

WILDLIFE GROUP OBTAINS COURT ORDER TO STOP CRITICAL FEED USE ON CRP

A federal judge has placed a 10-day temporary restraining order on the critical feed use of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres. The legal action was initiated by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and several of its affiliates, including the Kansas chapter. According to the order, all CRP activity related to critical feed use was to stop immediately July 8.

Livestock groups and Kansas congressional leaders are critical of this legal action by NWF and its affiliates. Some producers already had erected fences around CRP for grazing or signed hay contracts.

"It's unfortunate this action has taken place, especially at this late hour, after producers have made stocking decisions," said Kansas Rep. Jerry Moran.

The 1st District congressman said he is working with USDA to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. Remedies could include legislative action.

"This is an example of an environmental group obstructing legitimate agriculture policy decisions," said Moran.

The critical feed use program was authorized May 27 by USDA. It would allow haying and grazing on certain CRP without a reduction in rental payments. The program was expected to make 24 million CRP acres available.

Meanwhile, 12 Kansas counties were designated by USDA last week for emergency livestock grazing on CRP due to flooding. The eligible counties are Brown, Decatur, Doniphan, Jewell, Marshall, Nemaha, Norton, Phillips, Rawlins, Republic, Smith and Washington. Previously, USDA announced it would allow emergency grazing due to drought in Grant, Hamilton, Haskell, Morton, Sherman, Stanton, Stevens and Wallace counties. Producers choosing either of these emergency options will be forced to accept a 25% reduction in their annual CRP rental payment.

RANCH FIELD DAYS SCHEDULED FOR THREE LOCATIONS

Three Kansas ranches will host field days presented by KLA and Kansas State University in August and September. ML Ranch in Chautauqua County, Fletchall Ranch in Mitchell County and the Gant-Larson Ranch in Barber County will be sites for the 2008 ranch management field day series, sponsored by Bayer Animal Health and the Farm Credit Associations of Kansas.

The first field day will be held August 19 at ML Ranch, owned by Mike and Libby Long of Peru. ML revolves around a backgrounding and stocker operation, with some beef cows as well. Topics on the program at Peru will include details of the Locate in 48 program, stockwater development and maximizing the use of forage to lower feed costs.

Marty and Sharon Fletchall, the owners of Fletchall Ranch near Beloit, will host the second field day August 21. Ranch interests include a cowherd, cattle backgrounding and a farming business. Program topics at Beloit will feature information on Locate in 48, maximizing forage use to lower feed costs and using canola as an alternative grazing resource.

The final field day will take place September 26 at the Gant-Larson Ranch near Medicine Lodge, owned by Bob and Charlene Larson and leased by Pat and Anita Bedwell. Speakers at this event will address Locate in 48, low-stress cattle handling and ranch succession planning.

MANHATTAN RANCHER TO CO-CHAIR SPECIAL NCBA TASK FORCE

Past NCBA Presidents Jan Lyons from Manhattan and John Queen of North Carolina were appointed to chair a special task force that will study the organization's governance structure. The group will begin its work this week by hosting a member input session during the NCBA Summer Conference in Denver.

The task force is charged with identifying changes that would strengthen the services provided to 31,000 NCBA members. This will include finding ways to more effectively and efficiently respond to consumer, regulatory and legislative issues affecting the cattle and beef industries.

NCBA's top three officers appointed Lyons, Queen and 18 other producer and affiliate staff leaders to the task force. Kansas also is represented on the group by Jon Ferguson of Kensington.

KLA PAC ENDORSES PRIMARY CANDIDATES IN HOUSE, SENATE RACES

The KLA Political Action Committee (KLA PAC) has made contributions to Kansas House and Senate candidates for the August 5 primary election. Below is a list of those endorsed by KLA PAC. Following the primary, KLA PAC will meet again to authorize contributions and recommendations for the November 4 general election.

KLA PAC is funded strictly by voluntary contributions. No dues revenue is used to support political candidates.

KANSAS HOUSE

DIST.	NAME/HOMETOWN		
4	Shirley Palmer, Fort Scott	69	Deena Horst, Salina
5	Bill Feuerborn, Garnett	74	Don Schroeder, Inman
10	John Coen, Wellsville	75	John Grange, El Dorado
20	Kevin Yoder, Overland Park	85	Steven Brunk, Bel Aire
24	Ronnie Metsker, Overland Park	87	Raj Goyle, Wichita
47	Lee Tafanelli, Ozawkie	93	Dan Kerschen, Garden Plain
59	William Prescott, Osage City	105	Jason Watkins, Wichita
60	Don Hill, Emporia	112	Bill Wolf, Great Bend
61	Richard Carlson, St. Marys	118	Don Hineman, Dighton
62	Steve Lukert, Sabetha	119	Pat George, Dodge City
65	Barbara Craft, Junction City	124	Bill Light, Rolla

