrichment of soil organic carbon was 61 Mt CO₂/acre under woodland and 52 Mt CO₂/acre under grassland. That’s a 17 percent difference, but considering that root zone enrichment under conventional till cropland across North Carolina research stations was only 16 Mt CO₂/acre, both grasslands and woodlands were exhibiting far greater soil carbon accumulation due to management. How pastures are managed can also change soil carbon, and some of these management effects were reported in this session.

The intertwining of carbon and nitrogen was investigated in Session 7. Elemental composition of soil organic matter varies depending upon environmental conditions but typically contains 58 percent carbon, 20 percent oxygen, 10 percent hydrogen, and 5 percent nitrogen. Across grassland soils of North Carolina, the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio averaged 12.4 at a depth of 0–4 inches, 12.7 at a depth of 4–12 inches, and 11.5 at a depth of 12–24 inches.

Cattle & Carbon continued on the next page



Cattle & Carbon *continued from the previous page*

These analyses indicate there is a large quantity of nitrogen that is closely intertwined with soil organic carbon. This soil organic nitrogen can be of benefit to grassland managers to make good decisions about how to use this resource. Natural ecosystems rely on this intertwining of carbon and nitrogen, and sustainably managed grassland ecosystems can do so as well.

Session 8 focused on biologically active soil carbon. Carbon in soil contributes resources to feed soil microorganisms. Those organisms perform a variety of beneficial functions to enhance grassland productivity. They also protect the environment by filtering water and stabilizing carbon in soil aggregates. In fact, strong positive associations have been found between soil aggregation and soil test biological activity. Further, carbon within those aggregates is enriched, and this can lead to physical protection of that carbon from being consumed further.

Carbon in soil organic matter is associated with a variety of soil physical properties, as outlined in Session 9. Soil physical properties are typically thought of as dominated by soil mineral characteristics, such as the textural components of sand, silt, and clay. However, several important properties related to water infiltration and retention are influenced by soil organic matter. Despite soil organic matter being a relatively small portion of whole soil, this organic matter imparts an outsized influence on soil and its functional conditions. Implementing forage and grazing management strategies at the highest level possible will almost certainly lead to better soil health conditions, since one of the clear attributes of improved grassland systems is higher soil organic matter content. These improved soil conditions should allow forages on your farm to take advantage of the increasingly variable weather conditions.

In Session 10, some associations of soil organic matter with soil chemical properties were surveyed. Soil organic matter has a strong influence on cation exchange capacity, which serves as a reservoir of nutrients. It also has a strong influence on nitrogen availability through the decomposition of organic matter. This soil organic matter



component may or may not have enough capacity to get as much plant productivity as you want, but knowing these levels helps you make informed decisions about the need for external nutrient inputs. Since soil organic matter is dominated by carbon (soil organic matter contains 58 percent carbon), soil fertility is a function of carbon on your farm. Therefore, to maximize resource efficiency, managing the fertility of soils on your farm should focus as much on soil organic matter management as on more traditional fertilizer inputs.

Carbon markets have been discussed and developed with the intent of balancing our carbon emitting activities against the need to sequester carbon elsewhere. Session 11 delved lightly into this topic of how you might get paid for what you likely already do well by managing your pastures. Whether you engage in a carbon market now or in the future will be for you to decide based on all available information. However, the fact that you may be storing carbon in soil still gives you economic, ecological, and environmental benefits that you should value on your farm. Having robust, healthy soil in which to practice your farming today and pass along to future generations is true stewardship.

This series on cattle and carbon intended to (a) inform about the wealth of carbon in our natural world, (b) clarify how carbon stocks are calculated, (c) illustrate actual carbon stocks on farms in the Carolinas, (d) reveal differences in the pedogenic and management influences on soil carbon, and (e) suggest opportunities to improve management and vitality of soil. There are many more details behind the examples, data, and suggestions summarized in this series on cattle and carbon. I've appreciated the opportunity during this past year to relate these tales and travels to you. As a research scientist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service, my primary job is to conduct research to solve agricultural problems. The problem of poor soil health in the southeastern U.S. remains to be solved. The soil data collected and interpretations of how management is affecting productivity and ecological conditions from forage and grazing lands are steps towards solutions that will ultimately be revealed when your farms are functioning as we expect and desire. I'm grateful that many of you have participated in these research efforts!





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CATTLE & FORAGE HEALTH

Are Minerals Really That Important? A Guide to Livestock Nutrition and Mineral Forms

By HILLARY P. CARNLEY, *Clemson University*

You find yourself back at the feed store, comparing prices on mineral supplements. You glance at the options and think, “Are minerals really that important? Surely there’s not much difference between blocks and loose minerals.” It’s a common thought — but the truth is, minerals play a much bigger role in livestock health

than most people realize. And yes, there is a difference between block and loose mineral forms. From bone growth and reproductive success to shedding winter coats and resisting disease, minerals impact nearly every function in an animal’s body. If your livestock seem to be struggling with poor body condition, low fertility, or slow growth, a closer look at your mineral program might be the key. Sometimes, just switching mineral brands or formats — or contacting your local veterinarian or Extension agent — can make a big difference.

Minerals fall into two major categories — macro minerals and micro (trace) minerals. Despite the name difference, both are equally essential to animal health and performance.

Macro minerals are required in larger amounts and are often included as a percentage of a livestock feed ration. They support structural development, muscle function, and metabolic processes.

- Calcium (Ca) – Vital for bone formation, nerve function, muscle contraction, and milk production. It also supports blood clotting.
- Phosphorus (P) – Works alongside calcium to build strong bones. It also plays a role in DNA formation and energy metabolism.
- Magnesium (Mg) – Activates metabolic enzymes, supports carbohydrate breakdown, and assists nervous system function. A deficiency can lead to grass tetany in cattle.
- Potassium (K) – Helps maintain osmotic pressure, fluid balance, and muscle and nerve function.
- Sodium (Na) and Chloride (Cl) – Together they form salt (NaCl), necessary for hydration and nerve signaling.
- Sulfur (S) – Supports protein and fiber digestion, especially in ruminants.

Micro (trace) minerals are needed in smaller amounts but are no less important. They support hormone production, enzyme activity, immunity, and reproductive health.

- Copper (Cu) – Essential for immune function, reproductive health, and red blood cell production.
- Zinc (Zn) – Important for skin integrity, wound healing, and immune response.
- Selenium (Se) – Acts as an antioxidant and is crucial for

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reproduction and muscle function.

- Iron (Fe) – Required for oxygen transport in the blood.
- Manganese (Mn) – Supports bone development and enzyme activation.
- Iodine (I) – Helps regulate thyroid hormones and metabolism.

Even small deficiencies in trace minerals can lead to significant health problems in livestock, including poor weight gain, low conception rates, and weakened immune responses. These imbalances often go unnoticed until they begin to negatively impact animal performance. Common signs of mineral deficiency may include a poor or patchy coat, delayed shedding, reduced feed intake, slower growth rates, weak calves or lambs, infertility, irregular breeding cycles, muscle tremors, stiffness, unusual behavior, or general fatigue. While these symptoms may appear subtle at first, they are frequently linked to specific mineral shortages. If you observe any of these signs in your herd, don't guess — have your forage tested and consult your veterinarian or local Extension agent to determine the appropriate nutritional adjustments needed.

When it comes to delivering minerals to livestock, the two most common options are blocks and loose mineral forms. Although blocks may seem more convenient, loose minerals are generally more effective for meeting animals' nutritional needs. Loose minerals allow for more accurate intake, as animals can consume the specific amounts they need rather than being limited to what they can lick from a block. They also typically offer higher bioavailability, with more balanced and absorbable formulations, and provide greater access, since they can be mixed with feed or offered free choice in covered troughs — making them especially suitable for larger herds. As noted by the University of Missouri Extension, “Free choice loose minerals help ensure that each animal meets its daily nutritional requirements more effectively than mineral blocks”. On the other hand, block minerals come with several limitations. Consumption can be inconsistent, with dominant animals often getting more while timid animals may go without. Exposure to rain and humidity can degrade the blocks, reducing their quality and

palatability, and the physical effort required to lick hard blocks can limit intake — especially when animals have high mineral needs. If your livestock are showing signs of deficiency or not performing as expected, switching to a well formulated, high quality loose mineral blend is often the simplest and most effective first step. To optimize mineral delivery and improve herd performance, be sure to choose a loose mineral mix tailored to your region and forage base, provide it in clean, covered feeders to prevent spoilage, rotate feeder locations to encourage even grazing, and conduct annual forage testing to adjust your mineral program as needed. When in doubt, consult your veterinarian or local Extension agent for guidance on selecting the right mineral mix and identifying any underlying nutritional issues.

Minerals might not be the flashiest part of a livestock feeding program, but they are one of the most important. From supporting growth and reproduction to ensuring healthy coats and immune systems, minerals are the foundation of animal health and performance. Choosing the right type of mineral supplement — especially loose minerals over blocks — can make a measurable difference in your herd's health and productivity. If you're unsure what your livestock need, don't guess. Reach out to your local Extension agent or veterinarian for guidance tailored to your operation.

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2025 South Carolina Sale Barn Cattle Receipts												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Darlington	950	949	1,581	586	688	903						
Laurens	966	779	603	614	619	726						
Orangeburg	770	809	610	403	509	574						
Saluda Livestock Market	2,218	2,297	2,089	1,773	2,353	2,829						
Saluda Stockyards	760	507	604	466	465	796						
Williamston	2,193	1,847	1,481	1,130	509	1,863						

Have You Herd

Become an In-Vivo Aficionado

By MEREDITH PENNELL, N.C. State University -- ANS 402 Beef Management

Every cow/calf producer has the goal of producing superior marketable calves, but how can we start improving our calves’ performance even earlier than birth? Fetal programming is the answer. Fetal programming requires proper care of bred cows during gestation. There are many in vivo factors that can affect calf performance. This article will discuss these factors and how they also improve the overall herd performance.

One main factor is nutrition. Calves will have 50 percent of their growth in the last 90 days of gestation.¹ As the organs, bones, muscles, and fat of the calf develop, a lot of nutrients will be extracted from the cow. Ensuring that the body condition score of the cow is acceptable during gestation and calving is important for calf development. A study from the University of Nebraska tested the outcomes of providing proper protein.² Half of the cows in the focus group were provided with 0.45 kg of a 42 percent crude protein supplement. Between the two groups, there was a 0.4 average increase in body condition score for the supplemented cows. In Figure 1 you can see that there was a significant difference in weaning weight between the two calf groups, with calves from supplemented cows gaining more.

Proper dam nutrition is also vital for colostrum production. Studies have found that the starch concentration in the diet is vital to colostrum production. A study in Angus-Simmental crossbreeds found that increasing the starch dry matter concentration from 3 percent to 27 percent increased colostrum production by 80 percent.³ Colostrum quality and quantity are vital to the survival and prolonged health of the calf. In fact, failure of transfer of passive immunity is associated with 8–25 percent of the mortality in newborn calves.⁴

Cattle receive their initial antibodies from their mother’s colostrum. Failure of the transfer of passive immunity is the inadequate transfer of these maternal antibodies. These cattle are more susceptible to sickness and disease. The cost of this is averaged at around 100 dollars per calf. If all pregnant cattle have subpar colostrum production, one could lose thousands of dollars over the years. If your pasture is not supplying all required nutrients, ensure that your cattle are supplemented with additional feedstuffs. By ensuring that cattle are having their nutrient requirements met, you set up your operations for years to come.

Vaccinating pregnant cattle is another important factor in fetal programming. Not all vaccines can be given to pregnant cattle, so it is important to do research and read labels prior to vaccinating. In general, cattle should be vaccinated for reproductive and respiratory diseases. Reproductive diseases such as vibriosis and trichomoniasis are the two main reproductive diseases seen in beef cattle. These both can cause abortion in early gestation. These also lead to short

Item	Supp		No Supp		SEM	P-value		
	Meadow	Hay	Meadow	Hay		Pre	Post	Pre × Post
Birth BW, kg	36.3	36.9	35.7	36.4	0.5	0.29	0.20	0.95
Wean BW, kg	222	213	213	209	2	0.02	0.01	0.27
ADG to wean, kg/d	0.97	0.93	0.92	0.90	0.01	0.002	0.04	0.32
Calves weaned, %	97.2	100.0	92.1	95.0	1.9	0.02	0.15	0.97
IgG, mg/100 mL	3,262	3,068	3,224	3,115	203	0.98	0.47	84

Figure 1. Data from the University of Nebraska shows an estimated weight difference between supplemented and non-supplemented groups to be 4-9 lbs.²

term infertility in cattle. Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) and Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) are the two main respiratory diseases. In general, both of these cause stress to the mothers, which can decrease calf weight and later performance. BVD in particular can commonly lead to persistently infected cattle. Persistently infected cattle (PIs) are produced when a pregnant cow becomes infected with BVD in early gestation, resulting in the calf becoming a carrier for life. These calves can then spread BVD to any other cattle they come into contact with. This creates a positive feedback loop for spreading BVD more and more. Persistently infected cattle tend to also have depressed immune systems. Between spreading disease and contracting it, PIs are a costly endeavor. By working with your veterinarian, you can come up with a vaccination plan for dams, planning to vaccinate during pregnancy to ensure prevention of BVD and IBR. You can also plan for calf vaccinations, ensuring that your cattle are protected throughout their lives.

Another important factor for fetal programming is the temperature when cattle are being bred. Heat stress is a common issue when trying to breed cattle, and it can also greatly affect a newly conceived embryo. Heat stress in the uterine environment can alter oocyte DNA and proteins while also decreasing the embryo maturation rate.⁵ Prior to conception, heat stress can also affect bull sperm. An increase in the ambient sperm temperature leads to changes in sperm morphology. These two factors can lead to calves that have lower expression of certain genes that can lower embryo growth and survival.⁵ There are two management practices that can greatly reduce the amount of heat stress that cattle experience while pregnant. Breeding cattle by late January prevents the embryo from experiencing heat stress in early embryonic development. This also reduces heat stress experienced by cows during calving. As seen in Figure 2, heat stress immediately preceding calving leads to shorter gestation lengths and lower birth weights.⁶ The second factor in reducing heat stress is crossbreeding cattle for heat tolerance. This

gives more flexibility for breeding and calving intervals, as well as creating heterosis and improving calf performance.

There are many factors discussed in this article for fetal programming. However, it is unrealistic for an operation to emphasize all of them. Many of these factors improve other aspects of production not discussed here. For example, increasing vaccinations for pregnant cattle can improve overall herd health. Producers should look at their cattle and decide what factors of fetal programming will benefit them most. By scrutinizing certain factors each year, making improvements in small increments will lead to better cattle, better management, and better profits.

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Have You Herd is written as a portion of ANS 402 Beef Management course requirement at N.C. State University Department of Animal Science under the instruction of Dr. Carrie Pickworth. The opinions of Meredith Pennell are not necessarily those of N.C. State University or Dr. Carrie Pickworth.

Variable	Heat stress	Cooling	SEM	P-value
Birth weight, kg	36.5	42.5	1.2	<0.01
Weaning weight, kg	65.9	78.5	4.0	0.04
Weaning BW gain, kg	29.4	35.9	3.8	0.25
BW after weaning, kg	146.4	154.6	4.5	0.22
Withers height after weaning, cm	103.4	104.8	1.0	0.33
Colostrum IgG, mg/dL	8,681	7,727	726	0.36

Figure 2. Data shows the estimated difference between weights for heat stressed and non-heat stressed cattle.⁶

Focus on Forage

Cool Season Annual Forage Reminders

By MORGAN CLARK & MAGGIE MILLER, *Clemson University*

As we move toward fall, it's a great time to consider cool season annual forage options. These forages can be fast to establish and offer a high quality forage option. Overseeding them into warm season perennial pastures is an effective way to double crop and narrow the forage gap left by winter dormancy. This is also a great way to extend the grazing season.

Cool season annuals also serve as a helpful renovation tool when transitioning from toxic tall fescue to novel endophyte tall fescue. Below are a few best management practice reminders to help increase your chances for success this fall:

1. Timing of Planting – Planting at the right time requires juggling many factors –some in our control, like equipment access and seed availability, and some not, like weather. Late planting, such as in late November–December, shortens the grazing window and increases the risk of stand failure.

It's common to hear, "How late can I plant?" But we also need to ask, "How early is too early?" Interseeding into Bermudagrass or Bahiagrass pastures that have not gone dormant yet can lead to competition and shading, which reduces establishment success.

- **Overseeding into sod** – Late September through October, once warm season grasses are dormant.

- **Prepared seedbeds** – Late August to early September.

2. Correct Seeding Rates and Depth – Seeding rate and depth depend on:

- Species
- Seeding method (broadcast vs. drill)
- Single species vs. mixtures
- Farm goals

For interseeding into sod, graze or mow to 2 inches before planting to improve seed-to-soil contact. Too much forage residue can lead to increased competition and poor establishment.

3. Variety Selection – Cool season annuals often move quickly from ideal height to excess growth. Choose varieties with different maturities or stagger planting dates to extend grazing into spring.

Tip: Contact your local Livestock and Forages Extension agent or forage specialist for recommended varieties and seeding rates specific to your area.

4. Planting Forage Mixtures – Mixtures offer a diverse, high quality forage but can be tricky when it comes to seed depth:

- **Mixed seed sizes** – Take care not to plant small seeds (like clovers) too deep. This leads to poor establishment.

- **Drill calibration** – If using a pre-mixed blend, calibrate your drill specifically for that mix. This will take additional time, however, it can increase your chances for successful establishment.

- **Separate seed boxes** – If your drill has small and large boxes, use each accordingly for optimal depth control and seeding rate.

5. Herbicide Residuals – Some herbicides have residual activity for 12–18 months. Keep detailed records of herbicide applications and consider their impact on forage establishment – especially regarding legumes and brassicas, which are sensitive to broadleaf herbicides.

6. Grazing Management – Proper grazing helps ensure forage regrowth, quality, and persistence:

- Start grazing when forages reach 8–10 inches
- Remove animals at a 4–5 inch residual
- For legumes, delay grazing slightly to allow for good root nodulation and nitrogen fixation. If grazed too early or overgrazed this can lead to reduced nitrogen fixation.

Final Thoughts – Incorporating cool season annuals into your forage system can pay off in productivity and flexibility. Starting with solid management practices can set you up for a successful fall, winter, and spring grazing season.

Need help? Contact your local Extension office for tailored recommendations specific to your farm and goals.



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Value of Manure Nutrients

By BRYAN SMITH, *Clemson University*

Most livestock growers do an excellent job producing poultry, swine, beef, and milk. They watch commodity prices, repair costs, and animal health costs and work hard to make their operation both successful and profitable. However, many of them fail to consider the economic value of the manure produced on the farm.

All animal manure contains some amount of plant nutrients. The nutrient concentrations will vary depending on species, management practices, and feed constituents, but every manure will contain some amount of nitrogen (in various forms), phosphorus, potassium, and micronutrients. Utilizing these nutrients properly on cropland or pasture can help lower fertilizer costs on the farm and increase profitability.

The value of each manure depends not only on the concentration of nutrients in the manure, but also on the nutrient needs of the crop where the manure will be applied. While adding needed nutrients indicated by soil testing for the crop utilizes the manure's value, adding any nutrients in excess does not utilize any value or replace any nutrients that would normally be added using commercial fertilizers. The actual value of added manure should be based on crop nutrient needs for the season, not the total amount of nutrients contained in the manure.

Several manure values are provided below. These values are based on applying manure to a crop in a field that soil testing indicates needs 120 pounds of nitrogen, 80 pounds of phosphorus, and 80 pounds of potassium per acre. The values used for the individual nutrients are 73¢/lb for nitrogen — based on urea, \$1.06/lb for phosphorus — based on DAP, and 41¢/lb for potassium — based on murate of potash. (*Prices provided by Agronomy Agent Jay Crouch on 7/16/2025*). The fifth manure value below is provided for a field requiring only nitrogen for the crop for comparison.

1. Poultry litter containing 40 lbs/ton plant available nitrogen¹, 57 lbs/ton phosphorus, and 41 lbs/ton potassium; litter applied at 3 tons/acre.
 - Nutrients needed per acre – 120 lbs N, 80 lbs P, 80 lbs K
 - Nutrients applied per acre – 120 lbs N, 171 lbs P, 123 lbs K
 - Value of needed nutrients – \$87.60 N, \$84.80 P, \$32.80 K
 - Value of litter – (\$87.60 + \$84.80 + \$32.80)/3 tons = \$68.40/ton
2. Swine lagoon effluent containing 152 lbs/acre/inch plant available nitrogen¹, 306 lbs/acre/inch phosphorus, and 164 lbs/acre/inch potassium; effluent applied at 0.79 inches/acre.
 - Nutrients needed per acre – 120 lbs N, 80 lbs P, 80 lbs K
 - Nutrients applied per acre – 120 lbs N, 242 lbs P, 130 lbs K
 - Value of needed nutrients – \$87.60 N, \$84.80 P, \$32.80 K
 - Value of effluent – (\$87.60 + \$84.80 + \$32.80)/0.79 acre/inch = \$259.75/acre/inch

S.C. Cattle Receipts, Trends, and Prices
for the Month of JUNE 2025

Cattle Receipts: 7,716 • Previous Month: 6,805
Feeder supply - 22% steers • 43% heifers • 35% bulls

SLAUGHTER CLASSES

	Avg. Wt.	Price
Cows - % Lean		
Breaker	1,428	\$153.31
Boner	1,213	\$153.84
Lean	1,034	\$143.03
Bulls - Yield Grade 1-2	1,484	\$180.00

FEEDER CLASSES

FEEDER STEERS (Medium and Large 1-2)

Wt. Range	Avg. Wt.	CWT	Avg. Price
400-450	420	385.72	\$1,620.02
450-500	461	374.74	\$1,727.55
500-550	523	354.88	\$1,856.02
550-600	564	351.76	\$1,983.93
600-650	624	329.71	\$2,057.39
650-700	666	313.87	\$2,090.37

FEEDER BULLS (Medium and Large 1-2)

Wt. Range	Avg. Wt.	CWT	Avg. Price
400-450	411	386.84	\$1,589.91
450-500	469	359.80	\$1,687.46
500-550	525	347.79	\$1,825.90
550-600	569	328.19	\$1,867.40
600-650	618	312.69	\$1,932.42
650-700	660	310.00	\$2,046.00

FEEDER HEIFERS (Medium and Large 1-2)

Wt. Range	Avg. Wt.	CWT	Avg. Price
400-450	421	353.08	\$1,486.47
450-500	463	344.78	\$1,596.33
500-550	520	323.96	\$1,684.59
550-600	575	312.55	\$1,797.16
600-650	612	302.30	\$1,850.08
650-700	655	300.00	\$1,965.00

Source: S.C. Dept. of Agriculture - USDA Market News Service, Columbia, S.C. - 803-737-4491

3. Dairy lagoon effluent containing 187 lbs/acre/inch plant available nitrogen¹, 334 lbs/acre/inch phosphorus, 204 lbs/acre/inch potassium; effluent applied at 0.64 inches/acre.

- Nutrients needed per acre – 120 lbs N, 80 lbs P, 80 lbs K
- Nutrients applied per acre – 120 lbs N, 214 lbs P, 131 lbs K
- Value of needed nutrients – \$87.60 N, \$84.80 P, \$32.80 K
- Value of effluent – $(\$87.60 + \$84.80 + \$32.80)/0.64 \text{ acre/inch} = \$320.63/\text{acre/inch}$

4. Scraped dairy solids containing 9.5 lbs/ton plant available nitrogen¹, 7.9 lbs/ton phosphorus, 14 lbs/ton potassium; manure applied at 12.6 tons per acre.

- Nutrients needed per acre – 120 lbs N, 80 lbs P, 80 lbs K
- Nutrients applied per acre – 120 lbs N, 99 lbs P, 177 lbs K
- Value of needed nutrients – \$87.60 N, \$84.80 P, \$32.80 K
- Value of litter – $(\$87.60 + \$84.80 + \$32.80)/12.6 \text{ tons} = \$16.29/\text{ton}$

5. Poultry litter containing 40 lbs/ton plant available nitrogen¹, 57 lbs/ton phosphorus, 41 lbs/ton potassium; litter applied at 3 tons/acre. Soil test indicates only nitrogen is needed for the crop.

- Nutrients needed per acre – 120 lbs N, 0 lbs P, 0 lbs K
- Nutrients applied per acre – 120 lbs N, 171 lbs P, 123 lbs K
- Value of needed nutrients – \$87.60 N, \$0.00 P, \$0.00 K
- Value of litter – $(\$87.60 + \$0.00 + \$0.00)/3 \text{ tons} = \$29.20/\text{ton}$

The manure value numbers provide several points. First, manure provides the most economic value when applied to fields or pastures that need nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. There is much less economic return in applying manure to a field that only needs nitrogen or nitrogen and either phosphorus or potassium. Second, poultry litter, swine effluent, and dairy effluent are all quite valuable when used as fertilizer for crops or pastures. And third, scraped dairy solids generally have a much lower nutrient concentration than the other manures noted and are therefore less valuable per ton.

Growers must have recent soil test results and a good nutrient analysis of the manure applied to make the best economic decisions when applying animal manure as a fertilizer. These tests will also help prevent excessive application of nutrients where sufficient crop nutrition exists in the field.

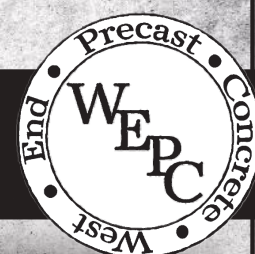
Reference

¹Plant available nitrogen is calculated by adding a percentage of the organic nitrogen that will mineralize into plant available forms – usually about 60 percent, a percentage of the ammonium nitrogen depending on the type of application – surface or incorporated, and all the nitrate nitrogen found in the manure. Many university lab results will provide this calculation. A “total nitrogen” figure does not consider the portion that will not be available to the crop this season.

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You Decide!

By DR. MIKE WALDEN, *William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus, N.C. State University*

You Decide: Is Social Security Secure? Recently, one of my relatives contacted me, and there was desperation in her voice. Immediately, I worried it was about a health issue for her or another relative. Fortunately, it wasn't, but to her it was just as important.

Her worry was about Social Security. She had heard talk about Social Security going broke. She had also heard of some calling Social Security a Ponzi scheme, and although she didn't know exactly what that was, she remembered the disgraced investor Bernie Madoff being convicted of it. Her last comment was, "I want to know what Social Security has done with my money?"

I had several responses for my relative. First, I informed her that the funds she and her employer had contributed to Social Security were not tagged with her name. I told her to look at the name of the program. It is not "*Individual Security*;" instead, it is "*Social Security*."

Social Security was designed in the 1930s to guarantee some minimal level of financial security for older individuals, especially those who were retired. Contributions from both individuals and employers are all put into one large collection of money. No one's name is attached to any of the money.

Instead, when an individual begins receiving Social Security payments, a formula is used to determine the size of the payment. Many factors go into the formula, including life expectancy, lifetime earnings, and number of years worked. The formula is also designed to help lower income households more than higher income households.

What about the issue of Social Security being a Ponzi scheme? A Ponzi scheme is a system where the supposed financial earnings to investors are paid by contributions from new investors rather than from investment earnings. This is exactly what Bernie Madoff did.

When some of the investments Madoff made for his clients failed, he began to pay the clients with contributions from new clients. Eventually, there were no investment earnings to pay his clients, so he began to rely completely on attracting new clients and new contributions. Clients were led to believe Bernie Madoff was just a very, very smart investor. But when the 2008 financial crisis occurred and new clients stopped investing with Madoff, existing clients wanting to make withdrawals found there was nothing to withdraw, and Madoff was exposed.

On the surface, the claim could be made that Social Security is a Ponzi scheme. Social Security relies on current workers contributing to the system in order to sustain payments to retired workers. If the relative number of existing workers to retirees drops, payments to retirees will also decline. This is exactly what is happening today, as the growth of new workers is declining relative to the growth and longer longevity of retired workers. Indeed, Social Security has already

announced it will face shortfalls in payments to retirees beginning in the early 2030s. As I have written in previous columns, changes to Social Security will likely be made sometime in the future to keep the system going, just like 40 years ago when the same situation existed.

An important element of a Ponzi scheme is deception. Investors are told their money is being invested and earning high returns, while what really is happening is the alleged high returns are only created with new contributors' money.

There is no deception in Social Security. Anyone can read about how Social Security is operated. My relative who thought Social Security invested her contributions only for her believed this because she never took the time to read about Social Security. When I told her how the system works, she was completely surprised.

There's another key difference between a Ponzi scheme and Social Security. In a Ponzi scheme, new investors can stop coming. Indeed, this is what caused the collapse of Bernie Madoff, as the national financial crisis in 2008 caused potential new investors to hold on to their money. In contrast, all workers — with a few exceptions — are required to contribute to Social Security.

Even if Social Security is not a true Ponzi scheme, there are still serious questions facing the system. A big question is how the system will be changed to accommodate the new demographics. To what degree should Social Security taxes be raised and benefits cut? Should these changes be applied to all participants, or should there be differences between income levels? Also, should Social Security's investment portfolio, which is now limited to safe U.S. Treasury securities, be broadened to include stocks, precious metals, and other options paying higher returns but also carrying more risk?

Perhaps the ultimate question for Social Security is whether an option should be provided for Individual Security. That is, should people be allowed to take some or all of their Social Security contributions and invest them as they wish? The last time this idea was seriously proposed in 2005, it was rejected.

Social Security has been a key component of individual retirement for almost a century. It is also a special kind of retirement plan that relies on participation between generations. While there are no secrets about how Social Security operates, there are still questions about whether it is the best system for everyone. In my opinion, this is a big and very important "you decide."

You Decide: Is the National Debt Still a Big Worry? When I recently reviewed my columns of past years, I was surprised I hadn't written about the debt — meaning the national debt — in six years. If anything, concerns about the national debt have increased recently.

So, it's time for an update addressing several important questions. How bad is the debt? What are the consequences of the national debt? What are ways to control the national debt? You will then be able to decide how high of a priority addressing the national debt should be.

To know how bad the national debt is, we have to decide how to measure it. Just as with personal debt, we don't want to measure the national debt simply by its dollar amount. Why? Because the size of any debt is relative. For example, if you tell me you have \$100,000 in personal debt, I don't know if the amount is high or low because the relative burden depends on your income. If your annual income is \$20,000, then a \$100,000 debt burden is very high. But if your annual income is \$2 million, then a \$100,000 debt burden is low.

