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Congressman Nunes and Other California Members Oppose Taiwan Beef Trade Restrictions

As a follow up to Taiwan's decision in early January to pass a ban the import of some beef products from the United States and other countries that have had a BSE case, more than 20 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, led by Congressman Devin Nunes (R-CA), this week sent a letter of concern to Representative Jason Yuan, head of Taipei's Economic and Cultural Office. The letter expressed disappointment with the recent, unilateral decision by Taiwan's Legislative Yuan to bar the import of certain beef products, in direct violation of a recently-signed bilateral agreement. According to the letter, "This unjustified and inappropriate action raises serious questions about Taiwan's continued credibility and reliability as a trading partner."

CCA appreciates the support of California members Nunes, Wally Herger (R-CA), George Radanovich (R-CA), Ken Calvert (R-CA), Gary Miller (R-CA), Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and Tom McClintock (R-CA) who also signed onto the letter to support improved access for U.S. beef overseas.

In addition to resolving the issue in Taiwan, CCA continues to support NCBA's calls for the Administration to continue efforts to expand access for U.S. beef in Japan and China. Japan's restriction on beef products from cattle over 21 months is limiting us to about 25 percent of our potential market-which translates to about \$1 billion in lost exports annually. China is currently closed to U.S. beef exports, but represents one of the largest potential growth markets for U.S. beef, worth in excess of \$100 million.

For more information on this effort and others to expand beef export ability overseas contact Matt Byrne in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or matt@calcattlemen.org.

Maldonado Clears First Hurdle in Bid for Lt. Governor

Lieutenant Governor Nominee, Sen. Abel Maldonado (R-Santa Maria), who currently serves as Vice-Chair to the Senate Food and Agriculture Committee, cleared his first hurdle in the Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday with a 4-0 vote. Rules Committee Member Sen. Sam Aanestad (R-Grass Valley), Maldonado's opponent in the Republican primary for lieutenant governor, abstained from the vote.

Maldonado is the Governor's pick to fill the spot vacated by former Lt. Gov. John Garamendi on November. Maldonado now faces a vote on the Senate floor. If the Senate does not confirm or reject Maldonado by midnight on Feb. 21, he would automatically take the post.

CCA staff will keep members apprised of further developments concerning the confirmation of Senator Maldonado.

USDA Announces New Framework for Animal Disease Traceability

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced today that USDA will develop a new, flexible framework for animal disease traceability in the United States that will be federally-supported with funding, but not federally led as part of an effort to further strengthen its disease prevention and response capabilities.

Citing comments from the recent 15-city USDA listening tour on the National Animal Identification System, Vilsack noted that it is apparent that a new strategy for animal disease traceability is needed.

The framework, announced today at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Mid-Year meeting, provides the basic tenets of an improved animal disease traceability capability in the United States. USDA's efforts will:

- Only apply to animals moved in interstate commerce;
- Be administered by the States and Tribal Nations to provide more flexibility;
- Encourage the use of lower-cost technology; and
- Be implemented transparently through federal regulations and the full rulemaking process.

USDA has indicated an interest in working in partnership with States, Tribal Nations and industry in the coming months to address many of the details of this framework, and giving ample opportunity for farmers and ranchers and the public to provide us with continued input through this process. Additionally, USDA will be revamping the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health to address specific issues, such as confidentiality and liability.

More information on USDA's new direction on animal traceability and the steps to improve disease prevention and control is available [here](#).

Western Lawmaker Named to Leadership Position

This Thursday, House Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH) appointed Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR) as a member of the House Republican Leadership, naming Walden Chairman of the Republican Leadership. Walden immediately assumed the post, which had been vacant, but has been previously held by previously former GOP Reps. Bob Walker (R-PA), Bill Paxon (R-NY) and Rob Portman (R-OH).

"Greg Walden is a proven leader and a champion for smaller, more accountable government. We need him at the leadership table as we enter this critical year for our country, and I deeply appreciate his willingness to serve as our leadership chairman," Boehner said.

Walden has always been a strong supporter of resource and economic issues of importance to cattle producers and others in agriculture across the West and CCA looks forward to continuing to work with him in his new leadership position.

