



# Press Release

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## California Cattlemen's Association Welcomes Bishop Cattle Producer as President 2009-2010 CCA Officers Slated at 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention

Sacramento – Last weekend, at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the California Cattlemen's Association and California Cattlewomen, Inc., a new state officer team was slated by the CCA Board of Directors and affirmed by the membership of the organization.

After two years as president, Bruce Hafenfeld, a Weldon cow-calf producer, turned the reins of the statewide association of proactive beef producers over to former Tom Talbot, DVM, a cow-calf producer from Bishop.

Hafenfeld, a passionate leader and down-to-earth rancher, completed his term at the convention after holding the beef industry's interest as a top priority for nearly a decade as a leader at CCA. Talbot, who has also fought tough battles on behalf of ranchers statewide for many years, has worked with Hafenfeld as a friend, rancher and CCA officer. Talbot was touted by Hafenfeld as "the best man for the job." Talbot said, while he may have big shoes to fill, he looks forward to the next two years with optimism, ambition and a love of the industry and its people that will help him represent CCA.

"I am truly passionate about beef production, the people involved and the ethics of hard work and dedication that this industry stands for," Talbot said. "I know there may be struggles ahead as we look to protect ranching in California, but I am grateful for the trust of the membership and will work on behalf of all California ranchers to see that we can continue our way of life for generations to come."

As Second Vice President Bill Thomas, Lone, came to the end of his term and Second Vice President Kevin Kester, Parkfield, was named first vice president by the CCA Board of Directors, the two vacated second vice president positions were filled. Bud Sloan, DVM, Santa Paula; and Marty Williamson, Exeter, were unanimously voted in as second vice president for the 2009 and 2010 term. Jack Hanson, Susanville, will serve as the treasurer, replacing Myron Openshaw, Oroville, who has served the association's treasurer since 2002.

"Over the past two years, the CCA officer team has been steadfast in building on CCA's firm foundation throughout the state and developing relationships to strengthen the organization," said CCA Executive Vice President Matt Byrne. "I look forward to continuing to work closely with producer leaders, particularly Tom (Talbot) and the incoming officer team, to proactively engage in challenges to agriculture and take advantage of opportunities to ensure a favorable business environment for all our state's beef producers."

Photo available upon request.

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Founded in 1917, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) represents California's 1.35 billion- dollar beef cattle industry on legislative and regulatory affairs and remains the number one voice for the industry today. CCA is an affiliate of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, which represents America's cattle farmers and ranchers.