

The Cattlemen's Newsletter

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Our Mission

R-CALF USA's mission is to represent the U.S. cattle industry in trade and marketing issues to ensure the continued profitability and viability of independent U.S. cattle producers.

9th Circuit Denies USDA's Request to Dismiss Case

BILLINGS, MONT. (November 21, 2006) The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals (9th Circuit) has denied the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Motion for Summary Affirmance, stating in its decision that the agency's rarely used legal maneuver was denied "because the arguments raised in response to the motion (by R-CALF USA) are sufficiently substantial to warrant further argument."

"We are pleased that the 9th Circuit has determined that R-CALF USA's case warrants further consideration and we look forward to being able to present the facts concerning the BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) problem in Canada and how this situation relates to trade with the United States," said R-CALF USA President and Region V Director Chuck Kiker. "It is time Canada's BSE issues, its higher BSE infection level and its ineffective feed ban are addressed, and rules developed to protect Canada's trade partners, like the U.S., from importing this disease."

R-CALF USA filed litigation against USDA in January 2005, claiming the agency's Final Rule on "Minimal Risk Regions: Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and the Importation of Commodities," which relaxed long-standing import restrictions for countries affected by BSE, was inadequate to protect the U.S. cattle industry from the introduction of BSE from Canada.

"Utilizing a court of law was our last resort in our attempts to work with USDA to maintain the health of the U.S. cattle herd," Kiker continued. "This latest decision by the 9th Circuit means that R-CALF gets the right to appeal. If we win the appeal, then we will have the opportunity to have all our facts and scientific evidence considered by the court. This has been our objective all along."

Kiker surmised that USDA does not want the organization's case to be reviewed by the 9th Circuit because the circumstances unfolding in Canada continue to disprove the key assumptions USDA used to defend its Final Rule. Just as one example, Kiker said, USDA did not contemplate the recent discoveries of BSE-infected cattle born three to five years after the 1997 implementation of Canada's feed ban.

"These recent cases of younger Canadian cattle with BSE disprove USDA's key assumption that the Canadian feed ban has been effectively enforced," he said.

R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard said the 9th Circuit now must decide if this case should be reconsidered. R-CALF USA must file its opening brief by Dec. 11, and USDA's reply brief is due Jan. 10, 2007, exactly two years after R-CALF USA filed its lawsuit against the agency. R-CALF USA can then file an optional reply brief within 14 days of USDA's reply brief.

"If the 9th Circuit does grant R-CALF the opportunity to argue the merits of our case, the court would remand the case back to U.S. District Court Judge Richard F. Cebull, in whose court the original litigation was filed," Bullard commented.

Cattle Producers Glad USDA Declares Animal Identification Voluntary

BILLINGS, MONT. (December 1, 2006) R-CALF USA President and Region V Director Chuck Kiker today said he was pleased to learn the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has backed away from the agency's original plan to make electronic animal identification a mandatory program.

"We appreciate the efforts of Under Secretary Bruce Knight in particular, because he sat down with us face-to-face on more than one occasion so we could explain to him the concerns our members have about mandatory animal identification, especially since some of the driving forces behind the program were focusing on it being used as a marketing tool instead of its original intended purpose – an animal-health tool for tracking foreign animal diseases (FADs)," Kiker said.

Last week, USDA Under Secretary for Marketing

and Regulatory Programs Bruce Knight made the announcement the program would remain voluntary when the agency rolled out its new 60-plus page Draft User Guide for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

"Animal identification is one of the hottest topics to come up for discussion at the many meetings R-CALF has held around the countryside the past couple of years, and we're hopeful that USDA will continue listening to the numerous concerns expressed by independent cattle producers," Kiker continued. "Right now, the folks that want to utilize Animal ID in their operations will have that option, and folks who don't want anything at all to do with an Animal ID program can exercise that option as well.

"USDA needs to rebuild cattle producers' confi-

dence in that agency – including APHIS – by working with producers, and this is a step in the right direction," he noted.

