

INDEPENDENT BEEF ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Your state wide voice in the cattle industry!

PO Box 123

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www.i-band.org

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Save The Date

**The 15th Annual Meeting has been scheduled for
November 20-21, 2020 in Bismarck at the Ramada.**

More information will be in the next newsletter.

1400 E. Interchange Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501
info@ramadabismarck.com



A message from our president



Greetings Fellow Ranchers,

2020 has been a very interesting year. I hope everyone has had enough of Covid-19. Covid has cost our industry billions and we need to get back to something more like normal if our country is going to go on. Hopefully, if COVID has done nothing else, it should have taught everyone that it is not good to be dependent on other countries for our food and many other products that we import.

We have worked on mandatory price reporting with our senators and are grateful that Senator Hoeven signed on to Senator Grassley's bill which is the 50-14 bill. That bill intends that 50% of all cattle are to be bought in a cash market by each facility and delivered within 14 days. Currently, only 5 % of all cattle are purchased in the cash market in the southern states. Other senators from Northern states are also supporting the bill. Southern states are opposed to the bill because most of their cattle are

A message from our president

bought on a formula basis. We hope it passes and will help establish a cash market again and competition in the market. The second round CARES relief funds, is supposed to have \$14.5 billion for Agriculture. There will be some level of cattle payments made available again.

USDA came out with their investigation report of the boxed beef and fed cattle price spread on July 22, 2020. I read it and it sounded a bit like they were trying to justify the price spread that occurred. Boxed beef went from approximately \$210/cwt up to approximately \$479/cwt while at the same time live cattle fell from about \$1.20 to about .80 cents or lower. Meat went up dramatically in stores while prices paid to producers dropped dramatically and shelves were empty.

If USDA worked as hard for the beef producers, as they seem to for packers, our situation in the live-stock side of the industry would improve. With everything going on in Washington, it might be a long time before the Department of Justice will have time to work on the packer investigation. I believe if we could fix some of the problems such as collusion, it would go a long way. Instead, there are people in DC attempting to impeach our country's Attorney General.

South Dakota LMA is leading an effort for a referendum to have a vote on the Beef Checkoff. I-BAND's policy has always been clear. We support our policy, voted on by our members and that policy is a periodic vote of the checkoff. It is the best way to see if the producers are in favor of what they are paying for. A link to the petition is available on our website so you may go online and sign. (www.i-band.org under the 'more' tab)

If the current checkoff could be voted down, maybe a new checkoff could be brought forward that would be designed to help support USA cattle ranchers to promote USA beef instead of being used by any policy driven organization who could misuse those funds.

Let's hope our country can get back to normal after the election. I remain positive that there will always be a demand for food and people will need to eat so we will see recovery eventually, hopefully soon.

Two thoughts, remember it's always darkest before the dawn and united we stand and divided we fail.

Dwight

Twitter & Facebook

@indbeefassoc_ND



@IndependentBeefAssociationofND

Press Release

For Immediate Release

I-BAND (Independent Beef Association of North Dakota)

Contact Dwight Keller, President kbhr@westriv.com

I-BAND: Disastrous Cattle Markets Need More Than Bailout Package

(March 28, 2020) ~ The Independent Beef Association of North Dakota (I-BAND) today expressed its gratitude to North Dakota's congressional delegation for passage of the federal Coronavirus Stimulus Package, which includes support for the U.S. cattle industry. I-BAND President Dwight Keller said the aid for cattle producers is welcome and comes in the midst of catastrophic market conditions yet called the measure a "short term remedy for a long term problem."

"Fed cattle have lost \$140 to \$200 per head in recent weeks, equating to losses of \$5,000 to \$7,000 or more for a load of cattle," said Keller, "and still we see plenty of evidence on social media of empty meat cases in a majority of states and retail meat prices are soaring. Just since the outbreak of COVID-19 in America, \$8 billion to \$9 billion in equity has been drained from the live cattle industry according to Kansas State University Economist Glynn Tonsor," noted Keller (as reported by the *High Plains Journal* on March 25, 2020.) "We're starting to see liquidation at a level where producers will be forced to sell off cows, heifers and other assets in order to pay bills and meet financing obligations. It's simply not sustainable. Now it is more obvious than ever that the packing industry is exploiting U.S. ranchers and putting an entire segment of the beef supply chain at dire risk."

