

# Cattlemen's Newsletter

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2 March/April 2015

## R-CALF USA Leadership

Region I - Maxine Korman  
AK, ID, MT, OR, WA  
Region II - Dr. Taylor Haynes  
CO, UT, WY  
Region III / Board President  
Bryan Hanson; NE, ND, SD  
Region IV - Jay Platt  
AZ, NM  
Region V - Cheryl Moore  
Texas  
Region VI / Vice -President  
Mike Schultz; KS, MO, OK  
Region VII - Kevin Kirschbaum  
IA, MN, WI  
Region VIII - Darol Dickinson  
KY, TN, OH, WV  
Region IX - Vacant  
AL, FL, GA  
Region X - James McCuen  
Native American Tribes  
Region XI - Jerry Long, DVM  
CA, HA, NV  
Region XII - Bill Adams  
AR, LA, MS  
Region XIII - Alan Pruitt  
MD, NC, SC, VA  
Region XIV - Jaime Oberling  
IL, IN, MI  
Region XV - Forney Longenecker  
CT, DE, MA, ME, NH,  
NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT  
Animal Health - Jerry Long, DVM  
Animal ID - Kenny Fox  
Checkoff - Joe Pongratz  
COOL - Mike Schultz  
Marketing - Gerald Schreiber  
Membership - Herman Schumacher  
Private Property Rights -  
Chad Scott & Craig Shaver  
Sheep - Bill Kluck  
Trade - Reed Kelley

## South Korea's FMD Outbreaks Continue Despite APHIS' Claims That They Would Not

In a report submitted this week to the World Organization for Animal Health (commonly known by its French acronym "OIE"), the government of South Korea reports that the 77 outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (FMD) that started in that country in December 2014 are ongoing.

The report indicates that South Korea has thus far destroyed 65,951 head of swine and 4 head of cattle as a result of the outbreaks.

South Korea cannot identify the source of this latest FMD outbreak but has implemented measures such as control of wildlife reservoirs, movement control inside the country, vaccination, and stamping-out (destroying) livestock in an effort to arrest the ongoing spread of FMD.

In a 2008 risk assessment completed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the agency emphatically stated that South Korea has implemented all necessary disease prevention measures necessary for "maintaining the Republic of Korea (South Korea) as free of FMD."

Within three months of APHIS' optimistic prediction, South Korea had another outbreak of FMD, that one starting in January 2009.

In 2010 through 2011 South Korea had 155 outbreaks of FMD that resulted in the destruction of 331,135 swine, cattle and goats.

Using the same methodology employed in its inaccurate risk assessment for South Korea, APHIS subsequently completed risk assessments for FMD-affected Brazil and Argentina, claiming that they too have implemented all the necessary disease prevention

measures for maintaining themselves free of FMD.

Based on these risk assessments, APHIS is now proposing to allow Brazil and Argentina to export fresh beef and pork to the United States, products that are known to transmit the FMD virus from one country to another.

R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard said the South Korea experience, with three major FMD outbreaks occurring within six years after APHIS said they would not, "demonstrates that APHIS is incapable of predicting when an FMD outbreak will reoccur in a country where the disease is known to exist."

"For this reason APHIS should immediately abandon its proposed rules that would relax our FMD protections against Brazil and Argentina," Bullard added.

## R-CALF USA Helps Promote COOL to White House Domestic Policy Council

In a meeting recently with White House Domestic Policy Council staff, R-CALF USA and other farm and consumer groups urged that President Obama direct his U.S. Trade Representative, Michael Frohman, and his Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, to steadfastly defend the United States' recently implemented country of origin labeling (COOL) law and regulations.

The White House Domestic Policy Council is responsible for ensuring that domestic policy decisions and programs are consistent with the President's stated goals and it monitors the implementation of the President's domestic policy agenda.

"Our message was that if the President successfully defends COOL, then COOL will become the only livestock competition-related campaign promise the President will have achieved during his two terms in office," said R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard.

Referencing the President's abandonment

of his campaign promises to better enforce antitrust laws and restore competition in U.S. livestock markets, Bullard said COOL is the only significant livestock competition reform still on the table.

The COOL law and its implementing regulations were recently upheld on constitutional and statutory grounds by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The favorable COOL ruling arose from a 2013 lawsuit filed by domestic and foreign meatpackers and their allies.