"We still need to resolve problems the animal health officials are having in tracking animals and

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Three directorship seats open in January; R-CALF USA calls for nominations at 2007 convention

Having completed their terms, Region VII Director Gene Barber and Region IX Director James Fudge will be stepping down from these directorships in 2007. Region VII Director Eric Nelson was appointed to complete Jerry Swartz's term in 2006 and may be re-elected to his position. Nominations to these seats will be taken at the 2007 National Convention in Denver, Colo.

- Directors must be members in good standing of the Association and reside in the region that they represent.
- Upon the expiration of a director's term each region shall be responsible for nominating two or more nominees who reside within the district. Further nominations will be taken from the floor at the annual meeting. In addition, any member may petition to be nominated by forwarding a letter to the Board of Directors making such a request.

- Nominations shall be presented to only members within each board district to vote for with the top vote receiver from each respective district receiving the position of director. In the event of a tie, those names alone will be presented to the entire membership for the deciding vote.
- Each district shall form a nominating committee to assure that two or more nominees will be presented to the membership for consideration.
- Directors shall be elected by the majority vote of their region's membership by mail-in ballot and shall serve three-year terms. No director may serve more than two consecutive terms.
- Each director shall have one (1) vote within the confines of board meetings. Voting by proxy WILL NOT be allowed.

Districts open for nomination are:

- Region VII shall consist of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.
- Region VIII shall consist of Maine, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Rhode Island, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and Ohio.
- Region IX shall consist of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Keep in mind that a directorship in R-CALF USA is a very active volunteer position that includes frequent travel, speaking engagements, fundraising, membership recruitment, legislative work, research, media interaction, and direct communication with our membership.

If you would like to nominate a member for directorship in the above regions, please contact the national office at 406-252-2516.

'Tis the Season...

For Calf Sales!

Folks, it's that time of year again—sale barns are brimming with fall calves and producers are keeping a sharp eye on the market. Now is the time to host a calf sale fundraiser in your area.

Calf sales are fund-raising events hosted by volunteers to raise money for R-CALF USA. Those who wish to support the efforts of R-CALF USA can bid on a calf, then donate the animal back so it can be auctioned off again and again, until bidding ceases. The first \$50 of one's donation will be applied to an R-CALF USA membership or renewal, with the balance as a donation to R-CALF USA. Calf sales have been held all over the U.S. and have generated the funds needed to put an office in D.C., pass M-COOL legislation, and take the Canadian border issue to the courts.

If you'd like to host a calf sale fundraiser, call the national office at 406-252-2516. We'll provide you with materials, instructions — whatever you need to make your fundraiser a success. Ideally, we'd like two weeks notice so our staff has time to notify members in your area and local media, and schedule any speakers you may need.

R-CALF USA is truly a grassroots organization. Our growth and success can be attributed to the actions of our enthusiastic volunteers. If you've hosted before, host again. If you haven't, here's an opportunity to get involved in the organization working for U.S. cattle producers. Do you have a fundraising or recruitment idea? Then give us a call! We want your feedback.

Thanks for your support. Let's make this another notable Fall Run!

Leo and Sam McDonnell Scholarship Recipients Announced

BILLINGS, MONT. The USA FREE (United Stockgrowers of America Foundation for Research, Education and Endowment) Scholarship Committee today announced the first four recipients of scholarships from the Leo and Sam McDonnell Scholarship Fund. Each winner will be awarded a \$2,500 scholarship on the evening of Friday, Jan. 19, 2007, during R-CALF USA's annual convention, Jan. 17 - 20 in Denver.

Established in 2006, the scholarship fund was dedicated to Leo and Sam McDonnell for their commitment to the U.S. cattle industry, marking Leo's retirement as a director and founding president of R-CALF USA.

The recipients are:

- Kari Gillespie, 19, daughter of Wayne and Roxy Gillespie, of Kevin, Mont. Kari is an Animal Science major at Montana State University – Bozeman, with a minor in Ag Business. Her goal is to work for a seedstock ranch in marketing, to work for an agricultural publication and to continue raising registered Angus seedstock bulls.
- Kerry Lewis, 22, daughter of Kimmi Lewis and the late Dave Lewis, of LaJunta, Colo. Kerry is an Accounting major at Colorado State University – Pueblo. Her goal is to own an accounting firm and a ranch, where she would like to raise registered Hereford cattle and American Quarter Horses.
- Tyler Sandru, 19, son of Rick and Jody Sandru, of Twin Bridges, Mont. Tyler is an Agricultural Science major at Montana State University – Bozeman. His goal is to return to the

family ranch and eventually take over the operation.

