

# R-CALF USA's Accomplishments Timeline

**1998** - Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA) formed when 3 independent cattle ranchers launched an anti-dumping lawsuit against trading partners Canada and Mexico accusing them of exporting their products below market prices and production costs in the U.S. The group successfully convinced the U.S. Dept. of Commerce to implement anti-dumping tariffs against Canada. A year later, R-CALF USA was formed into a membership based organization.

**2008** - R-CALF USA stopped a merger between 2 of the "Big 4 Packers" (Brazilian-owned JBS and National Beef Packing Company).

**2010** - R-CALF USA caused the USDA Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) to issue rules to implement key provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921, a law designed to stop unfair cattle buying practices of the "Big Five Packers" because they were found guilty of engaging in anti-trust and monopoly violations.

**2016** - R-CALF USA caused the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee to initiate an investigation into the NAFTA import surge that occurred in late 2014 throughout 2015 causing the 2015-2016 price collapse, which worsened after Congress repealed mandatory COOL.

**2018** - As a result of R-CALF USA's Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) lawsuit filed in 2017, the federal court in its ruling stated that the repeal of COOL caused financial harm to U.S. cattle producers and that harm was traceable to USDA policy. The court said it can't do anything to aid ranchers and insisted that it requires executive or legislative action. This opens the door to reinstating mandatory COOL for beef under the new administration.

**2002** - R-CALF USA led the victory to pass mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) in the 2002 Farm Bill.

**2004 - 2008** R-CALF USA won three court-ordered injunctions to prevent the premature importation of Canadian beef and cattle following Canada's detection of mad cow disease. As a result, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) was forced to take additional steps to protect the U.S. cattle herd and U.S. consumers from mad cow disease. Canadian cattle imports were banned from the U.S. for longer than two years.

**2010** R-CALF USA stopped the ill-conceived mandatory electronic National Animal Identification System (NAIS). NAIS was supported by international trade organizations, ear tag manufacturers and multi-national meatpackers, and was all about controlling cattle farmers and ranchers and cattle markets, not about controlling and preventing animal diseases.

**2017 - 2018** - R-CALF USA won and upheld a preliminary injunction that determined Montana's state checkoff program violated the U.S. Constitution because it funded private speech without first obtaining the producer's consent. For the first time in history producers can choose to fund their state private checkoff entities. For the first time in over three decades, Independent Montana cattle producers have a choice to fund a private message that beef is beef no matter if its foreign or domestic. The next step is to make this a permanent injunction so that this law may be applied in other states and allow US cattle producers to promote and market their USA beef.