



National Cattlemen's Beef Association

In this Issue

[USDA Issues Final Ruling on Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling](#)

[USDA APHIS Requests Comments on Revised Structure for the NAHLN](#)

[Barrasso Introduces Preserve the Waters of the U.S. Act in the Senate](#)

[Legislative Watch](#)

[New on the Web](#)

[ADUFA/AGDUFA Reauthorization Advances in the House](#)

[Cattle Fax Update](#)

[NBCA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen](#)

[Your NCBA](#)

Contacts:

Chase Adams,
cadams@beef.org
202-879-9117

Cristina Llorens,
cllorens@beef.org
202-879-9138

Beltway Beef is a weekly report from Washington, D.C., giving an up-to-date summary of top policy initiatives concerning the cattle industry, direct from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). Please feel free to reprint in full or in part. If you would like to include NCBA's logo, contact us at 303-694-0305.



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 20

MAY 23, 2013

Beltway Beef

Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns

USDA Issues Final Ruling on Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that it has issued a final rule regarding the Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (MCOOL) rule in order to come into compliance with a recent World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling.

[National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#) (NCBA) President Scott George, a beef and dairy producer from Cody, Wyo., said his organization is disappointed with USDA's actions.

"Our largest trading partners have already said that these provisions will not bring the United States into compliance with our WTO obligations and will result in increased discrimination against imported

products and in turn retaliatory tariffs or other authorized trade sanctions. As we said in comments submitted to USDA, 'any retaliation against U.S. beef would be devastating for our producers,'" George said. "While trying to make an untenable mandate fit with our international trade obligations, USDA chose to set up U.S. cattle producers for financial losses. Moreover, this rule will place a greater record-keeping burden on producers, feeders and processors through the born, raised and harvested label."

In March, USDA proposed a rule to amend MCOOL to require that all products sold at retail be labeled with information noting the birth, raising and harvest of the animal, along with

the elimination of the ability to comingle muscle cuts. This new rule will potentially cost between \$53 million to \$138 million, to implement, although the extra costs could reach \$192 million.

George agreed that this ruling will only further add to the costs of processing non-U.S. born, raised and slaughtered products.

"As cattlemen and women, we do not oppose voluntary labeling as a marketing tool to distinguish product and add value," he said. "However, USDA is not the entity that we want marketing beef, and on its face, a label that says 'harvested' is unappealing to both consumers and cattle producers."

USDA APHIS Requests Comments on Revised Structure for the NAHLN

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently announced that it is accepting comments on a concept paper for the revised structure of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). The NAHLN is a nationally coordinated network and partnership of federal, state, and university-associated animal health laboratories. NAHLN laboratories provide animal health diagnostic testing to detect biological threats to the nation's food animals, thus protecting animal health and the nation's food supply.

Since its inception in 2002, the NAHLN has expanded from 12 to over 50 currently active participating laboratories, each with varying diagnostic capabilities. The NAHLN is overseen and administered by USDA

with operational oversight provided through APHIS.

The concept paper describes the roles and responsibilities of the NAHLN Coordinating Council and offers a revised structure for the NAHLN that would clarify opportunities for participation by state-based NAHLN laboratories. Inclusion of state-based laboratories in the NAHLN allows for greater proximity to and linkages with producers and veterinarians that is critical to the early detection of foreign animal and emerging diseases.

"This concept paper presents a structure that will give the NAHLN increased capacity and flexibility to detect and respond to emerging animal diseases," said [National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#) (NCBA) Chief Veterinarian Dr. Kathy Simmons. "It also ensures the continuation of the

NAHLN's founding principles while responding to the need for additional flexibility and capacity to address identified gaps in the nation's surveillance, detection and response capabilities."

Simmons added that the document offers a revised structure for the NAHLN that would clarify opportunities for participation by state-based NAHLN laboratories.