While COOL has been upheld by U.S. courts, Bullard said an appeal is underway at the World Trade Organization (WTO) to determine if the international tribunal will recognize the United States' sovereign right to inform consumers about the origins of their food.

Bullard explained that congressionally-passed domestic laws like COOL are also susceptible to being undermined in trade

agreements. He said about 80 percent of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement involves rewriting domestic policies, including food safety, and that the President must not allow his trade negotiators to weaken COOL in the TPP or in any other trade agreement.

"We need the President and his Cabinet to send a strong message to the WTO, to Congress and to other countries that the U.S. will maintain its robust and accurate food labeling system that informs consumers as to where their meat products were born, where they were raised, and where they were slaughtered.

"This may be our last opportunity to meet face-to-face with the President's Domestic Policy Council on this issue and we hope they have listened and will carry out our united request," concluded Bullard.

## Customers Worldwide Demonstrate Importance of Knowing the Origin of Beef

At least five importing nations have imposed import restrictions on beef and beef-related products in response to Canada's detection earlier this month of a 71-month-old beef cow infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease). The major beef importing nations of South Korea and Taiwan along with Peru, Belarus and Indonesia all have imposed import restrictions on Canadian-origin beef and beef related products.

"The actions by these five countries demonstrate that consumers the world over not only have an interest in knowing the country of origin of the beef they purchase; but also, they make purchasing decisions based on country of origin information," said R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard whose organization successfully defended the U.S. country of origin labeling (COOL) law at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

However, Bullard says opponents are undeterred by real-world facts in their quest to ultimately overturn the U.S.

COOL law in Congress.

For example, a recent news article by NET News/Harvest Public Media (PBS/NPR) states that research by Kansas State University agricultural economist Glynn Tonsor indicated that "country of origin isn't really influencing what people buy."

The same article quoted Mark Dopp of the North American Meat Institute as saying that country of origin labels do not have anything to do with food safety.

In a recent Tri-State Livestock News article, COOL opponent Colin Woodall of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) was quoted as saying that COOL has 'nothing the producer is looking for' and that there is 'no benefit to consumers.'

"This anti-COOL rhetoric is nonsensical and debunked by the many countries that have now expressed their concerns over the safety of Canada's beef supply and have acted on those concerns by imposing bans on Canadian-origin beef,"

Bullard said.

The United States has not yet restricted Canadian beef imports even though Canada cannot explain how a relatively young beef cow born 12 years after Canada implemented what it claimed was an effective feed ban and nearly two years after Canada upgraded that feed ban - which is the country's primary defense against the spread of BSE - was nevertheless infected with classical BSE.

"If U.S. consumers wish to avoid Canadian-origin beef pending Canada's official answer to this ongoing mystery, they can do so today by looking for the country of origin label on their meat purchases," explained Bullard.

"It is a travesty that the government of Canada and the meatpacking lobby here in the U.S. are tag-teaming in Congress to deprive U.S. consumers of their right to know the origins of their beef," he added.

## R-CALF USA to House Ag Subcommittee: Do Not Weaken COOL

In written testimony submitted for a recent hearing on meat labeling requirements held by the U.S. House Agriculture subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture, R-CALF USA urged subcommittee members to take no action that would in any way undermine the U.S. country of origin labeling (COOL) law.

First, the group argued that disclosure of country of origin information matters in a free and competitive society. R-CALF USA cited the official rules of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture that require witnesses to disclose the country of origin of any payment or contract received by a witness that appears before the Committee.

"Just as the non-disclosure of the county of origin of payments and contracts would impair the ability of the House Committee on Agriculture to discover the truth in hearing matters, so too would the non-disclosure of meat derived from imported animals impair the ability of the marketplace to convey truthful information to consumers," the testimony states.

Second, the group argued that any weakening of COOL would severely reduce marketplace competition that has already been severely eroded by unprecedented marketplace consolidation. According to the testimony, without COOL the meatpackers, rather than consumers, would be empowered to unilaterally decide from which country to source the livestock and meat necessary to satisfy consumer demand, "regardless of the consumers' potential concerns regarding differences in the food safety regimes of various foreign countries."

R-CALF USA also argued that COOL was producing the results that it had predicted. The group cited a study by Oklahoma State University that found that consumers valued cattle born or born and raised in Canada between \$0.89 and \$1.05 less, respectively, than beef that was born, raised, and slaughtered in the U.S. It also cited a U.S. Department of Agriculture study that found that consumers are willing to pay more for beef produced entirely within the United States.