Economists use two measures to gauge the national debt burden. One is the total amount owed in the national debt as a percent of total national income. The second is the interest payments on the national debt as a percent of total national income. In both cases the measures are typically done annually, and the national income measure used is gross domestic product (GDP). GDP is the value of all goods and services produced in the country in a specific time period, such as a year. Another way of understanding GDP is simply as the sum of all income earned from the production of goods and services in the country during a year.

The latest data show the total national debt is 121 percent of national income. This is more than twice the level in 2000, three times the level in the late 1960s, and it is a national record.

The second measure also shows alarm, but not as much. Currently, annual interest payments for the national debt as a percent of GDP are 3.8 percent, higher than the 2.3 percent in 2020 but lower than the record 5 percent in 1991. However, the U.S. rate is among the highest compared to similar rates for other countries.

What are the consequences of our national debt, particularly if it is increasing? Economists worry about three adverse effects, including a drop in the international value of the dollar, an increase in interest rates, and a slowdown in economic growth.

Since the end of World War II, the U.S. dollar has been the dominant currency in the world. The dollar had been viewed as a currency that held its value, so foreign traders liked to use dollars. But worries about the rising U.S. debt and the ability of the U.S. to make debt payments can cause the dollar's relative value to decline, and this has happened recently. This means foreign products and services the U.S. imports — which totaled over \$4 trillion in 2024 — can become more expensive and cause the domestic inflation rate to increase. Inflation can also increase if the Federal Reserve creates money to buy some of the debt issued by the federal government.

More government borrowing can also increase interest rates, and the reason is simple. Think of interest rates as the price of borrowing, set by the balance between those who want to borrow money and those who want to lend money. Since the amount of loanable funds is generally limited at any point in time, when borrowing increases, interest rates also rise as borrowers compete for the relatively scarce money and lenders worry about higher inflation decreasing the value of future debt payments.

Lastly, as more borrowing causes interest rates to rise, consumers and businesses will eventually borrow less due to the

higher cost of loans. While this may initially appear to be a good result, less borrowing can eventually cause less spending and hiring in the economy and possibly lead to a recession or worse.

The conclusion is the impact of a rising national debt goes beyond government. It also affects households, businesses, and the entire economy. But what can be done?

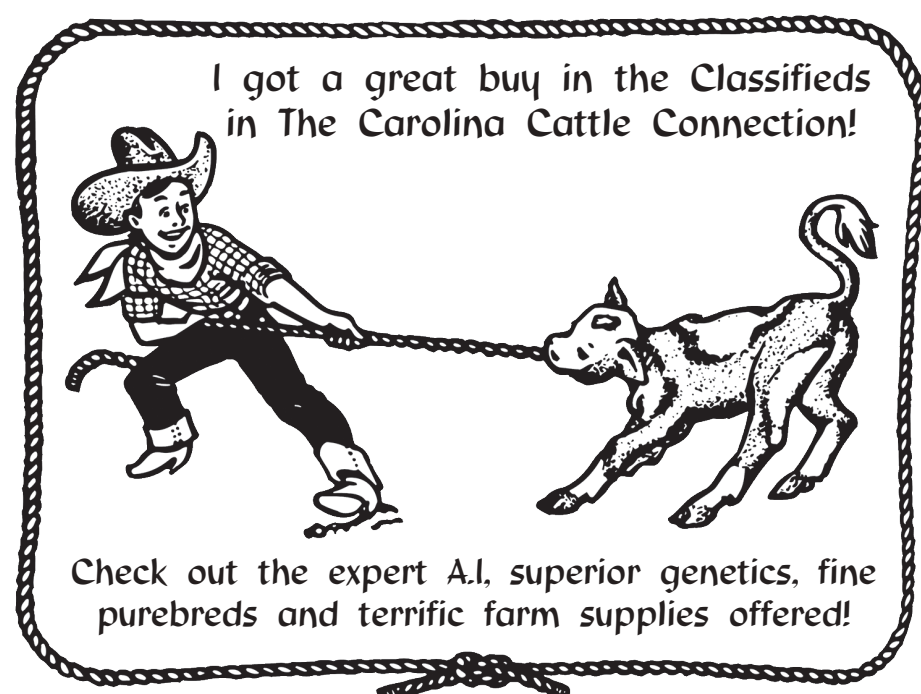
Up to now, we've mainly relied on Congress and the president to voluntarily cut spending and/or increase taxes to contain borrowing. This actually worked in the 1990s when President Bill Clinton and Congress took the federal budget from a deficit to a surplus. Indeed, at the end of the 1990s there were people talking about the disadvantages of a budget surplus!

But the surplus didn't last, so now people are looking at establishing rules about the federal budget for moderating borrowing. One rule would divide federal spending into "current spending" and "capital spending." Current spending would be for operating the government, and only taxes could fund current spending. Capital spending would be for investments, like roads, housing, and military equipment, and borrowing would be allowed to fund capital spending. Most states, including North Carolina, use this type of budget system.

A relatively new rule that's been discussed would mandate taxes to be automatically increased when borrowing reached a certain percentage of GDP. Since new taxes are generally not favored by the public, the idea is Congress and the president would work hard to keep borrowing under the stated threshold.

There's also the ultimate rule — an amendment to the Constitution mandating a balanced budget — meaning no borrowing except in cases of a national emergency, such as a war. But not enough states have ratified the amendment to allow it to move forward.

I've now been a professional economist for almost five decades, including over four decades teaching at N.C. State University. I can't count the number of times I've said the national debt is the "big issue of our generation." Yet since I keep adding new generations to my proclamation, I wonder if I will ever see a day when I can say, "The debt was the big issue of past generations." You decide.



COMMON GROUND



Angus Youth Fuel My Confidence

By MARK McCULLY, American Angus Association CEO

“Angus juniors are learning life skills and ensuring a bright future for the breed.”

It's common to hear, “Kids these days aren't what they used to be.” Maybe that's true in some circles, but let me tell you what I see from my vantage in the Angus business.

When I look at the youth of this breed, I see hardworking young people with clear ideas about where they're going and what they want to contribute. They are curious minds not only asking, “How did you do that?” but also, “Why?”

They are taking advantage of the resources they have at their fingertips. I have no doubt Angus juniors are more connected, more well studied, and more confident than I ever was at their age. In fact, I often say I'm glad I wasn't competing against the youth now, or I'd have never stood a chance!

The National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) was top of mind for me as I wrote this column before heading to Tulsa, Okla., for the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) June 28 to July 5.

Every year as I walk through the barns, I'm always reminded of the value programs like NJAA have. From the physical work in the stalls to the mental work of preparing for a competition, these juniors are learning about the industry, the animals, and themselves. The NJAA gives the next generation exposure to the beef business, and in many cases that turns into lifelong involvement with our Association.

As I talk with breeders on how they got their start, so many times the story begins with, “I bought my first Angus heifer...” and it ties back to a memory in the show ring.

One of my favorite parts of the week was doubt be getting to host

our young Angus enthusiasts on *The Angus Conversation — Junior Takeover*. I heard firsthand from youth with unique perspectives, and it's really encouraging to learn how they see the challenges of the future and their ability to meet them. I'd urge you to tune into those special edition episodes, available anywhere you get your podcasts or by visiting www.TheAngusConversation.com.



To the Angus parents — By the time many of you read this, the show will be over and the results already tallied. Regardless of who came home with a banner and who didn't, you should know that your kids are winning. They are learning life skills that will take them into whatever they chose to pursue.

If that's the Angus business, we are certainly better for it. If it's another avenue, then we're glad we have Angus ambassadors out in their part of the world.

Thank you for investing in these experiences with them.

As we look ahead to so many unknowns in our future, hard questions, growing Angus demand, and continuing to make our living with Angus cattle, I'm confident we're growing a crop of young people right now who will be well equipped to help us get there.

So, maybe kids these days aren't what they used to be, but if you're talking about our Angus kids, I'd take that in the most positive sense of that statement.



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THE BUSINESS BREED

UPDATE

Ranchers See the Big Picture. An ambitious group of Angus breeders from across the globe attended the 2025 Beef Leaders Institute, spending a week learning about the beef supply chain. The topic of the week was “from pasture to plate” as 23 Angus breeders left their cattle operations to spend five days looking at the big picture of the cattle industry as part of the annual Beef Leaders Institute (BLI), hosted by the American Angus Association in collaboration with Certified Angus Beef and the Angus Foundation.

Closing the gap between producer and consumer can seem like a daunting task. However, BLI aims to help bridge the gap between producer and consumer by immersing attendees in all aspects of the beef industry. Each year, participants leave with a better understanding of how their operations and efforts help deliver high quality beef to families’ tables across the globe.

“It was a great experience to be able to see the whole industry,” said Kelsey Stabler, BLI 2025 attendee. “So much of our time is spent out in the field. It was nice to finally see on such a large scale — the pasture to plate process.”

Stabler is a fifth generation farmer in Montgomery County, Maryland. Stabler works alongside her family on their 2,500 acre farm as they grow corn, soybeans, and wheat and raise 120 Angus cows. Montgomery County is located just one county north of Washington, D.C., providing Stabler with the opportunity to connect with consumers. Her family hosts many tour groups to learn about farming and cattle.

The BLI group began their journey at the association’s headquarters. The week kicked off with a welcome and discussion surrounding industry trends and topics. Attendees learned what opportunities and services are available to them as members of the association, no matter the size of their herd.

The group then set out on a cross country trek across six states, making stops along the way at Tyson Fresh Meats beef packing plant in Dakota City, Neb., and Sioux City, Iowa; Weborg Feeding Co. LLC in Pender, Neb.; Buckhead Meat and Seafood in Northwood, Ohio, near Toledo; STgenetics in Tiffin, Ohio; and a Meijer retail store in Wooster, Ohio. Their final destination, the Certified Angus Beef headquarters — also located in Wooster, Ohio — put its final touches on the group’s snapshot of the beef industry.

While the knowledge and insights gained were plentiful, attendees were able to see each aspect of the industry from a hands on, up close perspective. The relationships and connections formed from a week on the road were priceless.

Reflecting on tour stops, Stabler said, “To be able to make those connections with people who are out there, promoting us and helping us get to that next level of what we do for a living every day is just invaluable, and I can’t thank them enough.”

The 2025 group represented farmers and ranchers from across the globe with representatives from 15 states, two Canadian provinces and even one attendee from Australia. While attendees spent long hours on the bus traveling between their destinations on their tour of the beef industry, they had time to create lasting friendships.

“These are relationships that we will take into the rest of our lives,” Stabler said.

Each BLI attendee brought a unique perspective and background to the group. Some came from generational operations or are owners of genetics and reproduction companies, and others run farm-to-table beef programs. All provided unique insights into their experience in sectors of the industry.

“I think the best thing has been getting to know other breeders and the different challenges that others face,” said Allison Dubs, a third

Angus Update continued on the next page



The 2025 Beef Leaders Institute Class gathers outside of the American Angus Association’s headquarters in St. Joseph, Mo., during one of their educational stops.

Angus Update *continued from the previous page*

generation Angus breeder from Montana. “We have a huge variety of different producers on the trip, so everything from seedstock to small processors; so it’s been really cool to see how the Angus breed and Certified Angus Beef brand intertwine between different people.”

The annual event is hosted by the American Angus Association in collaboration with Certified Angus Beef brand and the Angus Foundation. Programs like BLI exemplify the current leaders within the Angus breed, along with showcasing the bright future ahead.

While this year’s attendees have returned to their operations, they arrive home with more than just knowledge of the pasture to plate chain but also the security in knowing that they have gained friendships within the Angus family that will last a lifetime. While they spent the week painting a beautiful picture of the beef industry, it’s this network, these connections, and friendships that show the heart of the cattle industry.

Zach Moffitt of Concord, N.C., is a member of the Beef Leaders Institute Class of 2025.

Programs like BLI are built to showcase and connect current leaders within the Angus breed. Applications for the 2026 Beef Leaders Institute will open in late fall to American Angus Association members ages 25–45.



Junior members smile while displaying pop tabs collected for the Angus Impact service project.

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New Leaders Take the Wheel on Route 66. Junior delegates elect new board members at the 2025 National Junior Angus Show. From the moment the first trailer rolled into town, Tulsa was buzzing with the energy of more than just competition. For six individuals, the journey down Route 66 for the 2025 National Junior Angus Show led to a green coat and a new chapter of leadership as the newest members of the National Junior Angus Board.

It’s a journey that resonates with many, including newly elected NJAA Board member Keeley Shultz.

“I grew up surrounded by Angus cattle on our family operation in Georgia,” she says. “But what inspired me to get involved with the NJAA was attending my first junior nationals in Perry, Ga., in 2009. Even though I was too young to show, watching those green jackets in the ring lit a spark, I didn’t fully understand at the time. It created a passion that I had no idea would continue fueling me all these years later.”

Developing the next generation of industry leaders is a vital component of the NJAA mission. Each year, six junior members are elected to serve on the board, where they further develop their leadership skills and represent Angus. The new directors were announced during the NJAS awards ceremony.

The newly elected board members will serve a two year term, the first year as directors and the second year as officers. The new directors are Adeline Tommell of Fonda, N.Y.; Alexis Koelling of Bowling Green, Mo.; **Ava Wood of Willow Spring, N.C.**; Bryce Hofing of Coatesville, Ind.; Keely Shultz of Danielsville, Ga.; and Lyle Perrier of Eureka, Kansas.

During their term, directors will travel the nation to assist at shows and conferences, support junior members during state and national events, and help to advance the NJAA mission.

The “new six” will join second term members and newly appointed chairman Ava Leibfried of Platteville, Wis., and vice chairman

Anne Dameron of Towanda, Illinois. The officer team also includes foundation director Grant Solem of Los Olivos, Calif.; secretary Bryanna Smith of Russell Springs, Ken.; events director Blake Pillars of Martin, Mich.; and education director Catie Collison of Lake City, Iowa.

Leibfried is looking forward to spending another year working alongside her fellow second year directors and is eager to hear the ideas that the “new six” will bring to the table.

“Watching them step into their roles and bring fresh energy to the board is something I am looking forward to,” Leibfried says. “I’m excited to explore ideas we’ve been discussing as a team for the past year and see how we might turn some of those into reality. There’s something really rewarding about taking a long discussed concept and watching it come to life for the benefit of our juniors.”

Ava Wood is a second generation Angus breeder from Willow Spring, North Carolina. Wood has grown up immersed in the Angus breed. In 2025, she served as president of the North Carolina Junior Angus Association and chaired the Junior Board of the Atlantic National Angus Show.

She currently attends N.C. State University, where she is studying agribusiness management. Through her education and hands-on experience working on her family’s farm, Wood has developed an interest in business and marketing. She is passionate about helping juniors find their place within the association and develop skills beyond the show ring.

“I want to help younger members feel more confident in getting involved,” Wood says. “Whether it’s their first show or first time competing in a contest, I want to be someone they can come to for advice or encouragement.” Angus Impact is the official community service program of the NJAA. The goal of the project is to help state junior associations be the change through acts of service.

P it Stop With a Purpose – Angus Juniors Give Back. Junior members donated pop tabs and other items to the Ronald McDonald House in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Members of the NJAA came together at the 2025 National Junior Angus Show with a mission to give back through the Angus Impact project. Members representing states across the country brought nearly 1,000 lbs of pop tabs, which were donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tulsa in Oklahoma.

Jonwyn Ayres, vice chairman of the 2024–2025 National Junior Angus Board (NJAB), oversaw planning the annual service project.

“The original thought behind this awesome program was how can Angus families simplistically make an impact with things they can pack in their trailer?” Ayres shares.

After the success of the 2024 Angus Impact project, which donated pop tabs to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison in Wisconsin, the NJAB decided to continue outreach again this year. States spent all year collecting to prepare for the final weigh-in at the NJAS steer scale.

“Not only does it have a direct impact on people outside of our community, it’s an intentional way for states to get competitive for something that has so much meaning,” Ayres says.

State associations capitalized on the opportunity to compete for a cause. Nebraska juniors earned top donor, beating Tennessee by only

Angus Update continued on the next page

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Angus Update *continued from the previous page*

15 pounds. That might seem like a lot when it comes to pop tabs, but 15 pounds was just a small amount of what these states brought in. In total, Nebraska brought 365 pounds, while Tennessee had 350 pounds.

Along with pop tabs, states also brought in items like DVDs as well as Xbox and board games to further support families at the Ronald McDonald House. The Impact Project and items collected supported the charity's mission to provide a comfortable, home like setting for families when children are receiving treatment at nearby hospitals.

"People might not have seen it, but many of those back offices were absolutely full of those different Impact program items," Ayres says.

Angus Impact is the official community service program of the NJAA. The goal of the project is to help state junior associations be the change through acts of service.

Angus Enthusiasts 'Moove' Down Route 66 for a day of Golf and Giving. The 24th Annual Angus Foundation Golf Tournament raised more than \$36,000 for education, youth, and research. With sunny skies and scenic views as the backdrop, Angus enthusiasts 'mooved' on down Route 66 for a day of friendly competition at the 24th Annual Angus Foundation Golf Tournament hosted at The Canyons at Blackjack Ridge in Sand Springs, Oklahoma. Held in conjunction with the 2025 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Tulsa, the tournament welcomed 95 golfers and raised more than \$36,000 to support the Foundation's mission of advancing

education, youth, and research in the Angus breed.

"Each year, the Angus Foundation Golf Tournament offers a fun, relaxed environment for breeders, supporters, and friends of the Angus breed to reconnect while giving back," said Jimmy Stickley, Angus Foundation Donor Coordinator. "The combination of beautiful scenery, camaraderie, and meaningful fundraising makes it truly special."

The tournament welcomed 21 teams and raised more than \$36,000 to support the Foundation's commitment to education, youth, and research.

Each year, the tournament is supported by numerous sponsors dedicated to the Angus Foundation's mission. This year's event sponsor was Boviteq. NEOGEN continued their sponsorship of the luncheon and event hole flags. Turner Meadow Ranch of Wills Point, Tex., and Deer Valley Farm of Fayetteville, Tenn., sponsored the clubhouse. Brinkley Angus Ranch of Milan, Mo., along with Heritage Farm of Shelbyville, Ken., sponsored the beverage carts.

Other sponsors included Certified Angus Beef of Wooster, Ohio, which sponsored the Certified Angus Beef steak lunch; Slate Group of Lubbock, Tex., sponsored print materials; and CRV of Madison, Wis., Genex of Shawano, Wis., and Zoetis of Parsippany, N.J., sponsored the prizes.

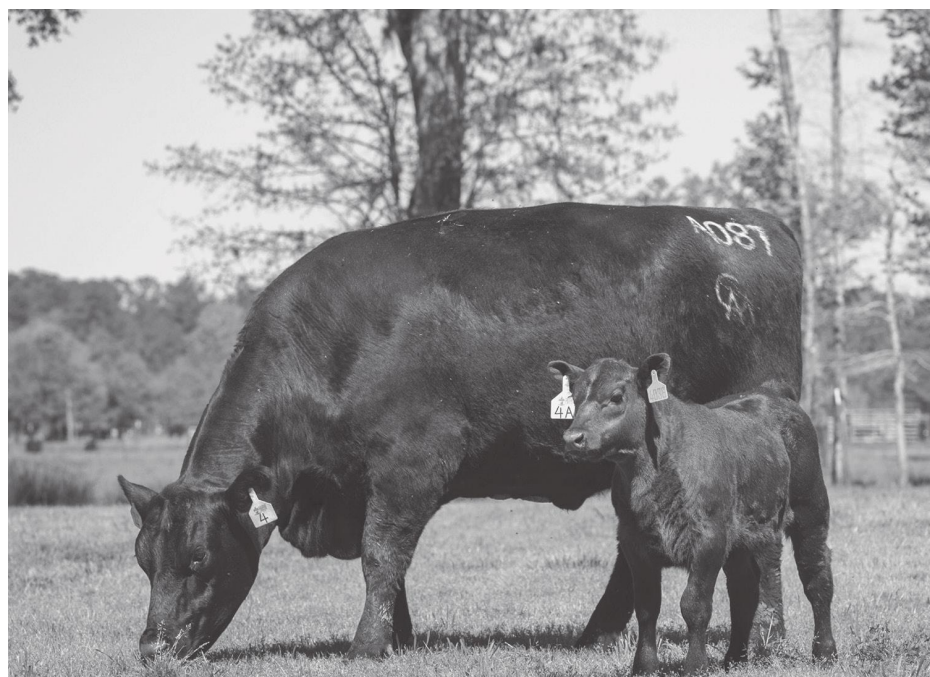
Fueled by Generosity, Silent Auction Raises \$11,000 for Angus Foundation. With the spirit of Route 66 fueling the fun, the Angus Foundation's mission was driven forward during the 2025 National Junior Angus Show. The annual silent auction raised nearly \$11,000 in unrestricted funds to support education, youth, and research. Funds raised will support numerous scholarships, conferences, and research projects.

"The silent auction is a time honored tradition that has been going on for over 20 years," said Jimmy Stickley, Angus Foundation Donor Coordinator. "It amazes us each and every year the dedication and creativity individuals and states showcase in an effort to raise money for the Angus Foundation."

The silent auction featured 100 lots, ranging from gift baskets of state themed products to vintage Angus ads, Native American jewelry, and a custom "Angus, The Business Breed" cowhide rug.

About the Angus Foundation. Established as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1980, the Angus Foundation remains focused on its mission to support Angus education, youth, and research. The organization has distributed more than \$4.9 million in youth scholarships since 1998 and has also invested more than \$1.4 million in beef cattle research in the past decade. For more information, contact the Angus Foundation at 816-383-5100.

ANGUS MEANS BUSINESS. The American Angus Association is the nation's largest beef breed organization, serving more than 21,000 members across the United States, Canada, and several other countries. It's home to an extensive breed registry that grows by more than 300,000 animals each year. The Association also provides programs and services to farmers, ranchers, and others who rely on Angus to produce quality genetics for the beef industry and quality beef for consumers. For more information about Angus cattle and the American Angus Association, visit www.angus.org.



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ZINPRO®
NEWS

Zinpro Launches Zinpro ProFusion Paste to Support Beef Cattle Health and Performance. Zinpro Corporation, the world's leading innovator and manufacturer of high performance organic trace minerals and animal nutrition solutions, proudly announces the availability of Zinpro ProFusion Paste. This innovative nutritional supplement is now offered in a paste format that is designed to deliver a multi-day supply of essential trace minerals and nutrients to cattle during critical periods of stress such as weaning, shipping, receiving, and vaccination.

"Zinpro ProFusion Paste offers the same proven results in performance as Zinpro ProFusion Drench, providing essential trace minerals and nutrients to support immune function, recovery, and overall animal well being. Zinpro ProFusion Paste is scientifically proven to significantly improve trace mineral status within 48 hours of administration, making it ideal for cow/calf, stocker, and feedlot hospital pens, especially when cattle are prone to reduced feed and water intake.

"We developed Zinpro ProFusion Paste in direct response to feedback from producers who love the performance of Zinpro ProFusion Drench but wanted to have options when it came to the application method," said Dr. Alex Thompson, North America Feedlot Business Manager at Zinpro. "By delivering highly bioavailable trace minerals when beef cattle need them most, Zinpro ProFusion Paste helps beef cattle producers protect animal health, optimize productivity, and gain peace of mind during high stress periods."

Key Benefits of Zinpro ProFusion:

- Rapid trace mineral replenishment during stress events

- Improved immune function and vaccine efficacy
- Reduced mortality and stronger overall wellness
- Convenient administration now in a paste format
- Improved AI pregnancy rates when used at CIDR placement

Zinpro ProFusion Paste and Drench are both available through authorized distributors and veterinary suppliers. For more information, visit www.zinpro.com/en_na/products/profusion-na.

About ZinPro. For more than 54 years, Zinpro has improved the health and well being of both animals and people as a pioneer in the research and development of performance trace minerals and innovative nutritional solutions. As a family owned, privately held company, our steady growth can be attributed to employing a world class team of experts, manufacturing quality products, and our steadfast commitment to helping our customers advance the health and performance of their animals. With products marketed in more than 70 countries worldwide, Zinpro is the global leader in advancing animal performance through greater nutrition and is dedicated to creating smarter practices for a better, more sustainable world. To learn more, visit zinpro.com.

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I have tried the “Generic Marshall” from my local co-op. In short, it did not come close to production or have the carrying capacity like WAX Marshall... it looked more like Gulf... it did not have the vigor and fast recovery like WAX Marshall.

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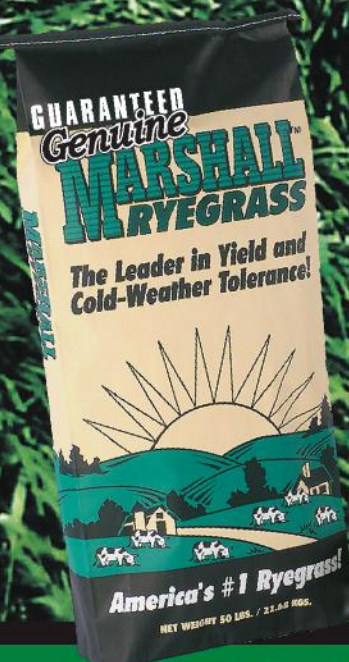
The “Generic” just did not produce. Planting 700 acres of ryegrass, I do not need any surprises for myself or my cattle.

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- 37 10 ft. H-Brace Brace Pipes
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- 40 Speed Brace Kits
- 1 Speed Brace Kit Tensioning Tool
- 2 52 in. Stretcher Bars
- 2 Stretcher Bar Pullers
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- 1 100 ct. Jars of Long 2-3 Crimp Sleeves
- 1 Crimping Tool
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New Members by County in 2025 *(as of 7-21-25)*

Alamance	3	Cumberland	9	Johnston	6	Randolph	29
Alexander	2	Currituck	0	Jones	1	Richmond	0
Alleghany	1	Dare	0	Lee	4	Robeson	22
Anson	1	Davidson	3	Lenoir	1	Rockingham	8
Ashe	0	Davie	1	Lincoln	2	Rowan	3
Avery	0	Duplin	8	McDowell	4	Rutherford	5
Beaufort	0	Durham	0	Macon	65	Sampson	5
Bertie	0	Edgecombe	3	Martin	2	Scotland	0
Bladen	1	Forsyth	2	Madison	2	Stanly	17
Brunswick	0	Franklin	9	Mecklenburg	0	Stokes	16
Buncombe	22	Gaston	1	Mitchell	0	Surry	8
Burke	24	Gates	0	Montgomery	0	Swain	0
Cabarrus	3	Graham	17	Moore	8	Transylvania	2
Caldwell	3	Granville	1	Nash	12	Tyrrell	0
Camden	0	Greene	2	New Hanover	0	Union	3
Carteret	0	Guilford	20	Northampton	0	Vance	1
Caswell	3	Halifax	1	Onslow	2	Wake	9
Catawba	19	Harnett	5	Orange	0	Warren	4
Chatham	4	Haywood	18	Pamlico	0	Washington	3
Cherokee	0	Henderson	4	Pasquotank	1	Watauga	1
Chowan	1	Hertford	0	Pender	0	Wayne	6
Clay	1	Hoke	1	Perquimans	4	Wilkes	15
Cleveland	5	Hyde	0	Person	1	Wilson	17
Columbus	1	Iredell	11	Pitt	8	Yadkin	1
Craven	2	Jackson	0	Polk	0	Yancey	0

Grand Total 510

New NCCA Members for 2025

During the Membership Committee meetin at the 2007 N.C. Cattle Conference, members decided to list the name and county of residence of **NEW** members of NCCA in *The Carolina Cattle Connection*. A new member is someone who has never been a member or has rejoined after a brief break in their membership. Below is a list of NCCA’s new members:

Out-of-State

Joe Hancock – Cool Spring Cattle – Mississippi
Nicole Travers – New Jersey

Caldwell County

Montana Hendrix – HMH Farm

Catawba County

David Carpenter – Broken Circle Farm
Ashlyn Houston – Broken Circle Farm

Chatham County

Robert Strowd – Fearington Village

Davie County

John Weatherman – Weatherman Farms

Duplin County

Kevin Williams – K&K Cattle Farms

Haywood County

Val Allison – Allison Farms

Iredell County

Dennis Overcash – Overcash Angus Farm

Johnston County

Bovine Lee

Nash County

Austin Brown – Steel Creek Farms
Jim Bunn
Dan Grove – Grove Cattle Company
Timmy Mills – TNT Family Farms Inc.
Marvin & Branon Pridgen – B&M Cattle Company
Damian Whitley – Cullin Farms

Rockingham County

Walter Honeycutt – KH Farms

Rutherford County

Neil McGregor

Sampson County

Logan Patrick – Patrick Farms

Stokes County


Ryan Burbank
Molly Hilton
Katie Kearns
Caleb Manring
Alli McKenzie
Carson Roberson
Norman Scott
Chance Sizemore
Logan Whitener
Dylan Wilson

Wake County

Anna Barcafer – Market News Section
John Burt

Warren County

Lorne Williams – Victory Chapel Family Farms



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☐ NCCA (Lifetime) - \$500.00 ☐ NCCA Student Membership - \$10.00

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On-the-Go Beef Tacos

Total Time - 35 minutes

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 package (1.25 ounces) reduced sodium taco seasoning mix
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water
- 4 bags (1 ounce each) nacho cheese flavored tortilla chips

Toppings

(optional)

Shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, salsa, sliced jalapeño, shredded cheddar cheese, chopped avocado, dairy sour cream, chopped green or white onion, chopped fresh cilantro

Heat a large non-stick skillet over medium heat until hot. Add ground beef; cook 8–10 minutes, breaking into small crumbles and stirring occasionally. Remove drippings. Stir in taco seasoning mix and water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, 3–5 minutes or until sauce thickens, stirring occasionally.

Cook's Tip – Cooking times are for fresh or thoroughly thawed ground beef. Ground beef should be cooked to an internal temperature of 160°F. Color is not a reliable indicator of ground beef doneness.



Cut chip bags open along one long side, allowing enough of an opening to fill. Crush chips slightly. Lay bags on a flat surface. Fill bags evenly with beef mixture. Garnish with toppings, as desired, or prepare using Recipe Variations below.

Makes 4 servings.

RECIPE VARIATIONS

Cooler Than Ranch Tacos – Prepare ground beef as directed above, substituting 1 tablespoon dry ranch dressing mix for taco seasoning. Reduce water to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup. Continue as directed above, serving beef mixture over ranch flavored tortilla chips. Garnish with shredded lettuce, diced tomato, minced green or red onion, shredded carrots, diced cucumber, Monterey Jack cheese, and plain Greek yogurt, as desired.

