

July 16, 2010



**House Energy and Commerce Committee Examines Livestock Antibiotics Usage**  
**California Senate Loses Respected Member**  
**CCA Recognized with State Fair's Prestigious Golden Bear Award**  
**Estate Tax Amendment Offered in Senate**  
**USFS, BLM Sued Over Grazing Fees**  
**NCBA Summer Conference and Fall Legislative Conference on the Horizon – Make plans now**  
**EPA Proposes to Lower Attainment Standard for Dust**  
**Rancher Input Requested by Sierra Nevada Conservancy**  
**CCA Encourages Members to Review Water Diversion Reporting Requirements after Deadline**  
**Cattle Fax Weekly Market Highlight**

---

### **House Energy and Commerce Committee Examines Livestock Antibiotics Usage**

On Wednesday, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health held a hearing to examine "the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals and its impact on human health." The hearing focused on the Food and Drug Administration's recent guidance on the judicious use of antibiotics, as well as legislation – the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act – to restrict the use of antibiotics in livestock.

Antimicrobial resistance is a multi-faceted and complex issue that can't be addressed by singling out the livestock industry alone. What is known, is that to date, there is no conclusive scientific evidence indicating that the judicious use of antibiotics in cattle contributes to antimicrobial resistance in humans.

Decisions affecting animal and human health are too important to be based on anything other than sound, peer-reviewed science. It's easy to target America's livestock producers,

but it won't solve the problem. Agenda-driven, non-science-based banning of antibiotics would ultimately harm animal health, animal welfare, food safety and food security.

CCA will continue to work with NCBA and others to ensure that needed tools to allow cattle producers to manage their herds remain available and decisions relative to antibiotic usage and registration are based on sound scientific principles.

---

### **California Senate Loses Respected Member**

CCA would like to take this opportunity to express deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Sen. Dave Cox (R-Fair Oaks), who passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday after a battle with cancer.

Senator Cox was a long time friend to the ranching community and his leadership was instrumental in advocating for countless endeavors to assist the agricultural community. Senator Cox is survived by his wife of 44 years Maggie; daughters Cathleen, Margo and Sarah; six grandchildren; and his beloved dog, Rudy.

The Cox family requests that all cards and messages be sent to Senator Cox's Capitol office: State Capitol Room 2068, Sacramento, California 95814. In lieu of flowers, the Cox family asks that donations be made to the Dave and Maggie Cox Scholarship Fund with the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, located at 740 University, Suite 110, Sacramento, CA 95825.

---

### **CCA Recognized with State Fair's Prestigious Golden Bear Award**

As a longtime, active supporter of the California Exposition and State Fair, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) was recognized as a 2010 Golden Bear Award Recipient at the State Fair's opening Gala on Friday, July 9. Past and present leadership from CCA was on hand to accept the award on behalf of California's cattlemen and cattlemen who have shown support for the fair since its inception in 1854.

During the award presentation, many of CCA's contributions to the fair were highlighted, including CCA's involvement in the beef shows, auctions and promotion of the fair. In addition, CCA and its members were recognized for providing important direction to the fair relative to the Agricultural Advisory Board, DNA testing program and for establishing the Performance Bull Program and Cattlemen's Day, a celebration which CCA has worked to support and preserve during tough economic times.

To read a complete press release from CCA, [click here](#), or look for details in the September issue of the *California Cattleman* magazine.

---

### **Estate Tax Amendment Offered in Senate**

This week, Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ) offered an amendment to the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act of 2010 (HR 5297) to permanently set the estate tax rate at 35 percent, with a \$5 million exemption amount phased-in over 10 years and indexed for inflation. It would also provide a "stepped up basis" for inherited assets.

Such a change would be a step toward bringing meaningful and permanent reform to the estate tax. In addition, CCA has continued to work to build support in both the House of Representatives and Senate for additional legislation that would provide a permanent deferral to farm and ranch property as long as it continues to operate as family agricultural business.

Only 30 legislative days are left on the Congressional calendar until the estate tax reverts back to its staggering pre-2001 levels. If Congress fails to act, starting Jan. 1, 2011, farm estates worth only \$1 million will be taxed at a rate of 55 percent.

---

### **USFS, BLM Sued Over Grazing Fees**

Five environmental organizations, including Western Watersheds Project and the Center for Biological Diversity, recently sued the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior for not responding to a petition in 2005 challenging that the level of grazing fees collected by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are too low and should be substantially increased.

If decided in favor of the plaintiffs, the current lawsuit would only require the USFS and BLM to respond to the petition, however it would likely lead to environmental groups suing over the merits of the fee rates.

At the 2010 NCBA Summer Meeting in Denver, Colo., the Public Lands Council will be discussing with state affiliates how best to legally respond with this case and future cases related to permittee grazing fees. For more information, contact Justin Oldfield in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or by e-mail at [Justin@calcattlemen.org](mailto:Justin@calcattlemen.org).

---

### **NCBA Summer Conference and Fall Legislative Conference on the Horizon – Make Plans Now**

All members are invited to make plans to attend NCBA's Summer Conference in Denver, Colo., and Fall Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Each of these events provide an opportunity for CCA members to spend time with other cattle producers from around the country, to be involved in setting the direction of the national organization and to sharing the issues of concern with our federal elected officials and other key decision makers in Washington, D.C.