- Nicole Steffes, 19, daughter of Darrell and Jeanette Steffes, of Vale, S.D. Nicole is a Molecular Biology major at the University of Wyoming – Laramie, with a minor in Chemistry. Her goal is to attend medical school at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

These four recipients were selected by an independent panel of judges from a total of 48 applicants.

USA FREE President Charlie Stevenson, of Wheatland, Wyo., noted the overall excellence of each applicant.

"The Leo and Sam McDonnell Scholarship Fund is dedicated to two people who have provided courageous leadership for their industry and created a legacy for future generations," Stevenson said. "The 59 individuals who applied for the scholarship program this first year clearly demonstrated the academic and personal excellence of America's rural youth. It is with great pride that we announce the four finalists. On behalf of the USA FREE board of directors and the Scholarship Committee, I congratulate the 2007 recipients and their families, and we extend our sincere gratitude to the selection panel for their time and effort. The task of selecting four recipients from a field of such excellent candidates was not easy."

The selection panel, chaired by Linda Grosskopf, Billings, Mont., also included John Johnson, of Piedmont, S.D.; Roni Sylvester, of LaSalle, Colo.; Pat Holman, of Columbus, Mont.;

(Continued on page 5)

Second R-CALF USA Washington Stampede slated for February 12-15, 2007

Join your fellow ranchers and cattle producers in Washington D.C. on February 12-15, 2007, for the Second Annual R-CALF Washington Stampede.

Last year over 70 cattle producers from 20 different states traveled to Capitol Hill for a two-day blitz dubbed the "Washington Stampede" to lobby more than 100 Senators, Representatives, and Administration officials to keep the U.S. cattle industry strong and competitive.

R-CALF USA President and Region V Director Chuck Kiker said, "Last year's Stampede was impressive. We had a great turnout, and the ranchers made this event a tremendous success. I hope to see twice the number of cowboy hats we had last year!"

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns, and several other U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials whose duties impact domestic cattle operations, met with members of R-CALF USA to discuss our issues of concern. R-CALF USA representatives also spent time with the administrator of USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), the chief

agriculture negotiator at the U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) office, and highly placed officials in the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Members also visited Capitol Hill to speak with their Senators and Representatives to urge their elected officials to support U.S. beef and U.S. cattle producers.

"We greatly appreciate the support demonstrated by cattle producers from around the nation," stated R-CALF USA's Director of Government Relations Jess Peterson. "Last year was extremely successful and caused the immediate introduction of the first viable bill to strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act in over 80 years. Through our meetings with the USDA we maintained the use of the hot iron brand within the National Animal Identification System (NAIS)."

"We are hoping to make this year's Stampede larger and more successful," stated Abra Belke, R-CALF USA's newest staff member in D.C. "We will follow last year's outline and add meetings with Embassy officials, a panel of coalition members, and more meetings with the Department of Agriculture. It is extremely important for as many ranchers as possible to be in Washington D.C. because

what we do during this Stampede will shape the 2007 Farm Bill. Your support, participation and involvement will ensure that this Farm Bill implements M-COOL, reforms competition, and utilizes beef checkoff dollars to promote U.S. beef."

For more information, or to register for the Second Washington Stampede contact the Washington D.C. office at 202-387-2180 or abra-belke@r-calfusa.com.

New staff member in D.C. Office

R-CALF USA is pleased to announce the hiring of Abra L. Belke as the new Government Relations Coordinator in our Washington D.C. office. Belke will handle daily operations with our current Director of Government Relations, Jess Peterson. She will also be working closely with our national headquarters in Billings, Mont., to grow and strengthen our membership.

Belke attended Gonzaga University in Washington where she earned her BA in political science and public relations.

During her two years in Washington D.C., Belke interned with her home Congressman Denny Rehberg (R-MT). Following that internship, she moved on to an internship at DCI Group, LLC where she gained valuable public relations experience. She also recently completed her master's degree at The George Washington University's School of Political Management.