Really Chili Tacos – Prepare ground beef as directed above, substituting 1 packet (1.25 ounces) reduced sodium chili seasoning mix for taco seasoning. Stir in 1 can (14½–15 ounces) undrained reduced sodium black beans. Continue as directed above, serving beef mixture over corn chips. Garnish with minced green onion, shredded cheddar cheese, sour cream, and chopped fresh cilantro, as desired.

Cheeseburger Tacos – Prepare ground beef as directed above, omitting taco seasoning and water and stirring in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup ketchup and 1 tablespoon yellow mustard after beef is cooked; heat through. Continue as directed above, serving beef mixture over cheese flavored puffed corn snacks. Garnish with sliced American cheese, diced onion, diced tomato, shredded lettuce, and dill pickle relish, as desired.

Tasty Tater Tacos – Prepare ground beef as directed above, substituting 1 packet (.87 ounce) reduced sodium brown gravy mix for taco seasoning. Increase water to 1 cup. Continue as directed above, serving beef mixture over plain potato chips. Garnish with bacon bits, diced tomato, chives, sour cream, and shredded cheddar cheese, as desired.

Mediterranean Cravin' Tacos – Prepare ground beef as directed above, substituting 2 tablespoons Greek seasoning for taco seasoning. Reduce water to $\frac{1}{4}$ cup. Continue as directed above, serving beef mixture over rippled multigrain chips. Garnish with shredded lettuce, diced tomato, chopped red onion, diced cucumber, sliced Kalamata olives, feta cheese, and hummus, as desired.



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Classifieds in this issue!**

New DNA Lab – Questions and Answers. The American Hereford Association (AHA) transitioned to Weatherbys Scientific as its official DNA service provider on June 5. These are some frequently asked questions AHA staff have received since the announcement.

• **What is the density of the SNP based chip that Weatherbys is using?** Weatherbys Scientific utilizes an 85K SNP based chip that not only includes the necessary markers for the genetic evaluation but also has all the known genetic abnormalities that AHA tests for, as well as horn/poll.

• **Do I have to order the MD/DB add-on test with a genomic profile?** No. Every genomic profile/basic test includes MD/DB at no additional charge.

• **Will the \$20 MD/DB standalone test still be available?** Yes. The MD/DB standalone test is still offered, but for an additional \$10, you can get parentage, a genomic profile, and results for the other four abnormalities.

• **Will I have to ship my DNA samples to Ireland?** No. Although Weatherbys Scientific headquarters are in Ireland, AHA members send samples to ETC – BioMed LLC in Easthampton, Mass. – the address is on the bottom of the DNA sample submission form. Members will attach their samples and ship them like they have always done.

• **Is all the data from NEOGEN now lost since we changed labs?** Absolutely not. Results from all animals tested through Neogen exist in the AHA genomic pipeline and will be utilized for necessary parentage discovery of future animals that will be tested at Weatherbys.

• **What validation steps were taken to ensure Weatherbys Scientific could perform?** Three different proof-of-concept trials were conducted to evaluate the accuracy of identifying the genetic abnormalities, horn/poll results, and the SNP based markers used in the genetic evaluation. These data were compared to existing data from the genomic pipeline, and all animals had 100 percent concordance.

• **I ordered several DNA tests prior to the announcement from AHA. Where do I submit my samples?** You can still submit your samples to NEOGEN if you would like, or you can contact AHA customer service to get new kits reissued for Weatherbys and take advantage of the price savings.

• **Does the lab switch change AHA policy around DNA storage?** No. Current AHA Board of Directors approved policy related to DNA storage applies and can be found online at hereford.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/HH25_25-DNA-Testing_Terms_Conditions.pdf.

Golden Bull Achievement Award Recognizes NJHA's Outstanding Collegiate Youth. Three college aged National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members were presented the Golden Bull Achievement Award during the 2025 VitaFerm Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) Scholarship, Award, and Maroon Jacket Ceremony on July 17 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Awarded annually, the Golden Bull Achievement Award honors three outstanding collegiate members for their dedication and extensive involvement in the NJHA. As one of the JNHE's highest honors, recipients are awarded a bronze bull and a \$2,500 scholarship to support their academic pursuits.

“HYFA seeks to support and nurture junior Hereford breeders by providing the opportunity to earn scholarships to support their post



American Hereford Association NEWS

high school education goals, training to be leaders, and education in all facets of the agricultural industry,” says George Sprague, vice president of the HYFA board of directors. “It is a true pleasure to learn about the accomplishments and goals of the juniors, and it is clear they are destined to be leaders. The future of the agricultural industry is definitely in good hands.”

During the 2025 JNHE, HYFA awarded more than \$50,000 in scholarships to exemplary Hereford youth and will allocate more than \$200,000 throughout the year to support junior members in their academic pursuits.

The 2025 Golden Bull Achievement Award winners:

• **Jordan Mitchem – Vale, N.C. – Mitchem is a fifth generation farmer and an upcoming freshman at N.C. State University, dual majoring in animal science and biochemistry. Upon the completion of her undergraduate degree, Mitchem plans to either attend veterinary school or graduate school to further her education. Though she may not know the exact path her career will take, she's confident it will involve carrying on her family's farming legacy.**

Mitchem shares that a keynote speaker at the Faces of Leadership conference inspired her to find joy in the journey toward reaching her personal goals and to give back to others – just as many have given to her. While mentoring a fellow NJHA member, she discovered that uplifting others was even more rewarding than her own achievements in the showring.

“I have been given a gift of the love of the cattle industry, and I



**Golden Bull Achievement Award recipients
– Rylie Meinhardt, Salem Sifford, and Jordan Mitchem.**

will make it my life's purpose to give it back to the programs that made me who I am," Mitchem says.

• Rylie Meinhardt – Onaga, Kan. – Meinhardt is a sophomore at Kansas State University where she is pursuing a degree in animal sciences and industry, with a focus in communications and a minor in leadership. Meinhardt is passionate about being an honest, informed, and reliable voice for agriculture, and she hopes to use her communication skills and personal experiences to educate individuals about where their food comes from. She is currently serving on the NJHA board of directors.

"Serving as a director on this prestigious board is an opportunity that's already shaping my future," Meinhardt says. "Each Hereford event I attend reinforces the value of this experience, as I continue to build lasting connections with industry professionals who will support my career and remain lifelong mentors."

Meinhardt's long term goal is to work in livestock communications, live in a rural community, and actively promote the agricultural industry. She wants to use her voice to share real stories that help others understand the value of agriculture.

• **Salem Sifford – Goldvein, Va.** – *Sifford is a senior at Virginia Tech majoring in dairy science and minoring in animal and poultry sciences and agriculture business. Competing in livestock judging from a young age opened the door to collegiate judging and coaching opportunities. She found a passion for coaching and teaching livestock evaluation, and she is planning to pursue a master's degree and work toward being a livestock judging coach and associate professor at a two year or four year university.*

Sifford currently serves on the NJHA board of directors and intends to give back in meaningful ways both personally and professionally when her time as a member is complete.

"Ultimately, I want to build a career that not only supports myself and my family but the greater good for Hereford youth," Sifford says.

She is proud to come from a Hereford family herself and desires to represent the Hereford community the very best she can.

**Salem is a former N.C. Junior Hereford Association member.*

Four New National Junior Hereford Association Leaders Take the Stage. New NJHA directors were selected during the 2025 VitaFerm JNHE. The newly elected NJHA directors were chosen by 59 state delegates to serve a three year term on a team of 12 directors who govern and serve the organization of more than 4,000 members.

After giving their retiring addresses, retiring NJHA board members handed off their jackets to the newly elected directors. The four new directors and recipients of maroon jackets are Maddie Weaber of Wamego, Kan.; Gavin Rhode of Stewartville, Mo.; **Jordan Mitchem of Vale, N.C.**; and Kendall Boatman of Rockford, Illinois. Passing on their maroon jackets to newly elected directors were retiring board members Logan McFatridge of Otterbein, Ind., the previous chairman; retiring vice chairman Haley Mouser of Tenstrike, Minn.; and directors Kaylee McInvale of Cumby, Tex., and Isaac Rhode of Stewartville, Missouri.

The 2025-2026 NJHA officer team consists of chairman **Salem Sifford of Goldvein, Va.**; vice chairman Sam Birdsall of Torrington, Wyo.; communications chair Emma Ballinger, McKee, Ken.; membership chair Rylie Meinhardt of Onaga, Kan.; fundraising chair Matt Bruns of North Platte, Neb.; and leadership chair Lauren

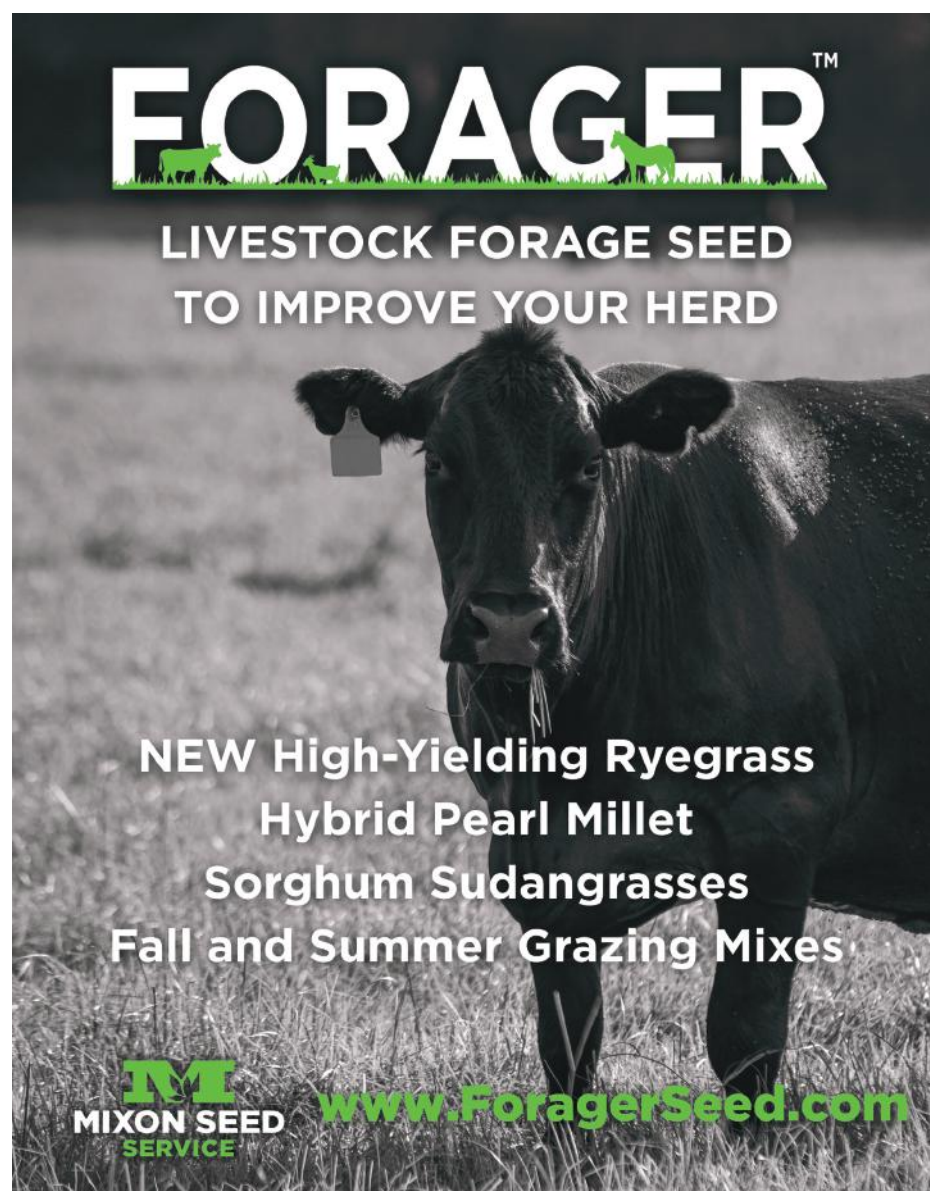
Gatz of Fairview, Kansas. Also serving as directors are Harlee Watson of Flemingsburg, Ken., and Sarah Beth Callicot of Only, Tenn., alongside the four newly elected board members.

Newly elected directors:

• Maddie Weaber of Wamego, Kan., is a sophomore at Oklahoma State University, majoring in animal science. The 19-year-old daughter of Bob and Tami Weaber has served on the Kansas Junior Hereford Association board of directors and participated in the Kansas State University Animal Science Leadership Academy. Maddie also excelled in FFA, where she earned sixth place in the National FFA Agriscience Fair animal systems category. Maddie believes the NJHA has a place for everyone, from the showring to the pasture, from becoming a better leader to connecting with like minded peers. As a candidate for the NJHA board of directors, she says, "I'm not just running to lead – I'm running to serve, to represent juniors who are passionate about production, education, and the future of the beef industry."

• Gavin Rhode of Stewartville, Mo., the 19-year-old son of Jeff and Susan Rhode, is a sophomore at the University of Missouri-Columbia (Mizzou), where he is majoring in agribusiness management. He has already demonstrated his leadership while serving as the Missouri Junior Hereford Association president and as Missouri FFA State Secretary. He is also a Mizzou Litton Leadership Scholar. If elected to the NJHA board of directors, Gavin's primary goal is to make a

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Hereford News continued from the previous page

meaningful difference. “Making an impact on each junior I will meet while wearing the maroon jacket will be unique and different, and that difference is what excites me most about the challenge,” Gavin says.

• **Jordan Mitchem of Vale, N.C., the 18-year-old daughter of Wayne and Crystal Mitchem, plans to attend N.C. State University to major in animal science and biochemistry. She has served as president of the N.C. Junior Hereford Association for the past three years. Jordan earned the Commissioner of Agriculture Award – the highest honor in North Carolina’s 4-H program – and was the 2024 Fed Steer Shootout contestant of the year. Jordan explains that programs offered at the JNHE helped shape her more than any other NJHA opportunity. “I want every Hereford youth to have the same experiences I have had and be prepared to go out and conquer the world,” Jordan says. One of her goals as an NJHA director would be getting more juniors involved at the state and regional levels.**

• Kendall Boatman of Rockford, Ill., will be a freshman at Lake Land Community College this fall, where she plans to complete an agricultural transfer degree, followed by majoring in agricultural communications and business at a university. Kendall has taken advantage of many NJHA opportunities, including BOLD, the Faces of Leadership conference, the Fed Steer Shootout, and Bridging the Gap. She is a 12 year member of the Illinois Junior Hereford Association, where she currently serves as secretary, board member, and chairman of the preview show awards committee. The 18-year-old daughter of Tom and Tammy Boatman is a generational Hereford breeder who has deep respect for the people, values, and traditions that comprise the NJHA. “Serving on the NJHA board of directors would be my way of giving back to the breed and the people who have shaped my life,” Kendall says. “I want to be part of the team that moves the breed forward by guiding the junior members who represent its future.”

Other directors:

• **Salem Sifford is the 21-year-old daughter of Steve and Rosemary Sifford. She will be a senior at Virginia Tech this fall, majoring in dairy science with minors in agricultural business and animal and poultry**

sciences. Salem is active in Virginia Tech’s Beef Leadership Council, Dairy Club, Alpha Zeta, and Young Farmers. She was a competitive member of the school’s livestock and dairy judging teams. Currently, Salem serves as a teaching assistant for the Virginia Tech dairy and livestock judging teams. This summer, she is interning with the Animal Agriculture Alliance and the Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Salem is excited to serve as a voice for members of the agricultural community and youth in the agricultural industry. Salem has been a member of the NJHA for 14 years, holding several leadership roles. Some of her fondest memories come from the friends she has made within the Hereford industry and the time spent with family along the way. She strives to be someone that youth can look up to and receive encouragement. Her goal within the NJHA is to focus on encouraging juniors to work toward their goals with confidence and dedication.

• Sam Birdsall is the 20-year-old son of Dennis and Heather Birdsall. He will be a junior at Kansas State University (K-State) this fall, double majoring in agricultural economics and accounting. At K-State, Sam is active in the Collegiate Cattlemen’s Club, the College of Agriculture’s Student Council, and the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, where he has helped plan and run the Alpha Gamma Royal Preview Show. He has been an NJHA member for 14 years.

Sam has looked up to NJHA board members since his first JNHE. He knew he wanted to run for the board as long as he could remember. Sam’s goal for his time on the board is to inspire NJHA members to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more.

• Emma Ballinger is the 20-year-old daughter of James and Carrie Ballinger. She will be a junior at the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, where she is studying agricultural education and advocacy. Emma plans to use her degree to share her passion for agriculture with others and to teach her students the value of agriculture. She is a member of the Collegiate Farm Bureau, the Ag

Hereford News continued on the next page



2025-2026 NJHA Board of Directors

Hereford News *continued from the previous page*

Ed Society, and the Singletary Scholars Cohort. Emma worked for the Kentucky FFA Foundation during the last two semesters, helping raise funds to impact the lives of future agriculturalists — further highlighting her passion for introducing others to the field of agriculture.

As an NJHA member and director, Emma hopes she can help young people find the courage to be involved in the NJHA and to step out of their comfort zone. Her goal as a director is to make others feel at home and welcome within the Hereford breed.

• Rylie Meinhardt is the 19-year-old daughter of Bryndon and Julie Meinhardt and comes from a proud agricultural family. She recently completed her freshman year at K-State, where she is pursuing a degree in animal sciences and industry. Rylie is actively involved on campus, serving on the Student Alumni Board and participating in Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT), Block and Bridle, Agriculture Ambassadors, and as a mentor in the animal sciences and industry program. Alongside her siblings, Rylie co-owns and operates Redwood Cattle Company, where they raise Hereford and Gelbvieh cattle.

With a strong interest in marketing and communications, Rylie combines her academic focus with her hands-on experience in the beef industry. She is especially passionate about developing leadership skills in junior members, just as past mentors and board members did for her. Rylie values learning from others and is deeply committed to building relationships within the Hereford community.

• Matt Bruns is the 21-year-old son of Kelly and Stacie Bruns. He will be a senior at K-State this fall, majoring in animal science with a focus on livestock production and management. He has a strong passion for the purebred cattle industry and is actively involved in the NJHA, as well as other breed associations. Matt has exhibited at numerous JNHEs and has served in local and national leadership roles. He is interning with Boviteq this summer, where he is gaining hands-on experience in advanced reproductive technologies. Matt plans to combine his interests in genetics and sales to build a career in cattle marketing and reproductive services.

He is excited to give back to the association that has shaped his leadership and personal growth and hopes to inspire younger members to get involved and take full advantage of NJHA opportunities. Matt's goal as a board member is to help juniors find their voice and thrive within the Hereford community.

• Lauren Gatz is the 22-year-old daughter of Taylor and Jennifer Gatz. She graduated from K-State in May, where she majored in agricultural communications and journalism with minors in leadership studies and marketing. At K-State, Lauren was involved in ACT, the Agriculturist magazine, and the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. She has served internships with the Beef Improvement Federation, the American Royal, Cargill, and U.S. CattleTrace. Lauren has been an NJHA member for 14 years, holding numerous leadership positions. In addition to her NJHA leadership role, Lauren also serves as the communications director for the Kansas Junior Hereford Board.

Lauren's goal as an NJHA board member is to help juniors find their place within the organization and encourage them to take advantage of the association's many opportunities. She hopes to contribute to the

development of the next generation of leaders and ensure the future success of the Hereford breed throughout her time on the board.

• Harlee Watson is the 19-year-old daughter of Matt and Melinda Watson. She will be a sophomore at Butler Community College this fall, majoring in agribusiness and competing on the school's livestock judging team. Harlee is an active member of the Collegiate Farm Bureau and the Ag Ambassadors Club. She is extensively involved in the Kentucky Junior Cattlemen's Association, where she served on the board for several years. Harlee has been a member of the NJHA for 12 years, holding numerous leadership positions, including serving three years as president of the Kentucky Junior Hereford Association.

Harlee's goal as a junior board member is to motivate juniors of all ages to get involved and have fun. She hopes to shine light on the opportunities available and help members develop their leadership skills to grow the Hereford breed and agricultural industry.

• Sarah Beth Callicott, 20 years old, is the daughter of Claude and Lee Ann Callicott. She is a junior at Tennessee Tech University, majoring in agricultural education. Sarah Beth plans to turn her passion for agriculture and the beef industry into a lifelong career, teaching and inspiring future generations of agricultural leaders. On campus, she's an active member of Sigma Alpha, the professional agricultural sorority, and she participates in the Baptist Collegiate Ministry. Sarah Beth also works at a cow/calf operation, gaining valuable experience in beef production, genetic selection, and cattle marketing.

A proud member of the NJHA for the past seven years, she is excited to step into the ring at her fifth JNHE. Sarah Beth and her family take pride in raising high quality Hereford heifers in their operation and are honored to represent the Hereford breed. Wearing the maroon jacket with pride, Sarah Beth hopes to inspire fellow Hereford juniors to find their confidence and strive to become the next leaders of our industry.

About the National Junior Hereford Association. NJHA is one of the most active junior programs in the country with more than 4,200 members. The NJHA's mission is to create and promote enthusiasm for the breed while providing opportunities through leadership, education and teamwork, and emphasizing the mantra of Learn. Lead. Achieve. For more information about the NJHA, visit Hereford.org/youth.

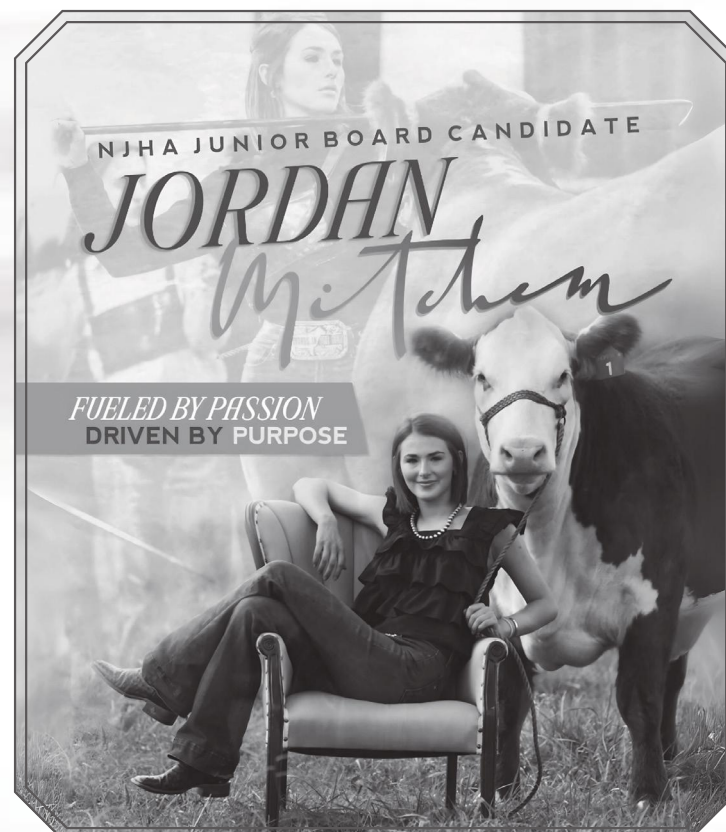
About the Hereford Youth Foundation of America. HYFA was established in 2000 and is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to its four core pillars of scholarship, leadership, education, and research. The mission of HYFA is to encourage, recognize, and reward the development of life skills and values in the next generation of leaders by providing education, scholarship, and leadership opportunities for Hereford youth. For more information about HYFA, visit Hereforyouthfoundation.org.

About the American Hereford Association. AHA, with headquarters in Kansas City, Mo., is one of the largest U.S. beef breed associations. The not-for-profit organization along with its subsidiaries — Certified Hereford Beef (CHB) LLC, Hereford Publications Inc. (HPI) and American Beef Records Association (ABRA) — provides programs and services for its members and their customers, while promoting the Hereford breed and supporting education, youth, and research.

Congratulations to *Jordan Mitchem*

Vale, NC

National Junior Hereford Association Board Member



4B FARMS Shelby, NC

Bryson Westbrook
Ed Soto (Manager)
980-230-4868 - Bryson
704-974-1407 - Ed
brysonw@thewestbrookco.com

BLINSON POLLED HEREFORDS Lenoir, NC

Keith & Peggy Blinson - 828-310-4526
Bryan & Beth Blinson - 919-422-9108

DOUBLE J FARM Traphill, NC • Earlysville, VA

John Wheeler
910-489-0024
doublejfarmllc@yahoo.com
www.doublejfarmllc.com

E. CARROLL JOYNER BEEF UNIT Raleigh, NC

Matt Morrison
716-720-0227

FIVE J'S BEEF & CATTLE COMPANY Clayton, NC

Jody & Angela Standley
828-320-7317 - Kim
jodystandley@gmail.com

HEREFORD HILLS Greensboro, NC

Bill Kirkman III
336-382-9635
ST Genetics Representative

McCOY CATTLE FARM Cove City, NC

Myron & Charlie McCoy
252-229-4602
mccoycattlefarms@gmail.com

NORTH PINO LAND & CATTLE COMPANY Mocksville, NC

Kevin Robinson
336-399-9884
kevrob1@aol.com

P and J FARMS Monroe, NC

Andy Smith
704-400-3436
pandjfarmsherefords@gmail.com

PRESTWOOD BEEF CATTLE Lenoir, NC

Kim & Lori Prestwood
828-320-7317 - Kim
828-432-7434 - Lori
brownloricyde@yahoo

QUAIL RIDGE FARM Rutherfordton, NC

Mark Brewer
828-329-2074
markbrewer65@gmail.com

Tammy Ward

N.C. Hereford Association Secretary/Treasurer
434-251-6847

ncherefordassociation@gmail.com
www.nchereford.com

TAYLOR'S MILL FARM Zebulon, NC

J. Brent Creech
919-801-7561
tmfherefords@icloud.com

TERRACE FARMS Lexington, NC

Jim, Linda & Chad Davis
336-247-1554
terracefarms@gmail.com

TRIPLETT POLLED HEREFORDS Statesville, NC

James Triplett
704-902-2250
triplettmarble@bellsouth.net

W&A HEREFORD FARM Providence, NC

George, Tammy, William, & Andy Ward
434-251-3637
gwardjr@comcast.net

WHITEHEAD CATTLE COMPANY Lewiston Woodville, NC

Austin & Jodie Whitehead
Austin - 252-370-5647
Jodie - 252-642-3435
austinlwhitehead@yahoo.com

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704-662-5262

RED ANGUS

RANCH TESTED. RANCHER TRUSTED.

UPDATE

RAAA Rebrands FCCP as Angus Access to Increase Market Competitiveness. The Red Angus Association of America has officially rebranded its Feeder Calf Certification Program as Angus Access. More than just a fresh look, Angus Access reflects a bold evolution of the beef industry's first genetic, age, and source verification program — built to USDA approved standards and trusted by Red Angus producers for more than 30 years.

Red Angus cattle undeniably produce high quality Angus beef, which remains one of the most sought after beef products among consumers. The new Angus Access name accurately reflects this identity while supporting broader industry efforts to secure recognition of Red Angus cattle within Angus branded beef programs.

"This program has always been about creating opportunity for commercial cattlemen. Angus Access builds on that legacy,

giving Red Angus producers a clear path to premium markets and rewarding those who invest in quality and accountability," said Kyley DeVoe, RAAA president.

The rebrand is more than cosmetic — it's a deliberate move to position Red Angus producers for success in the evolving landscape of beef production and retail. In a marketplace that is increasingly adopting private labels and case ready beef solutions, Angus Access equips Red Angus producers to meet that demand by offering the traceability, verification, and data integrity desired today.

This evolution builds on a powerful history. Launched in 1995, the Feeder Calf Certification Program was developed in response to market disadvantages Red Angus calves faced compared to black hided counterparts. FCCP was built with the goal of providing Red Angus sired calves greater access to market premiums. Through a low cost, data driven verification model, the program revolutionized value based marketing for Red Angus genetics.

What began as an ambitious vision quickly took root across the country. With the program's signature yellow tags and USDA backed verification, FCCP tagged calves quickly gained industry recognition for feedlot performance, carcass consistency, and quality. By focusing on the profitability of commercial cattle producers, FCCP built a lasting connection between Red Angus genetics and market success. Today, more than 3.5 million calves have been enrolled through FCCP and its counterpart, Allied Access, launched in 2011

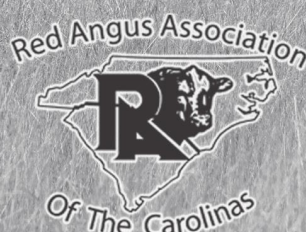
REDS RISING

Escalate Your Prosperity

Red Angus boosts profitability with docile temperaments, environmental resilience, premium carcass quality and exceptional maternal traits. Registrations have surged by 24% over the past decade, underscoring Red Angus' significance across all segments of the beef industry.



Scan the QR code for
real rancher stories
about the rising power
of Red Angus.



RedAngus.org
RED ANGUS
RANCH TESTED. RANCHER TRUSTED.

Contact these RAAC members to learn
more about Red Angus genetics and how
they can fit into your herd.

HARDROCK BEEF CATTLE

Ronnie & Donna Holman

4613 Hickory Not Rudge Road | Granite Falls, NC
828-302-8659
ronnie@hardrockbeefcattle.com

JK RED ANGUS

Jeff Banfield & Madison Adams

331 Tee Jay Farm Road | Aberdeen, NC
910-315-3821

LANGDON RED ANGUS & SIMMENTAL

John & Eileen Langdon

7728 Raleigh Road | Benson, NC
919-796-5010
johnlangdon5@gmail.com

ROGERS CATTLE COMPANY

Johnny & Sharon Rogers

945 Woodsdale Road | Roxboro, NC
336-504-7268
rccbeef@gmail.com

BULL HILL RANCH

Jim & Alvina Meeks

Raymond Prescott, Manager

1986 Trinity Church Road | Gray Court, SC
864-981-2080
bullhill2@prtcnet.com | bullhillredangus.com

COUNTRY BOY FARMS

David Miller

316 Key Road | Edgefield, SC
706-840-3709

P & J FARMS

Andy Smith

7007 Sugar and Wine Road | Monroe, NC
704-400-3436

to extend source and age verification to crossbred calves. These programs have proven effective across diverse markets, earning the trust of buyers and the loyalty of producers nationwide.