USDA is accepting comments through June 24. Comments can be submitted through the federal rulemaking portal by clicking [here](#). Comments can also be submitted via mail to Docket No. APHIS-2012-0105, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, Md. 20737-1238.

Barrasso Introduces Preserve the Waters of the U.S. Act in the Senate

Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), along with Sens. David Vitter (R-La.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) and 23 other cosponsors, has reintroduced legislation that would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) from finalizing the Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdictional guidance document, and prevent any rulemaking that is based on the substance of the guidance. Barrasso introduced the Preserve the Waters of the U.S. Act (S. 1006) on Thursday.

The CWA guidance would increase the number of waters, streams and wetlands under the jurisdiction of the 1972 law. Fighting the implementation of the guidance, which has been at the White House Office of Management and Budget for more than a year, is a top priority for the [National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#) (NCBA), which says that potential expansion of the CWA could cripple cattle operations across the country.

"EPA and this administration still do not seem to realize that implementing the CWA guidance will negatively effect cattlemen and women and their businesses. Expanding the federal government's role in regulating all types of waters would hamper the ability to maintain clean waters and is not the solution here," said NCBA

Deputy Environmental Counsel Ashley McDonald. "This attempt by the government to increase the reach of the CWA by expanding the definition of 'navigable' is just another way to increase its control over farmers and ranchers. What's next, the agency regulating puddles and mudflats?"

The Preserve the Waters of the U.S. Act contains the same language that recently failed as an amendment to the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The amendment received the 52 votes in the Senate, but needed 60 votes to pass. NCBA issued a statement last week saying that "it is a tragedy that those who voted against this amendment refuse to recognize the devastating effect this guidance will have on farmers and ranchers across the country."

"Last week the Senate failed to address this important issue by not passing Senator Barrasso's amendment to WRDA, and we thank him for working on behalf of farmers and ranchers not only in Wyoming but across the country to stop the federal government from implementing what would be one of the biggest federal land-grabs in history," McDonald said. "We hope that this time Congress will do its job and set jurisdictional limits on the CWA."

Legislative Watch

Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA) Reauthorization — Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) and authorizes FDA to collect fees for certain animal drug applications. ADUFA is up for reauthorization every five years.

S. 954 — Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2013

Senate version of the 2013 Farm Bill. S. 954 incorporates NCBA priorities; there is no livestock title, the conservation and disaster programs are maintained and the research title is sustained. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on S. 954.

S. 258 and H.R. 657— Grazing Improvement Act

To amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing leases and permits, and for other purposes. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on S. 258 and H.R. 657. Key Sponsors: Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Rep. Raúl Labrador (R-Idaho)

H.R. 1345 — Catastrophic Wildfire Prevention Act of 2013

To address the forest health, public safety and wildlife habitat threat presented by the risk of wildfire, including catastrophic wildfire, on National Forest System lands and public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. NCBA urges a **YES** vote on H.R. 1345. Key Sponsor: Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.)

S. 895 — Antimicrobial Data Collection Act

Would require a pilot program to look into new data sources on antibiotics used on food producing animals. The legislation would require the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to collect more data on antimicrobial drug use. NCBA urges a **NO** vote on and S. 895. Key Sponsors: Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine)

New on the Web

Check out the [Beltway Beef blog](#) for inside perspectives on issues affecting U.S. cattlemen and women. You can sign up on the blog to receive an email when new information is posted. You can also follow us on [Twitter](#), be a fan of us on [Facebook](#), check out our latest photos on [Flickr](#) or watch video updates on our [YouTube](#) page. For audio,

visit our website at www.BeefUSA.org.

ADUFA/AGDUFA Reauthorization Advances in the House



By Rep. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.)

Similar to human drugs, we have in place a process for ensuring that animal drugs distributed in our country are safe and effective. Keeping our animals healthy is crucial in insuring our own health.

The Center for Veterinary Medicine and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are responsible for ensuring that animal drugs are safe and effective, and manufactured to the highest quality standards. Reauthorizing the programs that support the testing and review of new and generic

animal drug applications will continue to secure a safe supply for our livestock and family pets.