Third, R-CALF USA argued that because the WTO was an advocacy group that was actively promoting its own "Made in the World" labeling regime, and because the WTO assigned a Mexican national to preside over the COOL case in which Mexico was a party, the WTO was conflicted and should not be relied upon to make an unbiased ruling regarding COOL.

Finally, R-CALF USA argued that Congress must continue upholding COOL to ensure that imported meat is no longer allowed to deceptively assume the positive reputations of U.S. farmers and ranchers through non-disclosure of the meat's origins.

"With COOL, consumers know under which country's production regime the animal from which the meat they purchase for their families was derived was born, raised and slaughtered. No longer can meat from animals born and/or raised in a foreign country be passed off to unsuspecting U.S. consumers as meat deserving of the U.S. farmers' and ranchers' reputation," the testimony concludes.

## R-CALF USA Newsletter Alert: White House Call-in Day Scheduled for Week of May 4, 2015

Dear Members and Affiliates,

In our last newsletter we celebrated our hard-won victory – our U.S. judicial system had just upheld our country of origin labeling (COOL) law and regulations. Specifically, we won a decisive legal decision in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit that ruled that COOL was in full compliance with our U.S. Constitution and that Congress had properly authorized the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to write the implementing regulations for the law.

COOL remains the law of *our* land!

But, we are such an open nation. We invite foreign organizations and foreign governments to sue our own U.S. government through our U.S. judicial system. That is why three foreign livestock groups: Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Canadian Pork Council, and Confederación Nacional de Organizaciones Ganaderas (Mexico's cattle association), were allowed to join with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and the rest of the meatpacker lobby to file their lawsuit against COOL. That is also why the Government of Canada and the United Mexican States (Mexico) were each allowed to submit court briefs in opposition to our COOL law and regulations.

They lost!

If a United States' organization like R-CALF USA loses a case in our U.S. judicial system, it is over. Our Constitution does not provide U.S. citizens or U.S. organizations with a higher governmental authority for which to overturn a constitutional-based court decision.

But, strangely, we grant foreign organizations and foreign governments special treatment. Not only are these foreign entities allowed to sue the United States government in our U.S. judicial system, but also, if they don't like our court's decision, they can take their grievance to what is fast becoming a higher governmental authority. That higher governmental authority, of course, is the World Trade Organization (WTO), an international tribunal comprised of global bureaucrats that are neither elected nor appointed by Congress or our President.

This is crazy!

Crazy but true. Congress and the President have ceded a huge swath of U.S. sovereignty to a One-World Government that is not accountable to either Congress or the President. Worse, this One-World Government can cause our entire Congress and our President to: first, quiver in their boots when the WTO issues a ruling that undermine our domestic laws; and, second, fall all over themselves in a frantic rush to repeal our Constitution-based domestic laws that the WTO does not approve.

So here we are!

The WTO has now ruled in favor of Canada and Mexico by ruling against COOL three times and a fourth ruling is expected any time before May 18, 2015. It is more likely than not that the WTO will again rule against COOL, though it likely will also narrow its attack just as it has done in each of its previous rulings.

The leadership in the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate are already kowtowing to the One-World Government and they are beating the drums to repeal COOL. Legislation could be introduced soon.

What to do?

In short, we need to demand that our mealy-mouthed Congress and President cowboy up.

Here's the plan:

We will have a White House call-in day during the week of May 4, 2015. If you do not hear from us beforehand, please pick a day early in that week and make your call. We are working with about one-hundred other groups that support COOL to generate 10,000 or more calls during that week that will each deliver the same strong message:

"The President must not allow any changes to be made to our U.S. COOL law."

During the week of May 4, please call the White House at (202) 456-1111 to deliver your message. If the lines are busy, keep trying. Also, to be sure your message will be delivered to the President, give the person you talk to your phone number and then ask them to read your number back to you to be sure they have it correct. This way the person who answers will be more likely to forward your message to the right people in the White House and you may get a call back.

Sincerely,



Bill Bullard

## 32 Groups Denounce Beef Checkoff MOU; Call for Investigation into Unlawful Use of Checkoff Funds

Today 32 groups sent a letter urging U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and the chairmen and ranking members of both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate agriculture committees to reject the newest proposal to double the assessment rate for the federally mandated Beef Checkoff Program and investigate the group's allegation that Beef Checkoff Program funds are being used unlawfully to support the rate increase.