RAAA is committed to ensuring a smooth transition for current FCCP customers. Previously purchased dangle or combo tags are valid through July 1, 2027. However, beginning January 1, 2026, 840 EID tags will become the only program compliant tags issued for both Angus Access and Allied Access. This shift to EID technology is designed to improve traceability, reduce tag loss, and meet the evolving requirements of domestic and export markets. For producers who value visual identification, optional Angus Access and Allied Access logo tags will be available to purchase alongside the EID.

EID technology enables automated reading and data collection throughout the production chain, minimizing the need for manual visual reads at the backgrounder, feedlot, and processor. The low-profile design decreases the risk of accidental removal and improves tag retention. EID technology also supports the capture of detailed animal level data, such as birthweights, health protocols, and genetic inputs, resulting in operational gains and downstream marketing advantages.

The level of transparency enabled by EID technology is increasingly expected in vertically aligned beef supply chains. Programs that deliver verified, transparent production practices not only help meet the requirements of processors like Sustainable Beef but also improve consumer trust. Studies show that programs backed by transparent production practices can increase consumer favorability by more than 80 percent, boosting brand loyalty and repeat purchases.

“Angus Access makes it easy for producers to voluntarily enroll calves in a program that delivers verified genetics, age, and source, while unlocking opportunities for additional value added certifications,” said Jeananne Drouhard, RAAA value added department team lead. “Enrollment is quick, and with the tag as the only cost, the return on investment is strong.”

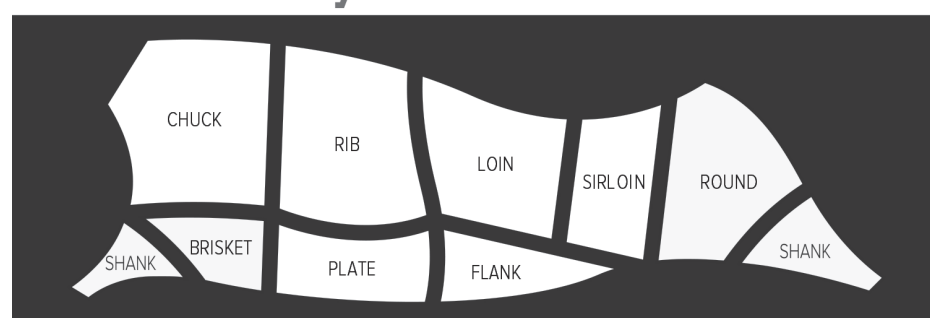
Ultimately, the Angus Access rebrand reflects RAAA’s commitment to position Red Angus producers at the forefront of a more transparent, data informed, and retail connected beef industry. As scientific identification and verified production practices become the industry standard, Angus Access ensures that Red Angus cattle — and their producers — are ready to lead.

To enroll in RAAA’s value added programs, contact tags@redangus.org or call 940-477-4593. For more information on Red Angus and upcoming RAAA events, visit www.RedAngus.org.



About the Red Angus Association of America. The RAAA serves the beef industry by enhancing and promoting the measurable advantages of Red Angus and Red Angus influenced cattle. The RAAA provides commercial producers with objectively described cattle by implementing new technologies and using scientifically sound principles that quantify traits of economic importance to beef producers in all segments of the beef industry. For more information, visit www.redangus.org.

Want to buy beef from a farmer?



Scan with your phone's camera to open a directory of North Carolina beef farmers.
meatsuite.com



Want to Sell More Meat in Bulk?



List Your Farm Online for FREE



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Visit the site and click
“sign up” to add your farm.

Sign up

MEATSUITE is an online directory of farms selling meat in bulk. The site is promoted in counties across NC and receives thousands of page views per month!

For more information about Meat Suite, contact
Lee Menius at lamenius@ncsu.edu



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Biosecurity Helps Build a Resilient Herd

During a recent Cattlemen's Webinar Series event, experts discussed how biosecurity can protect an operation's financial investments and ensure the overall health of the herd. Developing a biosecurity plan and implementing simple practices can go a long way in helping farms and ranches prevent disease and recover quickly when herd health issues arise.

At a fundamental level, implementing biosecurity practices keeps diseases from coming onto and leaving an operation. While zero risk does not exist, the goal is to minimize the risk of spreading disease and parasites between animals and between animals and people. In a global economy where millions of people and goods traverse the globe every day, it is vital to be diligent.

"Ultimately, we want to keep cattle healthy and in good shape to be able to handle a variety of weather, environment, and disease situations," said Lisa Pederson, extension specialist with N.D. State University. "A good program protects the herd from diseases for which there is no good or inexpensive vaccine available."

Implementing biosecurity practices can seem daunting. However, Pederson recommends "taking bites of the easy stuff" to get started. Here are a few simple tasks producers can undertake to begin their biosecurity journey.

1. Establish a strong working relationship with a veterinarian.

This relationship is more than having a veterinarian come to the operation to conduct pregnancy checks and vaccinate; it means utilizing their expertise and disease knowledge to help identify biosecurity strengths and weaknesses. Work with a resource team, which may include a veterinarian, operation supervisors, nutritionist, extension specialist, suppliers, BQA state coordinator, and others to develop a plan based on the operation's level of risk, business needs, and goals. It is also important to develop a communication plan before an emergency occurs, detailing how the team will communicate, why communication is necessary, and who needs to be reached in case of an emergency.

2. Have separate footwear and clothing for wearing on and off

the ranch. Diseases and pests hitch rides on dirt, dust, and manure, which can be readily found on boots and clothing. It is important to remove manure, mud, and other organic matter and disinfect regularly. Use the same principles for traveling to another ranch or livestock operation.

3. Have a quarantine/isolation plan for newly acquired animals.

Whether animals have been purchased or are on loan, isolate newcomers for at least 21 days, ideally without nose-to-nose or fence line contact and without shared feed and water. This also allows for observation, testing, and vaccination.

4. Keep records. Keeping records of livestock purchases and sales, disease recognition or treatment, as well as movement to exhibitions and shows, is imperative should a disease outbreak occur.

5. Create and implement a biosecurity plan. Understanding what biosecurity risks are present is the first step to mitigating those risks. The Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Daily Biosecurity Plan for Disease Prevention is a good resource to work through with a veterinarian. For foreign animal diseases like foot-and-mouth disease, the Secure Beef Supply plan provides enhanced biosecurity steps to prepare before an outbreak.

Pederson reminds producers that biosecurity is not about creating a plan and putting it on a shelf; in order to be most effective biosecurity practices must be intentional and done on a daily basis.

"Developing protocols is the cheapest and most effective means of disease control as no disease prevention program will work without biosecurity," she said. "It is more profitable to prevent problems than to correct them."

Wulf Cattle, which has seedstock and feedyard operations in Minnesota and Nebraska, takes biosecurity seriously and understands the value of record keeping. Casey Fanta, seedstock manager with Wulf Cattle, stressed the importance of creating a vaccination plan, which is important to ensuring calf health.

"Whatever your program is, it is important to have protocols in place and know the health of cattle from the time they are born," Fanta said. "The combination of vaccinations and good nutrition, along with tracking records, results in long term success."

Wulf Cattle relies on electronic identification (EID) to document animal health records, including disease testing, treatment, and movement.

"If there is ever a problem with an animal, we know its history and can respond quickly," Fanta said. "In addition, EIDs are instrumental in shipping cattle across the country with ease."

Biosecurity helps ensure the security of business by preparing producers before an outbreak occurs, aids in the prevention of both everyday diseases and foreign animal diseases, and keeps the food supply safe by maintaining animal health. The biosecurity journey begins with small steps and by tackling a few tasks today, producers across the country can minimize disease challenges and improve animal health, resulting in better economic benefits.

Start the journey today with biosecurity resources available at www.ncba.org/producers/biosecurity-resources.






By **GEORGEANNE WEBB**, S.C. Charolais Association

I have some bad news to start off with this month. The cattle industry and Charolais lost two great men. We lost dear old Wayne Templeton first. The cattle shows lost a great mentor. Next we lost Silas Maxwell in Tennessee. Silas really helped the juniors in that area with show cattle. They will both be missed immensely.

We would like to welcome our newest members, Logan Friddle and his family — especially Riley — to the American International Charolais Association. They decided they wanted to focus on Charolais. They will be at the October sale in Knoxville, so welcome them.

I would like to pass on some information, so listen closely. This could save you a lot of money. I saw on RFD-TV where a rancher out west figured out how to put all his bulls together at the end of breeding season with no fighting. He sprayed each bull with apple cider vinegar before they were put together. Well, I tried that. I had three big boys in one pasture and two big boys in another pasture, and I needed to put them together so I would have a place to put five weaned bulls. We fed them the night before and sprayed all five with the vinegar. Mind you, there was no rain to wash it off. The next night when it was feeding time we sprayed all five again and put them together. They all stunk the same, and they ate together — no head butting, no fighting. I looked at them the next morning, and they were all laying together under the barn in the shade — no problem. They have been best buddies since.



You shouldn't have to have a gun held to your head to take advantage of the expert A.I., superior genetics, the best in purebreds and outstanding farm supplies featured in the CLASSIFIEDS in this issue!

I called Dennis Adams and told him what I had done. He had never heard of this. He told me to call Brett DeBruycker and tell him. I called Brett and told him. He had never heard of this either. He was going to try this because with 600 bulls he always loses bulls from fighting. I told him to tell those ranchers out west that he learned this from that little old woman in South Carolina with less than 50 cows.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Angus Association for joining with Jeff Bezos. Since then I have sold all my bulls and heifers, and I no longer have anything to sell until I raise out these weaned calves. You folks in North Carolina need to put an article in The Carolina Cattle Connection's January Spotlight on Charolais. I had a gentleman call and drive five hours to buy a Charolais bull because he couldn't find one in North Carolina. I know there are some, but y'all need to participate and advertise.

N.C. Cattle Receipts, Trends, and Prices
for the Month of JUNE 2025

Cattle Receipts: 13,797 • Previous Month: 15,307
Feeder supply - 30% steers • 43% heifers • 27% bulls

SLAUGHTER CLASSES

	Avg. Wt.	Price
Cows - % Lean		
Breaker	1,519	\$148.96
Boner	1,256	\$155.60
Lean	1,029	\$132.85
Bulls - Yield Grade 1-2	1,572	\$184.83

FEEDER CLASSES

FEEDER STEERS (Medium and Large 1-2)

Wt. Range	Avg. Wt.	CWT	Avg. Price
400-450	425	377.92	\$1,606.16
450-500	470	359.45	\$1,689.42
500-550	526	352.24	\$1,852.78
550-600	565	358.56	\$2,025.86
600-650	625	340.03	\$2,125.19
650-700	676	322.68	\$2,181.32

FEEDER BULLS (Medium and Large 1-2)

Wt. Range	Avg. Wt.	CWT	Avg. Price
400-450	423	361.52	\$1,529.23
450-500	472	345.39	\$1,630.24
500-550	521	326.88	\$1,703.04
550-600	571	314.29	\$1,794.60
600-650	619	304.64	\$1,885.72
650-700	668	279.67	\$1,868.20

FEEDER HEIFERS (Medium and Large 1-2)

Wt. Range	Avg. Wt.	CWT	Avg. Price
400-450	424	330.80	\$1,444.99
450-500	472	333.92	\$1,576.10
500-550	522	314.94	\$1,643.99
550-600	568	314.15	\$1,784.37
600-650	624	300.26	\$1,873.62
650-700	671	268.34	\$1,800.56

Source: N.C. Dept. of Agriculture - USDA Market News Service, Raleigh, N.C. - 919-707-3156



BLOCK OPERATIONS RIDLEY NEWS

Using Crystalyx to Help Alleviate Heat Stress During Breeding Seasons

By JOHN ALBRO

Heat stress can be a costly problem in many ways for beef cow/calf producers. It's something that occurs almost every year, and we often hear about and see the tragic stories of deaths in feedlot or dairy cattle during a serious heat event, resulting in heavy financial losses as well. While economic losses in a cow/calf operation may not look tragic or take place during a single catastrophic event, they can still be significant. The impact of heat stress usually shows up in more subtle ways, including decreases in reproductive efficiency, weaning weight, and health.

Heat stress gets more attention in the dog days of summer — especially in the Southern and Eastern regions of the U.S., where “hot days and higher humidity” are more common and where fescue grazing is more prevalent. Fescue toxicosis can be caused by ergot alkaloids that manifest in fescue grasses. These toxins lead to the vasoconstriction of blood vessels, which interferes with heat dissipation in cattle and can also affect the hormonal response involved in thermoregulation. Heat stress can and does occur in all regions of the U.S. — even in the Northern Plains and into Canada.

Initial and abrupt heat events can be more stressful for animals, as it can take them several days to acclimate to warmer temperatures. We humans can relate to this. For instance, I was in southern Colorado during an unusual warm spell in late March. At 85°F, it felt hot and uncomfortable to me. But as I chatted with some people that day about the warmth, we all admitted that 85°F wouldn't feel as hot in late July as it did in late March.

One symptom of heat stress in cattle is eating less feed in favor of seeking shade instead or because of erratic feeding patterns, leading to less energy consumption. Cattle, like all mammals, maintain homeostasis in their body temperature through thermoregulation. Previous Crystalyx articles about heat stress have reviewed the thermoregulation process in detail. For cattle, combatting heat stress involves an increase in the respiration rate and heart rate, as well as panting — all of which require more metabolic energy. Couple this increase in energy demand with less grazing and feed intake levels,

and the overall energy balance can become compromised. This, in turn, can result in lower production efficiency, as mentioned earlier.

The timing of a heat stress event is very important. While there's never a good time for heat stress to occur, there can be worse times. When heat stress coincides with conception in a cow, for example, the survival of the embryo over the first two to three weeks of gestation can be at risk, as the cow's hormonal response and energy balance can affect embryonic survival. Additionally, reduced feed intakes lead to a negative energy balance, which increases the risk of embryonic death loss. When this occurs, the estrus cycle needs to reset, and the affected cow either ends up not getting bred again or she breeds late — usually a month or two later, assuming she's still exposed to bulls.

Bulls' reproductive performance can also be greatly impacted by heat stress through decreases in semen quality and libido — and the longer they are exposed to heat stress, the greater the negative effect it has. An older but good study from the mid-1980s.¹ measured semen motility in heat stressed bulls over an eight week period. Their semen motility steadily decreased from more than 80 percent to less than 50 percent during the eight week period, and it took almost another eight weeks for the bulls to return to their pre-heat stress levels during the recovery period. In mid to late spring calving herds, a certain degree of heat stress in bulls during the breeding season is unavoidable, making heat stress mitigation equally if not more important for bulls than for cows.

How and where can Crystalyx help? Crystalyx offers several supplement options that, along with good animal husbandry practices, can help combat and mitigate the negative impacts of heat stress. Offering feed through fly control is a particularly good practice for combatting heat stress, as a heavy fly infestation only adds insult to injury during periods of heat stress. Groupings of animals fighting flies further negatively affect grazing patterns and feed intakes.

Several Crystalyx supplement options deliver ClariFly and Altosid, which can help reduce overall fly populations. Over the past couple years, we've seen great success with our Crystalyx Blueprint Shade mineral offerings, which are available both with and without ClariFly. Our Shade solutions also contain capsaicin, an essential oil that promotes the vasodilation of blood vessels to aid in the thermoregulation process.

I mentioned fescue grazing earlier, and heat stress is bad enough without the negative impact of fescue toxicosis. Crystalyx Blueprint Fescue Phos Mineral with FEB-200 and ClariFly is a premium quality mineral. Along with ClariFly for fly control, this option contains FEB-200 to support overall performance and help cattle meet their maximum genetic potential on fescue forages.

Whatever your summer grazing program may look like, you can feel confident that our Crystalyx solutions supplement optimal levels of minerals and vitamins for your herd while also providing heat abatement and fly control, all in one convenient and reliable formula.

Reference

¹Meyerhoeffer, D.C., R.P. Wettemann, S.W. Coleman, and M.E. Wells (1985) “Reproductive criteria of beef bulls during and after exposure to increased ambient temperature.” *J. Anim. Sci.* 60:352-357.



WAGYU

AMERICAN WAGYU ASSOCIATION

UPDATE

American Wagyu Heritage Fund, Inc. Established in March 2025 as an IRS tax exempt organization, this designation marks a major milestone in our mission to support youth, promote education, fund research projects, and in the preservation of our precious historical information and artifacts.

These efforts are aimed at benefitting the public at large as well as our members, promoting and advancing the integrity of the Wagyu breed and brand in the United States and beyond. The AWHF was founded with the belief that the AWA membership deserves a more effective platform for providing tax deductible funds for youth, education, and research projects. We are committed to making a lasting impact through the efforts of our donors.

Members of the AWA and industry interests may now make charitable contributions to the AWHF that will qualify for income, gift, and estate tax charitable deductions. Gaining 501(c)(3) status means that we can now accept tax deductible donations, apply for grants more effectively, and expand our reach and effectiveness in the beef industry. We are deeply grateful for the support of our founders, partners, and early supporters who have helped bring this vision to life.

As we begin this exciting journey, we invite you to join us whether as a donor, partner, or advocate. We thank you in advance for your consideration of a commitment to our Wagyu legacy. Your unwavering commitment to the breed will ensure the AWHF can carry out its mission to advance Wagyu education, youth, and research for the future. The impact of your generosity will be felt throughout the Wagyu Family and beyond. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the Wagyu community.

Those who donate \$5,000 or more before December 31 will be recognized as a Founding Father of the AWHF!

Donations to the AWHF can only be made by check at this time. Please make checks payable to the 'American Wagyu Heritage Fund' and forward to:

American Wagyu Association
P.O. Box 115
Post Falls, ID 83877

About the American Wagyu Association. *The American Wagyu*

Association, Inc. was incorporated in Texas on March 14, 1990, and serves to register Wagyu and promote the breed throughout the U.S., Canada, and other countries. The Association headquarters is located at the University of Idaho Research Park, Post Falls, Idaho. The American Wagyu Association has a vibrant membership base that continues to promote and develop the Wagyu influence in America and worldwide.

The opportunities Wagyu beef can offer are endless. Wagyu genetics cater to producers targeting the high end restaurant trade with highly marbled beef to the seedstock producer, supplying the cow/calf producers with a crossbred alternative that will offer calving ease and premium carcass quality in a single cross, which no other beef breed can.

Wagyu has a vital role to play in today's beef industry, increasing the quality of red meat produced that health conscious consumer demand.

2025 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES SCHEDULE

Most of the breed associations in North and South Carolina have stepped forward and renewed their contracts for Spotlight sections in *The Carolina Cattle Connection* for 2025. If your breed is not featured as a Spotlight section and you would like to inquire on any open months please feel free to contact me. Below is the tentative schedule for the upcoming year.

2025 RESERVED SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

JANUARY	CHAROLAIS
FEBRUARY	FORAGES
MARCH	ANGUS
APRIL	PIEDMONTESE
MAY	BRAHMAN
JUNE	HEREFORD
JULY	-----
AUGUST	SIMMENTAL
SEPTEMBER	SANTA GERTRUDIS
OCTOBER	WAGYU
NOVEMBER	BRANGUS
DECEMBER	BRAUNVIEH

**For more information
about your breed's Spotlight Issue, contact:**

THE CAROLINA CATTLE CONNECTION
2228 N. Main Street • Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526
919-552-9111 • mail@nccattle.com

A Message from the CEO

Defending What's Right

By COLIN WOODALL, *National Cattlemen's Beef Association*



Animal activists continue their attacks against cattle production and our way of life. A group called Animal Partisan has committed itself to harassing everyone involved in animal agriculture because they believe “animal agriculture is without question the single largest cause of animal suffering in the United States.” While we are familiar with some of the outrageous actions and claims by PETA, ASPCA, and Humane World for Animals — formerly HSUS — there are other groups like Animal Partisan you rarely hear about. They keep a low profile and utilize legal and regulatory challenges to force change in animal agriculture. Like many of these groups, they have connections to the larger activist network through the tangled web they collectively weave to try to destroy what we do.

Rather than protesting and pouring fake blood on people, they are trying to use our own words and programs against us. In the most recent instance, they tried to impugn the Checkoff funded Beef Quality Assurance Program — or BQA. Last year, I wrote an article about BQA’s tremendous success in improving animal health and welfare and the resulting quality of our beef. This is a program I am proud to stand behind and be certified in.

BQA’s success and effectiveness are also due to support from many of our friends and partners in the beef supply chain. Certified Angus Beef (CAB) is one of those partners constantly promoting BQA to their retail and foodservice customers while also urging producers to get certified. CAB’s push for producer certifications through efforts such as their “Cut the Bull” and “Raised with Respect” campaigns has been successful in driving up the number of BQA certified producers.

Animal Partisan took exception to CAB’s promotion of Beef Quality Assurance and challenged them via a case filed with the Better Business Bureau’s (BBB) National Advertising Division. They claimed that CAB’s website, social media, and marketing materials promoting BQA as representing “best practices” and the “highest standards” were unsupported. They claimed other standards for cattle care — such as Humane Farm Animal Care and Global Animal Partnership started by Whole Foods — were more rigorous than BQA.

The CAB team mounted a fierce defense to the activist challenge and ensured the BBB knew everything about BQA. Decades of work by hundreds of producers, animal scientists, veterinarians, nutritionists, meat scientists, and others built a program whose results are quantified

by the Checkoff funded National Beef Quality Audit. The results clearly show the improvements we have made in cattle care and the quality of our beef. These educational resources don’t remain static. BQA evolves and improves each year in order to stay ahead of industry changes and challenges. Most recently, BQA has published an updated National Manual, added Spanish language training, and introduced new continuing education modules to increase its reach and effectiveness.

BQA also has an impact on the consumer. Not only do they enjoy the high quality beef we are producing, but they also respond positively when shown details of the program. We have had Checkoff funded Beef. It’s What’s For Dinner. advertising built around how cattle are raised, and BQA has been foundational to those campaigns. These particular ads have been some of the most popular among our audience and confirm they really are interested in how we care for our cattle. As our team works to create these ads, they utilize focus groups of consumers to gauge how our message resonates with them. We polled them about their confidence in what we do on cattle operations before showing them the ads. Once we showed them the ads, we found that their confidence in cattle producers and beef production increased by double digits. That positive change in confidence was due to informing them about BQA and the great results this program has achieved. BQA is a tool we must all use, support, and defend.

My thanks to the entire CAB team for their willingness to jump into the fight, correct the misinformation, and give BBB the information they needed to rule in support of BQA. That’s right, the cattle industry prevailed over the activists because we were able to substantiate everything that built BQA. In their decision summary, BBB’s National Advertising Division found the “best practices” and “highest standards” claims for the Beef Quality Assurance program were supported. They went on to state that “best practices generally refer to techniques developed through a structured process to represent a trusted standard” and “the advertising conveys that BQA is a high standard recognized by the industry.”

The activists will continue their attacks on us, but it is nice to know we can continue to beat them back, especially with the help of strong and committed partners. In the meantime, we will continue to promote BQA’s work to make all of us better. Do your part by getting BQA certified — staying certified — at BQA.org.



**National Cattlemen's
Beef Association**

Initiated 1898, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association is the oldest and largest national trade association representing America's cattlemen and women. With more than 25,000 individual members and 60 state and breed affiliates, NCBA serves as the collective voice of the U.S. beef industry. We strive to advance the economic, political, and social interests of the U.S. cattle industry and to advocate for its policy positions and economic interests.

With less than 2% of American's producing the food for the entire US and beyond, we must stand together. Anyone with a stake in the beef and cattle industry needs to be a member of NCBA to ensure our voices are being heard loud and clear.

NCBA is working every day to fight for your rights with policy created by cattle producers, for cattle producers. To continue our fight, we need your help. Join NCBA today and help protect the future of our industry.

Beyond the political insurance that NCBA provides, members also receive exclusive benefits and publications. **Join NCBA today and receive a FREE 1L bottle of Cydectin Pour-On from Elanco and an NCBA pocket knife!**

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The National Cattlemen's Beef Association is fighting for American Cattle Producer's rights in Washington, D.C. with policies created by cattlemen, for cattlemen. NCBA begins and ends with individual members. As a grassroots driven organization, individual producers set the course for NCBA's advocacy work in Washington, D.C. by submitting policy resolutions on the local and state level. NCBA's 44 State Affiliate associations present their desired proposed policies at NCBA national committee meetings. From there, proposed resolutions are voted on. After proposed policies pass through national meetings, a ballot is sent to every NCBA member where they have the choice to vote for or against all proposed policies. Once approved, passed resolutions become official NCBA policy for the next 5 years.

NCBA MEMBER BENEFITS:

- **New Members** receive a FREE 1L Bottle of Cydectin Pour-On from Elanco
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 - » Montana Silversmiths
 - » New Holland
 - » Roper & Tin Haul Apparel
- **Communication**
 - » Monthly subscription to National Cattlemen Newspaper and Magazine
 - » Weekly Beef Bulletin email newsletter

NCBA POLICY WINS:

- Secured a Supreme Court victory to curb Waters of the United States (WOTUS) regulation.
- Sued the Environmental Protection Agency to block further WOTUS regulation.
- Led the call to halt beef imports from Brazil and Paraguay for animal health concerns.
- Secured reauthorization of animal health legislation to keep cattle medicines and treatments available to cattle producers.
- Defended farmers and ranchers from burdensome environmental regulations.



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It's Time to Get Involved in CattleCon 2026. Apply Today for Contests, Internships, and Scholarships. CattleCon 2026 is heading to a new location in the heart of downtown Nashville, Tenn., on February 3-5, and it's time to get involved in the largest cattle industry event of the year. Applications are being accepted for the NCBA National Anthem contest, internships, and scholarships.

National Anthem Contest – The 13th annual NCBA National Anthem contest — sponsored by Norbrook — is accepting entries through October 15. The contest winner will perform the “Star Spangled Banner” at the event’s opening general session and will receive round trip airfare to Nashville, a hotel room for three nights, complimentary convention registration, plus a pair of boots, jeans, and a shirt from Roper or Stetson.

Any member or family member of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, American National CattleWomen, or Cattlemen’s Beef Board is eligible to participate in the contest. Previous NCBA National Anthem Contest winners are not eligible. The top four finalists will be chosen by October 21, and videos will be posted to the CattleCon website. Voting will be open to the public November 1–15 (one vote per person per day), and the winner will be announced November 18.

Convention Internships – NCBA is offering college students a unique behind-the-scenes experience through its annual convention internship program. Selected interns will be responsible for setting up the indoor arena, assisting at committee meetings and Cattlemen’s College, posting on social media, and contributing in the NCBA booth. This one-of-a-kind opportunity offers college students the ability to network with industry stakeholders throughout the beef industry and gain valuable experience. Students also receive a one year NCBA student membership.

Student interns must be able to work February 1–6, 2026, provide their own transportation to Nashville, and be at least a junior level college student at an accredited university at the time of the event. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA, should be well versed in all areas of social media, and preferably have a background in, or working knowledge of, the cattle and/or beef industry.

Interested students must complete an online Student Internship Application by October 15 and submit college transcripts, two letters of recommendation, and a resume.

Scholarship Opportunities – Young beef producers, students, farmers, and ranchers interested in attending CattleCon 2026 can apply for a scholarship. Scholarship recipients receive a complimentary Education Package registration and discounted housing accommodation for three nights. This is a great way for youth, first timers, and others to expand their network at the largest event in the beef cattle business. The application deadline is October 15.

Rancher Resilience Grant – Cattle producers attending CattleCon 2026 are also eligible to apply for the Rancher Resilience Grant, which provides reimbursement for registration and up to three nights hotel. For more information and to apply, visit www.ncba.org/producers/rancher-resilience-grant.

CattleCon 2026 Keynote Speakers Announced. CattleCon 2026 will feature keynote speakers two time Daytona 500 and NASCAR champion Dale Earnhardt, Jr., and bestselling author Jon Acuff. These two speakers will inspire and spark innovation. Sharing their unique

stories and a bit of humor, they are sure to compel attendees and drum up excitement for the future of the cattle industry.

A third generation racer in a family forever connected to American motorsports, Earnhardt Jr.’s innate ability and intrinsic instincts behind the wheel have propelled him to 50 victories and two championships in NASCAR’s top two national touring series. His common sense, charisma, and down-to-earth disposition have catapulted his popularity well beyond the racetrack, resulting in a record 15 consecutive NASCAR Most Popular Driver awards. In addition, he is involved in a variety of businesses and is active in charities and non-profit organizations.

New York Times bestselling author Jon Acuff is also joining the CattleCon 2026 line up. Published in dozens of languages, his work is both critically acclaimed and adored by readers. When he’s not writing, Acuff can be found on a stage as one of INC’s Top 100 Leadership Speakers. He’s spoken to hundreds of thousands of people at conferences, colleges, and companies around the world.

Music City is full of activities for music lovers, history lovers, sports fans, and families. Music City Center, home of CattleCon 2026, is walking distance from well known attractions like Lower Broadway, the Ryman Auditorium, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, the Johnny Cash Museum, and so much more.

Getting to Nashville is made easier with discounted flights on United, early bird rates, and a registration payment plan. Cattle producers attending CattleCon 2026 are also eligible to apply for the Rancher Resilience Grant, which provides reimbursement for registration and up to three nights hotel. For more information and to apply, visit www.ncba.org/producers/rancher-resilience-grant.

Registration and housing open on August 20. For more information and to register and reserve housing, visit convention.ncba.org.



UPDATE!

Monks Named Associate Dean and Director of N.C. State Extension

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) at N.C. State University has named David Monks as associate dean and director of N.C. State Extension, effective August 1.

Monks, who has served as co-interim director since September 2024, will lead one of the nation's largest Extension systems, with operations in all 100 North Carolina counties, the Qualla Boundary, and the Plants for Human Health Institute (PHHI) in Kannapolis. He will also serve as vice provost for outreach and engagement at N.C. State University, advancing the university's land grant mission across North Carolina and beyond.

Monks succeeds Richard Bonanno, who retired in summer 2024. His appointment follows a national search that included feedback and engagement from stakeholders across the university system and broader community.

"David Monks is the right leader for this moment," said CALs Dean Garey Fox. "He brings deep institutional knowledge, proven leadership across our state and national networks, and an unwavering commitment to the mission of CALs through the vital work of Extension. I am confident he will lead boldly and collaboratively as we navigate a critical period of change and opportunity."

A respected administrator, researcher, and longtime Extension advocate, Monks brings more than three decades of leadership experience to the role. He has served in key positions within N.C. State Extension, the N.C. Agricultural Research Service (NCARS), and the broader university, building trusted relationships with faculty, county partners, commodity organizations and community stakeholders.

