



INDEPENDENT BEEF ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Your state wide voice in the cattle industry!

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www.i-band.org

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Inside this Issue:

- * President's Message
- * Susan Keller to be named NDSU Little I Agriculturalist of the Year
- * Upcoming Event
- * 2018 Annual meeting updates and photos
- * HB1400
- * Your Bucks Better Spent
- * Article: Costly Mistakes
- * Emails
- * The Next Generation
- * Article: Lee Pitts
- * Social Media
- * I-BAND Merchandise
- * Send us your photos
- * Sponsors Affiliates
- * Membership

Welcome to 2019!

President's Message: Dwight Keller

Hello Cattle Producers,

It has been a long cold spell so far and winter isn't over yet. Looks like we are going to have to feed our cows a little more to help them make it through the winter, but every day is a day closer to Spring!



The Legislature is in session this winter and I-BAND has been working hard to represent cattle producers on important issues. The main bill we focused on is **HB 1400**, which has to do with the labeling of cell cultured protein or alternative proteins. We don't want a product produced from stem cells in a lab, labeled as 'meat' or 'beef' competing in the same area of the grocery store where farm and ranch raised beef is sold. I-BAND introduced this bill. It has good support from everyone and we hope to get it passed in both the House and the Senate. This is a truth in labeling matter and there is no reason that anyone should oppose that.

The other bill that we are supporting is what is referred to as the posting bill, **SB 2315**. It is essentially a private property rights bill and our organization strongly supports private

Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway.

.....John Wayne & I-BAND



Presidents Message: Dwight Keller

property rights. **We need everyone to call their Legislators and ask them to support this bill.**

We monitored the animal seizure bill, **SB 2177**, which adds language in the current regulation to include a brand inspector during a seizure of cattle, horses and mules and before the final disposition of those animals can be determined. The intent was to clarify what should be taking place already.

SB 2239 was a bill that the NDDA and the BOAH brought forward to address confidentiality language for animal health related information. We testified in support of the bill. Language had been accidentally removed instead of copied, during a rewrite of the statute that pertains to the brand inspection program. The bill passed out of the committee with a unanimous do pass vote.

I would like to thank everybody who has given of their time and volunteered to travel to meetings in D.C. and to the Capitol to represent us on many issues. The I-BAND members donate their time and expenses in order to do what we do. I won't provide a list of names, but the list is long and everyone plays a significant role. There is no per-diem or reimbursement for all the costs associated with their expenses or the time they donate. We don't have a full-time executive secretary, but we have a very dedicated part-time secretary who helps put together a newsletter, the annual meeting and works on our website. Our organization is funded only by membership dues and sponsorships. I just want to thank everyone for all the time that they've donated to make this organization successful! Our organizational structure allows our Board members to be involved. They have a good handle on what the grassroots producers thoughts are on issues.

It came to our attention recently that USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services does not currently require a firm destination to be listed on an international health certificate for cattle that enter the US. The actual 911 address is required for cattle moving from state to state within the US on interstate health certificates. While we can support the need for traceability for animal health purposes, we shouldn't support any further movement towards mandatory identification until the USDA addresses their own major lack of traceability for animals entering the US. In the enclosed article, it's clear that JBS can't seem to keep track of who owns what carcasses in their processing plants. USDA and FSIS need to more carefully look at the accuracy of the slaughter order reports and fraudulent information that is provided. We will continue to monitor those important issues at state and national levels.

Thank you for supporting I-BAND as we continue to try and represent your interests in the livestock industry. If you have any questions please contact one of the I-BAND Board members.

Dwight Keller
President of I-BAND

Susan Keller to be named NDSU Little I Agriculturalist of the Year

The 93rd annual Little I will be Feb. 8-9, 2019.

North Dakota State University's 2019 Little International showmanship contest will feature more than 200 student livestock showmen, bring almost 500 4-H and FFA youth to campus and honor North Dakota state veterinarian Susan Keller as the Agriculturalist of the Year.

The 93rd annual Little I will be Feb. 8-9, 2019. The 300-member strong NDSU Saddle and Sirloin Club leads the event.

Keller will be honored at the Agriculturalist of the Year banquet the evening of Friday, Feb. 8.

