

*Fighting for the U.S. Cattle Producer!*



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## **R-CALF USA's Major Contributions to the U.S. Cattle Industry (1998-2012)**

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1998-99: Filed an anti-dumping case with the U.S. Department of Commerce and won an initial ruling that found Canada was dumping cattle into the U.S. market. Temporary, offsetting tariffs were imposed. The temporary sanctions were later lifted by the U.S. International Trade Commission that determined the economic harm to the U.S. cattle industry was insufficient to warrant permanent sanctions.

2000-03: Passed mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) into U.S. law in the 2002 Farm Bill. COOL requires meat and fruit and vegetables to be labeled as to their origin. The USA-origin label was exclusively reserved for meat derived from animals exclusively born, raised and slaughtered in the United States.

Included a requirement in the Trade Act of 2002 that directs U.S. trade negotiators to seek import relief mechanisms in trade agreements for perishable and cyclical agricultural products like cattle and beef.

Blocked the proposal to import Australian feeder cattle into the United States based on the negative economic impact they would have on the U.S. cattle industry as well as risk of increasing the U.S.'s exposure to foreign animal diseases and pests.

Helped to pass the Continuing Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000 that allows funds collected from unfair trade practices to be paid to producers in the injured industry.

2004-06: Helped end the negotiations for the Free Trade Areas of the Americas (FTAA) agreement, which would have deregulated trade among and between nearly all countries in North America and South America.

Won a few concessions in the U.S.-Australian Free Trade Agreement including a safeguard that allows limits to be placed on Australian beef imports if domestic beef prices fall below 6.5 percent and an 18-year phase out on beef quotas.

Won a court-ordered injunction that prevented USDA from unlawfully allowing the importation of ground beef and processed beef into the U.S. from Canada after BSE was detected in that country. USDA did not contest the injunction.

Won a second court-ordered injunction against USDA's final rule to allow the importation of beef and cattle from Canada while Canada was still detecting BSE in its cattle herd. This second injunction was later overturned by an appellate court.

2007-09: Won a third court-ordered injunction against USDA's final rule to allow the importation of cattle over thirty months (OTM) of age and beef from cattle of any age from Canada while Canada was still detecting cases of BSE. This injunction remanded the final rule back to USDA. This injunction is still pending.

Successfully blocked the mega- merger between the world's largest beef packer (JBS-Brazil) and the nation's fourth largest beef packer (National Beef Packing Co.) by encouraging the U.S. Department of Justice and 17 state attorneys general to file an antitrust case against the proposed merger.

Successfully included, for the first time in history, a livestock title in the 2008 Farm Bill. The livestock title included, *inter alia*, a provision to allow state inspected meat plants to engage in interstate commerce; a directive that USDA promulgate a rule to implement the provision of the Packers and Stockyards Act that prohibits packers from granting undue preferences or advantages; and amendments to the 2002 COOL law.

2010-12 Successfully blocked the ill-conceived National Animal Identification System (NAIS) that would have required electronic ear tags in every head of cattle in the United States.

Was instrumental in causing the USDA and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to jointly conduct workshops across the U.S. to investigate the state of competition in U.S. livestock markets and other agricultural markets.

Helped pass the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to limit excessive speculation and enhance transparency in the cattle futures market and other futures markets.

Facilitated the gathering of thousands of U.S. cattle producers in Fort Collins, Colorado, in conjunction with the competition workshop held there by USDA and DOJ.

Was instrumental in the USDA's issuance of a proposed rule to implement and clarify the provisions in the Packers and Stockyards Act that prohibit unfair, deceptive and discriminatory buying practices of the packers.

Was instrumental in encouraging the U.S. Agriculture Secretary to change its policies to begin tracing contaminated meat all the way back to the slaughterhouse of origin, rather than just to the downstream processors, which was the agencies policy for many years.

Was instrumental in the decision by the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration to initiate an investigation into the packers use of captive supply cattle in the U.S. cattle market. The investigation is complete though the results of the investigation have not been released.