On March 20, Tyson Foods announced the company would pay \$5 per hundredweight more than the agreed upon price for all cattle harvested beginning March 23, 2020. Tyson's announcement came on Friday of a week that saw boxed beef values increase by \$42 per hundredweight. "On a 900 pound carcass this boxed beef price translates to almost \$400 more in profit for the packing industry on top of the already obscene profits they're reaping and none of those profits are trickling back to cattle ranchers. Tyson's meager offer is viewed nothing more than a distraction from the real issues at play in our markets," said Keller. "A \$5 per

Press Release cont

hundredweight increase from packers, which translates to about \$60 per head for feeders, is nothing more than an insulting handout when retail meat sales are up 77% over 2019 levels.”

“Congress and the Trump Administration must act quickly before many independent ranchers are forced out of business because that’s the point we’ve reached,” said Keller. Following are the steps that must be taken immediately.”

- 1) USDA must suspend its decision to allow raw beef from Brazil.
- 2) Because federal inspectors have been idled due to the ongoing global health crisis, all beef imports into the U.S. must be re-evaluated with safety of the food chain the primary concern.
- 3) The Department of Justice must launch an investigation into the inexplicable market volatility and affect including severely depressed cattle prices and skyrocketing retail beef demand and prices.
- 4) USDA must enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act and utilize its provisions as originally intended.
- 5) Prevent foreign ownership of U.S. packing plants, which, among other things, creates inherent bias in lobbying efforts that occur in the U.S.
- 6) Fix mandatory price reporting laws. Right now, the poorest quality cattle are used to base the price of all cattle in the U.S. This does not reflect appropriate values and yet it is used to establish base prices.
- 7) Prevent packers from owning cattle for more than seven days, including formula-based or contracted cattle, and set mandatory thresholds for packers to participate in cash markets.
- 8) Require all beef sold to be labeled as to where the animal it is derived from was born, raised and processed so American consumers can choose to put America FIRST by purchasing U.S. born, raised and harvested beef.

Keller advised there’s no time to waste. “Ranches and farms across this nation are in deep financial trouble and many will not survive,” he said. “The clock is ticking. We’re sending a strong message to Washington, D.C. that this situation deserves long term solutions to enhance the security of our national food supply chain, keep independent ranchers in business and protect the viability of America’s rural communities.”

USDA publishes cattle and beef pricing report

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today (July 22, 2020) released its report on cattle and beef pricing resulting from both the August 9, 2019, Tyson plant fire and in the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

USDA says in the 21-page report that it does not examine potential violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

The report, which can be found here, (<http://www.themarketworks.org/sites/default/files/uploads/studies/CattleandBeefPriceMarginReportfinal.pdf>) and has been greatly anticipated by cattle producers and feeders across the country, basically shares the prices of boxed beef and fed cattle throughout the two events. Charts show the significant spike in the spread between boxed beef prices and fed cattle prices during both the pandemic, and the weeks following the plant fire. The increase in the “spread” or difference between beef and live cattle prices of course coincides with data that shows spikes in cattle prices and drops in cattle prices. The report specifically states that findings thus far do not preclude the possibility that individual or groups of entities violated the Packers and Stockyards Act.

“The investigation into potential violations under the Packers and Stockyards Act is continuing. USDA does not solely own investigatory authority over anticompetitive practices in the meat packing industry and has been engaged in discussions with the Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding allegations of anticompetitive practices in the meat packing industry. Should USDA find a violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act, it is authorized to report the violation to DOJ for prosecution,” said the report.

The report discusses mandatory price reporting and how the lack of market participants reduces the amount of information being reported, particularly because of confidentiality rules that preclude many of the sales from being publishable.