After having her own veterinary clinic, then serving as deputy state veterinarian, Keller was named North Dakota state veterinarian in 2004. She and her family run Keller Broken Heart Ranch south of Mandan, N.D.

"We are thrilled to dedicate the 93rd Little International to Dr. Keller," said Kacey Koester, Little I manager and an NDSU senior in animal sciences from Steele, N.D. "Her years of dedication to the improvement of animal husbandry and health truly epitomizes the purpose of the NDSU Saddle and Sirloin Club and the Little International."

The Agriculturalist of the Year banquet will be at the Avalon Events Center in Fargo. Tickets are \$20.

"In addition to the showmanship contest, the Saturday evening festivities include family-friendly entertainment such as fun skits and jokes," says Samantha Pernsteiner, Saddle and Sirloin club member. "An auction of cured hams, in addition to a silent auction and 50/50 raffle, offer opportunities for the whole crowd to get involved in Little I."

The showmanship contest begins at 8 a.m. Feb. 9 at NDSU's Shepperd Arena, with NDSU students showing beef, dairy, sheep and swine. The night show begins at 5:30 p.m.

To purchase tickets to the Agriculturalist of the Year banquet, contact Koester at littlei.management@gmail.com or 701-391-4646. For more information on the NDSU Saddle and Sirloin Club Little International, visit <https://www.ndsusaddleandsirloin.com/>.

—NDSU Extension



UPCOMING EVENT

The 42nd Annual edition of the KFJR Agri International is happening at the Bismarck Event Center February 12th and 13th! Stop by and see us!

2018 Annual Meeting Updates

District 1 Candidates: Kenny Graner Ron Volk

District 2 Candidates: Mike Heaton Jack Nagel

Resolutions Passed:

U.S. Farm and Ranch Alliance
USFRA 2018-1

Animal ID Policy
AIDP 2018-1

Easements
PCE 2018-1

Cell Cultured Proteins, Plant & Insect Based
CCPPIB 2018-1
Definition of Beef & Meat



Shelly with her Country Cooking, Comedy & Wine



The last of Jim
Roshau's creations for
I-BAND



Evening
Entertainment
by
Garrett Dockter



Convention Speakers; Kevin Sedivec, Jess Peterson, Tracy Hunt, Dr Susan Keller



Mary setting up the auction



Dustin & Bailey with the kids
in our child care room



Dwight & the Wheel Award recipient
Farm Credit Services of ND





Greyson & Levi drawing the winning tickets for our gun raffle.



Dwight, Mike and Pat reading off the names of the gun winners

HB 1400

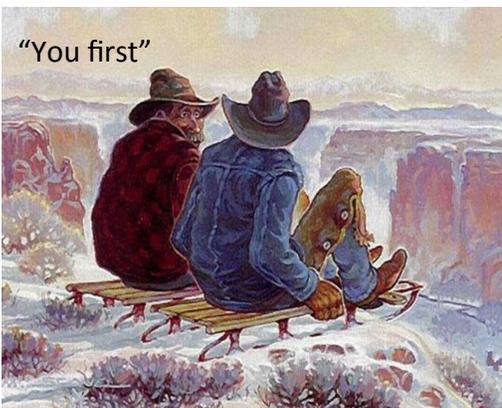
Friday, January 11, 2019 HB 1400 was introduced by Reps. Schmidt, D. Johnson, Magrum, Meier, Rohr, Satrom and Sens. Cook and Schai-ble. January 24, 2019 was the committee hearing.

HB 1400 - A BILL for an Act to create and enact section 4.1-31-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to misrepresenting nonmeat as a meat food product; to amend and reenact section 4.1-31-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definition of meat and the nomenclature of edible meat products; and to provide a penalty.

“I personally testified regarding some out of state interests are considering it "Freedom of Speech"I testified that freedom of speech does not include the freedom to misrepresent. Just because you can make a donut taste like bacon, doesn't mean it's actually bacon and you can't sell it in the bacon section of the market. I also pointed out that the Meat Packers are heavily invested in the alternative proteins. “

Mary Graner

Your Bucks Better Spent



If you want to see your state checkoff dollar go to work for you, consider requesting your refund and donating it back to I-BAND. Log onto www.i-band.org for an electronic donation or send your donation to: I-BAND PO Box 123, Menoken, ND 58558.