As co-interim associate dean and director and vice provost, Monks has already demonstrated his ability to lead — fostering new partnerships, advancing community engagement initiatives, and

strengthening Extension's alignment with the university's strategic priorities.

He has served as associate director of NCARS since 2013, where he facilitated key partnerships with North Carolina's commodity organizations and advanced critical research initiatives. He has also provided leadership as assistant director of NCARS, assistant department head for horticultural science, and director of CALs Research Stations and Field Labs.

Throughout his career, Monks has prioritized programs grounded in research excellence, stakeholder trust, and meaningful community impact. He remains a tireless advocate for ensuring that Extension programs are relevant, accessible, and responsive to the evolving needs of North Carolina's people and communities.

"I am honored to serve in this role and to continue working alongside our outstanding faculty, staff, and partners across the state," Monks said. "Extension's strength lies in its ability to connect knowledge with action — to make a real difference in the lives of North Carolinians. I look forward to building on that legacy and leading Extension into its next chapter."

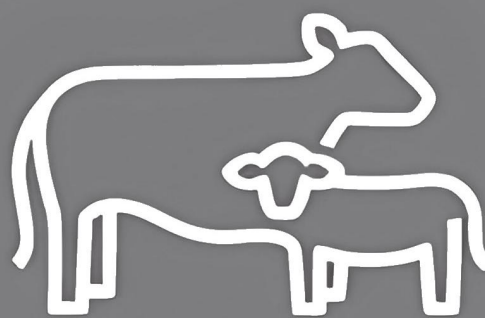
N.C. State Extension is a key driver of innovation, economic vitality, and community well being throughout North Carolina. In partnership with local governments and N.C. A&T State University, N.C. State Extension delivers science based solutions in agriculture and food systems; health and nutrition; community, economic, and youth development; natural resources; and more.

Monks holds a Ph.D. in agronomy-weed science from the University of Arkansas, an M.S. in plant and soil science from the University of Tennessee, and a B.S. in plant and soil science from Middle Tennessee State University.

Learn more about N.C. State Extension at go.ncsu.edu/Extension.



QUICK TIPS



zoetis

Effective parasite control begins with understanding active ingredients. Strategic use of active ingredients offers promise in managing parasites. Using parasiticides in cattle without considering the active ingredients in those products presents dangers for an operation. Using different parasiticide active ingredients can extend the effectiveness of parasite control products and play a significant role in the management of healthier cattle.

“Some common, yet misguided, management practices can lead to an operation unintentionally increasing resistance in parasites. One type of parasiticide — macrocyclic lactones — saw the first documented case of resistance more than two decades ago, and now *Cooperia* and *Haemonchus* parasites have been demonstrated as resistant to macrocyclic lactones in more than half of all operations examined.¹ Of course parasites must be dealt with, but producers need to find a balance in their management practices.

Here are three common active ingredient families and how they work to control parasites:

- **Benzimidazoles** – This active ingredient family depletes energy reserves in parasite cells and inhibits the elimination of waste — actions that appear to play an essential role in having a lethal effect on worms because it prolongs the time the parasite is exposed to the drug.²

- **Macrocyclic lactones** – Microscopic worms experience paralyzed pharynx, body wall and uterine muscle when exposed to macrocyclic lactones, which leads to death.² This active ingredient works by binding to receptors that open up parts of the nematode to allow the influx of chemicals that cause the paralysis.

- **Imidazothiazoles** – This group of parasite control products stimulates muscle contractions in worms that lead to paralysis.²

The judicious use of parasiticides with different modes of action will control parasites in a herd and also help keep products effective longer in the industry. Keep these tips in mind when developing a management plan for parasiticides:

- **Dosing is based on accurate weight.** Underdosing is a contributing factor to parasite resistance.³ Accurate weights help drive accurate dosing, which can help ensure product efficacy.

- **Careful management practices.** Small ruminant research demonstrates a trend to replace the current practice of repeated dosing of animals with a move to targeted selective treatments for animals showing clinical signs or reduced productivity.⁴

- **Use different active ingredients to reduce risk.** Most of the commonly used parasiticides are either benzimidazoles, macrocyclic

lactones, or imidazothiazoles. Thus, resistance to one particular compound may be accompanied by resistance to other members of the same group — also known as side resistance.⁴ Theoretically, resistance may be delayed by using products with different modes of action.⁴

For more information on parasite control products and solutions, visit www.GetLessParasites.com.

References

¹Gasbarre L.C. Anthelmintic resistance in cattle nematodes in the U.S. *Vet Parasitol.* 2014;204(1-2):3-11.

²*Mechanisms of Action of Anthelmintics.* Veterinary Manual website. www.merckvetmanual.com/pharmacology/anthelmintics/mechanisms-of-action-of-anthelmintics. Accessed April 24, 2025.

³*Safety of Anthelmintics.* Veterinary Manual website. www.merckvetmanual.com/pharmacology/anthelmintics/safety-of-anthelmintics. Accessed April 24, 2025.

⁴*Resistance to Anthelmintics.* Veterinary Manual website. www.merckvetmanual.com/pharmacology/anthelmintics/resistance-to-anthelmintics. Accessed April 24, 2025.

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Alltech Report Highlights Progress Toward Emissions Reduction, Champions Agriculture's Role in Building Resilient Food Systems. *2024 Alltech Sustainability Report demonstrates strong momentum, measurable impact.* In its newly released Alltech Sustainability Report, the company highlights its commitment to helping agri-food producers achieve sustainable profitability,

outlines the steps it has taken to reduce environmental impact and champions agriculture's role in building resilient food systems.

"Our vision of Working Together for a Planet of Plenty recognizes that thriving farms and food businesses are essential for a more sustainable planet," said Dr. Mark Lyons, president and CEO of Alltech. "When producers are equipped to succeed — to be profitable, to build a legacy, and to reinvest in their land and communities — we all move closer to a world of abundance."

The 2024 report highlights a year of strong momentum and measurable impact: Alltech achieved double digit business growth in 2024 while reducing its Scopes 1 and 2 emissions by 7.8 percent. Since 2021, Alltech has reduced those emissions by 26 percent, more than halfway to its 2030 target of 42 percent, proving that strong business performance can go hand in hand with environmental progress.

From investing in energy efficiency and water stewardship to creating sustainability partnerships with customers — through carbon credit and farm resource efficiency programs, for example

N.C. A&T Names Interim Dean for Agriculture College

N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University has named a leader in their field to serve as interim dean of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. Research immunologist Radiah Corn Minor, Ph.D., will lead CAES.

Minor assumed leadership of the nation's No. 1 producer of Black agricultural science grads on July 1. In addition to being home to one of North Carolina's two Cooperative Extension programs, CAES is one of N.C. A&T's most research intensive colleges, with a \$45 million extramural research portfolio, and the largest agriculture school at any of America's historically Black colleges or universities.

Since 2022, Minor has served as chair of the college's Department of Animal Sciences. During her tenure, department faculty received \$8.8 million in grants and established more than 37 cross disciplinary collaborations. An outstanding classroom teacher as well as an accomplished researcher, Minor was honored by the UNC System Board of Governors in 2018 with its Excellence in Teaching Award.

Minor has held a faculty appointment in animal sciences since 2008. She has served as principal or co-principal investigator for 19 funded grants totaling \$6 million and been an advisor to more than 50 undergraduate students each year. Her research interests focus on the use of medicinal plants that promote positive immune responses and support the overall health of mammals.

Minor earned a B.S. in biology from Florida A&M University and a Ph.D. from Meharry Medical College, concentrating on biomedical sciences and immunology. She served as a

postdoctoral fellow at the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences, Duke University Medical Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and Meharry Medical College.

In addition to her Excellence in Teaching Award, Minor earned the 2018 Outstanding College Teaching Award from the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.



— and taking bold action to tell agriculture’s story in a new way through the World Without Cows documentary, the 2024 report showcases the global impact of Alltech’s purpose driven strategy.

It also highlights key progress in reducing emissions and waste, supporting the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and promoting sustainability across Alltech’s global operations, workplace, and industry partnerships.

Sustainability is embedded in Alltech’s mission to improve the health and performance of people, animals, and plants through nutrition and scientific innovation.

“The choices we make today will shape the world of tomorrow,” said Tara McCarthy, global vice president of ESG at Alltech. “That’s why our sustainability strategy is designed to deliver long term environmental, social, and economic benefits — not only within our own operations but across the entire agri-food value chain.”

Key sustainability achievements include:

- **Energy efficiency** – In 2024, Alltech invested \$2.04 million in six energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, cutting our emissions by 3,602 metric tons of CO₂-e. Since 2021, it has invested \$13 million in 40 projects across 29 sites, resulting in a reduction of approximately 21,000 metric tons of CO₂-e per year.

- **Zero waste milestones** – The company expanded its zero waste-to-landfill practices, with five facilities achieving full zero waste status in 2024.

- **Water stewardship** – Alltech launched a strategy to benchmark usage, identify high usage sites, implement conservation technologies, and share global best practices.

- **Expanding LCAs** – Alltech completed 57 product life cycle analyses (LCAs) in 2024 for a total of 139 total LCAs now completed.

- **Workforce diversity and engagement** – Alltech has a diverse global workforce representing 72 nationalities speaking 59 native languages. Its team of 5,368 includes 26 percent women and 74 percent men. In its 2,466 non-production roles, 42 percent are women and 58 percent are men.

- **Uniquely experienced team** – 35 percent of Alltech’s team has been with the company for more than 10 years, while 12 percent have been with the company for more than 20 years. (In the U.S., the average length of employment in corporate companies is 3.9 years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.)

- **EUDR compliance** – The company achieved EUDR (EU Deforestation Regulation) compliance and drafted deforestation/conversion free policies for 2025 adoption.

- **Science and impact** – 799 Alltech research studies are listed on Scopus, with many mapped to 11 of the 17 U.N. SDGs.

- **Recognition** – Alltech was reaccredited by the Pet Sustainability Coalition, Alltech Serdán received ESR designation again, and the company’s sustainability efforts continue to be recognized by sustainability rating agency EcoVadis.

- **Social engagement** – Alltech advocates for agri-food, invests in building resilient communities around the world, and serves as a global thought and action leader in the industry, producing industry leading publications and hosting and participating in global events.

Challenging the conventional narrative – The report also spotlights the bold steps Alltech has taken to advocate for agri-

food producers through science led storytelling. In 2024, its team completed production of World Without Cows, a feature length documentary examining the economic, cultural, nutritional, and environmental role of cattle — and the consequences of imagining a food system without them.

World Without Cows challenges oversimplified narratives about animal agriculture, using evidence based insights to spark deeper conversations about sustainability.

More than 5,000 people viewed the documentary in 2024 at private screenings, film festivals, and events around the world.

“Through the film, its digital platform, and in-person events all over the world, we are creating space for science led storytelling that encourages critical thinking and sparking broader conversations about livestock, food security, and sustainability,” Lyons said.

Looking ahead – The path to a more sustainable future is complex, but progress is possible when science, innovation, and collaboration come together. While challenges like climate change, resource scarcity, and social inequality persist, Alltech remains committed to working alongside producers and partners to turn these challenges into opportunities.

“We are dedicated to addressing these complex issues through ongoing rigorous research, robust data management, strategic partnerships, and the development of forward thinking sustainable solutions,” McCarthy said. “We invite our stakeholders, partners, and communities to join us on this journey. Together, we can transform challenges into opportunities, create meaningful change, and create a world of abundance for future generations.”

The full 2024 Alltech Sustainability Report is available now at alltech.com/sustainability.

About Alltech. *Founded in 1980 by Irish entrepreneur and scientist Dr. Pearse Lyons, Alltech delivers smarter, more sustainable solutions for agriculture. Our diverse portfolio of products and services improves the health and performance of animals and plants, resulting in better nutrition for all and a decreased environmental impact.*

We are a global leader in the agriculture industry. Our team produces specialty ingredients, premix, supplements, feed and biologicals, backed by science and an unparalleled platform of services.

Strengthened by more than 40 years of scientific research, we carry forward a legacy of innovation and a unique culture that views challenges through an entrepreneurial lens. As a private, family owned company, we adapt quickly to our customers’ needs and focus on advanced innovation.

We believe agriculture has the greatest potential to shape the future of our planet. Our more than 5,000 talented team members worldwide share our purpose of Working Together for a Planet of Plenty. Together, we can provide nutrition for all, revitalize local economies and replenish the planet’s natural resources.

Headquartered just outside of Lexington, Ken., Alltech serves customers in more than 140 countries, has five bioscience centers, and operates more than 75 manufacturing facilities across the globe. For more information, visit alltech.com.

Don't waste feed – Let manure scores guide cattle nutrition. Manure scoring helps maximize feed value by evaluating rumen function. Evaluating cattle productivity often focuses on common benchmarks such as body condition, weight, and feed consumption. Yet, there's another informative – and sometimes ignored – performance indicator in plain sight...manure.

What comes out of the back end of your cattle can tell you a lot about your nutrition program. By utilizing a manure scoring tool, you can analyze your cattle's manure and better understand how well the rumen is working to ensure your nutrition dollars are being used by the cow and not just passing through into their manure.

"Think of manure scores as a short term report card on how the diet's doing in the rumen," says Ted Perry, cattle nutritionist with Purina Animal Nutrition. "By scoring manure on the 1–5 scale, you can gain insight into the rumen environment, optimize your nutrition program, and get more out of your feed resources."

What do the manure scores look like and mean?

- *Manure score 1* – The manure is more liquid than solid, with a cream soup consistency and possible gray color. The rumen isn't functioning correctly, and what's passing through is essentially water. This can also be an indication of acidosis and rumen upset. It is most commonly seen in feedlot diets.

- *Manure score 2* – Manure doesn't stack up properly. The manure pat is usually less than 1 inch thick and relatively runny or nearly liquid like. The color will generally be the normal manure brown, typically experienced when forages are lush in the spring.

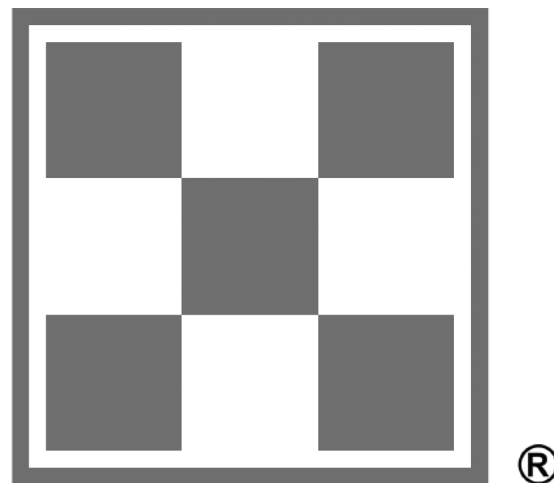
- *Manure score 3* – This is the ideal manure score to aim for year round in your cow herd. It has a normal manure pat form and will be relatively firm and retain its shape.

- *Manure score 4* – The manure pat is thick and becomes more profound, yet it is not stacking. Rumen is not balanced for protein, carbohydrates, and fiber degradability. It tends to happen when corn is added to the diet, and you'll see undigested corn particles in the manure.

- *Manure score 5* – The manure pat is firm and stacks over 2



Manure scoring is a simple tool to help you determine how the rumen is functioning and ensure the most efficient use of your feed resources.



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inches high. It can also resemble horse manure in its look because undegraded fiber passes through the rumen. You can break open the manure and see the fiber.

How can you improve manure scores? Manure score 1 requires the most significant diet change and will need a lot of fiber, usually in the form of hay.

"You'll also want to work with a nutritionist to adjust the diet properly when the manure score is so low," says Perry. "If the manure score is 2, ensure a quality mineral balanced for trace minerals is available, along with providing any supplemental fiber."

When scores are higher – 4 and 5 – supplementation can bring the rumen back in balance by increasing forage digestibility. Using a cooked supplement like a tub or block helps regulate the manure score by feeding the rumen microbes appropriate amounts of starch, protein, vitamins, and minerals.

"If you feed the rumen microbes properly, you'll get better forage digestion," says Perry. "For instance, it's not uncommon to see cows grazing corn stalks with protein tubs having a manure score of 3 because the rumen microbes have been fed right."

To maintain an ideal manure score of 3, adjust your supplementation and mineral as forages change.

"Forage quality constantly shifts throughout the year, so your nutrition program must also shift," says Perry. "Adjusting the nutrition program based on manure score helps keep the cow herd in optimum body condition score (BCS)."

When should you gather manure scores? Manure scores can be gathered throughout the year. A good time to utilize this tool is in tandem with body condition scoring to get an even better idea of how your nutrition program is working. If you currently work with a nutritionist to help body condition score your herd, they can also assist you with manure scores.

“It’s also a good idea to check manure scores whenever there’s a diet change,” says Perry. “If you’ve moved the herd from one type of forage to a new one, like dormant native grass in late winter to wheat pasture, there will be a difference in the manure.”

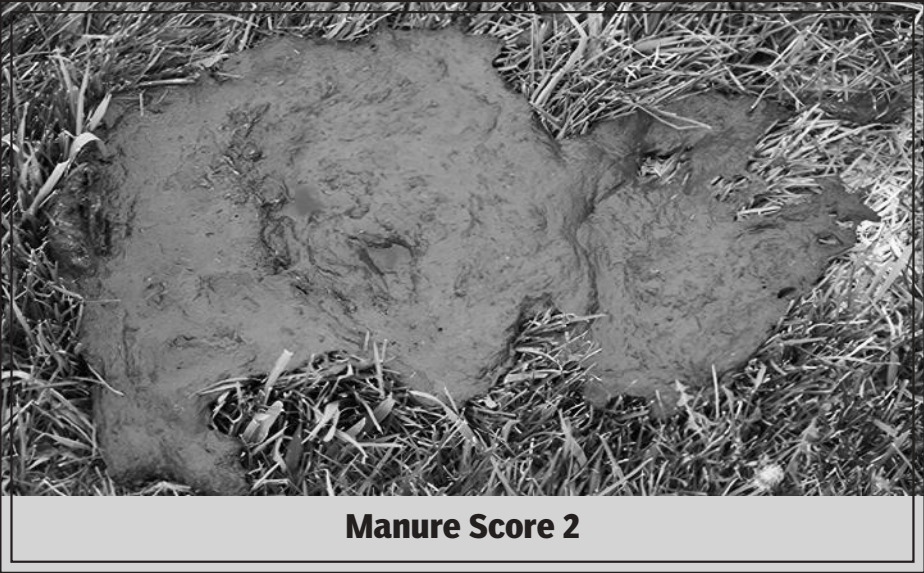
Similarly, if you’re grazing pasture or feeding hay and consistently see a manure score of 5, it’s time to make a change with some supplementation and minerals. Three to four days after making a diet change is the ideal time to reevaluate manure scores because the rumen has had enough time to adjust.

“Much like body condition scoring, manure scoring can quickly tell you how your herd is performing and help you make important nutrition decisions,” says Perry. “Incorporating this tool into your

regular management routine can give you valuable insights to ensure your nutrition program is as efficient and effective as possible.”

Visit www.purinamills.com/cattlecare for more information on cattle nutrition.

About Purina Animal Nutrition. Purina is a national organization serving producers, animal owners and their families through more than 4,700 local cooperatives, independent dealers and other large retailers throughout the United States. Driven to unlock the greatest potential in every animal, the company is an industry-leading innovator offering a valued portfolio of complete feeds, supplements, premixes, ingredients, and specialty technologies for the livestock and lifestyle animal markets. Purina Animal Nutrition is headquartered in Arden Hills, Minn., and a wholly owned subsidiary of Land O’Lakes, Inc. For more information, visit www.purinamills.com.





Beef Promotion and Research Program
PRIVATE TREATY SALES CHECKOFF INVESTMENT FORM

Information is required by (7 CFR 1260.201). Failure to report can result in a fine.
Information is held confidential (7 CFR 1260.203).

Today's Date: _____

Seller's Name: _____ Buyer's Name: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Seller's Signature: _____ Buyer's Signature: _____

Both the seller & the buyer are responsible for making sure that the \$1.50 per head assessment is collected and remitted to the Beef Promotion & Research Board.

Total Number of Cattle Sold: _____ x \$1.50 Per Head = \$ _____

Date of Sale: _____ Person remitting assessment form: Seller ☐ Buyer ☐

* State of Origin of Cattle: _____

* If cattle purchased came from another state within the last 30 days, indicate from which state the cattle were purchased.

Send Report and Remittance to:
SOUTH CAROLINA BEEF COUNCIL
P.O. Box 11280
Columbia, SC 29211

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N.C. Food Safety School

By KATE NICHOLAS, N.C. State University

Hosted in partnership with the N.C. State University Food Innovation Lab, this hybrid course is designed to help beginning, small, and growing value added food businesses learn the basics of food safety by addressing North Carolina food safety regulations, factors that impact microbial growth, methods for producing safe food, food safety system development, and next steps for growing your food business.

After registration, take the self paced online modules that focus on North Carolina food laws and regulations. You'll also be introduced to the state regulatory agencies that help ensure safe food is reaching all North Carolinians.

Then join us on September 10 at the N.C. Food Innovation Lab for a one day intensive food safety education course. The day will capstone with a tour of the Innovation Lab facility and an overview of how they can help growing companies. Since the N.C. Food Innovation Lab is an active food processing facility, we ask all tour participants to please

wear pants and closed toe shoes. Education programming developed in partnership with university Extension programs from the University of Arkansas, the University of Georgia, N.C. State University, and Virginia Tech/Virginia State University.

This course is supported by the Food Safety Outreach Program [grant no. 2023-03050] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



Don't put your cart before your horse...advertise that sale ahead of time! You'll see positive results.

Interested in starting a food business in North Carolina?
Learn how at Food Safety School!



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025



This hybrid training teaches the fundamentals of food safety and regulatory compliance for beginning, small, and growing value-added food businesses through an online, self-paced state-specific regulatory module and in-person workshop.

\$25

IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

 **N.C. Food Innovation Lab**
105 N. Research Campus Drive
Kannapolis, NC 28081

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE





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RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

NC STATE
EXTENSION



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

This course is supported by the Food Safety Outreach Program [grant no. 2023-03050] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

NCBA President's Report

Investing in Our Young Producers

By **BUCK WEHRBEIN**, *National Cattlemen's Beef Association*



The NCBA Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC) is one of my favorite events. I enjoyed it when I went back in the 1990s, and I had an even better time when I went last year as NCBA President Elect. There is no shortage of stories that come out of YCC — things you learn about the industry, memories from the travel, and new people you meet — but by far the best aspect of this program is that it shows NCBA cares about investing in the future of our industry.

It's no secret farmers and ranchers are getting older, and it's a challenge across all of agriculture. Today, the average producer is 57 years old, and younger producers under age 35 account for just 9 percent of all farmers and ranchers. Don't get me wrong, with age comes experience and wisdom, but we also need young people to get involved in the cattle business if we want our legacy to continue in the future.

The YCC program is one way NCBA has invested in our future producers. When I was starting out in the cattle business, everyone around me saw the value of associations, and everyone was a member of their county cattlemen's association, state cattlemen's association, and NCBA. Today, many younger producers don't rely on associations to build their network — they can meet people online and exchange information through social media. If you face a problem, you can Google the solution rather than call your neighbor.

As you can imagine, this poses a challenge for our industry. I wouldn't be where I am today without good mentors who shared their wisdom with me and helped me find my place in the cattle business. This is where I see both YCC and NCBA playing a critical role.

I have personally experienced this, and I hear stories from countless YCC alums who now do business with the fellow producers they met on the trip. Many more YCC graduates are now in leadership positions within their state cattlemen's associations, breed associations, and even NCBA. Many have transitioned into taking over the farm or ranch entirely, and the knowledge they gained from YCC has shaped their vision for how to run their operation. All of this is the goal of any leadership development program, and I think YCC has been spot on.

Still, there is more work to be done.

NCBA's priority for this year is working with the Trump administration and Congress to expand opportunities for producer profitability. One reason this is our priority is because we need

strong, profitable operations for younger producers to find a home in the cattle business.

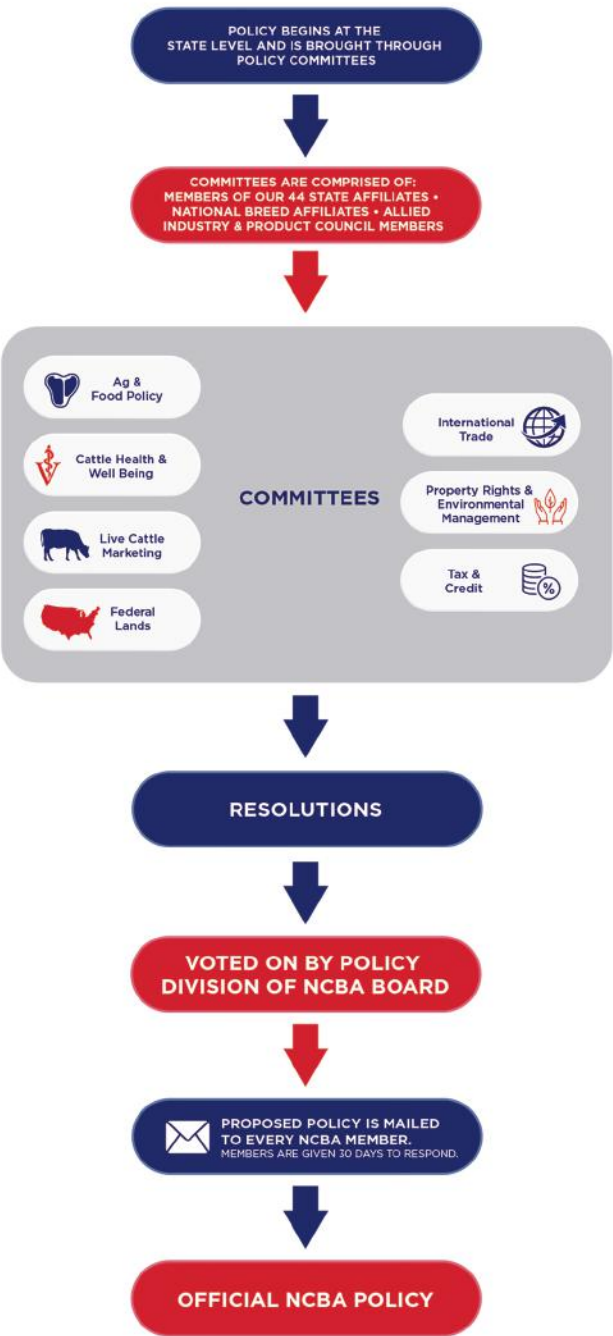
As an industry, we have faced years of rising land values, rising input costs, and more expenses on our operations. All of these financial threats could put us out of business and end our legacy. To protect our future, NCBA is fighting for tax relief, a reduced Death Tax, expanded disaster relief programs, and cattle health investments. All these policies work together to protect our businesses from government overreach, lower our expenses, and ensure we have the tools to stay in business — even if disaster should strike. We are enjoying some good cattle prices, but even so we need to remain focused on addressing these challenges so they don't hurt our industry in the future.

The responsibility is on us to make sure our children and grandchildren have a place in the cattle business. I encourage you to have those tough conversations with your family about the next generation's role in your operation. If you know a young person passionate about the industry, make the effort to bring them to a meeting, mentor them, and help them see the value of organizations like NCBA. If you attended YCC in the past and enjoyed that experience, tell the young people around you and help connect them with your state cattlemen's association so they can have that experience too.

NCBA is going to keep fighting for the policies that help us be successful, but I'm asking you to help us invest in our young producers too. Until next time, happy trails!



HOW NCBA DRAFTS POLICY



The National Cattlemen's Beef Association serves your interests through defending your operation and property from government overreach, protecting the legacy of your farm/ranch with tax relief, expanding trade opportunities that add value to your cattle, and protecting the beef industry from attacks by animal rights activists.

NCBA's policy process begins and ends with individual members. As a grassroots driven organization, individual producers set the course for NCBA's advocacy work in Washington, D.C. by submitting policy resolutions on the local and state levels. NCBA's state affiliate associations then present their proposed resolutions at our annual national meetings. From there, passed resolutions are collected on a ballot and mailed to every NCBA member where they have the choice to vote for or against all proposed policies. Once approved, passed resolutions then become official NCBA policy.

Our grassroots policy process ensures that cattle producers of all sizes and in every region are well represented in the halls of Congress, the White House, and federal agencies.

AS AN NCBA MEMBER, WE SERVE YOUR INTERESTS BY:

- Promoting the policy of cattlemen in our Nation's Capital.
- Defending your personal liberties and private property rights against government overreach.
- Protecting the legacy of your farm or ranch by advocating for tax relief.
- Adding value to your cattle by expanding trade opportunities.
- Delivering new and innovative education opportunities to help you improve the management of your farm and ranch.
- Protecting the beef community from attacks by animal rights activists.

JOIN TODAY!



NAME

BUSINESS/RANCH NAME

ADDRESS LINE 1

CITY/STATE/ZIP

CELL PHONE

OFFICE PHONE

EMAIL

RECRUITED BY

NCBA PRODUCER COW-CALF PRODUCER HERD SIZE

- ☐ 1-100
- \$160
- ☐ 101-250
- \$320
- ☐ 251-500
- \$480
- ☐ 501-750
- \$693
- ☐ 751-1000
- \$960
- ☐ 1001-1250
- \$1,227
- ☐ 1251-1500
- \$1,493
- ☐ 1501-1750
- \$1,760
- ☐ 1751-2000
- \$2,027
- ☐ 2001+

\$2,027 + \$0.4053/head =

STOCKER/FEEDER

☐ \$160 + \$0.4053/head =

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS NON-CATTLE OWNERS, NON-VOTING

- ☐ Individual
- \$160
- ☐ Business
- \$213
- ☐ Student
- \$53
- (24 or younger)

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Card #

EXP

CVC

Signature



Checks payable to National Cattlemen's Beef Association



NCBA’s policy focus for 2025 is to engage with the Trump Administration and Congress to expand opportunities for producer profitability.