On Friday the U.S. Department of Agriculture- (USDA-) sanctioned Beef Checkoff Enhancement Working Group (Industry Working Group) announced that it had reached an internal agreement to begin lobbying for the rate increase.

The rate increase was recommended by the Beef Checkoff Program's Federation of State Beef Councils (Federation), an organization that is funded by the Beef Checkoff Program and prohibited from using checkoff funds to lobby for rate increases.

The letter by the 32 groups alleges that the Federation has engaged in unlawful lobbying activities by actively recommending that U.S. cattle producers support the Industry Working Group's proposal to increase the checkoff assessment.

The 32 groups' letter also expressed frustration regarding Vilsack's refusal to address the "offensive and glaring conflicts of interest" within the Beef Checkoff Program and his inaction on their collective desire to amend the program to allow U.S. farmers and ranchers to begin promoting their exclusively USA beef.

In support of their conflicts of interest claims, the 32 groups state that the primary recipient of Beef Checkoff Program funds, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), controls the entity that decides how funds will

be spent; uses funds to offset its organizational costs; and, is accorded a distinct lobbying advantage by aligning itself with the positive brand identification associated with the well-known Beef Checkoff Program.

To restore the purpose of the Beef Checkoff Program to that of being an equal and non-ideological benefit to all producers, the 32 groups urged government officials to:

1. Enforce the prohibition against conflicts of interest in contracting and all other decision-making operations of the Beef Checkoff Program.
2. Enforce a prohibition against the Beef Checkoff Program contracting with organizations that engage in policy-oriented activities.
3. Require a legally independent Federation, without affiliation to NCBA or any other pri-vate entity.

The 32 groups that signed the letter include state, regional and national organizations that directly represent the interests of cattle farmers and ranchers who are currently required by law to pay \$1 for every head of cattle they sell to the national Beef Checkoff Program. Also included is a national group representing consumers who are the targets of the Beef Checkoff Programs marketing efforts. The groups include:

American Agriculture Movement; American Grassfed Assn.; Ashtabula Geauga Lake Counties Farmers Union (OH); Buckeye Quality Beef Association, Inc. (OH); California Farmers Union; Cattle Producers of Louisiana; Colorado Independent Cattle-Growers Assn.; Family Farm De-fenders; Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance; Food & Water Watch; Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska; Independent Cattlemen of Wyoming; International Texas Longhorn Assn.; Missouri Farmers Union; Missouri Rural Crisis Center; Missouri's Best Beef Co-Operative; Murray County, Oklahoma, Independent Cattlemen's Assn.; National Association of Farm Animal Welfare; National Farmers Organization; Na-

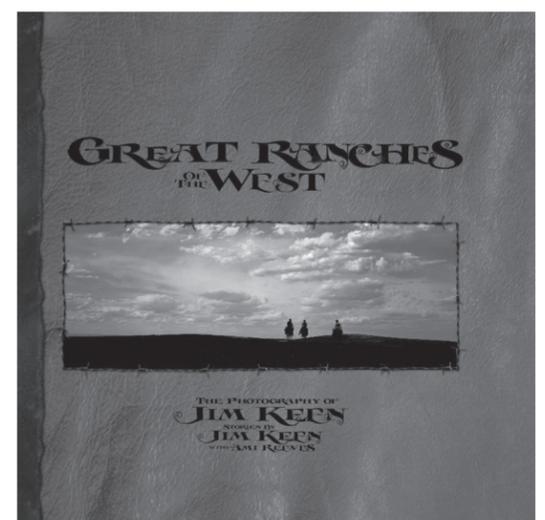
tional Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Assn.; Nebraska Farmers Union; Nebraska Women Involved in Farm Economics; Nevada Live Stock Assn.; Northern Plains Resource Council; Northern Wisconsin Beef Producers Association; Ohio Farm-ers Union; Organization for Competitive Markets; Powder River Basin Resource Council; R-CALF USA; Rocky Mountain Farmers Union; South Dakota Stockgrowers Assn.; and, Western Organization of Resource Councils.

## Great Ranches of the West

This beautiful coffee table book shares pictures and stories of ranches in 17 states. And with each book purchased, R-CALF USA receives a \$20 donation!

**Order:** By phone 406-252-2516, at [www.r-calfusa.com](http://www.r-calfusa.com) or by mailing a check for \$35 to R-CALF USA.