--- Here's how to get your refund back; go to the link below---

<http://www.ndbeef.org/ndcheckoffrefunds.aspx>

Costly mistakes: USDA finds that JBS USA did not keep track of carcasses in plants, some feeders say it's a chronic problem

By [Carrie Stadheim](#); Tristate Livestock News

USDA's Ag Marketing Service reported last week that it had reached an agreement with JBS USA Food Company, regarding alleged violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

The government news release said that an AMS investigation of JBS, also known as Swift Beef Company, Greeley, Colorado, revealed problems regarding payment accuracy based on carcass weights and tracking at its Grand Island, Nebraska, plant.

"AMS conducted an investigation that revealed JBS Swift failed to maintain the identity of beef carcasses purchased on a hot weight basis to ensure accurate payment to livestock sellers at its Grand Island, Neb., facility. During the period of Dec. 14, 2017 through March 31, 2018, JBS Swift failed to record accurately the weights, grades and prices of carcasses on accountings issued to sellers," said the news release.

The consent decision ordered JBS Swift to pay a \$50,000 civil penalty, and to cease and desist from:

- Failing to properly maintain the identity of each seller's livestock and the carcasses therefrom;

- Failing, after determination of the amount of the purchase price, to transmit or deliver to the seller or his duly authorized agent a true written account of such purchase showing the number, weight and price of the carcasses of each grade (identifying the grade) and of the ungraded carcasses, an explanation of any condemnations and any other information affecting final accounting; and

- Failing to maintain sufficient records to substantiate the settlement of each transaction.

JBS made adjustments to its carcass tracking procedures and computer software upon realization of the violation, said the news release.

Cameron Bruett, a JBS media spokesman explained the problem. "We experienced an error in our carcass sequencing processes following a software change in early December 2017. As a result, we mistakenly overpaid some livestock sellers and underpaid others during a three-month period. Following a self-audit, we corrected the issues that led to the errors and entered into an agreement with USDA where we would not seek reimbursement from any overpaid livestock sellers and make refund payments to underpaid livestock sellers during the three-month period."

AMS spokesman I.J. Perez said the payments JBS issued were not necessarily for the amount the company owed the producer. "Because JBS was not properly maintaining the identity of carcasses through the entire production process, the records did not provide the seller with a true written account of the sale. As a result, payments were not for the correct amounts."

In July of 2018, AMS reported that JBS had been found to be in violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act for failure to maintain and operate its dynamic monorail scales to ensure accurate weights at its Cactus, Texas facility on Aug. 9, 2016, and Greeley, Colorado, facility on Dec. 1, 2016.

Costly mistakes: USDA finds that JBS USA did not keep track of carcasses in plants, some feeders say it's a chronic problem... Continued....

At that time, the company paid a civil penalty of \$29,000 and consented to maintain correct and accurate scales that record weights on scale tickets, internal records, kill sheets or other accounting issued to sellers of livestock.

Often smaller feeders are unable to obtain a live weight bid, which forces them to sell them on a carcass basis, said Nebraska feeder, Steve Krajicek of Lincoln. Because he doesn't see the cattle after they enter the processing facility, he believes there is more opportunity for a processor to take advantage of a feeder when buying cattle based on carcass weight rather than live weight. The cattle seller does not see the cattle after they go to holding pens, so Krajicek does not know how long his cattle wait to be slaughtered, or how the carcasses are tracked and weighed within the plant.

The former feed salesman said he filed a complaint with the GIPSA about a year ago regarding truck unloading problems and poor yields, issues that are inter-related. "On many, many occasions we had problems where our trucks would wait to be unloaded at the Grand Island plant." Because he was familiar with the way his cattle yielded at other plants, Krajicek knew there was a problem when they consistently yielded lower at JBS plants, according to JBS paperwork.

Krajicek said he and the processor would agree to a time for delivery of his cattle, but JBS wouldn't unload his cattle sometimes for several hours after they arrived at the plant. "Say you are supposed to have three loads there at 3 pm on a Thursday, we'd get them there and they'd say we can't unload you. The cattle sit on the truck for several hours, you can imagine what happens, they shrink more, there are injuries, all of that is absorbed by the producer."