- NCBA's Summer Conference in Denver will be held July 28-Aug. 1 at the Sheraton Hotel in Denver. More details are available by [clicking here](#).

- NCBA's Fall Legislative Conference will be held Sept. 12-18 at the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington, D.C. Details are still being put together, but the conference will be focused around lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill and with representatives of the administration on agricultural, environmental and trade issues.

Additional information about both events is available on the NCBA Web site, [www.beefusa.org](http://www.beefusa.org), or by contacting Matt Byrne in the CCA office at [matt@calcattlemen.org](mailto:matt@calcattlemen.org).

---

### **EPA Proposes to Lower Attainment Standard for Dust**

In the latest step in its review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the foundation for unprecedented regulation of dust. According to EPA's Second Draft Policy Assessment for Particulate Matter (PM), issued late last week, EPA may consider regulating coarse PM at levels as low as 65-85  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , twice as stringent as the current standard. Many parts of California, including the San Joaquin and Imperial Valleys are already in non-attainment for dust and PM. If EPA regulates dust at the level of 65-85  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , additional areas across the country would be classified as "non-attainment" and may have to promulgate rules and regulations similar to California.

The policy assessment is the latest step in EPA's ongoing review of the PM NAAQS, as required every five years under the Clean Air Act. The document will serve as the basis of EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's (CASAC) consideration about whether to revise the current PM standard. CASAC is scheduled to discuss the document on July 26.

CCA has joined with NCBA and other state affiliates in letter opposing the reduction and to encourage each state governor to also voice their opposition to EPA. California has already promulgated regulations for farming activities, including dairies and feedlots, in non-attainment areas to control dust. It is uncertain at this time that if the PM level is reduced if whether or not it would have any impact on current California rules and regulations already governing dust.

---

### **Rancher Input Requested by Sierra Nevada Conservancy**

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is in the first phase of developing a new Strategic Plan to guide their work over the next three years. SNC would like input on prioritizing potential Areas of Focus and are also asking for feedback on how they've carried out their work over the past five years.

CCA members, specifically those who ranch in the Sierra Nevada's are encouraged participate in the web-based survey. To answer the short survey and help SNC set direction for their future work, [click here](#). The survey will close July 26.

---

### **CCA Encourages Members to Review Water Diversion Reporting Requirements after Deadline**

Even though the July 1 Surface Water Diversion and Use reporting deadline has passed, CCA would encourage members who have yet to file their statement of diversion for 2009 to do so as soon as possible.

The law does not provide the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) flexibility to alter the July 1 reporting deadline that has been in law since 1966, however, they do recognize that there are additional water users who have not reported and are still learning the process of doing so. Communications with the State Water Board have indicated they understand and recognize the difficulty in getting the word out about the reporting requirements statewide and the difficulty diverters have had accessing information and assistance in a timely manner.

The reporting law adopted by the California legislature in 1966 requires those that divert water from California's lakes, rivers, streams, creeks or pump water from known subterranean streams to report water use to the State Water Resources Control Board using a Statement of Diversion and Use. The reporting statute applies to all water diversions, including adjudicated and riparian water rights. Certain exemptions exist for diversions that are already being reported under a stockpond registration or by a watermaster and for diversions of less than 25 acre-feet/year from a spring that does not flow off the property.

Until recently, there was no consequence associated with non-compliance, however, following the adoption of water legislation passed by the state legislature and Governor Schwarzenegger last year, a series of fines were established for water diversions that are not reported on an annual basis as currently required by state law. A \$1,000 fine will be assessed for not reporting followed by a 30-day correction period. Following the correction period, failing to register fines will be assessed at \$500/day. Additional fines have been added for accidental and willful misstatements.

CCA has been working diligently to provide information on how to comply since the beginning of the year and will continue to assist members on how to report diversions over the next few months. More information on the reporting program and the reporting form can be accessed by visiting the CCA Web site at [www.calcattlemen.org](http://www.calcattlemen.org).

Members are encouraged to either contact the State Water Board directly at (916) 341-5300 with questions or by contact Justin Oldfield at [justin@calcattlemen.org](mailto:justin@calcattlemen.org) or by calling the CCA office at (916) 444-0845.

---

**Cattle Fax Weekly Market Highlight**  
**July 16, 2010**

The fed cattle market was fully \$1 to \$2.00 higher on a live basis and \$2.00 higher for dressed. Cattle in the South sold for \$93 to \$94, trade in the North occurred at \$93 to \$95, with the bulk at \$94. In the dressed market, sales were mostly \$150, with some as high as \$152. Trade volumes were moderate to active. The boxed beef market was slightly lower on the week with higher asking prices posted after the higher cattle trade took place. Sellers note manageable inventories on their end. Feeder cattle and calf prices were narrowly mixed on seasonally light supplies due to good grass conditions through most of the country that is keeping cattle in the country. Slaughter cows ranged from steady to as much as \$2.00 lower. Corn prices continued to march higher.

---

**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).

---

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

*Did someone forward this message to you?*  
*To subscribe, or if you would like to have your name removed from our subscriber list, please send an email to [stevie@calcattlemen.org](mailto:stevie@calcattlemen.org) or call (916) 444-0845.*