Box 30715 Billings, MT 59107



## CHECKOFF CORNER

Joe Pongratz is the chair of R-CALF USA's Checkoff Committee. I am writing this to bring everybody up to date as to what is happening in regards to the Beef Checkoff program.



Hello All

I know it's a busy time with calving and farming. So short and to the point:

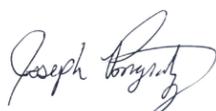
R-CALF USA has launched a campaign to fight against the Industry Working Group Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Please see the ad in the newsletter. We have tried all possible avenues, including sending a letter in opposition to the MOU with 32 organization's signatures with the USDA and this administration and are having no luck. We have showed them countless documentation that proves violations and corruption are running rampant in the Beef Checkoff and they re-

fuse to follow up with any of it. It has been very frustrating but we are continuing to work towards fixing the system one way or another.

Hopefully we will have some new news the next time I write. We have agreed to participate in some industry meetings but at this time nothing has been established. I will just say this: I hope that it leads the discussion to fix the checkoff and stop the MOU in the right direction.

So as I said before short and to the point!

Thank you all and have a great rest of spring



Joe Pongratz

**“Sustainability!”**

Op-Ed By Dr. Taylor Haynes



Taylor H. Haynes was raised on a produce farm in northwest Louisiana, but always dreamed and worked to be a real cowboy.

**“Sustainability!”**

This is the “buzzword” of the day. What does it mean? In Webster’s New International Dictionary, the definition of “Sustain” is to cause to continue (as in existence or a certain state, or in force or intensity); to keep up, especially without interruption diminution, flagging, etc.; to prolong.”

Enter the Global Round Table on Sustainable Beef production (GRSB). This group in general is made up of the largest retailers and largest multinational packers (just four of the largest packers control about 85% of all US beef . Fast-food giant McDonalds is leading the charge and a host of other hangers on who stand to profit if this monopsony-like scam is successful.

This concentration in meat packing, and in fact in much of our food production, presents a tremendous risk of disruption or contamination of our food supply by a terrorist attack or simple malfunction. It is antithetical to our entrepreneurial free enterprise system. In economics, a monopsony (from Ancient Greek μόνος (mónos) “single” + ὀψωνία (opsōnía) “purchase”) is a market form in which only one buyer interfaces with would-be sellers of a particular product. Thus, a monopsony creates one outlet for beef producers worldwide. The pretext, is safer more environmentally friendly beef production. Sounds good.

However, what of the track record of the members of GRSB?

The safety problems we’ve witnessed with beef production have all surfaced in meat packing plants with two notable exceptions. The first is Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (mad cow disease). This is a producer-feeder problem still prevalent in Canada. The other is Tuberculosis, which is still a problem in Mexican cattle. Country of origin labeling (COOL) is the consumer’s best friend in the supermarket as it empowers consumers to choose where they want their beef produced. Today, a growing number of independent cattle producers are selling direct to consumers and are providing a

highly reliable and safe product.

With an eye on mad cow disease, McDonalds is the largest foodservice buyer of Canadian beef. Canada’s latest case of classical “mad cow disease” was confirmed February 13, 2015. Five countries, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Peru and Belarus have banned imports of Canadian beef, while Indonesia placed temporary restrictions on some non-edible meat products, according to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Classical mad cow disease has been avoided in the American cow herd since the banning of ruminant by-products in animal feed in 1997. The only classical case of mad cow disease detected in the United States was a cow that had been imported from Canada.

Remember E.coli 0157? The millions of pounds of beef recalled in the past few years is a large meat packing problem.

The notion of electronic tracking of animals from birth to plate is nonsense on its face and in depth. The problems with E. coli, Listeria, and Salmonella, etc. begin with overcrowding and feeding unnatural diets in the feeding phase.

“People are feeding less than 10 per cent forage in their finishing diets. What we’re doing is transforming ruminants into monogastrics, and we can expect problems with that. That’s not in their biology”. (Gabriel Ribeiro visiting scientist at the Lethbridge Research Centre.)

This sets the stage for contamination in the large processing facilities where things move at inhuman speeds. There are already excellent animal identification systems present at the state level. We don’t see outbreaks of diseases threatening the health of animals or humans at the farm and ranch level in this country.

