

April 30, 2010



**Still Hope for Williamson Act**  
**House Ag Committee Hits the Road for Farm Bill Hearings**  
**2010 CCA/CCW Midyear Meeting Registration Available**  
**Livestock Groups Call for End to Ethanol Subsidies, Protective Tariff**  
**Court Denies Environmental Complaint over Sage Grouse**  
**Vehicle Code Permits Working Dogs to Ride**  
**Humboldt/Del Norte Cattlemen's Association Calls for Vote to Repeal  
Modified Point of Origin**  
**California Department of Food and Agriculture Launches State Ag Plate  
License Program**  
**Cattle Fax Weekly Highlight**

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### **Still Hope for Williamson Act**

On Thursday, 12 members of the "Save the Williamson Act Coalition", including CCA, testified before a Senate Budget Subcommittee to implore the legislature to restore funding for the Williamson Act with the goal to move the item further in the legislative budget process as we await the Governor's May Budget Revise. The item was placed on the subcommittee's agenda only a day prior to the hearing.

In the hearing, Sen. Tom Harman (R-Huntington Beach), a member of the subcommittee, made laudatory remarks in favor of the Williamson Act prior to moving that the subcommittee restore the funding to \$40 million. After remarking on the bipartisan support the Williamson Act has garnered in the legislature, Chairman Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord), made a substitute motion to hold the item open, which ensures the Williamson Act will live to see another hearing in the legislature.

CCA staff will keep members apprised on all developments as they occur. If you have not yet submitted a letter to CCA in support of the Williamson Act, please do so at your

earliest convenience. A template, which you can customize, can be found on CCA's Web site, [www.calcattlemen.org](http://www.calcattlemen.org). For questions, assistance or comments, please contact Dawn Clover at [dawn@calcattlemen.org](mailto:dawn@calcattlemen.org).

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### **House Ag Committee Hits the Road for Farm Bill Hearings**

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson has initiated a series of field hearings to hear from people about U.S. farm policy in advance of the 2012 Farm Bill. CCA first vice president Kevin Kester was asked by members of the committee to testify at the hearing scheduled for Monday, May 3 in Fresno. Kester is one of a handful of agricultural producers in the state that will be addressing the committee next week.

For more information on the hearing or CCA testimony please contact Tracy Schohr in the CCA office at [tschohr@calcattlemen.org](mailto:tschohr@calcattlemen.org).

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### **2010 CCA/CCW Midyear Meeting Registration Available**

The 2010 CCA/CCW Midyear Meeting will take place June 16-17, at the Lake Natoma Inn in Folsom. This is your opportunity as a member to give direction to your association. New this year, we have a condensed two-day meeting schedule to collaborate with the 2010 CBCIA Tour, June 18-20, following the Midyear Meeting.

Registration materials will be mailed to you, but are also available to print on our Web site, [www.calcattlemen.org](http://www.calcattlemen.org), where online registration is now available.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Lake Natoma Inn at (916) 351-1500 and by mentioning the California Cattlemen's Association you can receive the block rate of \$109/night. Reservations should be made by May 17.

If you have any questions about Midyear, please contact Chaley Paulson in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or [chaley@calcattlemen.org](mailto:chaley@calcattlemen.org).

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### **Livestock Groups Call for End to Ethanol Subsidies, Protective Tariff**

On Wednesday, major livestock and poultry trade associations asked the House Ways and Means Committee to allow a 30-year-old tax credit and a protective tariff for ethanol to expire at the end of this year. The request was made in a letter signed by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and other industry trade associations, including the American Meat Institute, the National Turkey Federation, and the National Chicken Council.

"Although we support the need to advance renewable and alternative sources of energy, we strongly believe that it is time that the mature corn-based ethanol industry operates on a level playing field with other commodities that rely on corn as their major input," the

groups wrote in a letter to Congressmen Sander M. Levin of Michigan and Dave Camp of Michigan, chairman and ranking Republican members, respectively, of the tax-writing committee. "Favoring one segment of agriculture at the expense of another does not benefit agriculture as a whole or the consumers that ultimately purchase our products."

