



Statement to Media

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California Cattlemen's Association Statement on USDA Tuberculosis Working Group

SACRAMENTO – December 12, 2008 – California Cattlemen's Association President Tom Talbot, DVM, a Bishop, Calif., beef cattle producer, made the following statement today regarding the United States Department of Agriculture's Tuberculosis (TB) Working Group held in Sacramento this morning.

“Today's USDA listening session was a step in the right direction toward improving an outdated program in which a current lack of flexibility is costing the state's beef producers. USDA is to be applauded for seeking input from throughout the industry, but significant change must quickly follow before we reach the spring shipping season.

California cattle producers, as well as those in other states who are up against this costly disease, need new testing options and determination of the true source of TB in the state so that low-risk beef feeder cattle can move without undue restriction. We hope to see some proactive and timely measures result from these listening sessions.”

More than a dozen CCA members from throughout the state traveled to Sacramento to take part in the USDA meeting in hopes of having their voices heard on this critical issue. After TB was found in seven cases at several Central California dairies this year and led to the downgrade in California's TB-free status, all cattle producers have been impacted by TB testing requirements. As this is an issue of extreme importance to all cattle owners, CCA officers, members and staff have worked tirelessly to see that the testing regime has as little impact on beef producers as possible.

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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.