The problem is not on the American farm or ranch, the problem is the conglomerates. The push to electronically identify every cow in the world is simply a trap for the consumer and independent producer. Eventually this push will lead to the provisioning of only one source of cattle genetics for producers and one type of beef products for consumers. Ranchers already signed up are discovering that they cannot use their usual, trusted seed-stock producers. The end game of the multinationals is to eventually have factory-type cattle production in the USA. Thus, mimicking what they have wrought in the pork and poultry industries. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is a willing facilitator and party to this travesty. Its blind eye to the very poor meat packing practices while promoting the ridiculous notion of tracking animal movement on farms and ranches is the height of malfeasance.

Thus, by hyping the buzzword Sustainable they hope to distract consumers from their very poor job of meat processing. This allows them to feed their avarice without improving their practices.

With one word they wish to bypass and eliminate competition from the organic, all-natural and the grass-fed ranching operations that are associated with producing high quality beef. . This includes direct sales from producers to consumers. The USDA and electronic identification tags are the method to accomplish this heinous act.

With the above stated, what is the track record of agriculture in general?

During the “Neolithic Revolution” 11,700-12000 years B.C. evidence of agricultural pursuits began. This allowed the transition from “hunter-gatherer” (in the popular stream of thought) to organized societies with increasing populations. Societies have grown in population and have engaged in an increasing variety of pursuits. Thus in human terms and scope our agricultural history absolutely and unequivocally qualifies as sustainable.

Poor practices in animal or environmental care lead to producers going out of business in short order. It is a truly brutal and self regulating process. The system would be even more precise and efficient if the USDA was stopped from promoting further concentration of control by multinational meat packers.

In summary the group that has caused the most harm to our agricultural heritage is now attempting to take complete control of the food supply. At the center of their quest is domestic beef production, which is the last vestige of large scale, independent free enterprise production.

Call, email, or write your congressional representatives, Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack, The President’s staff for Agriculture, Michael Conway (R-Tex) Chairman House Agriculture Committee, David Rouzer (R-NC) chairman of the Livestock & Foreign Agriculture sub-Committee. Demand that the identification of animals on American farms and ranches by the USDA be stopped. The USDA should be banned from committing our tax monies for this purpose both domestically and abroad..

Your taking action will help protect your access to a safe, reliable and reasonably priced food source.



Taylor H. Haynes M.D.  
Wyoming Rancher  
Board Member R-CALF USA

**Please Consider Supporting USA FREE!**

Thanks to its 501(c)3 status, all donations to USA FREE are tax deductible as charitable contributions!



**Give a donation!**

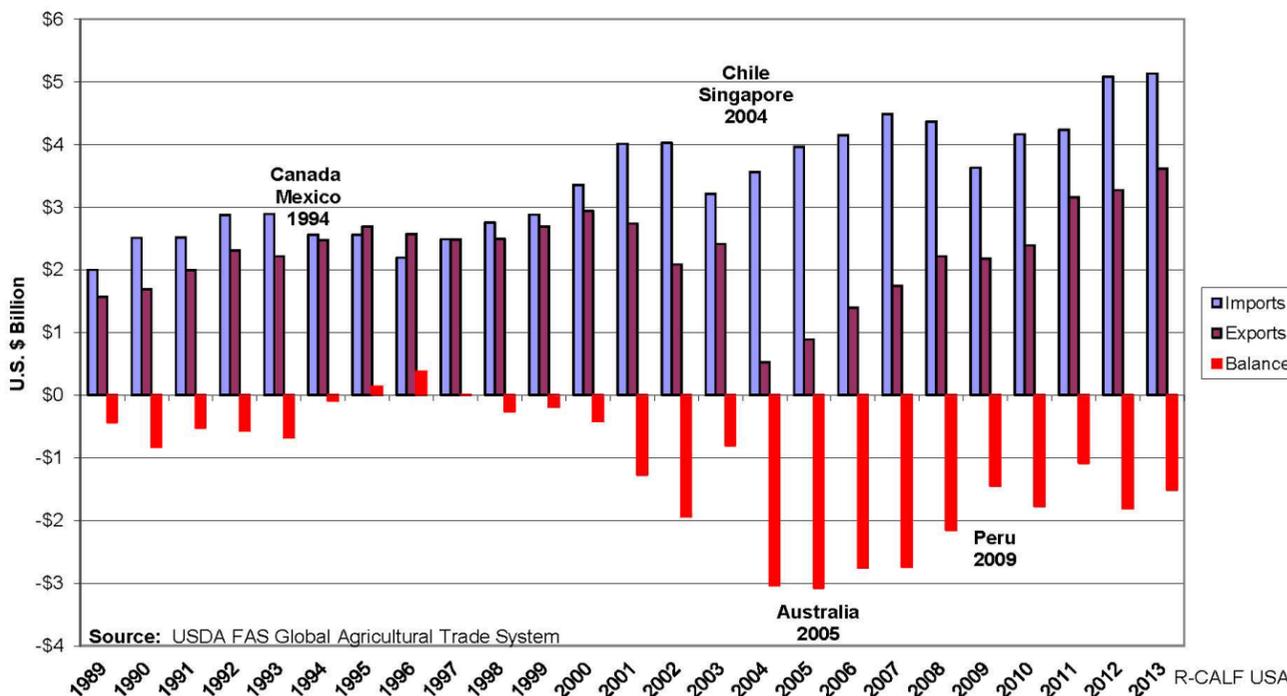
- One-time donations (cash/property)
- Recurring donations
- Bequests
- Gift Annuities
- Estate plans