During the 2005-2006 marketing year, USDA estimates that corn use for ethanol production increased from 1.603 billion bushels to 3.677 billion bushels during the 2008-2009 marketing year. For the 2009-2010 marketing year, ethanol production is expected to absorb 4.3 billion bushels of corn. Ethanol use accounted for approximately 14 percent of total corn use in 2005-2006, and that percentage is projected to grow to more than 33 percent in 2009-2010. Over the same period, use of corn for feed has fallen from about 55 percent to about 42 percent, with exports falling from almost 19 percent to about 15 percent.

Cattle producers continue to support an open and free market as the best driver of competition and innovation in all industries. CCA will continue to provide updates on this issue as it evolves.

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### **Court Denies Environmental Complaint over Sage Grouse**

Following a decision by the Department of the Interior that listing greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act was "warranted but precluded," Western Watersheds Project (WWP) filed a petition in the Idaho District Court to file a supplemental complaint challenging the recent decision made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

On Tuesday, Judge B. Lynn Windmill announced his ruling to deny WWP from filing a supplemental complaint for the new decision based on a past lawsuit filed by WWP for the federal government previously not listing the sage grouse.

WWP will now be forced to file a new lawsuit in order to challenge the recent decision by Fish and Wildlife Service to again not officially list the species and subsequently have made their intentions known that they plan to file a new lawsuit.

CCA will continue to update members on this issue. For more information, contact Justin Oldfield in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or [Justin@calcattlemen.org](mailto:Justin@calcattlemen.org).

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### **Vehicle Code Permits Working Dogs to Ride**

It has recently come to the attention of CCA that ranchers are being pulled over and cited for allowing working dogs to ride in the back of pick-ups. California Vehicle Code Section 23117 provides that working dogs associated with ranching or farming are permitted to ride in vehicles untethered.

If you reside in a region where stops and citations are occurring, you may wish to carry this statute in your vehicle. The pertinent section can be found [here](#).

Please contact Dawn Clover at [dawn@calcattlemen.org](mailto:dawn@calcattlemen.org) for more information or to have the code section e-mailed directly to you.

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### **Humboldt/Del Norte Cattlemen's Association Calls for Vote to Repeal Modified Point of Origin**

On May 18, the Humboldt/Del Norte Cattlemen's Association will be holding a vote to repeal the Modified Point of Origin (MPO) regulations currently in place in the Tri-County brand inspection area, consisting of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties and a portion of Trinity County.

In order to proceed, the move to repeal current point of origin laws must be passed by a two-thirds margin of those present and voting. Only cattle producers that are property taxpayers, lessees or residents of the MPO area are permitted to vote.

The vote will be held at 7 p.m. at the Humboldt County Agricultural Extension Center, 5630 South Broadway at Spruce Point in Eureka.

For additional information, please contact Dawn Clover at [dawn@calcattlemen.org](mailto:dawn@calcattlemen.org).

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### **California Department of Food and Agriculture Launches State Ag Plate License Program**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has launched its California Agriculture Special License Plate Program. The Cal Ag Special License Plates will be issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles upon receipt of 7,500 paid pledges.

The sale of these special plates will benefit agricultural education initiatives in California. For more information, or to reserve your special license plate, please go to [www.CalAgPlate.com](http://www.CalAgPlate.com). Should you have questions, please contact Dawn Clover at [dawn@calcattlemen.org](mailto:dawn@calcattlemen.org).

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### **Cattle Fax Weekly Highlight April 30, 2010**

The fed cattle market was mostly \$.50 to \$1 lower on a live basis this week, while dressed trade in the North was \$2 to \$4 softer. In the South, trade occurred at \$98 to \$98.50. In the North, the bulk of the prices were at \$98 to \$99 live and \$158 dressed. Trade volumes were moderate. Boxed beef values were modestly higher as end cuts and trimming provide support. Movement remained light to moderate on that side. Feeder cattle prices were even to \$3 higher for the week while calves were mostly steady.

Slaughter cows were steady to \$2 higher. Demand is strong for all classes while supplies are moderate. Corn prices rose this week in spite of plantings that are on or in some cases ahead of schedule.

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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](mailto:stevie@calcattlemen.org).

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