Federal Transportation Bill Would Increase Goods Movement Efficiency

House Resolution 1799, the Safe and Efficient Transportation Act, introduced by Representative Mike Michaud (D-ME) has proposed a state "opt-in" method for adopting higher truck weights on certain roads. Under this legislation, a state could choose to allow trucks to carry loads up to 97,000 lbs. provided the truck is equipped with a sixth axle,

which allows for greater braking power. HR 1799 proposes a user fee for six-axle trucks, which will fund road and bridge maintenance.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association joins a large coalition of supporters on this federal legislation. CCA will provide updates on this legislation as they are made available.

Forest Service Releases Draft Supplemental EIR for Sierra Nevada Framework

As ordered by Judge Morrison England of the Eastern District Court of California, the U.S. Forest Service has released a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIR) to amend the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (Framework). The draft EIR will address and amend the current range of environmental alternatives used to satisfy requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

CCA remains an active intervener in the Sierra Nevada Framework litigation and is working closely with the Forest Service to ensure grazing interests are protected during any legal changes that may be made to the 2004 amendments to the Sierra Nevada Framework. Interested members can comment on the draft EIR by [clicking here](#).

CCA will be submitting comments in accordance with the comment period that is now open for 45 days.

Former PLC Executive Leads National Association of Conservation Districts

Jeff Eisenberg, former executive director of the Public Lands Council, has been tapped to lead the National Association of Conservation Districts in Washington, D.C. As the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the organization, Eisenberg will direct and lead the organization which serves as national voice for member Resource Conservation Districts throughout the country.

“I am extremely pleased to have been chosen to lead NACD,” Eisenberg said. “While the challenges facing conservation in America are great, the opportunities are even greater. NACD is well-positioned to lead the charge. I am committed to maintaining and building on the great work being done by conservation districts throughout the country.”

CCA worked close with Eisenberg in his former role at the Public Lands Council is sad to see him leave but looks forward to continuing to work with him in his new role to expand opportunities for ranchers to work closer with Resource Conservation Districts and support the environmental benefits ranchers bring by working and caring for the land.

Chico State Beef Day to be held Feb. 20

The 19th Annual California State University, Chico (Chico State) Beef Day and Trade Show will be held Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Chico State Farm. Registration for the full-day event will begin at 8 a.m. with presentations set to begin at 9. This event serves as the primary fundraiser for Chico State's Young Cattlemen's Association, so all producers and allied industry affiliates are encouraged to attend.

This year's featured speakers will be Fred Provenza, Ph.D., an animal behavior and management expert from the College of Natural Resources at Utah State University as well as Frank Mitloehner, Ph.D., an air quality specialist at the University of California, Davis, who will talk about his research on livestock contribution to climate change.

In addition to these prestigious speakers, there will also be updates from CCA, University of California Cooperative Extension, California State University, Chico projects, as well as breakout educational sessions in the afternoon.

Cost for attendance is \$8 for students and \$12 for the general public. Registration fees include a Tri-tip lunch prepared by the Butte County Cattlemen's Association. Trade show booth space is available at \$150/space and includes two lunches. This is a great opportunity to support the future leaders of beef production, gain up-to-date information about your way of life and network with other beef producers and advertise your business!

For more information, contact Dave Daley, ddaley@csuchico.edu, (530) 898-6343 or (530) 898- 4539.

Obama Administration Names Appointees to USDA's Farm Service Agency State Committee in California

The Obama Administration announced this week the individuals who will serve on the California Farm Service Agency State Committee. The State Committee members will oversee the activities of the agency, including carrying out the state agricultural conservation programs, resolving appeals from the agriculture community and helping to keep producers informed about FSA programs.

The individuals appointed to serve on this committee include Chair Ronald Kelley, Sacramento County; Reis Soares, Madera County; Michael Honig, Napa County; Pete Navarro, Santa Cruz County; and Lynn Skinner, Merced County.

USDA's Farm Service Agency works to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural Americans. Some of the agency's efforts include facilitating income support, disaster assistance and conservation programs, providing operating loans for the procurement of farm equipment, seed and fertilizer, as well as offering ownership loans to help new and veteran producers purchase a farm. FSA also works to procure various commodities to benefit low-income families through domestic food assistance programs.