The report then goes on to discuss Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley’s 50/14 bill and addresses regional concerns regarding the suggested 50 percent “spot market” mandate.

“Such regional disparities might be addressed in part by tying the minimum purchase thresholds to regional reporting abilities. Under this approach, if an LMR region began to fail to meet confidentiality guidelines due to packers not procuring cattle on a negotiated cash basis, with the proper legislative authority, AMS could track and inform packers of the requirement to make an additional percentage of such purchases in the following week to allow for reporting. This would not place further reporting burden on packers as AMS Market News already receives data from beef packers on both a company and plant basis, broken down by purchase type, including negotiated cash sales. Computer programming could be implemented to more readily track negotiated cash sales as a percentage of company or plant purchases. If Congress did provide this additional authority, careful consideration must be given to the time period in which the purchase requirement would apply.”

Risk management options and small and medium sized packer opportunities were talked about later in the report, along with possible updates to the Packers and Stockyards Act.

<https://www.tsln.com/news/usda-finally-publishes-cattle-and-beef-pricing-report>



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Independent Beef Association of North Dakota

Contact: Dwight Keller, President, [Email: kbhr@westriv.com](mailto:kbhr@westriv.com)

I-BAND Supports ND Ag Commissioner's Recommendations on Market Facilitation Beef Payments

April 10, 2020 ~ The Independent Beef Association of North Dakota (I-BAND) has signed onto an April 8 letter from North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue outlining a concept for the Market Facilitation Beef Payment program (MFBP). The program was designed by Congress to address the precipitous decline in livestock markets over recent months by providing price supports for cattle producers. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for promulgating the rules by which the program will be implemented, including the calculation of how the funding will be dispersed to producers.

Commissioner Goehring's recommended approach to the disbursement of funds begins with a base payment of \$150 per head using a weighted factor to calculate payments on different classes of cattle. The North Dakota recommendations are as follows: \$150 per head on cows or bulls with a weighted factor of 1.0; \$45 per head on 400 to 700 pound calves with a weighted factor of 0.3; \$180 per head on 700 to 900 pound cattle with a weighted factor of 1.2; and \$240 per head on 900 pound or higher cattle with a weighted factor of 1.6. The plan specifies that the beef inventory used by a farm, ranch or feedlot applying for MFBP support would be the February 21, 2020 inventory. Further, the plan stipulates that eligibility for the MFBP program would not be open to packer owned livestock or imported livestock.

Dwight Keller, I-BAND President, said the recommendations are fair and urged North Dakota's congressional delegation to support Ag Commissioner Goehring's proposal. "It's imperative that USDA move swiftly to get the funds out to producers as quickly as possible," noted Keller. "We know that billions of dollars in equity have been drained rapidly from the U.S. cattle industry and individual producers are suffering from these catastrophic losses. They have bills to pay and financing obligations to meet. While this plan is not a long-term solution to ongoing market dysfunctions, it will help keep family-owned farms and ranches in business for the time being. We need to cut through bureaucratic red tape and get the money into the hands of those who need it quickly. We're asking U.S. Senators John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and U.S. Representative Kelly Armstrong to help get this proposal implemented as fast as possible."

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
independent.Beef.assoc.nd@gmail.com**



Checkoff Checking out? Groups, individuals seek enough signatures for Beef Checkoff referendum

A number of groups and individuals launched an Online petition to gain the signatures needed to require USDA to conduct an “up or down” vote of cattle producers over the Beef Checkoff.

The petition, which was made public July 6, 2020, must be signed by a minimum of 10 percent of the number of cattle producers nationwide. According to USDA 2017 census data, 882,692 cattle producers exist, which means 88,269 eligible signatures will be needed on the petition in order to propel USDA to carry out a referendum of producers nationwide on whether or not to terminate the Checkoff.