"I told them, 'we have scales, we can weigh them when they leave the feedlot,' so we know what acceptable yields are and acceptable shrinks are. After they learned that we weighed every load at the feedyard when they left, they weren't as interested in buying my cattle," he said.

The feedyard that handles his cattle did receive a check for three lots of cattle that were sold during the time period in question, but none of the cattle were his.

Krajicek believes JBS shows a bias in favor of larger feedyards, who can most times get a live weight bid from JBS, he said. "When you are forced to sell cattle in the carcass, which many smaller producers are, it's your trucking expense to get the cattle to a packer," he said, adding that the feeder stands the shrink and any injuries until the animals are hanging.

Steve Scholz, owner of Lincoln County Feedyard, Stapleton, Nebraska, said he sells cattle to JBS on occasion. The feedyard did not receive reimbursement checks for the time period in question, but Scholz said he has received checks from JBS in the past for yield adjustments.

He questions how the company determined the value of the payment to rectify the situation, nearly a year later.

Yet another Nebraska feeder, Craig Uden with Darr Feedlot of Cozad, said accurate weights are crucial to a fair trade.

Costly mistakes: USDA finds that JBS USA did not keep track of carcasses in plants, some feeders say it's a chronic problem... Continued....

"We sell a lot of cattle on a dress basis, so we rely on accurate weights. There have been times when there might have been a hiccup, and we've been notified that there was a small issue or something, but it's always taken care of." Uden, who did not sell any cattle to JBS during the time period in question, said he has talked to ranchers or salebarns or others when the weight doesn't seem right – perhaps the shrink is more than expected. "If we get a larger shrink than we expect, we might have to go back and say 'what was the deal here?'"

Scholz said he wouldn't necessarily "point a finger" at the Grand Island facility when it comes to questionable practices of packers. "It's an old facility. When you are trying to maximize production, and something comes unraveled – like bad weather – it has a chain effect."

While has also been unable to get a live bid for his cattle lately, Scholz said he continues to keep open the few options he has, for selling finished cattle.

"We do a lot of retained ownership, grid based cattle. We try to maximize that for the customer," he said.

There are inherent differences between every processor as to how cattle are handled once they are in the plant, which greatly affects yield back to the customer, he said.

Scholz said that perhaps the beef industry should consider requiring live monitors at beef plants, to help ensure trimming practices are more standardized. Yields can be hugely affected by the trimming process. "Maybe these bigger cattle groups want to use their checkoff dollars to get a meat scientist inside these plants to keep an eye on how the carcasses are trimmed."

More packing plants would be helpful in the overall scheme of things, too, Scholz said. "We will probably never see another big packing plant get built in this country, but I think the industry is moving more in the direction of niche markets, and we need more of these smaller, 200-300 head plants."

Since 2000, JBS and its subsidiary meat companies have been fined over \$28 million for various illegal activities.

"What I'm saying is, how can you trust them?" asked Krajicek. "This has happened not once but three times. They've been caught with their scales not right. They were fined for losing track of carcasses. My point is, someone else needs to be running those scales other than the packers."

"While this technical error was unfortunate, we are confident that we have taken the appropriate steps to correct the issue and provide an equitable solution to affected livestock sellers. Less than 40 producers were negatively impacted and many have already been reimbursed," said Bruett, on behalf of JBS.

Emails

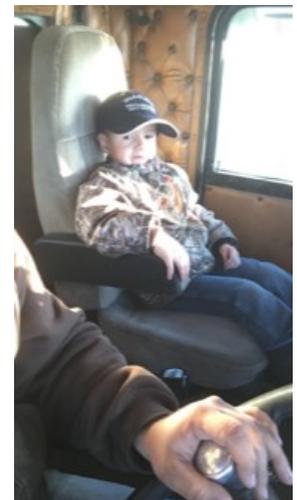
We have recently started using a system to send emails to our members to inform on upcoming events and press releases. If you would like to be included, please let Kari know so she can add you to the list.

- Would you also like to see the newsletter emailed as well as mailed?

The Next Generation...