KANSAS SENATE

DIST.	NAME/HOMETOWN		
3	Roger Pine, Lawrence	27	Leslie Donovan, Sr., Wichita
5	Mark Gilstrap, Kansas City	29	Oletha Faust-Goudeau, Wichita
8	Thomas Owens, Overland Park	30	Susan Wagle, Wichita
9	Julia Lynn, Olathe	31	Carolyn McGinn, Sedgwick
11	John Vratil, Leawood	33	Ruth Teichman, Stafford
14	Dwayne Umbarger, Thayer	35	Jay Emler, Lindsborg
16	Ty Masterson, Andover	36	Janis Lee, Kensington
21	Mark Taddiken, Clifton	37	Jeff Colyer, Overland Park
24	Pete Brungardt, Salina	39	Stephen Morris, Hugoton

▶ **YOUNG STOCKMEN'S GROUP TOURS WESTERN KANSAS**

The second installment of the 2008 KLA Young Stockmen's Academy (YSA) was held last week in western Kansas. Nineteen KLA members from across the state spent two days touring beef operations to gain a better understanding of various industry segments.

Pratt Livestock was the first stop on the tour. Auction Market Manager Jake Lewis and National Animal Identification System Program Manager Bryan Rickard visited with YSA members about the importance of age and source verification and premises registration. Jeff Sternberger hosted the group at Midwest Feeders near Ingalls. Sternberger gave an overview of the feeding industry and explained some of the challenges cattle feeders face today, including high fuel and feed costs.

Participants also made a stop at Pelton Simmental/Red Angus near Burdett. Lynn Pelton gave the group a glimpse into his progressive seedstock operation, which uses superior genetics to produce high-quality beef.

The young KLA group toured the National Beef plant at Dodge City. In addition, a Beef Quality Assurance demonstration was conducted during the tour to illustrate the importance of utilizing proper injection sites when administering animal health products. The group also met with a panel of KLA members to discuss the association and issues affecting producers.

YSA members will take part in a third session during October to learn more about agribusiness and the retail beef business. Fort Dodge is partnering with KLA to host the YSA class for a series of seminars throughout the year.



YSA member Todd Strahm (left), Sabetha, visits with producer Lynn Pelton.

▶ **ELLER RETURNS TO NCBA AS CHIEF D.C. LOBBYIST**

NCBA has hired J. Burton Eller to manage the group's legislative and regulatory affairs in the Washington, D.C., office. Eller will report to Chief Executive Officer Terry Stokes.

Eller served as executive vice president of the National Cattlemen's Association (NCA) from 1991 through 1996. He was NCA's vice president of government affairs from 1981 to 1991. Since leaving NCA, Eller has served as president and CEO of an international trade association and as deputy undersecretary for marketing and regulatory programs at USDA.

▶ **WITH THE MARKET**

Fed cattle prices were \$1.00 lower. The weekly trade volume was 64,000 head, including 44,000 contract or designated supply chain cattle. Boxed beef was \$2.63 higher on Choice and \$2.03 higher on Select. The Choice carcass cutout value was quoted at \$173.80. The Select cutout was quoted at \$166.62 on the Thursday (7/10) close. Hide and offal values were 19¢ higher at \$12.04/cwt. live weight. Average to high choice quality finished steers and heifers sold at \$100.00 live and \$158.00 in the beef.

Feeder cattle prices were steady last week. Average to high choice quality 750 lb. feeder steers sold primarily in a range of \$109.00 to \$114.00, with feeder weight heifers averaging \$101.00 to \$106.00. Holstein feeder steer prices were steady, with 800 lb. yearlings averaging \$64.00 to \$66.00. Calf and stocker prices were steady to \$1.00 higher. Average to high choice quality 550 lb. steers sold primarily from \$116.00 to \$126.00, with their heifer mates averaging \$106.00 to \$115.00.

Cows were \$1.00 to \$3.00 higher. Commercial and Utility cows averaged \$61.00 to \$70.00, with Canners and Cutters earning \$56.00 to \$66.00.

Hog prices were steady. U.S. 1-2 240 lb. to 260 lb. barrows and gilts averaged \$48.50 to \$55.00 on the western terminal markets.

▶ **LOOKING AT THE CALENDAR**

Junior National Hereford Expo	
Kansas City.....	July 12-19
National Junior Angus Show	
Des Moines.....	July 13-19
Cattle Industry Summer Conference	
Denver.....	July 15-19
Franklin County Fair Barbecue	
Ottawa.....	July 17
Four-State Farm Show	
Pittsburg.....	July 18-20
Kansas Simmental Tour	
Ramona.....	July 26
Cattle Buyers' Summit	
Kearney, NE.....	August 1

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