A producer’s signature on the petition is not a vote to end the Checkoff, but rather, it is a show of support for requiring USDA to provide a referendum that will allow for a vote to terminate the Checkoff. The referendum will only take place if the sufficient number of signatures is gathered in a one year time period.

The Beef Promotion and Research Act, passed in the 1985 Farm Bill, provides for the referendum option, provided 10 percent of producers agree to request it. The Act says the referendum may either allow producers to vote on suspension of the Beef Checkoff, or termination of the Beef Checkoff. The petition in place is seeking a referendum on the termination of the Checkoff.

Ft. Pierre Livestock owner and president of the South Dakota Livestock Auction Markets Association, Bryan Hanson said he is hoping for at least 150,000 signatures on the petition, to ensure that there are extras.

Hanson said he wasn’t alone in putting together the online petition. Producers and salebarn owners from across the country teamed up. He particularly notes Steve Stratford, Stratford Angus, and assistant manager at Pratt Livestock in Pratt, Kansas.

Stratford said that although, in 1984, US ranchers were “beef producers,” they are now “cattle producers.”

“In the last 15 years or so, ranchers and packers have been in competition with one another. I don’t think we can be represented by the same dollar,” he said because of consolidation at the packing level, foreign ownership of meatpacking companies, and increasing percentages of imported beef and cattle.

Stratford points out that producers have steadily lost their share of the retail margin. He supports the concept of a checkoff that does something different.

“If we could figure a structure and way to manage it so it doesn’t get eaten up with bureaucracy, salaries and conventions and so it fights for producers, yes, I think it could be \$2 or \$3 dollars, if we used it to fight for producers’ market share,” he said.

Stratford said Nick Nesson of Mt. View Ranch, Tennessee, did the legwork with USDA to get the petition up and running.

Twenty years ago, the national Livestock Auction Markets Association gathered signatures for a Beef Checkoff referendum, but almost 40,000 of the signatures were not accepted by USDA. Hanson said he and the other petition supporters don’t intend to let that happen this time.

In the 2000 petition drive, support for the referendum was strong in South Dakota, with nearly half of eligible producers signing the petition.

Nearly every South Dakota auction barn, along with state and national organizations such as the South Dakota

Checkoff Checking out? Groups, individuals seek enough signatures for Beef Checkoff referendum Cont.

Stockgrowers Association, Independent Cattlemen of Wyoming, Colorado Independent Cattle Growers Association, Independent Beef Association of North Dakota, Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska, Buckeye Quality Beef Association, R-CALF USA and more signed a letter to inform USDA of the petition.

Hanson said he personally hopes the referendum succeeds in ending the Checkoff.

“My intent is to kill it. That’s why we’ve gone forward with putting a petition together. They claim there are 80 percent of producers in favor of it. I want a vote to see if that’s true.”

Hanson said he rarely talks to a producer who supports the Checkoff. One reason he personally wants to terminate the program is because the Beef Checkoff does not promote USA beef in the United States.

R-CALF USA Checkoff Committee Chairman Vaughn Meyer agrees, and so do the members of his organization. “We want to promote USA beef, which was the intention of the Checkoff in the first place,” said Meyer.

Additionally, the current Checkoff is “non-functional,” said Meyer, the owner of Sodak Angus, Reva, South Dakota, citing declining producer numbers and lessening consumer consumption of beef. Meyer also points out that, based on the results of a recent R-CALF USA lawsuit, it was discovered that several state beef councils were being mismanaged and utilizing private speech, even though the Checkoff, according to the Supreme Court, produces “government speech.”

While some organizations might say that the Checkoff can be tweaked, rather than shut off “cold turkey,” Meyer, said he and others have put significant efforts into this very thing.

“I’ve tried changing it. Personally. I sat on the state beef council for 11 years, and on the Cattlemen’s Beef Board for six years. The way the Act and Order is set up, we don’t have the power to make changes within because of the fact that the NCBA controls the operating committee.”