Stockmanship and Stewardship Tour Returns to California

The 2010 Stockmanship and Stewardship Tour is coming to an auction market near you! Take this opportunity to learn more about effective stockmanship, low-stress animal handling and being a good steward of your livestock. These efforts raise value, protect the livestock industry and preserve the farming and ranching way of life.

The tour features stockmanship instructor and nationally-recognized clinician Curt Pate, as well as other industry leaders. Programs will be held at the Tulare County Stockyards in Dinuba on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 12:20 p.m.; Escalon Livestock Market in Escalon on Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 11 a.m.; and at the Shasta Livestock Auction Yard in Cottonwood on Friday, Feb. 26 at noon.

This event would not be possible without numerous sponsors and supporters. Sponsors of the tour include: Merial, Midcontinent Livestock Supplements, The American Quarter Horse Association, Purina, Miraco Livestock Water Systems, Priefert Ranch Equipment and Tru-Test. California endorsers and supporters of the event include the Livestock Marketing Association, the California Cattlemen's Association, the National Beef Checkoff Program, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the California Beef Council.

For information on any of the tour stops, contact the respective auction markets above. We hope to see you there!

Wetlands Reserve Program Applications Now Being Accepted

The California Natural Resources Conservation Service is accepting application for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) for a \$12.5 million dollar allocation to the state in Fiscal Year 2010.

WRP is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, protect and enhance wetlands. The program offers permanent conservation easements and 30-year term easements. The goal of WRP is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and wetland protection.

Of importance to ranchers is a new terms of the program adopted with the 2008 Farm Bill, WRP Reserved Rights Grazing Pilot. This allows landowners to retain grazing rights on the property based on an agreed to Prescribed Grazing Plan. This option may be especially useful on vernal pools and rangelands in the North Coast, Intermountain West and Sierra meadows.

To be considered for the current funding allocation landowners must work with the local NRCS Field Offices to submit applications and eligibility paperwork, by Feb. 15, 2010. For more information, [click here](#).

32nd Annual CCA Steak and Eggs Legislative Breakfast set for March 23

Mark your calendars for March 22 and 23! CCA's annual Steak and Eggs Legislative Breakfast will be held March 23 at the Sutter Club in Sacramento at 6:45 a.m. This unique event offers you the opportunity to interact one-on-one with your elected leaders as well as hear from a slate of speakers about what your government officials and CCA are doing for you.

Following the breakfast, CCA staff will coordinate legislative office visits where you can personally meet with politicians from your area to share the importance of looking out for beef producers. Ag Day at the Capitol is also held on March 23, so you may also visit California commodity groups on the lawn of the capitol building to celebrate agriculture.

In addition, there will be a PAC-200 dinner held at Chops Steakhouse on March 22, the night prior to the breakfast. For information on becoming a PAC-200 member, to RSVP for the dinner or breakfast or to sign up for legislative visits, contact Chaley Paulson in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or by e-mail at chaley@calcattlemen.org.

Cattle Fax Weekly Market Highlight February 5, 2010

The fed cattle market was steady to mostly \$1 higher in Nebraska and the Corn Belt at \$136 to \$137, while the South has yet to trade. Boxed beef prices lost ground for the week as demand stays slows. As supplies are reduced going forward, beef may find support. Feeder cattle values were fully steady on the week. Wet weather slowed movement and demand has slowed as many buyers wait for feedlot conditions to improve before buying cattle. Calves were steady to \$2 higher; the wet weather will help grazing conditions this spring. Slaughter cows were \$2 to \$4 higher. Corn prices traded near even this week.

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Help Your Business and Your Industry by Joining CCA Today

Do you like what you see here? Are you interested in participating in these important efforts and receiving additional publications about California's beef cattle industry? If you're not yet a member, you can lend your support by joining the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) today. CCA is the only membership organization in California dedicated solely to looking out for the interests of ranching families and California's cattle industry.

CCA staff and officers work every day to ensure that our members have a known voice in Sacramento and in Washington, D.C. CCA defends your private property rights; works towards preserving private and public rangeland; protects the health of California's cattle herd; and provides scholarships to help the next generation of ranchers remain in the industry.

Joining this critical effort is simple for cattle producers, landowners and supporters of the industry. Call Stevie in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or email requests for membership information to stevie@calcattlemen.org.

**This newsletter is a publication of the California Cattlemen's Association.
1221 H Street • Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 444-0845**

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