'It is up to us to live up to the legacy that was left for us, and to leave a legacy that is worthy of our children and of future generations.' - Christine Gregoire



We want to see all of the next generation!
Please send photos to
Kari at

independent.beef.assoc.nd@gmail.com

Lee Pitts: Or So We Were Told

By Lee Pitts

<https://competitivemarkets.com/lee-pitts-or-so-we-were-told/>

Ever since the beef checkoff went into effect on July 18, 1986, we could count on regular “independent survey results” informing us that 70% or more of all cattlemen approved of the beef checkoff.

Typical of such glowing report cards was the one that told us that for every beef checkoff dollar collected, cattlemen were receiving back \$11.20 in revenue. You’d have to be a complete, knuckle-dragging ignoramus to not want to invest one dollar to get back eleven. No wonder that between 2010 and 2015 we were told 69% to 78% of ranchers were in favor of the checkoff.

Approval of the checkoff peaked in the early 1980’s when four out of five ranchers were in favor of continuing to pay it. At its worst the highest number of ranchers I could find that disapproved of the checkoff was 27%.

Or, so we were told.

It’s Hillary In A Landslide

Some of the oldest and most highly circulated livestock periodicals got so used to printing positive stories about the checkoff through the years that they may have started believing their own BS. Perhaps it’s my cynical nature but I never did believe the glowing poll results about the checkoff because, after all, the checkoff was paying for them. Or rather, you were. You don’t have to be a genius to figure out that reporting a negative opinion of the checkoff would be a sure-fire way for a polling company to lose the lucrative beef checkoff account.

A wise author told me years ago that you may have lost your touch as a writer when you start believing the blurbs on the covers of your books. Perhaps Drovers may be guilty of believing their own blurbs because on November 13, 2018, they boldly asked their readers if they believed the checkoff was helping to stimulate beef demand and supporting their cattle business?

Surely Drovers was confident that their results would echo those obtained by the polling outfits hired by the Beef Board. After all, Drovers has gone gaga for the NCBA from day one and has been in a war recently with R CALF, the anti-NCBA of the beef business. If Drovers had any idea the results would be so bad we’re confident they’d have never asked the question to begin with. Imagine their surprise when 54% of those responding to the Drover’s poll said, “No” the beef checkoff WAS NOT stimulating demand or helping their business!

How could this be? Weren’t we regularly told 70% of those paying the checkoff were in favor of it? Who knew that Drovers readers were such a bunch of anti-NCBA’ers and radical R CALF members? How else could you explain why 54% of Drover’s readers did not believe the checkoff helped their business or increased demand for beef? Who did the polling for the Beef Board and the NCBA, was it the same outfit that said Hillary would be elected in a landslide?

Could the disparity in the results be explained away by a large difference in the sample size? Not really. CBB sponsored polls typically polled 1,000 to 1,200 while 926 Drovers readers responded to their poll. Statistically, the 10 to 15% difference in the sample size would not explain such contrasting results.

Lee Pitts: Or So We Were Told...continued

That's not even the worst news. At one point during the poll as many as 70% rejected the notion that the checkoff was helpful to their ranch. But even more harmful to the NCBA, the CBB and the checkoff were the comments left by those responding to the Drover's poll. But then you probably didn't see them because they were removed by Drovers on the same day they first appeared. Just for fun, go to Drover's web site now and see if you can find them. If so, you're a better computer hacker than I am.

Deleted But Not Forgotten

Lucky for us someone at the Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) captured a [screen shot](#) of the comments before they were deleted. Here are just some of those comments that no one at Drovers wanted you to see.

Jay Platt: "When the beef checkoff was inaugurated in 1988 per capita beef consumption was 72.5 pounds. It has steadily declined nearly every year since. In 2016, per capita consumption was 56.5 pounds, a decline of 22%. Were the checkoff stimulating demand we should not have seen a steady decline in per capita consumption, which is the true measure of demand. Simply stated, it is a failed program, unless of course, one happens to be the NCBA."

K. Hawkins: "Too much for NCBA and not enough for promotion. I straight up asked a NCBA representative in a question and answer section of a speech at a cattleman's meeting about their position on COOL and got, "No comment." Enough said."

Theresa Fox: "The beef checkoff has provided a large slush fund of monies for those stakeholders who run the organization. No checks and balances, no accountability, plenty of fraud and embezzlement."