"I am thrilled to be working for R-CALF USA," says Belke. "Growing up in Montana, I developed an abiding respect for ranchers and for the cattle industry. Working for R-CALF provides me with an opportunity to help the ranchers in my community and throughout the nation build a presence on Capitol Hill and influence public policy in order to enhance family farms and America's agrarian heritage."

CJUSA in mail boxes February

Be on the lookout for the Spring 2007 issue of **Cattlemen's Journal USA** which will be in mail boxes mid-February. For those of you who cannot attend convention, this will be your opportunity to read about the speakers and events.

If you would like to place an advertisement in this or any future issue, please contact the magazine office at **1-888-258-7212**.

Also, your ideas, input, and letters to the editor are greatly appreciated. Please contact CJUSA if you do not receive your copy so that we may update our mailing lists.

Conservation easements help agriculture *An editorial by Tim Mulligan*

As an R-CALF USA member I wanted to briefly outline my perspective about the value of private land conservation.

The October editorial submitted from Colorado contained some arguable opinions, and I will focus on just two statements. The editorial stated that "If the government of the land trust holding the easement decides to purchase the remaining estate and own the whole title to the land outright, the conservation easement vanishes."

First, there is no such thing as "the government of the land trust." There is government, of course, and there are land trusts, but they are totally separate entities. Second, never in the history of Montana has the following happened: "The land trust holding the easement decides to purchase the remaining estate and own the whole title to the land outright, [so the] the conservation easement vanishes."

So the Colorado argument against conservation easements is built upon something that doesn't exist and something that has never happened, at least in Montana.

The second misstatement in the Colorado argument against conservation easements is that once you have donated or sold an easement "you are like a serf or a tenant and the land trust has just become your landlord controlling all that you do on your own land" to the point where "you are now at the beck and call of another party. They have total control of your greatest asset."

A conservation easement is a voluntary

agreement between a landowner and a land trust that protects farmlands, ranchlands, and open lands. Before and after the easement, the land will pretty much be managed by the same farm or ranch family, and managed the same way for the same reasons. The land will continue to grow crops, hay, cattle, timber, and wildlife. Farm and ranch decisions will still be made by the farm or ranch owners. But under the terms of the easement, the land will not grow subdivisions or strip malls.

I offer this editorial as an R-CALF USA member and an owner of agricultural land homesteaded by my great grandparents. However I must make an observation from my tenure on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission. Many of the folks who have approached the Montana FWP hoping to sell a conservation easement have done so because without this opportunity they may well have had to sell part or all of their property, and there would be no land for their future generations to make any decisions about. I believe that, without fail, they also valued the conservation of their land and the opportunity to keep it in agriculture far more than any future development rights their ancestors might have. I have to wonder, if conservation easements had been available to my ancestors, would I be enjoying the opportunity to make decisions about the pieces of land they had to sell during tough times over the years to keep their operation going?

Special thanks to Tim Mulligan for providing this editorial. Edited for space.

When it comes to the 'Death Tax,' any planning is better than none *An editorial by Lyle Baumann*

Over the course of this year, I have read numerous articles and letters dealing with the "Death Tax." I get the impression from these articles and letters that there are still a lot of people out there that believe the "Death Tax" is mandatory rather than voluntary. The perception seems to be that everyone who owns a farm or ranch will be forced into a situation where their children will be forced to sell or borrow against the farm or ranch to pay the "Death Taxes." Do nothing, and that could actually happen.

Recently, I heard an attorney, not an estate planning specialist, tell one of his clients not to worry about planning because the government is going to raise the estate tax exemption to 5 million per person. Coincidentally, there was a bill in Congress to do exactly that; unfortunately, it didn't pass. A CPA told me that he was counseling his clients to wait until Congress sets the exemption before they begin planning so they know exactly what to plan for. The problem with that kind of advice is that valuable years are wasted waiting for something to happen that is completely out of our control. Plan for the worst and hope for the best.

