



Statement to Media

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California Cattlemen's Association Statement on USDA Investigation of Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Co.

SACRAMENTO – February 18, 2008 – CCA President Bruce Hafenfeld, a Weldon, Calif., beef cattle producer, made the following statement in response to the recall of beef products from the Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Co. in Chino, Calif:

“The United States Department of Agriculture has announced a Class II recall of beef from a single beef processing facility, Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Co. in Chino, Calif. USDA has called for the recall, not because of an immediate risk to food safety, but rather out of the greatest abundance of caution because the company did not follow all protocols for handling non-ambulatory cattle.

“As producers of high quality beef products, and consumers ourselves, we support an investigation from the facility of origin through the entire production process to ensure that USDA is strictly enforcing laws that ensure our cattle are handled humanely and that our beef is produced safely. The beef industry has strongly supported the development of the multiple interlocking safety protocols that ensure safe production and supports application of these protocols in every instance, regardless of how remote the risk to the human food supply.

“California's beef cattle industry has been proactive in supporting a ban on processing non-ambulatory cattle as is now required by state and federal law as one of many safety hurdles that protect our nation's food supply. We support USDA's investigation that has determined a single safety protocol was not being properly followed and believe those responsible should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

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Founded in 1917, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) represents California's 1.35 billion dollar beef cattle industry in 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.