Tom Fichti: "Answer me one question. Why am I spending money to maintain a product when the packers for the past six months have been making \$300 per head and I'm losing \$85 per head?" (By the way, packers aren't required to pay into the beef checkoff. Talk about a return on YOUR money!)

Bonnie: "The checkoff is important but it needs to be spent promoting USA beef, not foreign beef or going for the lobbying of the NCBA."

Rick Kiekow: "For too many years the NCBA has manipulated the checkoff funds to support the beef packer interests instead of supporting cattle producer interests."

Mike: "NCBA has stolen the checkoff tax and used the money and political power it buys to promote a more and more concentrated marketplace that has left cattle producers bankrupt."

Scott: "If there is going to be a checkoff every nickel should be taken out of the crooked hands of NCBA. One of the real solutions for the beef industry would be to show how few cattlemen NCBA really represents."

Donna: "I believe the checkoff dollars are helping fund the NCBA's agenda, and helping fund demand for imported beef. Bring back COOL, take the checkoff out of NCBA's hands and maybe then the checkoff will help the American cattle rancher again."

Do those sound like satisfied check-off payers to you?

Something's Rotten In Denver

Lee Pitts: Or So We Were Told...continued

[According to OCM](#), “The overwhelming majority of Drovers’ commenters stated that it is not the Beef Checkoff Program they opposed but rather how it is being administered amidst concerns that the program’s largest contractor, NCBA, is mismanaging the lion’s share of the beef checkoff funds.”

According to OCM, “The comments deleted by Drovers are the same sentiments that the OCM has held for nearly a decade.”

Along with words like “sustainable” and “paradigm” another one of the magic words these days when referring to any company or organization is “transparency.” More is good, less is worse. A company is being transparent if it makes financial information readily available. An organization is NOT being transparent if it tries to hide how much its President or CEO is being paid. The beef checkoff, NCBA and the Cattlemen’s Beef Board are about as transparent as momma’s muumuu was.

It’s simply wrong that a government program, financed by your beef taxes, should be so hard to find any information about. Believe me, I’ve tried. And so have two other entities that probably wouldn’t exist today were it not for NCBA’s heist of the beef checkoff. R CALF and the OCM tried to get financial information about the beef checkoff for years from the USDA by going through all the proper channels but they ran into one roadblock after another. This just intensified their belief that there was something rotten in Denver.

A partial audit in 2010 of the checkoff that was the equivalent of just nine days of spending, found numerous irregularities and a full government audit later on was mired in controversy, as released documents showed agency “heartburn” and fear of “embarrassment” over an audit report that was “reworked,” “transformed,” and “rebooted.”

The OCM got tired of the run-around so in 2013 they filed a Freedom of Information Act request to get financial information about the checkoff. According to OCM, “The USDA failed to comply so in 2014 OCM filed the ongoing [lawsuit](#) to force the USDA to release the government audit documents and financial records. OCM and its members are still waiting for answers. Since 2014, USDA and NCBA have stalled the release of the information in court. In 2017, the U.S. Government Accountability Office issued a report calling out USDA for its lack of transparency and oversight over the Beef Checkoff Program. The same year in the courtroom, USDA turned over more than 12,000 pages of financial and audit documents that had been almost completely blacked-out and redacted.”

OCM founding member Fred Stokes says, “The people paying the federally mandated checkoff assessment shouldn’t have to spend four years in court to see how the government spends those funds. With USDA and NCBA’s complete lack of transparency they are destroying the integrity of the Beef Checkoff Program. If they have done nothing wrong they should just release the audit and financial expenditure documents,” says Stokes. “We strongly support a transparent Beef Checkoff Program that works for the hardworking family farmers and ranchers who pay into the program. OCM supports a fair and transparent Beef Checkoff Program but the next time a poll is conducted the overwhelming sentiment might be to simply end the beef checkoff program. This would be a no-win situation for all.”

No Other Option

R CALF has also been left with no other option than to go to court to stop NCBA’s ongoing shenanigans. R CALF has been working for checkoff reform for two decades and their every effort has been repelled. The one issue that really gave R CALF traction with ranchers is Country of Origin

Lee Pitts: Or So We Were Told...continued

Labeling (COOL). R CALF believes in it, NCBA doesn't.