The current law of the land says that the 2006 through 2008 estate tax exemptions are \$2,000,000 per person. In 2009, the exemption increases to \$3,500,000 per person. There is no "Death Tax" or step up in cost basis in 2010. In 2011, the exemption falls back to \$1,000,000 per person. Up to this point, all of the legislation has dealt with eliminating estate tax altogether or making sure that there is a "Death Tax" in 2010 and thereafter. My personal opinion is that Congress will wait until 2008 or 2009 before they pass legislation for 2010 and beyond. I wouldn't be surprised to see a "permanent" per person exemption somewhere in the \$3,000,000 to \$3,500,000

range. Unfortunately, no one knows what is going to happen with the "Death Tax." What we do know is that our land has been increasing in value every year and that is the problem.

The best time to start estate planning is the age you are right now so that you can make maximum use of the years that you have left, however many there are. The reality is that planning can either eliminate or significantly reduce the "Death Tax" depending on what you want to have happen down the road. Worst case, you can set up a vehicle that your heirs can use to pay potential "Death Taxes". Most people don't think about estate planning until they have health problems and they can't put it off any longer. The majority of these people are in their 60's or older. It is amazing what can be accomplished over the span of ten or twenty years had they thought about planning in their 40's or 50's. It is also amazing how much the value of real estate goes up in that time span based on what has happened in the past. Of course, past performance does not guarantee future results.

The typical scenario is a husband and wife who own most of their assets, especially the large assets like real estate, as joint tenants with rights of survivorship (JTROS). They usually each have wills that say that upon their death, they want their half of the assets to go to their spouse and/or kids. Since asset titling takes precedence over wills, the half does not go the kids, it goes to the surviving spouse. Due to the unlimited marital deduction, there are no "Death Taxes" due on the first death. Unfortunately, the deceased spouse's "Death Tax" exemption is not used and is lost forever. In 2006, if your place is worth \$4,000,000 based on the IRS definition of "highest and best use valuation", losing the deceased spouse's exemption could potentially cost your kids around \$1,000,000 in "Death

Taxes" under the current law. If you do nothing else, at least make sure that your estate plan allows you to make maximum use of both spouse's "Death Tax" exemptions. There are things that the surviving spouse can do to take advantage of the deceased spouse's exemption but they have to be done within 9 months from the date of death. Most surviving spouses have enough to deal with emotionally and aren't able to make big financial decisions in that time frame. Failing to plan is planning to fail.

Doing anything is better than doing nothing. It doesn't matter if you want to pass your place to your children or you want to sell it. There are a number of strategies you can take advantage of if you don't wait until it is too late. If you want to sell your place, you can reduce or eliminate capital gains tax and reduce or eliminate the "Death Tax" if you just take the steps to find out what options are available to you in advance.

Do you want to fix the fence before the cows get out or let the cows find the hole and spend half a day getting them back in and then fix the fence? Should you grease the swather before you cut hay or spend the time replacing a bearing and then grease the swather? In my opinion, the "Death Tax" is not a fair tax but it is the law of the land. You can stick your head in the sand and hope it goes away or plan to deal with it. The cost to plan pales in comparison to the potential "Death Taxes," probate, administrative costs and family heartache. It is up to you.

Lyle Baumann is a financial advisor with Waddell & Reed Inc. and can be reached at 406-652-7744. Please note that Waddell & Reed does not provide legal or tax advice. Please consult a qualified professional prior to making financial decisions.

Proof of NAFTA's Failure *An editorial by J. Randall Stevenson*

(November 13, 2006) NAFTA is a failure. That comes as no surprise to some people but now the best evidence is a project promoted as the NAFTA Highway. When NAFTA was created there was debate over whether it would produce prosperity for Mexico. If it did, as its proponents argued, then it would go a long way toward solving the illegal immigration problem. Critics were dubious of such vaulted expectations. Now comes proof of the critics predictions.

The proposed NAFTA Highway would run from Lazaro Cardenas in Mexico to Kansas City. Further expansions would ultimately take it into Mexico. The reason for the highway would not be to bring cheap goods into the U.S. from Mexico. If it were, then we would have to say that NAFTA had achieved a degree of success. NAFTA was created in part to make sure that the U.S., Canada, and Mexico would be competitive in the world markets with Asia. The NAFTA Highway is a con-

cession to defeat.