**Shop on Amazon!**

Now you can support USA FREE by shopping on amazon through their Amazon Smiles campaign.

Type in [www.amazonsmiles.com](http://www.amazonsmiles.com) and then search for United Stockgrowers of America Foundation for Research, Education and Endowment. Then shop!

**U.S. Trade with Eleven Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Countries in Live Cattle, Beef, Beef Variety Meats and Processed Beef**  
25-Year Cumulative U.S. Trade Balance = \$28.8 Billion



Send flowers anywhere. Make an impact right here in Billings.

Take advantage of our **HELPING HANDS** program and we'll donate \$2 from each order to United Stockgrowers of America Foundation for Research Education & Endowment.

*Gainan's* 245-6434  
FLOWERS. GARDEN. HOME. [gainans.com](http://gainans.com)

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement includes the United States and the following 11 other countries: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. Combined, these 11 other countries have a cattle herd size of over 102 million cattle, which is larger than our U.S. herd size of 90 million cattle.

# Cattlemen's Newsletter

United Stockgrowers of America

March/April 2015

R-CALF USA  
PO Box 30715  
Billings, MT 59107  
406-252-2516

Every credit card sends you a statement.  
This card lets you make one.

Introducing the new R-CALF USA  
custom Visa Platinum Rewards Card.



- \$50 donation by the bank when you first use the card plus ongoing contributions.\*
- 0% Introductory APR on purchases and balance transfers for 6 months.\*\*
- Earn points and bonus points at hundreds of participating online and neighborhood retailers.
- Redeem points for name-brand merchandise, event tickets, gift cards or travel reward options.
- No annual fee and no additional cost to you.
- Enhanced Visa Platinum benefits, including 24/7 Emergency Customer Service and 100% Fraud Protection, Purchase security, Warranty Manager and much more.

\*Donation made when card is used once within 90 days of issuance. \*\*After this period a low variable APR will apply.

Call 1-406-252-2516 or go to [www.r-calfusa.com](http://www.r-calfusa.com) Today!

**BEEF**

®

**BEEF CHECKOFF  
forces Cattlemen  
to pay for own  
hanging rope!**

**THEY SAY THE  
COLT PEACEMAKER  
SETTLED THE WEST.**

AND now the West is a lawless place where  
meat packers rig the markets, and the cattlemen's  
own money from the Beef Checkoff is used to  
provide cover.

Big meat packers control the National Cattlemen's  
Beef Association and the NCBA controls the  
Beef Checkoff.

If the NCBA gets its way, we will lose even more  
ranchers. We'll be importing our beef, and the few  
ranchers that are left will be like chicken farmers  
- contract farming serfs.

It's time for the USDA to do its job - protect  
the marketplace and end NCBA's control of the  
Beef Checkoff.

**JOIN THE FIGHT TO END THE MISUSE OF THE BEEF CHECKOFF AND HELP RESTORE FAIR MARKETS.  
BECOME A MEMBER OF R-CALF USA AND SUPPORT THE WORK OF OCM.**

FIGHTING FOR THE U.S. CATTLE PRODUCER!



[R-CalfUSA.com](http://R-CalfUSA.com)

(406) 252-2516

**OCM**

Organization for  
Competitive Markets

[CompetitiveMarkets.com](http://CompetitiveMarkets.com)

To request  
colored  
copies  
contact  
the office.

Or down-  
load one  
from our  
website.