PURSUE REGULATORY ACTIONS THAT ENHANCE PRODUCER PROFITABILITY

- Remove harmful regulations instituted during the Biden Administration that harm cattle producers.
- Roll back climate policies that create unnecessary regulatory burdens.
- Fight to keep beef on the plate and pursue Dietary Guidelines and federal nutrition policies that reflect the excellent nutritional value of our product.
- Ensure that all labeling requirements for fake meat products are transparent, accurate, and fair.
- Protect the U.S. cattle herd from the incursion of foreign animal diseases and support heightened preparedness actions.
- Ensure access to the use of antimicrobial drugs that will allow veterinarians to prevent, control and treat diseases in cattle.
- Push for further hours-of-service flexibility and continue delaying ELD requirements for livestock haulers.
- Fight for meaningful long-term relief from the burdensome reporting requirements of the Corporate Transparency Act.
- Work with USDA to implement the reformed “Product of USA” label to promote voluntary, verified, trade-compliant labeling that returns greater value to producers.
- Expand market access for U.S. beef exports and ensure equivalent animal health and food safety standards for imported beef.
- Keep working lands working by protecting family farms from undue regulatory burdens under the ESA, NEPA, CWA, CAA, and other regulations.
- Streamline the federal permitting process and increase flexibility to adapt to local conditions.
- Safeguard the U.S. cattle and beef supply chain by working with the administration to ensure a strong workforce that meets consumer demand.

WORK WITH CONGRESS TO STRENGTHEN PRODUCER PROFITABILITY

- Work to retain core wins in the 2024 House Agriculture Committee-passed Farm Bill.
- Preserve family farms and ranches for future generations by advocating for essential tax relief for cattle producers.
- Enhance wildfire prevention utilizing targeted grazing, controlled burns, and forest management practices to protect grazing lands.
- Secure resources to support cow-calf producers as industry works to implement current disease traceability requirements.
- Protect producer access to voluntary conservation tools to support their long history of science-based resource stewardship.
- Support effective predator control measures and compensation programs for livestock depredations and ensure depredation standards work with ranchers utilizing federal lands and not against them.

2025 YCC Program Cultivates the Next Generation of Beef Industry Leaders

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) successfully concluded its 2025 Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC) on June 5, capping off an intensive, coast-to-coast leadership development experience for young and emerging leaders in the beef industry. The program, which is sponsored by John Deere, Tyson, Five Rivers Cattle Feeding, and Farm Credit, spans eight days and four states. The YCC program offers producers — nominated by their respective state or breed affiliate — an in-depth look at every sector of the beef supply chain while also developing advocacy and leadership skills essential for the next generation of cattle industry leaders.

The journey began in Denver, Colo., where participants were introduced to the foundational work of NCBA and provided with an in-depth look at current cattle and beef market dynamics from CattleFax CEO Randy Blach. The group explored NCBA's dual roles as a grassroots membership organization and as a contractor to the Beef Checkoff program, gaining valuable insight into how policy and promotion efforts are driven by producer involvement and input.

In Denver, the group also dove into hands-on leadership development, receiving training in effective spokesperson techniques and media engagement. These sessions prepared attendees to confidently communicate on behalf of the beef industry in their communities, on Capitol Hill, and beyond. The program included a leadership development module focused on personal growth, professional communication, and coalition building — long time cornerstones of the YCC program.

In addition to training sessions, the Denver leg featured on-the-ground exposure to the cattle feeding sector of the industry. Participants visited Five Rivers Cattle Feeding, the nation's largest cattle feeding company, to better understand the scale, science, and stewardship practices behind the feedlot segment. The tour provided a real world look at how feedyards contribute to both animal care and the economic sustainability of the beef sector.

On June 1, the YCC delegation traveled to Sioux City, Iowa, for a deep dive into beef processing and fabrication. There, the group toured the Tyson Fresh Meats beef packing facility, learning about the rigorous food safety protocols, employee care systems, and operational efficiencies that define modern beef processing. At Empirical Foods, participants witnessed innovative processing technologies that reflect the beef industry's commitment to continuous improvement in quality and value.

Next, the group traveled to Wooster, Ohio, where the focus shifted to the retail and foodservice segments of the beef value chain as the outstanding team at Certified Angus Beef hosted the tour group for an immersive experience. From meat case merchandising to menu strategy, participants gained an understanding of how consumer preferences are shaping product development, branding, and education.

The final leg of the trip brought YCC's 60 participants to Washington, D.C., where the young cattlemen and women put

their advocacy skills to work. NCBA's government affairs team led participants through policy briefings on key federal issues facing the industry, including the looming threat of New World screwworm, the 2025 Farm Bill, and ongoing efforts to limit government overreach into agricultural practices.

On June 5, armed with knowledge and firsthand experiences from across the supply chain, participants conducted face-to-face meetings with their members of Congress. They discussed the real world impact of legislation and regulations on their operations, bringing personal stories to policy conversations. For many participants, the Washington visit marked their first experience directly engaging in the political process on behalf of agriculture — an experience that solidified their role not just as producers, but as advocates.

The 2025 YCC experience empowered 60 young cattle producers, feeders, and agribusiness professionals from across the country. These elite industry leaders graduate from YCC with a broader perspective and deeper understanding of both NCBA and the beef industry. They also develop strong connections and a deep desire to lead the beef industry into the future.

As NCBA's flagship leadership development program, YCC continues to invest in the next generation of cattle industry leaders — building a stronger, more informed, and more united voice for beef.



NCBA Secures Wins for Cattle Farmers and Ranchers in the One Big Beautiful Bill.

Following President Donald J. Trump's signing of the One Big Beautiful Bill into law, NCBA recently highlighted key provisions in the bill that deliver wins for America's family farmers and ranchers.

"Since day one, NCBA has been working with Congress to make sure the One Big Beautiful Bill includes policy priorities for America's hardworking family farmers and ranchers," said NCBA President Buck Wehrbein. "I'm proud that this legislation protects farms and ranches from being split up and sold off to pay a high Death Tax bill. I'm also glad the One Big Beautiful Bill protects pro-business tax deductions for cattle producers, lowers our taxes overall, and funds programs like the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, Livestock Indemnity Program, and voluntary conservation programs, and invests in keeping foreign animal diseases out of the United States."

All of NCBA's tax priorities are included in the One Big Beautiful Bill along with numerous Farm Bill provisions.

Tax Provisions for American Cattle Producers

• **Death Tax** – The bill increases the Death Tax exemption to \$15 million per individual or \$30 million per couple, adjusted annually for inflation. This means if the value of your farm or ranch plus equipment, cattle, and other assets is less than \$15 million individually or \$30 million as a couple, you will pay no Death Tax. The Death Tax has forced many farmers and ranchers to sell off land, equipment, or cattle to pay the high tax. NCBA supports fully eliminating the Death Tax, but until then, this increased threshold is a huge victory for protecting more family farms and ranches than ever before.

• **Section 199A** – The Section 199A Small Business tax deduction is made permanent at 20 percent by this bill. Section 199A allows small businesses, like family farms and ranches, to deduct 20 percent of their business income, helping them save more of their hard earned money.

• **Section 179** – Section 179 allows small businesses to deduct the cost of equipment. Thanks to the One Big Beautiful Bill, farmers and ranchers will now be able to deduct up to \$2.5 million in qualified equipment expenses. The phaseout threshold for this deduction is increased to \$4 million, and these limits will be adjusted annually for inflation.

• **Bonus Depreciation** – Bonus depreciation allows small business owners to deduct the cost of equipment upfront, rather than deduct depreciation over several years. Under this bill, 100 percent bonus depreciation is made permanent.

• **Disaster Related Casualty Loss** – The Big Beautiful Bill permanently extends itemized deductions for personal casualty losses resulting from federally declared disasters. This is an extension of the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act that was previously supported by NCBA and enacted in December 2024.

Farm Bill Provisions for American Cattle Producers



• **Livestock Forage Disaster Program** – The Big Beautiful Bill increases to two monthly payments for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program and expands the program by allowing it to kick in after four consecutive weeks of drought, rather than the previous eight consecutive weeks.

• **Livestock Indemnity Program** – The bill funds indemnity payments at 100 percent of the market value for livestock losses due to predation and 75 percent of market value for losses due to adverse weather. Additionally, there will be payments made for the loss of unborn livestock.

• **Voluntary Conservation Programs** – The Big Beautiful Bill funds several voluntary conservation programs for six years, including:

- \$18.5 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
- \$8.1 billion for the Conservation Stewardship Program.
- \$4.1 billion for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.
- \$2.7 billion for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

• **Animal Disease Prevention** – The bill increases annual funding for animal disease prevention and cattle health to \$233 million per year. This funding goes towards the "three legged stool" programs that NCBA supports, including:

- \$153 million per year for the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB), which houses the foot-and-mouth disease vaccine and test kits.
- \$70 million for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).
- \$10 million per year for the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP).

Additionally, the One Big Beautiful Bill does not include controversial provisions to sell public lands or expand eminent domain.

"NCBA thanks our state affiliates and congressional leaders for passing this legislation, and we thank President Trump for signing it into law, showing he is a true friend to America's cattlemen and cattlemen," Wehrbein added.

Cattle Farmers and Ranchers Agree Farm Security is National Security. NCBA recently praised Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins's Farm Security is National Security Action Plan. As part of the announcement, the USDA is releasing a number of farm security and national security policies strongly supported by NCBA and America's cattle farmers and ranchers.

"America is blessed to have hundreds of thousands of family farms and ranches producing beef right here at home," said Buck Wehrbein. "NCBA strongly agrees with Secretary Rollins that farm security is national security. We are pleased that USDA is protecting our family farms and ranches, scrutinizing foreign acquisitions to ensure they don't threaten American agriculture, protecting U.S. agricultural research from foreign adversaries, and bolstering animal health programs to prevent a foreign animal disease outbreak. Secretary Rollins and President Trump are true friends of

American agriculture.”

Secretary Rollins was joined by Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, and several other leaders from the Trump administration and Congress for the rollout of these farm security and national security policies.

“The cattle industry faces no shortage of challenges, but threats like foreign animal disease and agroterrorism are what keep us up at night,” said NCBA CEO Colin Woodall. “NCBA has previously worked with the FBI, Homeland Security, and other federal law enforcement to safeguard American agriculture. This announcement from Secretary Rollins, alongside Secretary Hegseth, Attorney General Bondi, and Secretary Noem, is welcome news for America’s cattle producers. We look forward to working with USDA, the Department of Defense, and federal law enforcement partners to continue protecting America’s cattle industry.”

As part of the action plan, USDA will increase its oversight of foreign land acquisitions, strengthen inspections to root out dangerous products coming through U.S. ports of entry, invest in preventing the spread of devastating diseases, and counter cybersecurity threats.

NCBA has long supported adding the Secretary of Agriculture to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). CFIUS is an interagency panel chaired by the Secretary of the Treasury with additional involvement from the Secretaries of State, Defense, Commerce, Homeland Security, and Energy; the Attorney General; and senior White House officials who review foreign purchases to ensure they do not threaten U.S. national security. As part of this announcement, Secretary Rollins will be joining CFIUS — a significant win for protecting American agriculture from foreign threats. This move will ensure the Secretary of Agriculture is fully aware of foreign transactions moving forward and can ensure they do not harm American farmers and ranchers.

Additionally, the plan calls

for investing in cybersecurity and strengthening screenings at ports of entry. NCBA worked with members of Congress earlier this year to introduce the Farm and Food Cybersecurity Act. This legislation would help identify and mitigate cybersecurity threats to the food and agriculture sectors. Additionally, NCBA has also supported strengthened inspection at U.S. ports of entry and the use of the Beagle Brigade to sniff out potentially dangerous products coming into the country. Last year, U.S. Customs and Border Protection quarantined over 1.3 million agricultural items coming into the United States that could have brought disease, invasive species, or other threats to U.S. agriculture.

NCBA has also continued to focus on countering foreign animal

NCBA News continued on the next page

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NCBA News *continued from the previous page*

diseases. NCBA secured \$153 million per year for the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank in the One Big Beautiful Bill, with a total investment in cattle health programs of \$233 million per year. The vaccine bank currently houses the foot-and-mouth disease vaccine and test kits, which makes sure we are prepared to combat any outbreak.

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING – Grassroots Cattle Industry Organizations Back Secretary Rollins' National Farm Security Action Plan. Grassroots cattle industry organizations throughout the United States are sharing support for Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins's National Farm Security Action Plan:

- *Alabama Cattlemen's Association Executive Vice President Erin Beasley* – “Alabama’s beef producers know that farm security is national security. We applaud Secretary Rollins for protecting the farmers and families who produce our nation’s food.”

- *Arkansas Cattlemen's Association President and cattle producer Scott Sullivan* – “Arkansas cattle producers stand firmly behind Secretary Rollins' Farm Security is National Security plan. Safeguarding livestock health, securing our food supply chains, and defending our rural communities are core Arkansas Cattlemen's Association principles. We fully support these commonsense measures that protect producers, preserve property rights, and promote resilience in American agriculture.”

- *California Cattlemen's Association President and rancher Rick Roberti* – “Secretary Rollins' plan is a smart, proactive step to protect our farms and ranches while strengthening the security of America’s food supply. This action from USDA puts critical tools in

place to help prevent major disruptions in our supply chains — an essential move to ensure cattle producers can continue delivering the safest, highest quality beef to families nationwide. Addressing these risks head-on gives ranchers and farmers like me a greater peace of mind and a stronger foundation for the future.”

- *Colorado Cattlemen's Association President and rancher Curt Russell* – “We thank Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins for her commitment to farmers and ranchers across the nation. The Farm Security is National Security Plan helps bolster farmers and ranchers and ensure agricultural production will be protected now and for future generations.”

- *Florida Cattlemen's Association President and cattle producer Rick Moyer*: “Florida’s cattle producers understand that national security starts with a safe, secure, and resilient food supply. Secretary Rollins' Farm Security is National Security Plan is a forward thinking approach that recognizes the critical role agriculture plays in protecting our country. We applaud this effort to strengthen animal health protections, guard against cyber threats, and ensure America’s farmland and food systems remain secure.”

- *Idaho Cattle Association Executive Vice President Cameron Mulrony* – “The strength of our farms and ranches is vital to the success of America and the American people. The Idaho Cattle Association salutes Secretary Rollins's effort to support our industry's continued efforts to provide consumers with a safe and nutritious product.”

- *Illinois Beef Association member and cattle producer Al Lyman* – “The security plan announced by Secretary Rollins is a great step in maintaining strength in rural America and throughout our food supply chain. We all win from the continued protection and priority that President Trump and his team are placing on America’s farmers and food producers.”

- *Iowa Cattlemen's Association President and cattle producer Rob Medberry* – “We have heard the phrase food security is national security, but now, we are getting to the root of the statement and acknowledging the importance of where our food comes from — the farm. As a producer and representative of Iowa’s cattle industry, I applaud Secretary Rollins and her administration for defending this connection and bringing it to the forefront with the Farm Security is National Security Plan. This plan addresses key concerns that America’s farmers and ranchers have been discussing for years. From ensuring producers have the resources necessary to protect herd health to eliminating one more obstacle for young farmers trying to purchase land and get started, the Farm Security is National Security Plan highlights these issues and more, creating a focus for action that will protect America’s agriculture industry. As Americans, we should be proud to have a secure, plentiful, and safe food supply. We must continue to protect it. That starts at the farm.”

- *Kansas Livestock Association Chief Executive Officer Matt Teagarden* – “Protecting U.S. livestock from foreign animal disease and securing our nation’s food supply is crucial to maintaining national security. We appreciate Secretary Rollins's efforts to defend American agriculture and safeguard the livelihoods of our farmers and ranchers.”

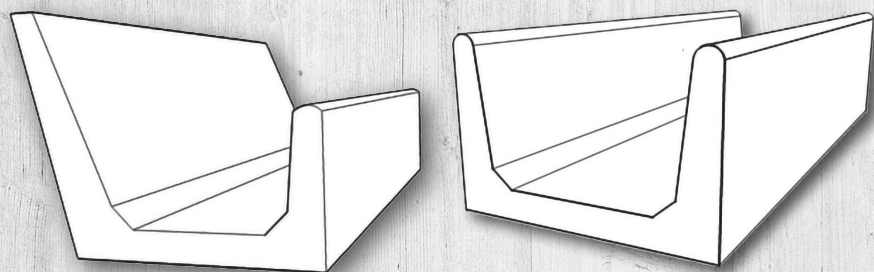
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• *Kentucky Cattlemen's Association President and farmer Randy Warner* – “The Kentucky Cattlemen's Association supports Secretary Rollins's Farm Security is National Security Plan. Protecting animals from foreign diseases, safeguarding agricultural infrastructure and supply chains, and securing our nation's farmland are all critical to the success of the cattle industry.”

• *Louisiana Cattlemen's Association President and cattle producer Jarett Daigle* – “Louisiana Cattlemen's Association is appreciative of Secretary Rollins's plan to put farm security first. Agriculture built this land, and we must safeguard it for our future generations!”

• *Michigan Cattlemen's Association President and cattle producer Kevin Gould* – “The Michigan Cattlemen's Association proudly extends our full support to Secretary Rollins and her Farm Security is National Security Plan. Agricultural prosperity is the foundation of Michigan's rural communities, and that prosperity begins and ends with strong, family owned farms. Local ownership of farmland is essential to maintaining a secure and resilient food supply, and our local governments and communities depend on it. We remain committed to supporting USDA leadership in its ongoing efforts to protect and strengthen American agriculture.”

• *Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association Executive Director Kaitlyn Root* – “We commend the Secretary for prioritizing agriculture through the Farm Security is National Security Plan, an essential step toward strengthening America's future.”

• *Mississippi Cattlemen's Association Executive Vice President Andy Berry* – “This initiative strengthens agriculture across Mississippi by keeping our farmland and resources under American control. It protects our crops, livestock, and supply chains from foreign threats while ensuring our farmers and ranchers can keep feeding the state and the nation. It's a smart step for the security and future of Mississippi agriculture.”

• *Missouri Cattlemen's Association Executive Vice President Mike Deering* – “Safeguarding our industry from animal disease outbreaks and even agroterrorism is paramount to cattle producers and our consumers. We learned during the COVID-19 nightmare just how volatile our food supply chain truly is, and it's clear the Secretary and President Trump believe in being proactive rather than reactive. It's appreciated and refreshing.”

• *Montana Stockgrowers Association President and rancher Lesley Robinson* – “The Montana Stockgrowers Association applauds Secretary Rollins following the announcement of her Farm Security is National Security plan. Through the work our organization has done to raise awareness about producer profitability and industry viability, there is no doubt that food security is an integral part of achieving that. The security of our nation's food systems is a primary component of our nation's security. Not only do agricultural and related industries employ millions of Americans, but ranchers also contribute significantly to the GDP, are the backbone of rural economies, and effectively feed the world. America must maintain an abundant and reliable food supply in order to preserve the independence, prosperity, and safety of our nation.”

• *Nebraska Cattlemen President and cattle producer Dick Pierce* – “Nebraskans know that raising healthy cattle and maintaining productive operations begins with ensuring safety and security.

Thankfully, so do President Trump and his team. We're grateful to Secretary Rollins, Secretary Hegseth, and the rest of the Trump Administration for their decisive plan to protect U.S. agriculture, shore up our supply chains, and make sure that Nebraska's ranchers and farmers have the certainty they need to keep feeding the world.”

• *North Carolina Cattlemen's Association Executive Director Milo Lewis* – “**North Carolina's cattle producers understand that protecting our farms and food supply is essential to protecting our country. We support efforts that strengthen biosecurity, preserve access to safe, nutritious food, and safeguard the land and resources our rural communities depend on. Food security is national security, and we're proud to be part of that mission every day.**”

• *North Dakota Stockmen's Association President and rancher Randy Schmitt* – “American agriculture plays a critical role in feeding and clothing the nation and the world. It is also an economic pillar for not only our rural communities but our entire country. Protecting the health and well being of our livestock and the safety and security of our entire food supply chain helps ensure food security, as well as the economic stability and resiliency of family farms and ranches like mine.”

• *Ohio Cattlemen's Association President and cattle producer Mark Goecke* – “Ohio's beef farm families welcomed the announcement of the new Farm Security is National Security Plan by Secretary of Agriculture Rollins. The agricultural protections outlined in the plan from diseases and other significant threats to our industry are greatly appreciated by OCA members. Our association looks forward to learning more about the plan and being a partner in this important effort.”

• *Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Executive Vice President Michael Kelsey* – “Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association members are very appreciative of Secretary Rollins's strong, proactive, and science based approach to addressing food security. We haven't seen this type of great leadership at USDA in some time, and it is refreshing and reassuring to Oklahoma cattle producers who take great pride in producing the safest, most wholesome, and nutritious animal protein product!”

• *South Carolina Cattlemen's Association Executive Director Travis Mitchell* – “**The South Carolina Cattlemen's Association supports all efforts to protect the American farmer and rancher. We applaud Secretary Rollins's Farm Security is National Security Plan.**”

• *South Dakota Cattlemen's Association President and rancher Warren Symens* - “The South Dakota Cattlemen's Association applauds Secretary Rollins's food security plan and recognition that agriculture is fundamental to our nation's security. Prioritizing the safety of our food system, strengthening livestock health infrastructure, and addressing supply chain vulnerabilities reflects a clear commitment not only to farmers and ranchers but also to the essential role they play in feeding America.”

• *Tennessee Cattlemen's Association Executive Vice President Charles Hord, Jr.* – “The Tennessee Cattlemen's Association appreciates Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins and Secretary of Defense Pete

NCBA News *continued from the previous page*

Hegseth for recognizing the importance of agriculture to the future of our country. We agree that farm security is national security.”

• *Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association President and rancher Carl Ray Polk Jr.* – “Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association is pleased to support Secretary Brooke Rollins and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s action plan, U.S. Farm Security is National Security. Strengthening agricultural research, safeguarding land from foreign adversarial ownership, and enhancing animal health protections are essential steps in preserving the integrity of our food system. This plan is a vital measure to prioritize the security of our food supply and support the livelihoods of ranchers, farmers, and consumers. A resilient agricultural industry is crucial to our national security and economic stability.”

• *Texas Cattle Feeders Association Chairman Elect and cattle producer Laphe LaRoe* – “As beef producers, we know the importance of protecting livestock, land, and people from threats is a top priority. Secretary Rollins’s Farm Security is National Security Plan lays the foundation to protect our herds from foreign animal diseases and the industry from cyber threats and foreign acquisitions, among many other agriculture first policy actions. Today’s announcement ensures economic opportunities for our industry, while providing supply chain resiliency for consumers.”

• *Virginia Cattlemen’s Association Executive Director Brandon Reeves* – “Food security is national security, and the Administration’s beefed up approach ensures America will stay safe, our farmers and ranchers will stay in business, and our land will remain in agricultural production. The Virginia Cattlemen’s Association commends Secretary Rollins and her team on their tireless efforts to keep America safe through supporting our nation’s farmers and ranchers.”

• *West Virginia Cattlemen’s Association President and cattle farmer Megan Webb* – “The West Virginia Cattlemen’s Association wants to sincerely thank Secretary Rollins and President Trump for their leadership in launching the National Farm Security Action Plan. This plan recognizes that farm security is national security, and it’s a vital step for protecting American agriculture, supporting our rural communities, and ensuring a strong, secure food supply. This initiative shows a clear commitment to the men and women who feed our nation.”

• *Wyoming Stock Growers Association Executive Vice President Jim Magagna* – “In Wyoming, where energy production is so critical, we are accustomed to what we do being important for the security of this nation. We appreciate the recognition that agriculture — an equally important industry in Wyoming — also contributes to national security. Every day, our producers pursue their work with the understanding that it’s more than a job — it’s about raising healthy, safe food critical to our nation’s security.”

NCBA Responds to USDA Announcement Again Closing Southern Ports to Livestock Shipments. NCBA recently responded to the latest announcement that USDA is again closing southern ports of entry to shipments of cattle due to the detection of New World screwworm in Veracruz, Mexico. USDA discovered this new case in northern Veracruz, indicating that screwworm has traveled 160 miles northward

of the location where sterile flies are currently being dropped.

“A key part of USDA’s strategy for protecting American agriculture is continuously monitoring conditions on the ground,” said Colin Woodall. “Secretary Rollins has been working to balance the economic needs of U.S. cattle producers who rely on imports while at the same time protecting the overall U.S. cattle herd. The New World screwworm’s northward movement jeopardizes the safety of American agriculture, which is why Secretary Rollins paused cattle movement again until we can push the screwworm further from our border.”

The screwworm detection in Veracruz is approximately 370 miles south of the U.S./Mexico border. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins has been continually evaluating the science and listening to USDA veterinary staff who assessed conditions in Mexico to make her determinations.

“Secretary Rollins has made significant gains holding Mexico accountable for its role in eradicating the New World screwworm. She successfully removed bureaucratic barriers to the screwworm sterile fly flights and increased surveillance in Mexico. Unfortunately, screwworm continues to move north through Mexico, and it’s clear that the United States needs a sterile fly facility of our own here at home. We cannot wait any longer, and we urge USDA to immediately begin work on a sterile fly facility,” Woodall added.

Earlier this year, USDA announced that Moore Air Base would be the site of a new sterile fly dispersal facility in south Texas. NCBA is now urging USDA to expedite the development of a sterile fly production facility, as well, to ensure that we can produce enough flies to safeguard the American cattle industry.

NCBA anticipates this situation will continue to evolve, and we will monitor conditions, coordinate with stakeholders, and work with USDA to protect U.S. cattle farmers and ranchers.

House Natural Resources Committee Advances the Black Vulture Relief Act. Recently, the House Natural Resources Committee held a full committee markup of several bills, including the Black Vulture Relief Act of 2025. NCBA commends the House Natural Resources Committee for reporting this legislation out of committee favorably. This legislation addresses an issue that NCBA members have faced for years, as they have dealt with the devastating attacks on their livestock without the ability to protect their cattle from these predators.

“Cattle producers across much of the nation are facing the financial and emotional strain of livestock depredations due to overabundant black vultures. Populations have skyrocketed into the millions in recent years. The current take permit numbers are just not enough to properly manage the population while also protecting newborn calves that make easy targets for these predators,” said NCBA President Elect and Virginia cattleman Gene Copenhaver. “We are seeing the lowest cattle inventory numbers since the 1950s. As cattle producers, we cannot afford to risk newborn calves to predators, like black vultures, if we are going to begin rebuilding the herd. We are thankful for the work of Congressman John Rose for introducing this legislation and for Chairman Bruce Westerman’s continued support by advancing this bill through the House Natural Resources Committee.”

Background – Black vulture depredation rates have increased across the Southeast in recent years, surpassing 30 percent in some states like Florida. The bill would allow a cattle producer to “take” (capture, kill, disperse, or transport) black vultures that pose a risk to livestock. Additionally, the bill reduces permitting burdens and red tape by instituting a simple report that producers submit once per year detailing the number of black vultures they took. Streamlining the system and lifting the cap on the number of black vultures that producers can take is a commonsense approach to managing a fully recovered, aggressive predator species.

President Trump Opens Australian Market to U.S. Beef in Win for American Cattlemen. Recently, NCBA announced that for the first time in 20 years, Australia will accept shipments of fresh and frozen U.S. beef, ending decades of bureaucratic red tape and prolonged negotiations that have prevented American cattle producers from accessing the Australian market. NCBA thanks

President Donald J. Trump for delivering yet another trade win for America’s cattle farmers and ranchers.

“For 20 years, U.S. beef was denied access to Australia while Australia exported \$29 billion of beef to U.S. consumers. The lack of two way, science based trade has been a sticking point for many years, and we are pleased that President Trump has successfully opened the Australian market to American beef,” said Buck Wehrbein. “NCBA has spent decades working to correct this trade imbalance, and we are proud to have a President who is willing to fight for American farmers and ranchers, expand export markets, and fix unfair trade agreements across the world.”

The U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement took effect in 2005 and was intended to allow U.S. beef to be sold in Australia. Over the last

NCBA News continued on the next page

Large Animal Health Enhancement Grants Awarded to 11 Veterinary Practices

Grants of up to \$25,000 were recently awarded to 11 North Carolina veterinary practices to help support their large animal practice. This \$123,500 fund was created by the N.C. General Assembly in 2023 and administered by the N.C. Ag Finance Authority. Applications are now being accepted for the next round of grant funding through August 31.

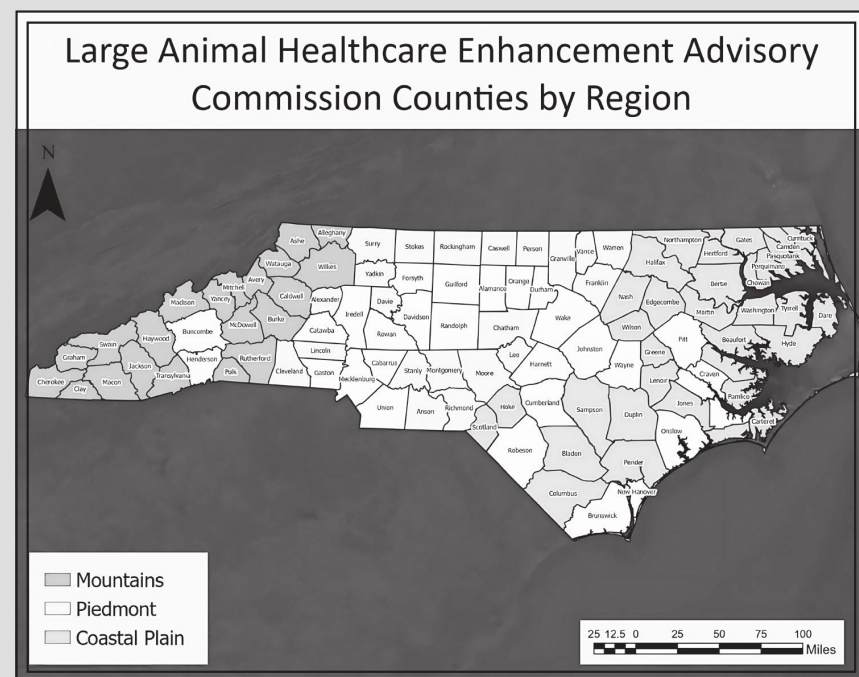
This funding opportunity is available to veterinarians who practice in one of the 70 North Carolina counties with a population of 100,000 or fewer and spend 30 percent or more of their patient care involved in large animal veterinary care.

“North Carolina, like many other states, has a deficit of large animal veterinarians. In many areas of the state, a single veterinarian may be the only option within 100 square miles,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “These funds can be used for repayment of educational loans related to the recipient’s veterinary degree, facility renovations, to purchase supplies, equipment, or technology for use in the practice, or any additional uses the advisory committee determines are helpful in promoting and developing large animal veterinarians.”