The plan is to make Lazaro Cardenas into a gigantic container ship terminal to unload cargo from China. Wal-Mart has teamed up with a Chinese based company to expand the port. It is expected that the port will be necessary to accommodate the ever-increasing level of Chinese imports that ports on the west coast of the U.S. will be unable to handle. Manufacturing jobs leaving the U.S. are not going to Mexico. But the "giant sucking sound" of jobs leaving will indeed go south. It will then continue on through Lazaro Cardenas to China.

Mexican laborers will still be left in poverty, beat out of their own game by even cheaper Chinese labor. Their best hope for better paying jobs will lie north, the hope looking ever brighter in contrast to their own growing impoverishment. Yes, the very proponents of NAFTA are confessing to its failure, not in words, but by their actions.

D.C. office get new phone, fax numbers

Please update your contact information for the R-CALF USA office in Washington D.C. Jess Peterson, our Director of Government Relations, can now be reached at telephone 202-202-387-2180 and fax 202-387-2181.

Food for Thought...

"Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value." ~ Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

How to submit policy resolutions

R-CALF USA is a producers-driven and producer-directed, with a one-member/one-vote system for members who own cattle. All our policy is proposed, refined, and voted on by our membership. Thus, every member plays a vital role in determining the future path of R-CALF USA.

If you wish to submit any policy resolution for consideration at the 2007 National Convention, please see the following guidelines. Please note that policy may be offered by current dues-paying, cattle-owning members only. If you need to know if your dues are current, call the national office at 406-252-2516.

Prior to Convention

All proposed policy resolutions must be submitted to the national office by January 16, 2007. Resolutions may be submitted by fax, postal mail, or e-mail to:

R-CALF USA
PO Box 30715
Billings, MT 59107
Fax: 406-252-3176
E-mail: r-calfusa@r-calfusa.com

Please include "Policy Resolution" in the subject line of your e-mail.

At Convention

All policy must be submitted by Friday at 1:00 p.m., with the exception of trade policy, which will be accepted until Friday at 5:00 p.m. Please bring your proposed policy resolutions to the registration desk.

Questions about how to format your resolution? Would you like a copy of existing policy? Call the national office at 406-252-2516.

Scholarship recipients... (Continued from page 2)

and, Craig Grub, of Medical Lake, Wash.

The scholarship is funded through private donations and the sale of artwork commissioned specifically for the program. "Guardians of the Next Generation," an original pencil drawing by Montana artist Don Greytak, was introduced during R-CALF USA's 2006 convention. A limited number of prints are still available for \$150 each. For more information, contact the R-CALF USA national office, at 406-252-2516.

"A Woman's Touch," an original painting by Virgil Stevens, will be unveiled at the 2007 R-CALF USA convention. Proceeds from the sale of the artwork support the Leo and Sam McDonnell Scholarship Fund, and contributions above the fair-market value of each print are tax deductible under USA FREE's non-profit status.

Voluntary animal ID... (Continued from page 1)

eradicating existing diseases in the United States," Kiker explained. "R-CALF USA's Animal ID Committee, headed by veterinarian Richard Bowman, continues to work with USDA and producers to find ways to incorporate existing ID systems into the NAIS.

"We also want to make sure that state animal health officials are in control of the system in their given state," he said. "R-CALF's No.1 priority on Animal ID was to keep it voluntary. That was the most reiterated comment we heard in the countryside.

"Several R-CALF leaders have worked for many months with various USDA officials to prevent implementation of a mandatory animal identification system, and USDA's recent decision shows that this organization has made progress," Kiker concluded. "We want USDA to know we appreciate their attention to our concerns and we appreciate that those officials listened to, and took to heart, what livestock producers around the U.S. had to say on this important matter."

"Members of R-CALF will continue to remain engaged in dialogue with USDA, as well as state and local animal health officials, to try to improve an animal tracking system that will meet the needs for animal disease traceback, and keep in mind the acceptability and the costs to individual animal producers," Bowman added.

Become a member or recruit a friend!

Do you own cattle? Yes No

R-CALF USA Membership
1 year \$ 50.00/member _____
3 years \$140.00/member _____

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

County _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Credit Card # _____

Visa _____ MC _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

- Voting members must own cattle. Annual voting dues are \$50.00 per year per member (one member/one vote).
- Associate members do not own cattle and do not have voting rights.