The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association is the biggest Beef Checkoff contractor. The organization was granted around \$27 million last year for project proposals submitted. The organization has a number of staff members dedicated solely to carrying out the beef promotion, research and education projects it bids for. An additional approximately \$10 million in Checkoff funds are generally submitted to the NCBA’s federation committee from state beef councils.

NCBA’s president, Marty Smith, a Florida cattle producer and attorney said that the petition effort is “troubling,” and that if the petition succeeds in forcing an up or down vote of producers, it will waste valuable Checkoff dollars. According to the law, Checkoff funds must compensate USDA for the cost of conducting a referendum.

“Early estimates are that we’ll spend \$250,000 or maybe more, we’d rather see that being used for research or advertising,” he said.

It would be a surprise to learn that producers don’t support the Checkoff, Smith said. “Given the regular surveys and polls as part of the Checkoff program, we’re showing consistently 85 percent approve of the Checkoff and support it,” he said, adding that even regionally, NCBA has never seen a poll or any survey results that would indicate any type of large number of cattle producers upset with the program.

Smith said that according to a study the Checkoff is required to conduct annually, the Beef Checkoff returns producers about \$13 per head, so he figures that without the Beef Checkoff, the industry would see about \$1

Checkoff Checking out? Groups, individuals seek enough signatures for Beef Checkoff referendum Cont.

billion in adverse impact every year.

Justin Tupper who manages South Dakota's St. Onge Livestock Auction and serves as the vice president of the United States Cattlemen's Association said his group, at this time, does not support a referendum to end the Checkoff.

"We would like to see some reform, but we're not going to sign on to getting rid of it at this point," he said.

USCA obtained a contract for over \$300,000, via the CBB this year to study consumer meat demand, along with Kansas State University.

The Checkoff

According to the Beef Promotion and Research Order, the rules under which the Checkoff operates, cattle owners must remit \$1 every time a beef or dairy animal changes ownership. In most cases, state beef council organizations collect the funds. The state organizations are required to send \$.50 of every dollar to the Cattlemen's Beef Board, a group of representatives appointed by the US Secretary of Agriculture, who oversee the management of the funds. State beef councils can use the remaining \$.50 to fund programs of their own. Many of them remit a portion of their half of the funds to the NCBA's Federation of State Beef Councils, where they are able to secure board "seats" based on the amount of money submitted.

There is no standard setup for the state beef councils, and the recent R-CALF USA lawsuit pointed out that, while federally-mandated Checkoffs are considered "government speech" because they are under USDA oversight, some of the state beef councils were not under government oversight, which means they were not producing government speech. R-CALF asked the court to declare these state beef councils unconstitutional. The Montana Beef Council, the first one in question, was required for a time to stop retaining their portion of the Checkoff unless approval had been granted by the payer (during this time, the entire \$1 was forwarded to the national level CBB). As a result of the lawsuit, the USDA produced a Memorandum of Understanding with the state beef councils in question, including Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, and Wisconsin to ensure that USDA is now overseeing their research, promotion and educational activities.

Hanson said all signatures will be gathered electronically, and he and his staff at Ft. Pierre Livestock are available to help anyone who might need it.

"I have a tablet device on the counter at the sale barn, and I encourage other sale barns to do the same." Hanson said his office staff will help anyone wanting to fill out the form.

Any touch screen such as an apple phone, an android phone, or a tablet can be used to sign the petition, using a finger or a stylus pen he said. Home computers can also be used, and the signer will use a mouse to create his or her signature.

NCBA's Smith urges caution.

"I would ask anyone looking at this, let's look at the facts and not just the rhetoric. One thing we've developed is the export market," he said, and even in today's environment of record high boxed beef prices and low fat cattle prices, Smith believes there is evidence that meatpackers pay more for live cattle when they make higher profits on the beef they sell.

Checkoff Checking out? Groups, individuals seek enough signatures for Beef Checkoff referendum

Meyer, however, says ending the checkoff will ultimately help American ranchers. “This Checkoff was sold to producers as a way to promote USA beef. We never intended for it to promote generic beef,” said Meyer.

