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BLM and USFS Announce 2008 Grazing Fee

On Feb. 9, 2008, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the United States Forest Service (USFS) announced the fee for grazing livestock on public lands will remain at \$1.35 per animal unit month (AUM) effective March 1, 2008. The \$1.35 rate is the lowest rate allowed by the 1978 Public Rangelands Improvement Act. The fee is determined by a congressional formula and impacts nearly 18,000 BLM grazing permittees and 8,000 USFS grazing permittees nationwide.

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CCA Meets with Undersecretary of CAL/EPA to Discuss Truck Rule

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008, CCA staff met with Cindy Tuck, the undersecretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CAL/EPA), to discuss concerns related to the proposed On-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation by the California Air Resources Board (ARB). As CAL/EPA serves as the oversight agency for ARB, CCA staff urged them to encourage ARB to evaluate the impact of the rule on our industry and seriously consider amendments suggested by CCA and other

agricultural organizations. CCA will continue to work with CAL/EPA and the Schwarzenegger Administration to ensure the final rule has the least possible impact to CCA members.

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United States Achieves Cattle Brucellosis Class Free Status

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that for the first time in the 74-year history of the brucellosis program, all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have simultaneously achieved Class Free status. Texas was the last and final state to be declared brucellosis free.

Class Free status is based on a state finding no known brucellosis in cattle for the 12 months preceding designation. A state's Class Free status, however, can change. If brucellosis is found in more than one herd of cattle in a brucellosis free state within a two-year period, the state is downgraded to Class A status.

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California Supreme Court Rejects Coho Review Petition

On Wednesday Feb. 13, 2008, the California Supreme Court ruled that it would not hear the petition raised by plaintiffs in the Coho salmon case who wished to have the original decision overturned. This decision follows an earlier decision of a California Appellate Court to uphold the ruling to list the Coho salmon as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.

CCA and the Pacific Legal Foundation hope a future challenge to the California Endangered Species Act, possibly the anticipated listing of the Longfin Delta Smelt, may compel the California Supreme Court to review the case in the future should an inconsistency be created among court decisions. CCA intervened on behalf of cattle producers when the litigation was first brought about by challenging the decision by the California Fish and Game Commission to list the Coho salmon.

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CCA Staff Participate in Elicura Creek Watershed Meeting

CCA staff participated in the Napa and Lake County Elicura Creek Watershed meeting on Feb. 11. The watershed group is developing a proposal to control invasive plants and restore wildlife habitat on private rangeland, as well as on the University of California's McLaughlin Reserve and the California Department of Fish and Game's Knoxville Wildlife Area.

The proposal ultimately seeks to develop a cooperative, scientifically-based watershed vegetation management strategy. CCA is working with the group to create opportunities for private land owners and to ensure grazing is included as a component of the vegetation management strategy on public lands in the watershed.

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CCA Comments on State Water Board Bay & Estuary Sediment Water Quality Plan

CCA, in concert with other industry organizations, submitted comments to the State Water Resources Control Board urging them to reconsider the adoption of the proposed Water Quality Control Plan for Enclosed Bays and Estuaries - Part 1 Sediment Quality. The policy would require State Board staff to identify impaired soils and those chemicals responsible for the "contamination." State Board staff would then be required to initiate remedial processes associated with impaired hot spots. In 2003, the State Board estimated cleaning up 20 hot spots would cost nearly \$800 million dollars. The original proposal by the State Board lacked a thorough economic analysis outlining the overall cost to comply with the rule and a cost benefit analysis. The State Board has decided to postpone a vote on the rule and will take up the issue at a later date after reviewing comments from stakeholders.

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State Capitol Update: Houses Pass Emergency Spending Cuts, Move on to Fiscal Year Budget

With the wrap-up of the presidential primary election and the defeat of Proposition 93, California's legislature is back to work in Sacramento. This week, budget committees in both houses passed a package of emergency spending cuts as a response to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's emergency declaration. This package of cuts is intended to ensure California has adequate funds to make it through the 07-08 fiscal year. This package is expected to be passed by the full membership of both houses. Once this is complete, it is expected both the Senate and the Assembly will move on to tackling the 08-09 fiscal year budget.

The deadline for bill introduction is Friday, Feb. 22. We expect legislators to move the majority of bills to be introduced this year across their respective desks that day. CCA staff will keep up to date on bills with specific impacts to the beef cattle industry.

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CCA Participates in European Trade Discussion

This week, CCA staff attended a dinner in Sacramento with the Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Commission to the United States. Ambassador John Bruton currently serves as the European Union's (EU) trade negotiator in Washington, D.C., after years of service as Ireland's Prime Minister, a member of the Irish Parliament and several other leadership positions in the Irish government and the EU.