On May 15, the House Energy and Commerce Committee approved by voice vote H.R. 1407, which would reauthorize the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA) and the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act (AGDUFA) that expire at the end of Fiscal Year 2013. Reps. John Shimkus, of Illinois, and I led the effort to renew these important programs.

This legislation is essential to ensuring that producers throughout Colorado and the country have access to safe and effective animal drugs to treat their herds, keeping animals and our food healthy. Additionally, the American Veterinary Medical Association has maintained that animal drugs pose no risk to human health and make our food supply even safer. This legislation is also critical to the work of veterinarians and animal care givers who benefit from innovative medical advancements that help them treat, control and prevent animal diseases.

Thus far, ADUFA/AGDUFA have been successful programs and the reauthorization makes them even more effective by streamlining the drug approval process. Companies dedicated to animal health rely on ADUFA/AGDUFA to provide a predictable and science-based review process for animal drugs. This reauthorization will allow them to benefit from a more stable process, so they can make decisions about where to invest research dollars.

Without the ADUFA/AGDUFA reauthorization the FDA would not

be able to continue running these important programs that ensure we have access to the drugs that keep our animals healthy. In fact, prior to the authorization of ADUFA/AGDUFA, there was a back log on the applications for animal drugs. This not only hurt the industry that manufactures these medications, but jeopardized livestock because herds didn't have access to these drugs. It is of the utmost importance that we send this legislation to the House floor for a vote and then to the President's desk so the FDA can continue to provide these medications for our producers in a timely manner.

For one of the leading agricultural district in the United States House of Representatives, it was an honor to lead this authorization through committee, so we can continue feeding the country and provide an economic boost to our rural communities.

Congressman Cory Gardner has been a leading conservative voice in Colorado where he served in the state legislature for five years prior to being elected to Congress to represent the state's 4th Congressional District. Cory has always been a strong voice for rural families and small business. He has earned a reputation for fighting onerous government regulations that hurt farmers and hinder job growth.

CattleFax Update

On Wed., May 22, most markets closed at lower price levels. Live cattle futures traded more than \$1/cwt. lower. A relatively light volume of fed cattle traded in Kansas and Texas at \$124/cwt. Feeder cattle futures traded nearly \$3/cwt. lower. The CME reported the seven-day average Feeder Index at \$131.26/cwt., down \$0.27. Wholesale boxed beef values traded mixed. Choice values continue to push higher to new record values. However, buyers are starting to show resistance to the higher prices if delivery needs cannot be met. Grains traded stronger. Corn futures traded more than \$0.10/bu. higher. Soybean futures added more than \$0.15/bu. Chicago and Kansas City wheat futures traded roughly \$0.06/bu. firmer.

For recent market news and analysis, visit www.CattleFax.com.

Don't Miss Out on NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen!

Don't miss NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen* May 28-June 1. Viewers will learn more about Purina Animal Nutrition and revisit some of their stories from the past year. Experts will discuss the importance of having a proper mineral nutrition program and how it can mean a more profitable operation for beef cattle producers.

NCBA's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen* debuts each Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. The show also airs Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and on Saturday at 9 a.m. (all times are Eastern). Don't forget that you can also [watch NCBA's Cattlemen to Cattlemen online](#) anytime by visiting our website. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and become a fan on [Facebook](#).



Your NCBA

NCBA Weather Blog: Looking for the latest information on weather in cattle country? Check out [NCBA's Weather Blog](#) for articles and information on weather conditions in rural America and the effect it could have on your operation.



National Cattlemen's Beef Association

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) has represented America's cattle producers since 1898, preserving the heritage and strength of the industry through education and public policy. As the largest association of cattle producers, NCBA works to create new markets and increase demand for beef. Efforts are made possible through membership contributions. To join, contact NCBA at 1-866-BEEF-USA or membership@beef.org.