Producers deserve “a seat at the table” to make decisions about how Checkoff dollars are spent, Meyer said. “We’re not seeking reform, we’re seeking an up or down vote. We’ve tried before and the only way to get a new Checkoff is to kick it out and start over.”

Those interested can go to: <http://www.WeNeedABeefCheckoffVote.com> to sign the petition.



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

<https://www.ndbeef.org/cattlemens-corner/checkoff>

A producer may request a refund application *within 60 days after the date of the sale of cattle* upon which the ND state beef checkoff was collected.

This request may be made:

1. Orally, including a phone request or personal office visit (701) 328-5120
2. In writing and mailed [4023 STATE STREET, BISMARCK, ND 58503](mailto:ndbeef@ndbeef.org)
3. Electronically via email ndbeef@ndbeef.org

Opinion Editorial by the Independent Beef Association of North Dakota Board of Directors

For Immediate Publication

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It's Time For A Beef Checkoff Referendum

Enacted by Congress in 1985, the beef checkoff was approved by cattle producers voting in the initial referendum held in 1988. That was 32 years ago and it is the **only** time ranchers have had an opportunity to vote on the mandatory checkoff we are required to pay every time we sell cattle. Let that sink in. In the more than 30-year lifespan of the mandatory tax on our cattle the only chance we've had to express our approval or disapproval of the \$1 per head assessment was 18 months after collections began. The question all cattle producers should be asking themselves is this: has the checkoff increased returns to producers like you who are assessed? There can be no responsibility where there is no accountability. A referendum will provide accountability. The I-BAND board of directors fully supports the petition-drive currently underway that seeks a producer referendum on the beef checkoff.

During the 1988 referendum, there were roughly one million potential cattle producer voters. It was reported that just 256,505 voted. Of those, 202,408 voted "yes." Thus, the checkoff that producers have paid for more than three decades was approved by just 20 percent of all U.S. cattle producers in 1988. For the next seven years beef checkoff proceeds were invested by the Beef Industry Council of the National Livestock and Meat Board. Funneling the beef checkoff funds through the non-political Meat Board and insulating the checkoff from policy was the arrangement producers understood when they voted in the initial referendum. The Meat Board's successes with the checkoff are often attributed to the checkoff being kept as distant from industry policy as humanly possible.

But then the circumstances under which the beef checkoff was sold to producers in 1988 changed. In 1996, the National Cattlemen's Association merged with the National Livestock and Meat Board creating the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). The merger that moved the beef checkoff (that we pay) into the arms of a policy organization was fought long and hard by the National Live Stock and Meat Board because members rightfully feared the effect of politicizing the checkoff. In the end, the National Cattlemen's Association prevailed and the Meat Board reluctantly agreed to the merger by a single vote. The merger received final approval by just 774 voters present at the National Cattlemen's Association's 1996 meeting.

As checkoff-paying stakeholders we weren't told in 1988 that the beef checkoff would become part of a tangled web of bureaucracy where board seats would be part of a complicated pay-to-play scheme utilizing checkoff money to purchase those board seats. We weren't told that our checkoff would one day employ staff shared with a policy outfit where the checkoff would pay more than 70 percent of the policy organization's total staff salaries including half of the chief executive's lucrative

Opinion Editorial by the Independent Beef Association of North Dakota Board of Directors cont