R CALF has also pushed for the separation between the Federation of State Beef Councils, the Beef Checkoff Program, and the NCBA, but NCBA could never afford to let that happen. R CALF members became so disgusted that they passed a resolution that said the current checkoff system is "corrupt and unsalvageable" and that Congress should repeal it.

Says R CALF CEO Bill Bullard, "Our efforts through the executive branch and the legislative branch have met brick walls so now we're pursuing, through the third branch of government, incremental reforms with the overall objective of achieving our member policy, ensuring that beef promotion actually benefits U.S. cattle producers."

R CALF's next assault on the checkoff and more specifically the NCBA, began in Montana where its beef council was using state checkoff funds to help pay for ads with Wendys' featuring beef that came from... well that's just the point. We don't know where the beef came from. Turns out, American cattlemen may have been paying to promote Australian beef, for all we know. So R CALF filed a lawsuit against the USDA alleging that they are unconstitutionally compelling Montana producers to fund the corporate speech of the Montana Beef Council. So far, R CALF has won in court every step of the way and has added 13 more states to their hit list.

Laundering Your Money

R CALF's latest charge against the NCBA is that in addition to being thieves, they are also laundering money! According to Bullard, "What we believe is a form of money laundering is the NCBA Federation's pay-to-play scheme which is described in the NCBA Federation Division Investment Schedule. Unlike the CBB whose representation is based on the number of cattle in each state, representation on the NCBA Federation is based on how much money the state beef councils send to the NCBA. According to the NCBA Schedule, even states with small numbers of cattle must pay 10% of the checkoff payments they collect from producers if they want any representation at all on the NCBA Federation."

"The NCBA Schedule also shows the top 15 cattle producing states, several of which are now included in R CALF USA's beef checkoff case, each pay \$32,000 to the NCBA for their first three seats on the NCBA Federation. Based on the NCBA Schedule and the NCBA Report, those states must then pay about \$263,000 each for their fourth and fifth seats and \$526,000 for their sixth seat. Then, if a state sends the NCBA \$1 million or more, it is entitled to a leadership position on the NCBA Executive Committee. Three of the states now in R CALF USA's beef checkoff case paid the NCBA more than \$1 million to buy representation on the NCBA's Executive Committee.

"This looks like a classic case of money laundering to us," Bullard said. "The NCBA is free to admit or deny these allegations and the facts we are presenting but it certainly looks crystal clear to us."

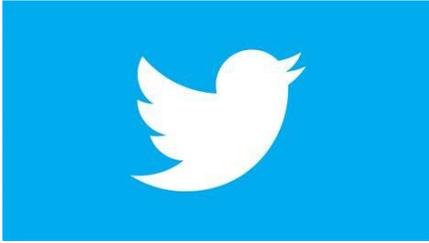
"Many of the states are sending hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not more, to the NCBA for two things," Bullard said. "One, to give NCBA money to promote beef on a national level. The other, to buy seats on the Federation of State Beef Councils, that is housed, owned and controlled by the NCBA. That's a pay-to-play scheme. They're siphoning off half the checkoff dollars and those dollars are not subject to the same fiscal controls that are imposed on the national program through the National Cattlemen's Beef Board."

One way to stop all this bickering would be to allow for a referendum vote on whether or not beef producers want to continue paying for the beef checkoff as presently constructed. But after Drovers' recent poll we're confident that's the last thing in the world the USDA, Beef Board, or the NCBA will ever allow.

Twitter & Facebook

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@IndependentBeefAssociationofND



I-BAND Merchandise

T-shirts \$20 (includes shipping)

Sz L & XL

Need a smaller/larger size?

Let Kari know...

Independent.beef.assoc.nd@gmail.com

Items can be purchased online at

www.i-band.org or by sending a check to :

I-BAND

c/o I-BAND Merchandise

Po Box 123

Menoken, ND 58558



Send us your photos!

We would love to include them in our newsletter
and on our Facebook page.