The following practices and veterinarians received grants of \$11,227 each from the last grant cycle:

- Seven Spring Mobile Veterinary Services – Taylorsville
- Derek L. Heizer – Snow Camp
- Cowee Cowgirl Mobile Large Animal Veterinary Services – Franklin
- DocTerra Mobile Veterinary Services – Vale
- N.C. Mobile Veterinary Service – Enfield
- Aimee Sink – Supply
- Hoof and Horn Mobile Veterinary Services – Apex
- Bovine Veterinary Solutions – Stony Point
- Sullivan Mobile Veterinary Services – Vale
- Jacklyn Porter – Cleveland
- Foothills Large Animal Hospital – Nebo

Applications are available online at fs4.formsite.com/QopHZM/v5bhn3g5x1/index. More information on the grant program can be found in frequently asked questions or by emailing largeanimalvetgrants@ncagr.gov.



NCBA News *continued from the previous page*

20 years, Australia has used countless tactics to delay implementation of the agreement and prevent any shipments of fresh or frozen U.S. beef from entering Australia. Over the same 20 year period, Australia has sold \$28,759,340,461 worth of their beef in the United States.

“The United States is the gold standard for safe and delicious beef, and we have some of the highest animal health and food safety standards in the world,” said NCBA Executive Director of Government Affairs Kent Bacus. “Opening the Australian market to American beef will benefit our producers at home while also offering Australian consumers the opportunity to enjoy our high quality beef. We greatly appreciate President Trump delivering another win for America’s family farmers and ranchers.”

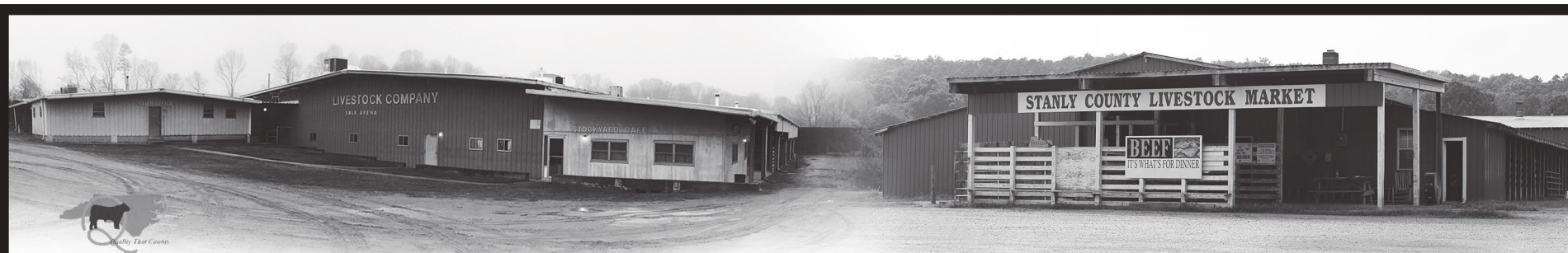
NCBA Supports Withdrawal of Harmful Speed Limiter Rule. NCBA recently shared support for the withdrawal of the speed limiter rule by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), two agencies under the U.S. Department of Transportation.

“America’s livestock haulers know how to safely navigate our nation’s roads, and putting an artificial speed device in the truck with them was only going to create safety hazards, increase risk to drivers and travelers, and push livestock haulers out of their jobs,” said NCBA Policy Division Chair Skye Krebs, an Oregon rancher.

“As the holder of a commercial driver’s license myself, I know how much training and licensing occur before a hauler gets behind the wheel. We have full faith in the safe practices of our livestock haulers and appreciate FMCSA and NHTSA standing with drivers by withdrawing this rule. NCBA is committed to supporting livestock haulers and protecting the safety of our roadways.”

NCBA has partnered with organizations like the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) to raise concerns with this proposed rule. NCBA has recognized that adding another piece of government-mandated technology to trucks will make them less prepared to adjust to road conditions while actually making the roads less safe. NCBA previously joined OOIDA in supporting the DRIVE Act to prevent this dangerous speed limiter mandate. NCBA thanks Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy and the leadership of FMCSA and NHTSA for withdrawing this proposed rule.

About 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 866-BEEF-USA or membership@beef.org.



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Phone: 704-546-2692

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Take in livestock on Sunday (12 pm - 7 pm) and Monday

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Catching, hauling, and cattle work services:

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If you need help working your cattle, contact Marcus Harward at 704-322-0840 or Chuck Doolittle at 704-221-1447 for more information.

The CEO's Corner



In Washington, Change is a Challenge

By GREGG DOUD, *National Milk Producers Federation*

As the initial flurry of activity in the new administration and Congress moves into the heat of summer in Washington, the challenges and fault lines that come with addressing major issues including labor, trade, and taxes are becoming increasingly clear.

This should come as a surprise to no one.

To put it plainly, change is difficult. Movement on issues that have seen decades of gridlock and tinkering along the edges because of a lack of political will is especially hard. This isn't a secret, and the turbulence agriculture policy is seeing is likely to continue for some time. While that's occurring, it will be important for everyone in dairy and agriculture to remain focused on advancing our industry and ensuring that we embrace the current environment for its opportunities while remaining vigilant among its threats.

Take labor, for example. The balance between the administration's goals of ensuring border security and deporting people who are not legally residing in the United States with ensuring the economic health of rural communities by maintaining an adequate workforce for farms is clearly recognized by the president and by USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins. We are grateful for the president's sympathy for farmers and the secretary's work on their behalf — still, but more importantly, his continued willingness to tackle complex policy topics that have languished for decades.

That's why we agree with Jim Boyle, the vice chairman of NMPF member co-op the United Dairymen of Arizona, who we recently profiled in our *Farmer Focus* feature series. "The president is right about securing the border, but any enforcement action needs to go

hand-in-hand with a labor reform package," he said.

We continue to work for either a change to the current H2-A farmworker visa that will accommodate dairy's year round nature or, in the absence of that, a new guest worker program that meets dairy's needs. In the meantime, dairy farmers who are meeting requirements for worker documentation shouldn't be living with worries about immigration raids on their farms. It isn't good to have open borders and criminals crossing over them. But it's also not good for dairy farmers, or rural communities, to be deprived of hard working, law abiding labor that's paid well and willing to do work native born Americans have always been less willing to do, caring for animals around the clock and ensuring a steady supply of nutritious dairy products for Americans and the world.

Similarly, efforts to dramatically reset trade relationships worldwide are inevitably meeting challenges. But for all the concern over tariffs, it's also important to remember that, through April, the value of U.S. dairy exports in 2025 is actually higher than it was the previous year. While no one is claiming that everything is roses on the trade front, it's critical to remember that U.S. dairy continues to compete successfully and build relationships with global partners amid the day-to-day noise of headlines.

And finally, policy advancements are happening domestically. The Senate and House have both approved The Big, Beautiful Bill. The differences between the two chambers are significant, and negotiations over details can take maddeningly long. But with major tax increases looming in 2026 if Congress doesn't get its work done in time, the incentives to complete a package were overwhelming. And both versions contained significant wins for dairy farmers, from the extension of the Dairy Margin Coverage Program through 2031 to making permanent the Section 199(A) tax deduction that helps cooperatives stay competitive.

Rome wasn't built in a day, decades of unfair trade policies won't evaporate overnight, and farm labor issues that haven't been taken seriously since the last major legislation in 1986 won't be solved in one growing season. But dairy will survive — and can thrive — as these critical questions gain serious attention and a genuine desire for answers. We are in for a hot summer and a challenging fall. But we can, and will, come out ahead.





NMPF
NATIONAL MILK
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NEWS

American Butter Institute Takes Aim at Country Crock. The American Butter Institute, an organization managed and staffed by the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), asked the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to take action against Country Crock's "dairy free salted butter" in a complaint sent in June, asserting that the product's label violates federal regulations.

The plant based spread's front label, in bold letters, describes itself as a form of butter, although federal standards of identity, along with legislation passed by Congress, define butter as a product made from milk. In reality — and as admitted in the much smaller font on the package label — the Country Crock products describe themselves as "79 percent plant based oil spreads."

"Country Crock is attempting to leverage the premium perception of real dairy butter maintained by consumers," said Christopher Galen, executive director of ABI. "The manufacturer is clearly trying to confuse the consumer about what this product is — an ultra-processed seed oil concoction. This product may indeed be a crock from the country, but it's certainly not butter."

Galen said that as margarine and vegetable oil spreads have declined in sales, companies are seeking to capitalize on butter's resurgent popularity by misappropriating the term "butter" and applying it to products that clearly do not meet butter's federal standard of identity. Butter manufacturers have to follow federal labeling standards, but the proliferation of fake butters is eroding the integrity of the marketplace, he said.

The ABI letter was sent today to Claudine Kavanaugh, Director of the FDA's Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling. The NMPF raised a similar objection to Country Crock in 2019, when the company introduced a "plant based butter."

NMPF Strengthens South American Ties on Trip with NMPF Members. NMPF Executive Vice President for Policy Development and Strategy Jaime Castaneda, along with representatives from member cooperatives California Dairies Inc. and Darigold, along with seven other U.S. dairy exporters and traders, traveled to Lima, Peru, on June 9–12 on a USDA trade mission to explore business opportunities.

The trip featured in-depth market briefings, site visits, and networking events for U.S. dairy suppliers to meet with buyers from Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador.

The host of next year's Latin America Nutrition Congress, Peru, has been a key market for U.S. dairy exporters since the U.S.-Peru Trade Agreement was signed in 2009. The Congress, which NMPF and the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC) will lead, will help align public dietary guidance with up-to-date dairy science and further

strengthen partnerships between the U.S. and Latin American health and agriculture sectors.

U.S. Dairy Pursues Opportunities in UK, EU. NMPF President and CEO Gregg Doud and Executive Vice Presidents Shawna Morris and Jaime Castaneda led a U.S. dairy leadership delegation to Europe the week of June 23 to promote U.S. dairy exports and push for greater market access.

NMPF Board Member and USDEC Vice Chair Alex Peterson, USDEC Chair Becky Nyman, and USDEC President and CEO Krysta Harden also headed up the delegation, offering perspectives as industry leaders.

The trip's first leg in the United Kingdom featured farm visits and tours, where NMPF learned more about the British dairy industry's sustainability ambitions, market considerations, competitiveness, and future opportunities for collaboration and engagement. NMPF also met with Graham Floater, the United Kingdom's Chief Negotiator for Trade with the United States, and other policymakers to highlight how increasing imports of safe, high quality, nutritious, and competitively priced U.S. dairy ingredients would benefit British businesses and consumers.

The group's Brussels stop included meetings with EU Agriculture Commissioner Christophe Hansen, the U.S. embassy team, including Charge d'Affaires Norman Thatcher Sharpf, and the offices of the Directorate-General for Health & Food Safety (DG Sante) and Directorate-General for Trade & Economic Security (DG Trade), as well as senior political leaders from both those areas. Meetings with leading EU private sector organizations, Eucolait and COPA-COGECA, and the International Dairy Federation rounded out the trip.

NMPF emphasized the nearly \$3 billion dairy trade deficit between the United States and the European Union, driven largely by unjustified nontariff and tariff barriers. NMPF highlighted the importance of EU regulations being World Trade Organization compliant, as opposed to the overly detailed and prescriptive approaches presently taken, which are so counterproductive to fair and healthy trade.

New NMPF Bill Tracker Monitors Key Dairy Legislation. WMPF added a bill tracker to its website in June, offering members and other dairy advocates an up-to-date hub for monitoring federal legislation that affects U.S. dairy farmers and their cooperatives.

The tracker offers users detailed information on bills NMPF is monitoring, including legislative actions, sponsors, summaries, and more, making it easier to stay informed and engaged in the policy process.

The new feature adds to NMPF's existing advocacy resources, including the grassroots action page where users can message

members of Congress for critical legislation such as the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act.

U.S. Dairy Industry Celebrates Julie Callahan's Nomination for Chief Agricultural Negotiator. NMPF, USDEC, and the Consortium for Common Food Names (CCFN) commended President Trump's nomination of Dr. Julie Callahan to serve as Chief Agricultural Negotiator for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

"The role of Chief Agricultural Negotiator is critical to ensuring that American dairy farmers have a voice in trade negotiations," said Gregg Doud. "Dr. Callahan is the right choice. Her expertise and leadership in agricultural trade policy are second to none. Dairy farmers and the entire U.S. dairy industry look forward to working with her to open new export markets and hold our trading partners accountable. We ask that the Senate move swiftly to advance her confirmation process."

Callahan currently serves as the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs and Commodity Policy, where she leads on expanding and preserving market access opportunities for U.S. farmers and food manufacturers. Her impressive tenure in agricultural trade policy spans across a variety of leadership roles with USTR and the FDA, in addition to early career experience with the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service and the American Chemical Society.

"Dr. Callahan's nomination today is a win for U.S. agriculture," said Krysta Harden. "The U.S. dairy industry depends on a proactive trade policy agenda to grow. Dr. Callahan brings deep trade policy expertise and an unmatched record of advocating for U.S. farmers and food manufacturers to a role vital to ensuring agriculture has a seat at the negotiating table. We look forward to working with her to drive back trade barriers and build markets for American dairy producers. USDEC calls on the Senate to quickly confirm her as our next Chief Agricultural Negotiator."

"For far too long, the European Union has misused its geographical indications rules to monopolize common food names like 'Parmesan' and block fair competition from U.S. producers," said Jaime Castaneda, executive director of CCFN. "In her current role, Dr. Callahan has been leading the charge in preserving market access for U.S. common name producers in the face of these harmful EU policies. Her leadership will be instrumental in working to ensure that the European Union stops taking advantage of American farmers. We are excited for the opportunity to further work with her on this important mission and urge an expeditious confirmation process in the Senate."

U.S. Dairy Industry Praises Indonesia Trade Agreement. NMPF, USDEC, and CCFN applauded the recent announcement of a new trade framework between the United States and Indonesia that eliminates tariffs on the vast majority of U.S. exports and contains pledges to remove longstanding nontariff barriers affecting American dairy products.

"This looks like it will be a significant win for U.S. dairy. We commend the Trump Administration for securing an agreement that should deliver real benefits for our dairy farmers," said Gregg Doud. "We are pleased to hear this framework removes roadblocks to trade and will help grow dairy sales in one of the world's most populous markets. NMPF looks forward to reviewing the details of the agreement and working with the Administration to ensure Indonesia upholds its end of the bargain."

As outlined in a White House factsheet, Indonesia will eliminate tariffs on approximately 99 percent of U.S. exports; recognize U.S. regulatory oversight, including by listing all U.S. dairy facilities and accepting certificates issued by U.S. regulatory authorities; and commit to implementing a fair and transparent process for handling geographical indications (GIs) to ensure common cheese names are respected.

"Yesterday's announcement is an important step forward in advancing opportunities for U.S. dairy exporters. This deal is poised to strengthen our long term partnership with Indonesia while giving U.S. dairy companies a better shot at competing fairly," said Krysta Harden, president and CEO of USDEC. "While verification that Indonesia honors its commitments will be necessary, the removal of both tariff and non-tariff barriers is precisely what our industry needs to create new momentum for U.S. dairy exports and deeper collaboration with a key Southeast Asian partner."

"The prospect of having Indonesia commit to a more transparent and balanced approach to GIs would be a meaningful advance in the global fight to preserve the use of common food names like Parmesan and feta," said Jaime Castaneda, executive director of CCFN. "We commend the U.S. negotiators for prioritizing this issue, particularly at a time when the European Union is attempting to expand its GI abuse in growing dairy markets and shut out the United States. We will work diligently with the U.S. government to hold Indonesia accountable for its commitments on common names."

The U.S. exported \$246 million in milk powders, whey products, cheese, and other dairy ingredients to Indonesia in 2024, making it the seventh largest U.S. dairy export destination. The agreement complements ongoing work by NMPF and USDEC to support integration of school milk into Indonesia's new Free Nutritious Meals program and foster greater collaboration on trade.

NMPF, USDEC, and CCFN also welcomed the news that agreements had been struck with the Philippines and Japan, with details forthcoming.


About the National Milk Producer's Federation. NMPF was organized in 1916 to provide a forum for dairy producers and the cooperatives they own to participate in public policy discussions. NMPF advocates policies to Congress, U.S. and foreign government agencies, industry organizations, the news media, and the public.

We use our unique resources to harness the ever changing climate in the politics and marketing of milk and dairy products from farm to table to promote the economic well being of dairy producers and their cooperatives through coordinated industry efforts.

NMPF addresses policies concerning milk pricing, domestic and international market development, agriculture credit and taxation, environmental issues, food safety and health, animal welfare, product standards and labeling, and research and biotechnology.

Our mission is to foster an economic and political climate in which dairy producers and the cooperatives they own can thrive and prosper. Achieving such success assures consumers of adequate supplies of wholesome and nutritious dairy products at affordable prices.

This helps improve the bottom line of the associate members who provide services to dairy producers and cooperatives that they represent. For more information, visit www.nmpf.org.



FEDERATION OF STATE BEEF COUNCILS UPDATE

Faces of the Federation. For more than 60 years, grassroots producer engagement has driven the demand for beef through the Federation of State Beef Councils. States voluntarily invest in the Federation to build beef demand by inspiring, unifying, and supporting an effective and coordinated state and national Checkoff partnership. Ultimately, it is cattle producers from coast to coast who direct the Federation's work, and we celebrate their dedication. These are the "Faces of the Federation."

TIMMERY HELLYER

Timmery Hellyer and three generations of her family own and operate Pokorny Ranch, a commercial cow/calf operation. The family is also involved with other enterprises including hay production, feeding, and backgrounding. Hellyer is the Region V Federation vice president and serves as a director on the Federation of State Beef Councils, where she is a member of the Checkoff Evaluation Committee and co-chair of the Beef Checkoff Safety and Product Innovation Committee.

How does the Federation of State Beef Councils impact the beef industry? I love the people who I work with, and I love the lifestyle I live with my family. It is very easy to work on the ranch and to keep our heads down, do our day-to-day work, and to provide for the animals in our care. With that, it's also very reassuring to know that the Beef Checkoff through the Federation continues to work on our behalf to promote beef demand and help consumers understand beef is delicious, nutritious, and sustainably raised.



What are some of the benefits of investing in the Federation? One of the fabulous aspects of the Federation is it allows state beef councils to operate with smaller staffs and still make a really big impact in their states. For instance, the Wyoming Beef Council was able to utilize the resources of the Federation when they rebuilt their state website, making it mobile friendly and easier to navigate for consumers and for producers.



States can save resources on projects like these and not reinvent the wheel. State beef councils can also use the media advertising the Federation has available. No state is required to do it, but because that resource is there, it helps states be far more efficient in their own work. The Federation also helps states customize advertising to their local needs. The Federation is able to pool resources to develop consistent messaging while at the same time creating materials that work best for each state.

Why do you think the Federation continues to be vital? When producers developed the framework for the Federation more than 60 years ago, they envisioned states coming together and pooling their human and monetary resources. They also realized that consumers needed more information about beef, and producers needed more information from consumers about what they wanted. Those needs are just as important today as six decades ago. The Federation continues to serve a role — it provides research and information to help the beef industry improve our product and, at the same time, address the concerns and desires of consumers.

What is the most important message you'd like to share about the Federation? It is so important for producers to remember that while we are at home working hard on our operations raising quality livestock, the Federation and the Beef Checkoff are busy working tirelessly to improve consumer demand for our product. The Federation allows grassroots producers to come together to work on the aspects of improving consumer demand for beef that we wouldn't all be able to do at home on our own.

Beef is a Relationship Business. The beef industry relies on relationships. From gate to plate, building trust with loyal

customers starts with a conversation. The channel marketing team at NCBA, a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, focuses on cultivating relationships with those companies bringing beef to consumers, such as national retailers, foodservice distributors, manufacturers, and restaurant operators. These important markets are where consumers purchase beef, with more than \$80 billion in beef sales annually.^{1,2}

“Our work is focused on building lasting relationships that result in more beef being sold at restaurants and grocery stores across the country,” said Jill Rittenberg, senior executive director of channel marketing at NCBA. “Those relationships may take months or even years to develop, but they pay huge dividends in the end.”

More than 88 percent of restaurant menus include beef.³ At retail, beef’s value in dollars represents 55 percent of the total meat case, while chicken’s value in dollars is 27 percent of the total case.⁴ Channel partners understand that business success goes hand in hand with understanding how to sell beef.

The pandemic changed how foodservice and retail partners engaged with the beef industry, shifting from in-person meetings to virtual discussions. However, decision makers are returning to the table, yearning for personal engagement, not only with NCBA’s channel marketing team but with producers as well.

This past year, on behalf of the Beef Checkoff, NCBA organized the Beef Business Summit and invited foodservice and retail professionals to Colorado to engage with the industry firsthand. Over the course of more than two days, attendees received an update on the state of the beef industry and learned about producers’ commitment to sustainability and where high quality beef begins. Attendees toured several innovative cattle operations, made connections, and experienced beef in new and exciting ways. This event brought back in-person engagement to those who were missing face-to-face experiences, and it led to additional strategic meetings, training sessions, and innovative programs.

The immersive educational event gave the channel marketing team the opportunity to engage with partners and understand their needs. It helped to build trust in beef and in NCBA as a partner and thought leader. Attendees gained value from the event, which led to strategic beef centric training sessions, educational sessions, and promotional opportunities, resulting in new ways to expand beef’s presence across menus and store shelves.

“This type of work can be difficult to explain because the people are the program,” said Rittenberg. “We are demonstrating to influential partners how beef is an important part of any menu and any meat case and then helping partners find ways to grow their beef knowledge base, their beef offerings, and ultimately their beef sales.”

By partnering with state beef councils, the channel marketing team is able to provide a wide range of channel partners with the opportunity to experience what it takes to get beef from the gate to the plate through local ranch tours. Recently, the meat and sustainability teams from national retail and foodservice chains toured ranches in California, Wisconsin, and Florida. By working together, NCBA and state beef councils efficiently build confidence in beef and effectively communicate a positive beef message to important decision makers.

Foodservice and retail companies reach and influence millions of consumers, and they are a conduit for beef to get on plates and in

grocery carts. These activities help fill knowledge gaps and open a two way dialogue between the cattle industry and those selling their end product. The end result is maintaining and building confidence about beef as part of their business portfolios.

“We want to help these foodservice and retail professionals understand the value of beef to their business,” concluded Rittenberg. “When they win with beef, it’s a win for the beef industry.”


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¹Circana Multi-Outlet Fresh Retail Sales, 52 Weeks ending 12/29/2024.

²Circana Food Service Category Sizing, Full Year ending 12/29/2024.


³Technomic, 2025.

⁴Circana, Year to Date Retail Protein Sales, year ending 12/29/2024, Analysis: National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, a contractor to the Beef Checkoff.



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A NEWS

Animal Ag Alliance

The 2025 College Aggies Online scholarship program kicks off on September 8. \$20,000 in scholarships awarded in 2024 to future agriculture communicators. The Animal Agriculture Alliance is excited to announce the return of its annual College Aggies Online (CAO) scholarship program. The program is set to begin on September 8 and will connect college students from across the country who are passionate about sharing agriculture's story. Over the course of nine weeks, participants will gain the tools, training, and experience needed to become confident communicators about agriculture online and on campus. Collegiate students, clubs, and classes are invited to sign up.

Last year, students were awarded \$20,000 in scholarships and prizes for demonstrating exceptional creativity and impactful communication. This year, similar scholarship opportunities are available. The top prize for individual participants is \$3,000, and the top prize for clubs and classes is \$2,000. Mini scholarships and awards are also available each week of the program.

Throughout the competition, students will have the opportunity

to network and receive guidance from social media savvy farmers and industry professionals while enhancing their communication and consumer engagement skills. Previous mentors include Natalie Kovarik, co-host of Discover Ag podcast; Brandi Buzzard of Buzzard's Beat; and Emily Schaapman, owner of Dairy Girl Fitness.

In the individual division, students earn points by completing weekly challenges, including writing blog posts, designing infographics, publishing social media content, and creating TikTok style videos.

In the student organization division, collegiate clubs and classes will have the opportunity to host events on their campus to engage with peers about agriculture. Club events include hosting a campus event, food drive, farm tour, and much more.

"College Aggies Online empowers college students to start telling agriculture's story today," said Emily Ellis, director, communications and content, Animal Agriculture Alliance. "As a former participant, CAO provided me the opportunity to step outside of my comfort zone and try new ways to advocate. I highly encourage interested students to sign up and start building resume skills while networking and competing for scholarships."


Students interested in becoming confident and effective communicators for agriculture are invited to sign up now at <https://animalagalliance.org/initiatives/college-aggies-online-sign-up/>. Registered participants can refer a friend to sign up for the program for the chance to win a \$100 gift card.

The 2025 CAO program is sponsored by Dairy Management Inc., Cooper Farms, Dairy's Foundation, Farm Credit, and the National Pork Board. Additional support is essential to continuing this important program and providing the future leaders in agriculture with critical training and hands-on experience in communications and engagement. To become a sponsor of this year's program, see the sponsorship opportunities and contact Logan Hall at llhall@animalagalliance.org.

About the Animal Agriculture Alliance. The Alliance safeguards the future of animal agriculture and its value to society by bridging the communication gap between the farm and food communities. We connect key food industry stakeholders to arm them with responses to emerging issues. We engage food chain influencers and promote consumer choice by helping them better understand modern animal agriculture. We protect by exposing those who threaten our nation's food security with damaging misinformation. For more information, visit www.animalagalliance.org.

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Trending in Food & Media

BEEF PRICES & DEMAND

 Increased media attention on beef prices and beef supplies for the summer grilling season led to a 22% increase in news mentions in May 2025 compared to the previous month.¹

 Media outlets mentioned new data on cookout costs. Rabobank said it found overall cookout prices rose 4% from last year while Datasembly said prices for beef burgers decreased from 2024.^{2,8}

 The Wall Street Journal reported that while cattle inventories are the lowest levels in generations and consumers face higher beef prices, demand remains robust.³

GOOD NEWS FOR BEEF

BURGER TRENDS

 Reader's Digest and other outlets featured their own lists of the best burgers found in each state while some also mentioned the latest rankings from Yelp on the best burger chains across the country.⁴

 Several media outlets and social media posts talked about American astronaut Dr. Jonny Kim recreating and enjoying one of his favorite burgers with food and supplies sent to the International Space Station.⁵

 The Washington Post and other media outlets shared expert advice on how to make the best burgers at home ahead of the Memorial Day weekend.⁶

GOOD NEWS FOR BEEF

NEWS & NOTES

 News outlets including several local television stations mentioned National Beef Month more than 300 times during the month of May.¹

 Ahead of Mother's Day, *Beef. It's What's For Dinner.* shared three new brunch recipes. The release with the recipes was picked up by nearly 500 outlets with the potential to reach close to 200 million consumers.¹

 Champion pitmaster Erica Roby shared her experiences and recipes from a national BBQ tour. Roby talked to several television stations from the NCBA Culinary Center, funded by the Beef Checkoff.⁷

GOOD NEWS FOR BEEF

ARMS #060325-12

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8. <https://shorturl.at/Xjgsq>





BEEF CUTS AND RECOMMENDED COOKING METHODS

CHUCK		RIB		LOIN		SIRLOIN		ROUND		INGREDIENT CUTS	
<div>Arm Chuck Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Cross Rib Chuck Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Prime Rib Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Porterhouse Steak</div> <div></div>	<div>Top Sirloin Steak</div> <div></div>	<div>Top Round*</div> <div></div>	<div>Kabobs*</div> <div></div>					
<div>Arm Chuck Steak</div> <div></div>	<div>Shoulder Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Ribeye Steak, Bone-In</div> <div></div>	<div>T-Bone Steak</div> <div></div>	<div>Top Sirloin Petite Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Top Round Steak*</div> <div></div>	<div>Stew Meat</div> <div></div>					
<div>Blade Chuck Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Shoulder Steak*</div> <div></div>	<div>Back Ribs</div> <div></div>	<div>Strip Steak, Bone-In</div> <div></div>	<div>Top Sirloin Filet</div> <div></div>	<div>Bottom Round Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Strips</div> <div></div>					
<div>Blade Chuck Steak*</div> <div></div>	<div>Ranch Steak</div> <div></div>	<div>Ribeye Roast, Boneless</div> <div></div>	<div>Strip Steak, Boneless</div> <div></div>	<div>Coulotte Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Bottom Round Steak*</div> <div></div>	<div>Cubed Steak</div> <div></div>					
<div>7-Bone Chuck Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Flat Iron Steak</div> <div></div>	<div>Ribeye Steak, Boneless</div> <div></div>	<div>Strip Petite Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Coulotte Steak</div> <div></div>	<div>Bottom Round Rump Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Ground Beef and Ground Beef Patties</div> <div></div>					
<div>Chuck Center Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Top Blade Steak</div> <div></div>	<div>Ribeye Cap Steak</div> <div></div>	<div>Strip Filet</div> <div></div>	<div>Tri-Tip Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Eye of Round Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Shank Cross-Cut</div> <div></div>					
<div>Denver Steak</div> <div></div>	<div>Shoulder Petite Tender</div> <div></div>	<div>Ribeye Petite Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Tenderloin Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Tri-Tip Steak</div> <div></div>	<div>Eye of Round Steak*</div> <div></div>	<div>Tenderloin Tips</div> <div></div>					
<div>Chuck Eye Roast</div> <div></div>	<div>Shoulder Petite Tender Medallions</div> <div></div>	<div>Ribeye Filet</div> <div></div>	<div>Tenderloin Steak (Filet Mignon)</div> <div></div>	<div>Petite Sirloin Steak</div> <div></div>	<div>Brisket Flat</div> <div></div>	<div>Inside Skirt*</div> <div></div>					
<div>Chuck Eye Steak</div> <div></div>	<div>Short Ribs, Bone-In</div> <div></div>			<div>Sirloin Bavette Steak</div> <div></div>	<div>Brisket Point</div> <div></div>	<div>Flank Steak*</div> <div></div>					
<div>Country-Style Ribs</div> <div></div>						<div>Short Ribs, Bone-In*</div> <div></div>					
<div><div><div></div><div>Grilling</div></div><div><div></div><div>Oven Roasting</div></div><div><div></div><div>Stewing</div></div><div><div></div><div>Braising</div></div><div><div></div><div>Skillet-to-Oven</div></div><div><div></div><div>Stir-Fry</div></div><div><div></div><div>Broiling</div></div><div><div></div><div>Skillet Cooking</div></div><div><div></div><div>Pressure Cooking</div></div><div><div></div><div>Indirect Grilling</div></div><div><div></div><div>Smoking</div></div></div> <div><div>*Marinate before cooking for best results</div><div><div>LEAN</div><div>These cuts meet the government guidelines for lean, based on cooked servings, visible fat trimmed.</div><div>A cut of cooked fresh meat is considered "lean" when it contains less than 10 grams of total fat, 4.5 grams or less of saturated fat and less than 95 mg of cholesterol per 100 grams (3 1/2 oz) and per RACC (Reference Amount Customarily Consumed), which is 85 grams (3 oz).</div></div></div>											

Better Forage & Fermentation

– Understanding Silage Inoculants

By SAL COSTILLA, *Alltech*

In most parts of the country, silage is harvested one to three times per year. This means that you only have three times per year — at maximum — to grow, harvest, and store feed that needs to sustain your operation for the following 12–18 months. Today’s successes or failures will be tomorrow’s — and the foreseeable future’s — successes or failures.

