

November 6, 2009



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Legislators Pass Landmark Water Package

Legislative leaders came to a final agreement in the early hours of Nov. 4, 2009, to pass a water package, which includes an unprecedented \$11 billion in bond funding for water infrastructure projects throughout the state, including \$3 billion for storage. The policy package includes provisions that would continue to protect water rights and reflect the agricultural community's request to scale back the fee structure for illegal diversions of water, despite hearty protests from the environmental community. The policy package is not linked to the bond and does not explicitly authorize or oppose construction of a delta canal; however, it does strengthen environmental requirements for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and creates a more credible process for developing Delta water certainty.

CCA continued to oppose SB x75, the water rights measure that ultimately did not gain passage, due to the increase in fees and penalties. CCA will continue to keep members apprised on this water package as well as other water issues as they evolve. For more information, contact Dawn Clover in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or dawn@calcattlemen.org.

Convention Pre-Registration Closed, Registration On-Site at Convention Still Available

While the pre-registration period for the 93rd Annual CCA/CCW Convention has come to an end, CCA and CCW members are still welcome to register on-site at the convention at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, Nev., from Nov. 11-13.

Next week, The CCA Legislative Bulletin e-mail will not be sent as staff members will be attending the convention. Watch for the Legislative Bulletin to continue Friday, Nov. 20.

Kerry/Boxer Climate Change Bill Clears Committee

Yesterday, the Environment and Public Works Committee reported without amendment S. 1733, the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act, authored by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Sen. John Kerry (D-CA), by a vote of 10-1. No Republicans were present at the vote.

CCA and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) are extremely concerned about the stifling economic impacts this legislation would have on agriculture. This bill, as reported, would raise costs of fuel, electricity, feed, fertilizer, equipment and other inputs necessary to maintain a cattle operation-severely impeding our ability to produce high-quality, affordable food for our growing population.

CCA will continue to monitor this bill and will provide updates on its progress as they are made available. For more information on this bill or other climate change issues, contact Justin Oldfield in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or Justin@calcattlemen.org.

Nominations Sought for the Common Threads Award

Do you know an outstanding woman in agriculture from Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Stanislaus, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo or Yuba County? If so, nominate her for the Common Threads Award, recognizing women for the positive impact they have made in their communities through their philanthropy and volunteerism.

Common Thread Award winners will be recognized at the 7th Annual Common Threads Awards luncheon to honor women in agriculture. This event will be hosted by the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation, at the University of California, Davis, on Wednesday, March 31, 2010.

For more information visit www.agleaders.org, nominations are due **Friday, Nov. 20, 2009**.

Grazing Lands Conference to be held in Reno

The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) and the Society for Range Management (SRM) are set to co-host the Fourth National Conference on Grazing Lands in Reno, Nev., Dec. 13-16, 2009.

The conference, which is held every three years, exists to encourage more technical assistance for the nation's grazing lands, and to promote grazing lands research and education. Some of the topics that will be highlighted include the value of rotational grazing and of riparian habitat, carbon sequestration, and flexibility within grazing systems.

Conference, hotel information and registration forms as well as exhibitor opportunities are posted at www.glci.org.

CCA Efforts Lead to Progress in Tuberculosis Effort - Test Exemption for Pasture-to-Pasture Cattle Extended

In the latest positive decision to minimize tuberculosis (TB) testing restrictions on California cattle, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the state veterinarians of California, Oregon, Nevada and Idaho, extended the exemption that waives tests requirements of California cattle traveling out of state on pasture-to-pasture permits to these states for another 12 months.

CCA has worked diligently throughout the year to reduce TB restrictions for California producers and appreciates the efforts of the animal health experts at the federal and state levels, in particular California's State Veterinarian Richard Breitmeyer and his team at the California Department of Food and Agriculture, for recognizing that there has been no change in the risk of California's beef cattle and helping ensure cattle can move without the unnecessary burden of being tested for TB.

In addition to the pasture-to-pasture exemption, significant progress has been made to relax TB requirements for feeder cattle on a state-by-state basis throughout the past year. There is also an increased indication the federal state status system, which continues to penalize California's beef producers despite the fact that no beef herds in the state have been found to be positive is likely to be replaced with a CCA-supported program that will focus on areas of known risk instead of penalizing producers throughout the state when positive cattle are found in only a small segment of the cattle herd.

At the same time, CCA continues to work diligently with animal health regulators to modernize the federally-approved test and other disease eradication protocol to ensure that California's beef producers, who have shown no incidence of the disease, retain the ability to move feeder and breeding cattle out of state without undue restriction.

For more information on this issue contact Matt Byrne in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845.

Cattle Fax Weekly Market Highlight
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The fed cattle market was steady to instances \$.50 higher. In the North, cattle sold for \$133 to \$134 dressed and \$85 to \$87 live. South trade occurred at \$87 to \$88. Texas continues to be at the higher price. Trade volumes were light to moderate. Beef prices were flat this week in a slower trade. Feeder cattle prices were \$1 to \$2 higher. Calves were \$1 higher while slaughter cows lost \$1. Cow slaughter has increased sharply during the heart of the fall run. Corn prices declined modestly as the weather allowed farmers to return to the field to harvest the crop.

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.
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