Photos can be sent to Kari at
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Kist Livestock Auction~ Mandan, ND
Northland Financial
Farmers Union Oil Co of Selfridge, ND
Lindskov-Thiel Ranch ~ Isabel, SD
Prairie Knights Casino & Resort ~ Ft. Yates
B&K Trucking - Sterling, ND
Maher Ranch ~ Menoken, ND
J L Fabricating ~ Regan, ND
Herried Livestock ~ Herried, SD
First Community Credit Union ~ Bismarck, ND
John Dixon,
Bis Man Autoworx
Dakota Land Feeds
Heupel Ranch

Dakota Community Bank Dale Pahlke~ Mandan, ND
Burleigh County Farm Bureau~ Bismarck, ND
Farm Credit Services of North Dakota
Hubbard Feeds
Jim Roshau - Mandan
Bowerman Insurance~ Steele & Gateway Insurance~ Bis.
RDO Equipment Company ~ Bismarck
Grant County State Bank ~Carson, ND
CO-OP Elevator of McClusky, ND
Becker Ranch ~ Selfridge, ND
REA Hybrids, Tony Baumgartner ~ Braddock, ND
Leedstone Veterinarian Supplies
M&M Ag Sales and Service, LLC
Southwest Ag. Inc.
Direct Ag. ~ Mandan
Dustin Goldade Construction ~ Timber Lake, SD
Sayler Implement - Linton
Lund Ranch - Selfridge, ND
Farmers Union Insurance - Mandan, ND

Our Affiliates



Membership

The Independent Beef Association of North Dakota is North Dakota's statewide voice in the cattle industry for the cattle producer. Our membership is primarily made up of cow calf operations in North Dakota. We're a non-profit organization that works in conjunction with other organizations as your statewide and national voice in the cattle industry. We have represented our membership on issues including the Farm Bill, COOL, Waters of the US, HSUS bills, Horse Slaughter, the National Animal Identification System, EPA, Foot and Mouth disease in South America, and the Beef Checkoff. There are numerous issues of importance to cattle producers in the coming year. Strength comes in numbers and I-BAND needs a strong membership to carry out your voice within and outside of North Dakota. We're a grassroots cattle-men's organization, addressing the market interests of North Dakota cattle producers.

I-BAND has been going strong for 13 years now. If you are a new member, a past member or an existing member, we would like you to let us know what you like about this organization and the direction you would like to see this organization take in the future. We take pride in having a membership association where every member's voice is heard through a one member one vote policy. Without the backing of membership, I-BAND would not be in existence. We wish to thank each and every one of you for your support. Any comments can be directed to any I-BAND board member or drop us a line at: I-BAND, Box 123, Menoken, ND 58558.

Strength comes in numbers and I-BAND needs a strong membership to carry out your voice within and outside of North Dakota. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to any friends, neighbors or businesses that may be interested. If anyone would like to schedule an informational meeting in their area please contact any I-BAND Director.



___ One Year Voting \$50 ___ One Year Associate \$50

Do you own cattle? ___yes ___no

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

County _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-Mail _____

Signature _____

District One (1) will be west of the Missouri River from the South Dakota border north to Interstate 94 and west of US Hwy 83 from Interstate 94 north to the Canadian border. District Two (2) will be on the east side of said boundaries.

District Residing In:

District One _____ District Two _____

- Voting Members must own cattle. Annual dues are \$50.00 per year per member (one member/one vote).
- Associate Members do not own cattle and do not have voting rights. Annual dues \$50.00.

Please mail application and dues (cash, check or money order) to the address below. Contributions or gifts to I-BAND are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. However, they may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.

I-BAND, Box 123, Menoken, ND 58558



Independent Beef Association of
North Dakota

PO Box 123

Menoken, ND 58558

DISTRICT ONE

Directors

DISTRICT TWO

Dwight Keller

President

701-445-7350

Frank Tomac

Secretary

Director at Large

701-522-3430

Kenny Graner

701-663-3805

Patrick L. Becker

701-422-3396

Ron Volk

701-872-2172

Jeremy Maher

701-522-3696



Kerry Dockter

Vice President

701-884-2754

Mike Heaton

Treasurer

701-220-0496

Jack Nagel

701-782-4250

Robin Ziesch

701-220-4820

Larry Kinev

701-327-8205



Photo by Kari Goldade