

# R-CALF USA 2026 National Convention Agenda

## *Fire in the Brand*

### **Tuesday, June 16**

- 3 – 7 p.m. Trade Show Set Up
- 3 p.m. Committee Meetings
- 5 p.m. Affiliate Council Meeting
- 6 p.m. **Welcome Reception** *Sponsored by American Stewards of Liberty*  
**Committee Reports**—Shad Sullivan, Property Rights; Kenny Fox, Animal ID; Brett Kenzy, Checkoff; Eric Gropper, Country-of-Origin Labeling; Max Thornsberry, Animal Health; Eric Nelson, Trade; and Bill Kluck, Sheep; and Theresa Fox, Membership  
Branding Party *Sponsored by W&W Ventures*

### **Wednesday, June 17**

- 6 a.m. Trade Show Set Up
- 7 a.m. Registration Open and Trade Show Open
- 8 a.m. Convention Welcome
- 8:30 a.m. **Annual Prayer Breakfast**—Dr. Max Thornsberry, Animal Health Chair; Former President
- 9:45 a.m. Trade Show Break *Sponsored by Kent Nutrition and Circle 5 Cow School*
- 10:30 a.m. **Connecting Consumers to American Beef**—Ben Spell, Founder and CEO, Good Ranchers *Sponsored by American Grassfed Association*
- 11:15 a.m. **The Power of a Dollar**—Brett Kenzy, South Dakota Rancher; Checkoff Chair; Former President *Sponsored by Rosebud Farmers Union Coop*
- 12 p.m. America 250 Lunch and Trade Show Break *Sponsored by Valentine Livestock Auction and Farm Credit Services of America*
- 1 p.m. **The Brand Still Burns: Reclaiming Food Sovereignty from the Ranch Up**—AJ Richards, Founder and CEO, From the Farm *Sponsored by Weldon Ranches*
- 2 p.m. **Ranchers Moving the Needle on Wolves**—Dave Duquette, Founder and Executive Director, Western Justice *Sponsored by Brock Livestock Co.*
- 2:45 p.m. Trade Show Break *Sponsored by Becker Ranch, Volk Ranch, and Huron Continental Marketing*
- 3:30 p.m. **Tariffs, Trade Policy, and Their Impact on American Ranchers**—Charles Benoit, Trade Counsel, Coalition for a Prosperous America
- 4:15 p.m. **The State of Independent Meat Processing in America**—Chris Young, Executive Director, American Association of Meat Processors
- 5 p.m. Trade Show Closed

- Hot Iron Happy Hour Sponsored by *Producers Livestock Marketing, Moly Manufacturing, K4 Cattle, and Farm Credit Services of America*  
 Branding Party Sponsored by *W&W Ventures*  
 6 p.m. For the Brand Banquet and Supper Sponsored by *Tri-State Livestock News*  
 Featuring an Evening with Lonesome Lands

## **Thursday, June 18**

- 8 a.m. Registration and Trade Show Open  
 R-CALF USA Membership Breakfast *Sponsored by Ft. Pierre Livestock Auction*  
**CEO Report**—Bill Bullard, CEO  
**Antitrust Litigation Update**—Patrick McGahan, Partner, Scott + Scott  
**EID Litigation Update**—John Vecchione, Senior Litigation Counsel,  
 New Civil Liberties Alliance
- 9:30 a.m. Trade Show Break *Sponsored by South Dakota Farmers Union,  
 Carruth Ranch, and Clark & Associates Land Brokers*
- 10:15 a.m. **EID Panel: Where Policy Meets Practice**—Dr. Jim Stangle, Veterinarian (SD);  
 Dr. Julie Trask, Veterinarian (SD); Kenny Fox, Animal ID Chair *Sponsored by  
 Independent Cattlemen of Wyoming*
- 11:30 a.m. **A Primer and Update on Federal Land Grazing**—Hayden Ballard, J.D.,  
 LL.M., M.S.; Utah/Arizona Rancher and Attorney *Sponsored by Korman Ranch*
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch *Sponsored by Ag West Feeds*  
**Competition and Buyer Power in the U.S. Beef Packing Industry**—T. Jake  
 Smith, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska–  
 Lincoln *Sponsored by Bar N Cattle*
- 1:10 p.m. Trade Show Break *Sponsored by Mobridge Livestock Market, Independent  
 Cattlemen of Wyoming, and The Cattle Business Weekly*
- 1:40 p.m. **Narco-Ranching and New World Screwworm**—Dr. Lora Bledsoe,  
 Policy Advisor, Office of Health Security, U.S. Department of Homeland  
 Security
- 2:25 p.m. **An Imperfect Perfect Vision**—Shad Sullivan, Texas/Colorado Rancher;  
 Property Rights Chair *Sponsored by Vander Wey Ranch*
- 3 p.m. Show Break *Sponsored by Trask Family Seeds*
- 3:10 p.m. Business Session, Board Nominations, and Policy Resolutions  
 Trade Show Closed
- 5 p.m. Ember Hour Social *Sponsored by Jenner Equipment, County Line Helicopter, Bar  
 N Cattle, and Leininger Ranch*
- 6 p.m. Denim and Diamonds Gala: Dinner, Auction, and Dance featuring JJ Kent and the  
 Aces and 8's *Sponsored by Weinreis Brothers*

*\*\*Agenda subject to change.*