Please mail application and dues (check, money order, or credit card information) to the address below. Contributions or gifts to R-CALF USA are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. However, they may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.

Recruited by _____

R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America

P.O. Box 30715, Billings, MT 59107

Phone: 406-252-2516, Fax: 406-252-3176

R-CALF USA Seventh Annual National Convention - Tentative Convention Schedule

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Noon Trade Show set-up
Registration opens

1:00 p.m. Property Rights committee Program—Chair and MC Kimmi Lewis

3:00 Afternoon Break

5:30 Affiliate Council Meeting

6:30 Reception sponsored by Colorado Independent Cattle Growers

Thursday, January 18, 2007

7:00 a.m. Registration opens

8:00 Trade Show opens
Membership Committee Meeting
Convention Opening
National Anthem
Pledge of Allegiance
Welcome to Colorado

8:30 Convention rules by Dr. Max Thornsberry, Convention Chair,
Parliamentarian
All policy must be submitted by Friday at 1:00 p.m.
Trade policy by Friday at 5:00 p.m.

8:40 Opening comments by R-CALF USA President Chuck Kiker

9:00 Affiliate Council Report—Max Thornsberry, Chair
Membership Committee Report—Judie Manual and Margene
Eiguren, Co-Chairs
Cattlemen's Journal USA and R-CALF USA member profile—Matt
Lane, Publisher
CEO Report—Bill Bullard, CEO
D.C. Update—Jess Peterson, Director of Government Relations

10:00 Morning Break and Trade Show

10:30 Animal Health—Max Thornsberry
Maintaining a National Brucellosis Program—Dr. Watson
BSE Panel

Noon Luncheon and speaker

1:30 National ID Panel—Richard Bowman, Chair
Dr. John Clifford, USDA
Panel Discussion with Industry leaders

3:00 Afternoon Break and Trade Show

3:30 Check-off Committee Update—Jim Hanna
Randall Jones, USDA Associate Deputy Administrator for AMS
Panel Discussion on Checkoff and Task Force

4:45 Committee breakouts for policy development

5:30 Trade Show, Silent Auction, and Cowboy Social

6:00 Depart for the National Western Rodeo

7:00 National Western Rodeo

Friday, January 19, 2007

7:00 a.m. Registration Opens
Regional Caucuses with buffet breakfast

8:00 Trade Show Opens

8:00 COOL Committee Report—Danni Beer, Chair
Panel discussion by industry leaders and
consumers

9:00 **USDA Ag Secretary Mike Johanns, Honorary Speaker**

9:45 Morning Break

10:15 Marketing Committee Update and Panel—Randy Stevenson

11:15 Farm Bill Opportunities Panel

Noon Luncheon and speaker

1:30 p.m. Trade Committee Update and Panel—Doug Zalesky

3:00 Afternoon break

3:30 Market Outlook—Charlie McVain

4:30 Policy development

5:00 Trade Show, Silent Auction, and Cowboy Social

7:00 Banquet and Awards Presentation
Awards: Top Hand and Wheel Horse
Scholarships
Print Auction and Saddle Auction
Entertainment by Coyote Moon

Saturday, January 20, 2007

8:00 a.m. Registration opens

8:30 Ranching in Australia—Danni Beer, COOL Committee Chair

9:00 Staff Reports

9:30 Second Reading of Policy—*only policy introduced by 5:00 p.m.*
Friday will be considered
Director Nominations for Regions VII, VIII, and IX

Noon Luncheon—Closing remarks Chuck Kiker, President

R-CALF USA Eighth Annual National Convention - Denver, Colorado

Convention Registration

R-CALF USA encourages convention-goers to register early to take advantage of reduced registration rates. There are a limited number of meals available and registration after Jan. 10, 2007 increases to \$70.00. To guarantee your place at convention at a great rate, pre-register by mail or telephone at 406-252-2516.

This year, our convention will be at the Doubletree Hotel Denver, 3203 Quebec Street, Denver, Colo. Take advantage of special reduced room rates—\$72.00 plus tax for single or double occupancy.

Reduced rate cut-off date is January 1, 2007, so reserve your room early!