Ambassador Bruton described the benefits of trade between the U.S. and the EU and discussed his efforts to reduce direct subsidies in Europe in hopes of completing a successful round of World Trade Organization talks in the coming months. CCA impressed upon the Ambassador the importance of free, fair and reliable trade to the U.S. beef industry.

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House of Representatives Holds Hearing on National Veterinary Service Needs

The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry held a hearing Feb. 7, to review the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA). The NVMSA was enacted in 2003 and directs USDA to help pay the educational loans of licensed veterinarians who agree to work in areas of the country that are underserved by veterinarians, in underserved disciplines of veterinary practice or in underserved areas of the federal government.

The cattle industry recognizes an urgent need for additional large animal veterinarians to help serve producers, especially in rural areas. CCA and NCBA policy encourages the vigorous recruitment, selection and training of students with the aptitude and desire to fill the increasing need for food animal veterinarians.

CCA members were also active in developing new policies to support training and financial incentives for food animal veterinarians at the 2008 Cattle Industry Convention in Reno, Nev., last week.

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Anti-Rodeo Ordinance Defeated in Santa Clara County

On Tuesday, Feb. 12, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors defeated a measure that could have regulated and potentially eliminate rodeos and circuses in Santa Clara County. Instead, the Board approved a referral that would have staff research a possible ordinance mirroring existing state law as it pertains to horse tripping and steer tailing done at Mexican Rodeos. Additionally, it was suggested that staff also look into requiring a veterinarian on-site at all animal events in Santa Clara County.

CCA staff worked closely with representatives from Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and Santa Clara County Cattlemen's Association, who attended the meeting to ensure our opposition to such a measure was heard. Other opposition included representatives of high school and intercollegiate rodeo, the Federation of Charros, American Quarter Horse Association, the California Horse Council and numerous local supporters of rodeo.

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State and Region CattleWomen Set Dates for Spring Meetings

The California CattleWomen have set the spring board meeting and beef education and promotional meetings for the Lake Natoma Inn in Folsom on March 7-9. In addition, American National CattleWomen Region VI meeting dates and locations have also been decided. The regional meeting will be in Napa at the Embassy Suites Hotel on April 20-22. Hotel Reservations for the event must be made by March 20, for attendees to get the group rate.

CCA meeting registration costs are \$40, and are due by February 17. Checks made payable to CCW can be sent to Karen Moller, 7592 Silver Bridge Road, Palo Cedro, CA, 96073. Registration for the regional meeting is \$100. Make checks payable to CCW and mail to CCA President Judy Ahmann,

1400 Buchli Station Road, Napa CA 94559. Additional tickets are available for guests. Call Judy at (707) 224-5012, for more information.

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CCA and NCBA Encourage Participation at D.C. Legislative Conference

With the Annual Convention just behind us, the folks at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) would like to remind members that NCBA will be holding the annual Legislative Conference April 1-4, 2008, in Washington, D.C.

Your attendance will provide the opportunity to meet with key congressional and agency influencers and articulate policy priorities of our industry for 2008 and beyond. A strong showing of NCBA members in Washington is vital to our association and to the beef industry. For more details on this event and information on how to register, please visit the NCBA Web site:

<http://www.beefusa.org/convspringlegislativeconference.aspx>

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UCCE Animal Health Meeting

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) animal health meeting is scheduled for Friday, **Feb. 29, 2008** from **4:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.** at the Orland Livestock Auction Yard. The meeting will feature presentations on the topics of BVD Overview and Rapid Assessment, Irrigated Pasture Water Quality Survey Results, Late Season Fertilization of Irrigated Pasture, EPDs and Sire Selection to Fit Your Herd and Leptospirosis Survey—What and Why We Vaccinate? For a complete agenda and additional information contact Livestock Farm Advisor Josh Davy at (530) 527-3101.

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CSU, Chico Annual Beef Day & Trade Show

The CSU, Chico Annual Beef Day & Trade Show is scheduled for **Feb. 16, 2008** at the University Farm. The event will feature presentations about the impacts of crossbreeding, age and source verification, internet auctions, breakout sessions, an update on industry issues from the California Cattlemen's Association and more. Registration opens at 8 a.m. and the program will run from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. For a copy of the complete agenda or questions regarding the event please contact Sean Early at (530) 898-5777.

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Cattle-Fax Weekly Market Highlight February 15, 2008

Fed trade was not established at press time. Only a handful of cattle had traded in Nebraska at \$146 dressed, down \$1 to \$2 from last week. Feeder cattle and stocker values were mostly \$1 to \$4 higher. Market cow values were steady to \$3 higher. Through Thursday, boxed beef values were flat to higher with Choice up \$0.07 at \$150.43 and Select was up \$3.67 at \$148.11. Offerings were light through mid-week and increased late. Values rose to the highest level since June of 2007 and the Choice/Select spread fell below \$3, reaching the lowest level since June of 2005.

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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.

This newsletter is a publication of the California Cattlemen's Association.

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