Inoculants and storage – Fermentation is the crux of silage preservation. The main goal of silage fermentation is a rapid reduction in pH, to create an undesirable environment for molds and yeasts, inhibiting their growth. This creates a more aerobically stable and better preserved product.

Bacteria — more specifically, lactic acid producing bacteria (LAB) — can take credit for the rapid reduction in pH. LAB will consume plant sugars such as glucose and convert them primarily into lactic acid. LAB will continue to ferment and consume sugar until a pH of around 4 or lower is achieved. A prolonged pH reduction — or worse, a pH that never reaches 4 or below — will cause these LAB to consume more of the valuable nutrients we are trying to preserve.

Choosing an inoculant – Two main types of inoculants are used — homofermentative and heterofermentative.

- Homofermentative inoculants should be used by those who want to maximize dry matter retention and nutrient value by maximizing lactic acid production.

- Heterofermentative inoculants produce acetic acid in addition to lactic acid. This acetic acid can be beneficial for silage piles that need to be opened early or for piles that a farm plans to feed more slowly. Acetic acid is the metric we look at when we evaluate aerobic stability. Some level of acetic acid is good, but a lot of it can indicate a slow and inefficient fermentation.

Adding enzymes when needed – Then there are enzymes, which can work alongside either type of inoculant. An enzyme package can and should be used on forages that are more difficult to ferment, including winter forage mixes, grass blends, triticale, and any forage type that is past its optimal harvest maturity.

These forages still contain some sugar. However, the sugar may not be as readily available to the LAB. An example would be corn silage material that’s loaded with easily accessible starch. The enzymes are essentially providing more “food” for the LAB to grow, ensuring a more efficient fermentation.

Tips for better silage – Careful management is also important in getting the best quality silage to your animals. This includes:

- **Moisture at harvest** – Excessive water can be a buffer to fermentation, keeping overall pH higher for longer — but excessively dry forage can promote mold growth.

- **Packing density** – Oxygen is the enemy of fermentation. Ensure adequate packing of the forage, and limit the speed at which it is brought to the feed yard.

- **Silage pile design** – Be sure that you can deface an adequate amount of feed every day — a minimum of 4” in the winter and 6” in the summer across the whole face.

Regular testing is crucial as well. When testing, grab a fresh crop sample of the forage and test it for moisture, nutrients, and mold, yeast, and mycotoxin growth. Upon opening, run all the same tests as a fresh chop sample, and reevaluate and reassess to plan improvements to next year’s crop.

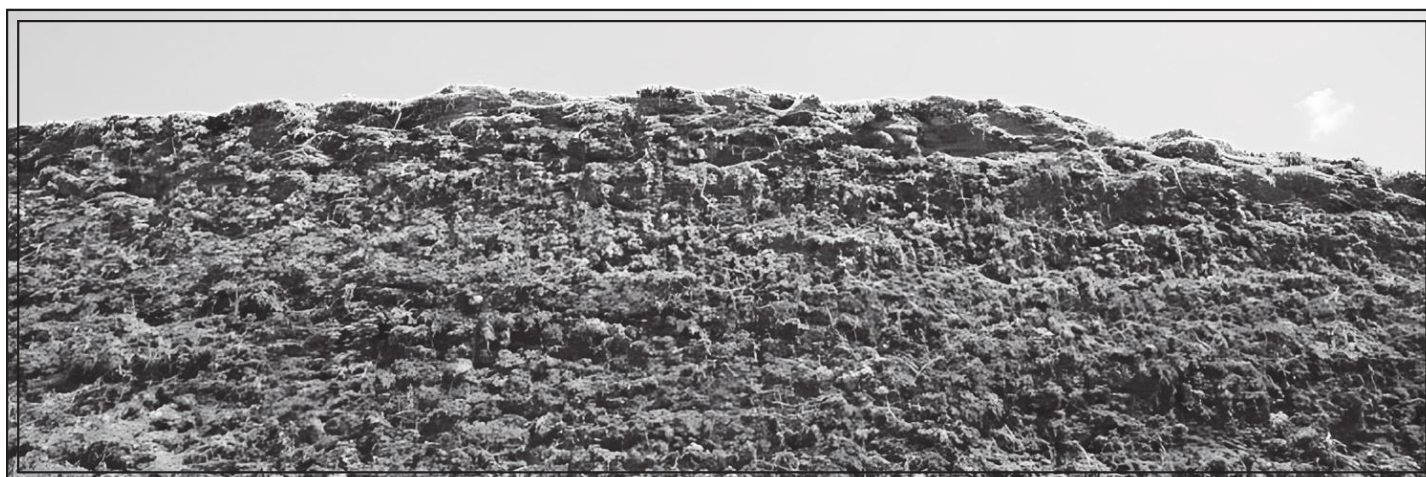
Alltech’s mycotoxin management program includes in-depth laboratory testing through Alltech 37+ as well as on-farm rapid testing with Alltech RAPIREAD. This combination allows you to see the bigger mycotoxin picture on your farm while also responding in real time to changing conditions.

Stable, consistent forage for your herd – A stable forage not only minimizes mycotoxin risk but also makes for a more consistent forage when feeding your herd. Having an adequate number of useful LAB based on forage type is critical to the success we have when we expose that feed to oxygen and start to feed it.

All farms face some silage challenges. Some are universal, such as our best laid springtime plans being interrupted by setbacks from Mother Nature — or the custom harvesting company showing up two

weeks late! Others are specific to our geographic location, as growing and harvesting seasons differ greatly and come with their own sets of challenges.

Choosing the right inoculant for your needs, with or without enzymes, can extend your coverage and help to ensure that the forage you ensile is preserved well for future use.



USDA Advances Trump Administration's Farmer First Agenda at UN FAO Conference. *Delegation pushes bold reform, demands accountability from global institutions in defense of American agriculture*

Michelle Bekkering, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, led the delegation — on behalf of Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins — to the 44th Session of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Conference in Rome, delivering a clear message: international organizations supported by American taxpayers must deliver results that align with U.S. interests and directly benefit American farmers, ranchers, and producers.

During the conference, the U.S. national statement was firmly delivered, echoing President Trump's vision and Secretary Rollins' commitment to prioritizing American farmers and ranchers.

"Today, the U.S. sees FAO at a crossroads," said Deputy Under Secretary Bekkering during the U.S. national statement to the FAO plenary. "One path is business as usual — more mandates, more meetings, more process, slow progress. The other path brings us back to basics and results — focusing on FAO's core mission and making a real and sustainable difference on the ground. When farmers and ranchers can produce more, move their goods more efficiently, and compete fairly, everyone benefits — from farm to table to globe."

In meetings with FAO leadership and international counterparts, Bekkering emphasized U.S. reform priorities and the need for results based, science driven leadership.

Alongside Chargé d'Affaires Scott Turner of the U.S. Mission to the U.N. Agencies in Rome, Bekkering discussed with FAO Deputy Director General Beth Bechdol how to better align FAO's efforts with the priorities of its largest contributor. In a focused meeting with FAO Chief Economist Máximo Torero, she stressed that FAO credibility depends on its use of the best available science, data, and evidence.

The United States also met with Codex Secretary Sarah Cahill and underscored the importance of Codex Alimentarius to supporting American agriculture and fostering trade and encouraged more consistent communication on how international food safety standards benefit U.S. producers. The delegation also engaged the International Fund for Agricultural Development, meeting with Ronald Hartman, Director of Global Engagement, to push for increased collaboration with the American private sector in its global investments.

In bilateral talks with Canadian Assistant Deputy Minister Tom Rosser, Bekkering discussed joint efforts to defend transparent, evidence based agricultural policy across multilateral settings. She welcomed Canada's alignment on key issues related to trade facilitation and regulatory coherence, reinforcing the importance of North American leadership on the world stage. Deputy Under Secretary Bekkering also met with Sweden's Vice Minister for Rural Affairs, Daniel Liljeberg, to strengthen relations while sharing concerns about EU trade barriers including the EU Deforestation Regulation, and underscored that American farmers produce the safest, highest quality food in the world and deserve full access to global markets.

Looking ahead, USDA will continue engaging with the FAO and U.S. interagency partners to advance reform priorities. This includes supporting the State Department's review of U.S. engagement with international organizations to ensure alignment with American



strategic and economic interests.

Secretary Rollins Praises President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill. Secretary Brooke L. Rollins issued the following statement after President Donald J. Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill into law:

"The One Big Beautiful Bill marks the start of a new golden age for America and American agriculture. This historic piece of legislation makes permanent the largest tax cuts in history.

"It provides immediate tax relief to farmers, ranchers, and rural Americans by increasing the small business expensing threshold and permanently extending the Small Business Deduction. Through the President's leadership, the bill Makes Agriculture Great Again, bolsters the farm safety net, makes crop insurance more affordable, and protects two million family farms from the death tax.

"It puts American farmers first by preventing countries such as China and Brazil from flooding our markets with biofuel feedstocks that compete with American grown soy, milo, and corn. It extends the 45Z clean fuel tax credit to enhance our domestic energy security.

"While expanding programs to support the farmers who feed, fuel, and clothe America, this legislation also tackles the fraud and waste that has run rampant in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The bill holds states accountable for their error rates, strengthens work requirements, and prevents illegal aliens from receiving SNAP.

"President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill is a win for farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and American taxpayers. His leadership on this landmark piece of legislation is yet another example of an America First promise made and a promise kept," said Secretary Rollins.

Farm Security Is National Security – The Trump Administration Takes Bold Action to Elevate American Agriculture in National Security.

Secretary Brooke L. Rollins, alongside U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi, and U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, recently announced the next pillar of her Make Agriculture Great Again initiative — USDA's National Farm Security Action Plan. This historic plan elevates American agriculture as a key element of our nation's national security, addressing urgent threats from foreign adversaries and strengthening

the resilience of our nation's food and agricultural systems.

"We feed the world. We lead the world. And we'll never let foreign adversaries control our land, our labs, or our livelihoods," said Secretary Rollins. "This Action Plan puts America's farmers, families, and future first — exactly where they belong. Under President Trump's leadership, American agriculture will be strong, secure, and resilient. He will never stop fighting for our farmers and our ranchers."

A Real Threat, a Real Response – Recent events highlight the critical need for this action. Last month, the U.S. Department of Justice charged foreign nationals, including a Chinese Communist Party member, with smuggling a noxious fungus into the United States — a potential agroterrorism weapon responsible for billions in global crop losses. The scheme involved a U.S. research lab and highlighted a disturbing trend: America's enemies are playing the long game — infiltrating our research, buying up our farmland, stealing our technology, and launching cyberattacks on our food systems. These actions expose strategic vulnerabilities in America's food and agriculture supply chain.

Enough is enough.

Protecting the homeland begins with protecting our farmland and the National Farm Security Action Plan puts American farmers and ranchers first by safeguarding our food supply, strengthening critical infrastructure, and defending U.S. agricultural innovation from foreign adversaries.

A Comprehensive Action Plan for Agriculture Security – The National Farm Security Action Plan takes aggressive action across seven critical areas.

- **Secure and Protect American Farmland** – Address U.S. foreign farmland ownership from adversaries head on. Total transparency. Tougher penalties.

- **Enhance Agricultural Supply Chain Resilience** – Refocus domestic investment into key manufacturing sectors and identify non-adversarial partners to work with when domestic production is not available. Plan for contingencies.

- **Protect the U.S. Nutrition Safety Net from Fraud and Foreign Exploitation** – Billions have been stolen by foreign crime rings. That ends now.

- **Defend Agricultural Research and Innovation** – No more sweetheart deals or secret pacts with hostile nations. American ideas stay in America.

- **Put America First in Every USDA Program** – From farm loans to food safety, every program will reflect the America First agenda.

- **Safeguard Plant and Animal Health** – Crack down on bio-threats before they ever reach our soil.

- **Protect Critical Infrastructure** – Farms, food, and supply chains are national security assets — and will be treated as such.

- **A United Front Against Foreign Threats** – This National Farm Security Action Plan will serve as the launch point for USDA to work in further unison with governors, state legislators, and federal partners to further integrate agriculture into the broader national security efforts over the coming months and years reaffirming the critical nature of agriculture and the need for a cross governmental approach. Defending access to American abundance and preserving the American experiment is the essence of agriculture security —

and it is why farm security is national security.

"Foreign ownership of land near strategic bases and U.S. military installations poses a serious threat to our national security. The Farm Security Plan will put America First and keep our bases across the homeland secure," said Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth.

"Farm security is national security. The Department of Justice will continue working to prosecute those who threaten American agriculture, investigate cases of potential agroterrorism, and protect America's farmers from illegal threats at home and abroad," said Attorney General Pam Bondi.

"Food policy is national security policy. A country that cannot feed itself, cannot take care of itself, and cannot provide for itself is not secure. We have to be able to feed ourselves to make sure that no other country ever controls us...We will never let any other country control our food supply or control our people because we will always be the great United States of America," said Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem.

"Arkansas led the nation in kicking Communist China off our farmland and out of our state because we understand that farm security is national security," said Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders. "I applaud President Trump and Secretary Rollins for putting America first with this bold USDA Action Plan to protect our food supply, our economy, and our freedom."

"Tennesseans know that our farmland is our national security, our economic future, and our children's heritage. The National Farm Security Action Plan puts America First by defending our farmland from foreign adversaries and protecting our food supply, and I thank the Trump Administration for its bold leadership," said Tennessee Governor Bill Lee.

"Farm Security = Food Security = National Security. Thanks to these actions taken by President Trump and his team, we can further protect the backbone of Nebraska's economy from foreign adversaries like China. Homeland security starts at home, and we will continue to do our part in Nebraska," said Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen.

"Foreign adversaries like China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea are trying to get their foot in the door by buying up our farmland," said Senator Tommy Tuberville. "In my state of Alabama, we have the fourth highest amount of foreign owned land in the U.S. with 2.2 million acres. Not only is this dangerous for our farmers, but it's disastrous for our national security. Thankfully, the Trump administration is taking action to secure our farmland and keep us safe from bad foreign actors."

"Farm security is national security, and it is imperative that we start recognizing this before it is too late," said Senator Roger Marshall, M.D. "President Trump understands this, and I applaud the work his administration has done to partner with Kansas agriculture and the biodefense industry to ensure that plant and animal diseases do not compromise our food supply."

"President Trump is using every tool at his disposal to keep our nation safe, and that includes securing our food supply. This historic USDA effort reflects his clear understanding that food security

USDA News *continued from the previous page*

is national security, and under his leadership, America's farmers and families are safer and stronger," said House Committee on Agriculture Chairman Glenn "G.T." Thompson.

"Under Governor Sanders's leadership, Arkansas was the first state in the country to kick China off our farmland. Thank you, President Trump, Secretary Rollins, and Secretary Hegseth for what you are doing to stop our adversaries from destroying our country and for protecting the way of life that provides the food, fiber, fuel, and shelter that we all depend on every single day," said Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward.

"Agriculture is national security, period. A nation that cannot feed itself, cannot defend itself, and I'm excited to work together with Secretary Rollins and Secretary Hegseth to champion policies that will strengthen U.S. farm security and protect our nation's farmers, farmland, and food supply," said Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tyler J. Harper.

"I am grateful for Secretary Brooke Rollins' bold leadership in advancing USDA's Ag Security Agenda, which prioritizes safeguarding American agriculture and farmland from those who seek to undermine our nation's food and energy security. Iowa's multi-generational family farms are the backbone of our state's economy and way of life. For decades, Iowa has banned the foreign ownership of farmland, a law we strengthened in 2024, to preserve our agricultural integrity and security while balancing the need for foreign business investment in our state. I fully support Secretary Rollins' and the Trump Administration's efforts to bolster enforcement, increase reporting, and enhance transparency of land ownership laws at the national level to guarantee that our American farmland remains in the hands of Americans," said Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig.

"The USDA's leadership in developing this comprehensive plan shows a clear commitment to putting American farmers and ranchers first," said Commissioner Shell. "Protecting our farmland and food systems from foreign influence and biosecurity threats is critical not only to our agricultural economy but also to the national security of the United States. I'm proud to join colleagues from across the nation in supporting this important work," said Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell.

"Agriculture is truly the backbone of our nation, and protecting the U.S. now and into the future means protecting our food supply. I applaud the foresight and leadership of Secretary Rollins and her colleagues to defend and strengthen American agriculture. I look forward to supporting these efforts on behalf of our Oklahoma farmers and ranchers and all Americans who count on the safe, reliable, and nutritious food we produce in the United States," said Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur.

Secretary Rollins Continues Effort to Strengthen National Security by Defending Farm Security. Secretary Brooke L. Rollins announced continued actions to protect American agriculture. This follows the previous day's announcement of the USDA's National Farm Security Action Plan. .

As part of this latest suite of actions, Secretary Rollins released a Foreign Farm Land Purchases map that is searchable by country,

launched a new web portal to report violations of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA), signed a Memorandum of Understanding related to the implementation of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), and reminded State agencies of requirements to share data, ensuring illegal aliens do not receive SNAP benefits.

"Gone are the days of foreign adversaries taking advantage of our farmland, farmers, and programs paid for by American taxpayers. The National Farm Security Action Plan was a first step by USDA to defend the homeland. Our work is far from done. We will continue to restore farm security and expose the extent to which our adversaries have targeted American agriculture," said Secretary Rollins.

The Foreign Farm Land Purchases webpage indicates which countries own land in the United States. It is tracked by which county the land is located in, not geographic boundaries of the land. USDA will work on continuous improvements to make the data more real time and more exact over the coming weeks and months.

The new reporting portal will receive and review claims of adversarial foreign influence on federal, state, and local policymakers with respect to purchases of U.S. farmland and business dealings in other facets of U.S. agricultural supply chains. This has taken place previously across various bodies of government. Submissions may be accepted anonymously, or contact information may be provided for appropriate follow up by USDA.

Secretary Rollins also signed a memorandum of understanding between USDA and the U.S. Department of the Treasury for partnership in the implementation of CFIUS.

This puts the Secretary of Agriculture at the CFIUS table in cases concerning transactions involving agricultural land, agriculture biotechnology, or the agriculture industry including agricultural transportation, agricultural storage, and agricultural processing. This is a huge step forward to ensure agriculture gets the voice it deserves.

In response to the national security crisis caused by the Biden Administration's open border policies, Secretary Rollins directed the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to ensure illegal aliens do not receive SNAP benefits. The Department has worked diligently to not only inform States of the laws but also make certain that come July 23, all SNAP participant data is shared with USDA for point-in-time analyses and fraud and waste detection.

Secretary Rollins Takes Decisive Action and Shuts Down U.S. Southern Border Ports to Livestock Trade Due to Further Northward Spread of New World Screwworm in Mexico. On July 8, Mexico's National Service of Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety, and Quality (SENASICA) reported a new case of New World Screwworm (NWS) in Ixhualtan de Madero, Veracruz, in Mexico, which is approximately 160 miles northward of the current sterile fly dispersal grid on the eastern side of the country and 370 miles south of the U.S./Mexico border. This new northward detection comes approximately two months after northern detections were reported in Oaxaca and Veracruz, less than 700 miles away from the U.S. border, which triggered the closure of our ports to Mexican cattle, bison, and horses on May 11.

While USDA announced a risk based phased port reopening strategy for cattle, bison, and equine from Mexico beginning as early as July 7, this newly reported NWS case raises significant concern about the previously reported information shared by Mexican officials and severely compromises the outlined port reopening schedule of five ports that was to take place through September 15. Therefore, in order to protect American livestock and our nation's food supply, Secretary Rollins has ordered the closure of livestock trade through southern ports of entry effective immediately.

"The United States has promised to be vigilant — and after detecting this new NWS case, we are pausing the planned port reopenings to further quarantine and target this deadly pest in Mexico. We must see additional progress combatting NWS in Veracruz and other nearby Mexican states in order to reopen livestock ports along the Southern border," said Secretary Rollins. "Thanks to the aggressive monitoring by USDA staff in the U.S. and in Mexico, we have been able to take quick and decisive action to respond to the spread of this deadly pest."

To ensure the protection of U.S. livestock herds, USDA is holding Mexico accountable by ensuring proactive measures are being taken to maintain a NWS free barrier. This is maintained with stringent animal movement controls, surveillance, trapping, and following the proven science to push the NWS barrier south in phases as quickly as possible.

In June, Secretary Rollins launched a bold plan to combat New World Screwworm by protecting our border at all costs, increasing eradication efforts in Mexico, and increasing readiness. USDA also announced the groundbreaking of a sterile fly dispersal facility in South Texas. This facility will provide a critical contingency capability to disperse sterile flies should a NWS detection be made in the southern United States. Simultaneously, USDA is moving forward with the design process to build a domestic sterile fly production facility to ensure it has the resources to push NWS back to the Darien Gap. USDA is working on these efforts in lockstep with border states — Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas — as it will take a coordinated approach with federal, state, and local partners to keep this pest at bay and out of the United States.

USDA will continue to have personnel perform site visits throughout Mexico to ensure the Mexican government has adequate protocols and

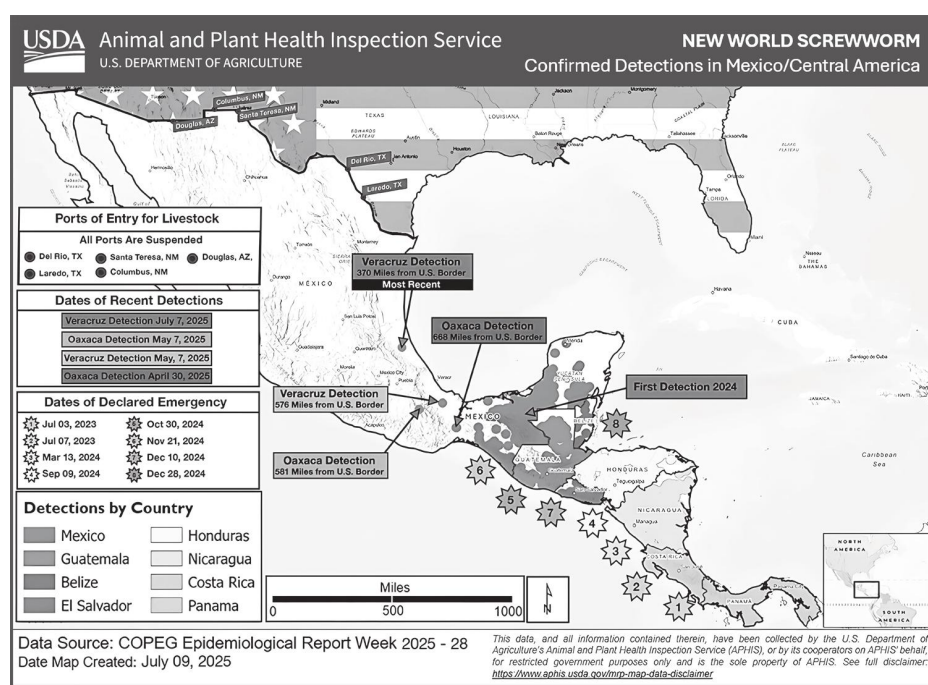
surveillance in place to combat this pest effectively and efficiently.

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Our strategic goals serve as a roadmap for the Department to help ensure we achieve our mission and implement our vision.

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Upcoming Events

ANGUS

Aug. 2 — 2025 Edisto Pines Female Production Sale, Leesville, S.C.
Aug. 22-23 — N.C. Angus Auxiliary Fall Outing, Ashe/Alleghany Counties
Sep. 27 — Biltmore Livestock Production Sale, Asheville, N.C.
Oct. 11 — Chessie Creek Farm Female Sale, Walterboro, S.C.
Oct. 11 — N.C. Angus Association Fall Field Day, Roseboro, N.C.
Oct. 18 — Fred Smith Company Ranch Extra Effort Sale, Clayton, N.C.
Oct. 24-25 — Yon Family Farms Maternal Roots Fall Female & Bull Sale, Ridge Spring, S.C.
Nov. 8 — Chessie Creek Farm Angus Bull Sale, Walterboro, S.C.
Nov. 8 — Locust Level Farms Bull & Female Sale, Vernon Hill, Va.
Nov. 11 — Larson Angus Female Sale, Harrisonburg, Va.
Nov. 15 — Southeast Bull Expo & Sale, Asheboro, N.C.
Nov. 25 — Strickland Cattle & Guest 14th Annual Bull & Female Sale, Glenville, Ga.
Dec. 5 — Knoll Crest Farm Total Performance Bull Sale, Red House, Va.
Dec. 6 — 50th Annual Union County Performance Tested Bull Sale, Monroe, N.C.
Dec. 13 — Brushy Mountain Genetics Bull & Female Sale, Taylorsville, N.C.

2026

Jan. 3 — 17th Annual EBS Farms Annual Bull & Female Sale, Norwood, N.C.
Feb. 7 — 50th Annual Clemson Bull Test Sale, Clemson, S.C.
Feb. 12 — UGA Focus on Genomic Enhanced EPDs Sale, Athens, Ga.
Feb. 21 — Yon Family Farms Spring Bull & Female Sale, Ridge Spring, S.C.
Apr. 11 — Knoll Crest Farm Spring Bull & Heifer Sale, Red House, Va.

BRANGUS

Oct. 24-25 — Yon Family Farms Maternal Roots Fall Female & Bull Sale, Ridge Spring, S.C.

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Feb. 7 — 50th Annual Clemson Bull Test Sale, Clemson, S.C.
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Dec. 6 — 50th Annual Union County Performance Tested Bull Sale, Monroe, N.C.

HEREFORD

Dec. 5 — Knoll Crest Farm Total Performance Bull Sale, Red House, Va.

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WAGYU

Nov. 1 — Wilders Wagyu StayWILD ‘25 Production Sale, Turkey, N.C.

OTHER SALES

Aug. 14 — Graded Feeder Calf Sale, Norwood, N.C.
Sep. 20 — September Select Bred Heifer Sale, Norwood, N.C.
Sep. 25 — Graded Feeder Calf Sale, Norwood, N.C.
Nov. 13 — Graded Feeder Calf Sale, Norwood, N.C.
Dec. 6 — N.C. BCIP Waynesville Bull Test Sale, Canton, N.C.
Dec. 13 — N.C. BCIP Butner Bull Test Sale, Oxford, N.C.

OTHER EVENTS

Aug. 1-3 — S.C. Junior Beef Round-Up, Clemson, N.C.
Aug. 5 — Tri-State Beef Conference, Blountville, Tenn.
Aug. 5 — Building Resilience in Forage & Livestock Systems
— Virtual Engagement Series, Session 3
Aug. 7 — Building Resilience in Forage & Livestock Systems
— Virtual Engagement Series, Session 4
Aug. 8-9 — N.C. Junior Beef Round-Up, Fletcher, N.C.
Aug. 11 — Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Livestock, Rocky Mount, N.C.
Aug. 14 — AgSouth Farm Credit Ag Aware Workshop, Pendleton, S.C.
Aug. 18 — Twin Counties (Nash-Edgecombe) Cattlemen’s Meeting, Nashville, N.C.
Aug. 21 — AgSouth Farm Credit Ag Aware Workshop, Carthage, N.C.
Sep. 6 — S.C. Forage & Grazing Lands Coalition Annual Meeting, West Columbia, S.C.
Sep. 9 — Hay Day at Whitehead Farms, Jonesville, S.C.
Sep. 10 — N.C. Food Safety School, Kannapolis, N.C.

LIVESTOCK MARKET SALES

Aug. 4 — Harward Brothers Livestock Market Weekly Sale, Turnersburg, N.C.
Aug. 4 — Saluda Livestock Exchange Weekly Sale, Saluda, S.C.
Aug. 5 — Mid-Atlantic Cattle Sales Video Auction, via macsvideo.com
Aug. 6 — Stanly County Livestock Market Weekly Sale, Norwood, N.C.
Aug. 11 — Harward Brothers Livestock Market Weekly Sale, Turnersburg, N.C.
Aug. 11 — Saluda Livestock Exchange Weekly Sale, Saluda, S.C.
Aug. 13 — Stanly County Livestock Market Weekly Sale, Norwood, N.C.
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Sep. 8 — Saluda Livestock Exchange Weekly Sale, Saluda, S.C.
Sep. 10 — Stanly County Livestock Market Weekly Sale, Norwood, N.C.
Sep. 15 — Harward Brothers Livestock Market Weekly Sale, Turnersburg, N.C.
Sep. 15 — Saluda Livestock Exchange Weekly Sale, Saluda, S.C.
Sep. 16 — Mid-Atlantic Cattle Sales Video Auction, via macsvideo.com
Sep. 17 — Stanly County Livestock Market Weekly Sale, Norwood, N.C.
Sep. 22 — Harward Brothers Livestock Market Weekly Sale, Turnersburg, N.C.
Sep. 22 — Saluda Livestock Exchange Weekly Sale, Saluda, S.C.
Sep. 24 — Stanly County Livestock Market Weekly Sale, Norwood, N.C.
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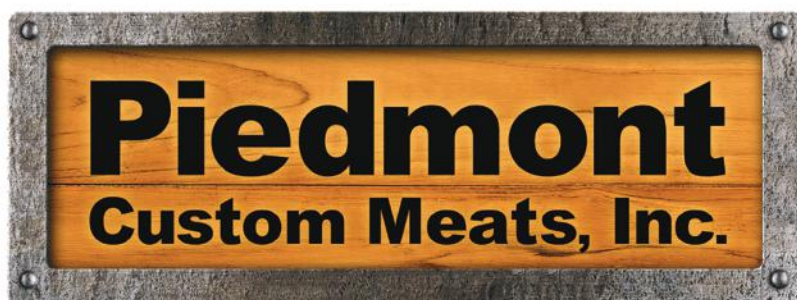
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