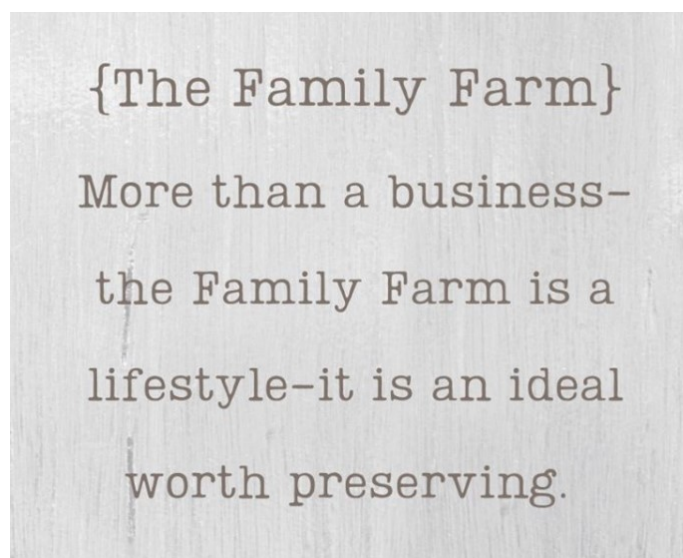
employment deal. We weren't told that half of the 20-member Operating Committee, which controls the checkoff purse strings would be appointed by a branch of NCBA. We weren't told that our checkoff dollars would not be allowed to promote our U.S. beef but would instead be used to promote a generic product that includes foreign beef. We weren't told that the beef checkoff was really government speech, an argument USDA and the Cattlemen's Beef Board eagerly made when the constitutionality of commodity checkoffs was challenged in court. We weren't told that the majority contractor for our checkoff dollars, NCBA, would oppose country of origin labeling (COOL), going so far as to join Canada and Mexico in a lawsuit against COOL and lobby for repeal of COOL in the U.S. Congress. Sadly, cattle producers weren't told a lot of things.

NCBA argued recently, as it has in the past, that a referendum would be too expensive and would cost an estimated \$250,000. Based on the number of votes in the initial 1988 referendum, that pencils out to about one dollar per vote. This is the same NCBA that spent nearly \$500,000 in checkoff money giving away traditional beef cut names to pork. When the cut name give-away deal was completed the Pork Board suggested publicly that retailers could exploit those names by riding the coattails of a reputation built by beef and beef alone and charge higher prices for a pork chop newly renamed a rib-eye.

Producers will hear in the coming days and weeks that the Beef Board conducts producer surveys on a regular basis and the Beef Board will argue that those surveys, which are weighted and stratified, are a sufficient replacement for a producer vote. We couldn't disagree more. There is NO replacement for our right to vote.

After 32 years, it's time for a producer referendum on the beef checkoff. We are willing to live with the results as long as producers have a fair opportunity to express themselves. If it's true, as NCBA regularly argues, that 72 percent of America's cattle producers favor the beef checkoff, what does NCBA have to lose? All we're asking for is the right to vote. And that's something that is as American as it gets.

If you'd like to sign on to the petition-drive seeking a producer referendum on the checkoff click here. www.WeNeedABeefCheckOffVote.com



Recipe

BBQ Spice Rub

Ingredients

½ cup brown sugar

½ cup paprika

1 tablespoon ground black pepper

1 tablespoon salt

1 tablespoon chili powder

1 tablespoon garlic powder

1 tablespoon onion powder

1 teaspoon onion powder

1 teaspoon cayenne pepper

Mix brown sugar, paprika, black pepper, salt, chili powder, garlic powder, onion powder, and cayenne pepper in a bowl. Store in an air-tight container or keep in the freezer in a sealable plastic bag.

Yield:
1 1/4 cup



Sponsors

We want to thank all our sponsors for supporting I-BAND. When you are out shopping for supplies, equipment or repairs, please support our sponsors!

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Sheridan Animal Hospital

RG Manufacturing, Welding and Repair, Inc

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Kist Livestock Auction~ Mandan, ND

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J L Fabricating ~ Regan, ND

Herreid Livestock ~ Herreid, SD

First Community Credit Union ~ Bismarck, ND

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Dakota Land Feeds

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Ideal Tires DBA Big O Tires

Dakota Community Bank Dale Pahlke~ Mandan, ND

Burleigh County Farm Bureau~ Bismarck, ND

Farm Credit Services of North Dakota

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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

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Farmers Union Insurance - Mandan, ND

MultiMin 90 - Al Schoenfeld

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 15 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

701-471-5215

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



Courage is being scared to death
but saddling up anyway.

..John Wayne & I-BAND

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