Guests wishing to arrive early may do so starting January 15, 2007 and depart as late as January 21, 2007, based on availability. Please contact the Doubletree Hotel Denver directly at 303-321-3333 and ask for the R-CALF rate. The Doubletree Hotel Denver is minutes from downtown Denver and the Denver Convention Center. The full service hotel, centrally located just south of I-70, provides scheduled,

complimentary shuttle service to and from *Denver International Airport* and downtown Denver, as well as free parking at the hotel. Spacious guest rooms and suites feature all the comforts of home and high-speed internet access.

In addition to excellent speakers and industry experts, attendees can take part in our Trade Show, evening banquets, and entertainment. Once again, R-CALF USA will be holding both silent and live auction fundraisers, and members are encouraged to donate items or services. Past conventions' auctions included apparel, tack, house wares, veterinary supplies, supplements, oil changes and repair services, and registered semen. All donors are granted an additional year of membership for their generosity.

To make a donation, ship your auction item to R-CALF USA, 155 S. 18th St. and Minnesota Ave., Billings, MT 59101 by January 12, 2007 or bring your item to the registration desk at convention.

Registration	Cost	# of Attendees	Sub-total
Conference Pre-registration Cost (Registration after Jan. 10, 2007 is \$70.00)	\$60.00 X	_____ = \$	_____
Meals			
Thursday Lunch (Beef Tips over Rice)*	\$13.00 X	_____ = \$	_____
R-CALF USA Night at the National Western Rodeo	\$12.00 X	_____ = \$	_____
Friday Plated Breakfast*	\$13.00 X	_____ = \$	_____
Lunch (Country Fried Steak)*	\$13.25 X	_____ = \$	_____
Banquet (Prime Rib)*	\$28.50 X	_____ = \$	_____
Saturday Lunch (Roast Beef)*	\$13.00 X	_____ = \$	_____
			Total \$ _____

*Meals must be guaranteed 48 hours prior to the conference. Extra meals may not be available at registration on Jan. 17-20. Price includes gratuity and all applicable taxes.

Name _____ Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Payment: Check Visa MasterCard Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date _____ Name on Card _____

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Mail payment and registration to: R-CALF USA, 2007 National Convention, P.O. Box 30715, Billings, MT 59107.



The Cattlemen's Newsletter

R-CALF USA National Office
P.O. Box 30715
Billings, MT 59107
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USA FREE Presents

The Leo and Sam McDonnell Scholarship Foundation

This scholarship has been named in tribute to Leo and Sam McDonnell, and their legendary leadership in R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA). It is our hope future generations of cattle producers will follow in the footsteps of R-CALF USA's great leaders. With our sights set on the future, we would like to encourage and assist our future leaders achieve their educational goals. Purchase your 22.5"x 30" edition of "Guardians of the Next Generation," a pencil sketch print by Don Greytak.

Artist Proofs (will feature your brand)	\$1,000.00
Limited Edition Prints	\$150.00

All print proceeds benefit The Leo and Sam McDonnell Scholarship Foundation. Make your check payable to USA FREE and send to: R-CALF USA, Attn: Scholarship Print Fund, PO Box 30715, Billings, MT 59107.

Important Notice!

Special Reduced Room Rate Extended!

The Doubletree Hotel Denver, 3203 Quebec Street, Denver, Colo., has generously agreed to extend reduced pricing for our convention. Take advantage of special reduced room rates—\$72.00 plus tax for single or double occupancy.

Reduced rate cut-off date is *January 1, 2007*, so reserve your room early!

Guests wishing to arrive early may do so starting January 15, 2007 and depart as late as January 21, 2007, based on availability. Please contact the Doubletree Hotel Denver directly at 303-321-3333 and ask for the R-CALF rate. The Doubletree Hotel Denver is minutes from downtown Denver and the Denver Convention Center. The full service hotel, centrally located just south of I-70, provides scheduled, complimentary shuttle service to and from *Denver International Airport* and downtown Denver, as well as free parking at the hotel. Spacious guest rooms and suites feature all the comforts of home and high-speed internet access.

If you have any questions or did not receive a reduced rate, please contact the national office at 406-252-2516.