

## **06/03/2002 Entry: "R-CALF USA President to Tour and Meet With Kansas, Colorado Producers"**

For Immediate Release

May 28, 2002

### **R-CALF USA President to Tour and Meet With Kansas, Colorado Producers**

Leo McDonnell, President of R-CALF USA, the fastest growing cattle producers association in the U.S., has scheduled a tour and series of open meeting in Kansas and Colorado next week.

McDonnell, of Columbus, MT, is scheduled to meet with cattle producers and feeders, independent bakers, elected officials and rural community leaders in Kansas on Monday, and in Colorado on Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss trade issues, market conditions and the impacts the drought will and has sustained on the area agricultural producers, their rural communities, and their livelihoods.

Monday, June 3, 2002 will see an open meeting in Ness City, KS at the Derrick Inn at 7:00 pm. For further information or questions call Ken Winter in Dodge City at 620-225-4128.

The first Colorado meeting with McDonnell will be held in the heart of cattle country in La Junta, CO, on Tuesday, June 4. The City of La Junta will be hosting the event to be held in the City Municipal Building in Council Chambers at 601 Colorado Avenue from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

That evening on June 4, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., a second open meeting will be held at the La Junta Livestock Sale Barn. The meeting will be co-hosted by the Winter Livestock and the La Junta Livestock Sale Barns. If you should have question and/or for further information on the La Junta meetings call Tom Spencer at 719-543-2447 or Sparky Turner at 719-962-3598.

On Wednesday, June 5, McDonnell is scheduled to meet at the Fireside Junction in Limon at noon. Area rancher Bill Bledsoe of Hugo has made arrangements for the use of the facility and would encourage area cattle producers and community leaders to take the time to meet and acquaint yourself with Leo McDonnell. Bledsoe can be reached at 719-962-3598.

That evening McDonnell will meet with area cattle producers and community leaders in Stratton at the St. Charles Hall at 7:00 p.m. Area rancher Joel Franz of Burlington has scheduled an afternoon tour and the evening event. He can be reached at 719-397-2359.

Area beef producers and consumers are seeing the highest retail beef prices and profit margins in the history of the cattle industry, as well as the highest historical profits reported in the packer industry. Where does this leave the cattle producers and the community they sustain? Will your cattle operation survive? Will you independent business person and/or banker survive?

"We need to meet. Leo McDonnell and R-CALF USA will be here to listen to our concerns and we in turn need to listen to on of our own. The U.S. cattleman is in critical shape and when we go down, rural America will follow. We must do all we can to hold on," said Tom Spencer of Pueblo.

R-CALF USA has taken the lead on many market and trade issues affecting the cattle industry. The organization is led by and represented by cattle producers and was successful this past year in Washington, D.C. pushing for and winning country of origin legislation.