

KCA News

KANSAS CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Fall 2015

Mandatory Price Reporting Reauthorized Work Still Necessary for Producers to Benefit

Often disguised as “risk management,” packers have preached and convinced many cattle producers to shift cattle marketing from a cash trade basis to negotiated and grid formulas. Smaller, independent operations often lose a competitive advantage with these types of markets, because they lack the volume to absorb quick swings in the cash market. To provide transparency and a tool to better understand the happenings within the livestock markets, Mandatory Price Reporting (MPR) was developed.

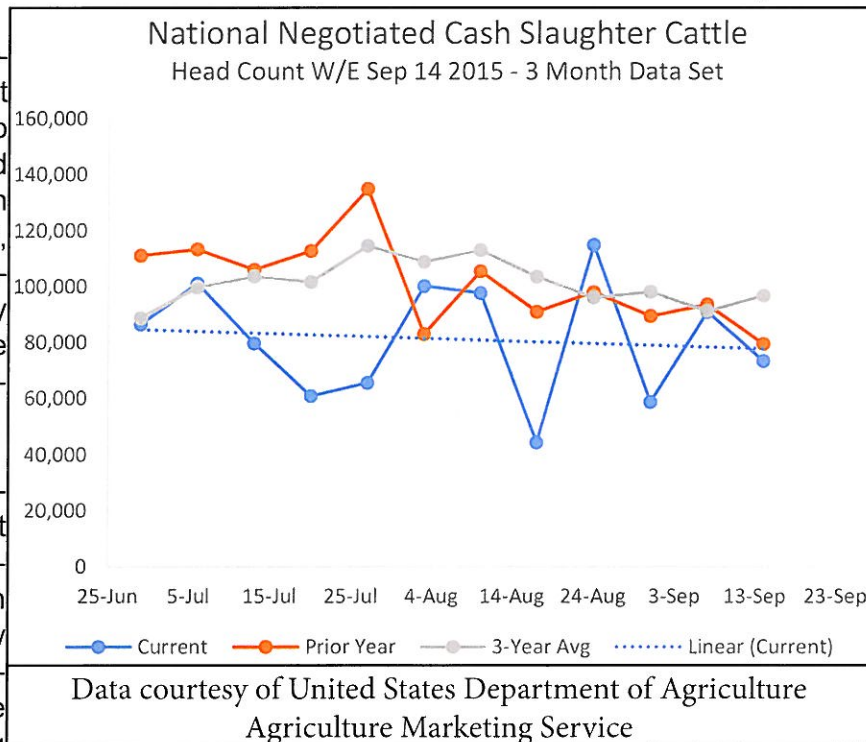
KCA member and supporter Allan Sents commented on the process, “MPR reauthorization offers an opportunity for producers and industry stakeholders to review the program and address necessary enhancements and changes. U.S. cattle producers and cattle feeders have enjoyed a period of strong prices and demand; however, as the U.S. domestic herd continues to expand, the ability to leverage the cattle market will become a major factor in cattle buying practices. In the months and years ahead it will be critical for accurate and timely market

MPR was implemented in April of 2001, following the Livestock Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 1999. This act currently requires packers to report the purchase and sale of livestock and boxed beef. Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA) has been a long-time supporter of MPR, and recognizes the many benefits it provides independent cattle producers. Congress recently reauthorized MPR, and KCA is working to ensure that this valuable tool to the industry is strengthened with some regulatory reforms.

KCA urged congressional support of the necessary reauthorization of MPR. With a requirement to reauthorize the bill every five years, the Senate Agriculture Committee marked up the bill on September 17 with bi-partisan support to renew this critical marketing tool for the livestock industry. Prior to its expiration, congress passed the Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 2015, reviving the program for an additional five years, except during times of a federal government shutdown.

Reauthorization of the bill is a critical first step in the process. Upon congressional reauthorization, KCA immediately began work on lobbying for enhancements to MPR during the regulatory rule-making phase of implementation. Critical enhancements will be necessary in order to provide insight into the levels of committed cattle packers possess.

USCA Marketing and Competition Chair, and long-time



reports and information to be provided for all segments of the industry. MPR must respond to today's market to ensure transparency is secured across all levels of processing.”

The beef industry overall has enjoyed some of the highest prices in recent history over the past 12 to 18 months, but the markets are shifting as demand changes, slaughter cattle get heavier, committed cattle numbers rise, threats of massive imports loom, world economies weaken, and the national herd rebuilds.

...continued page 4

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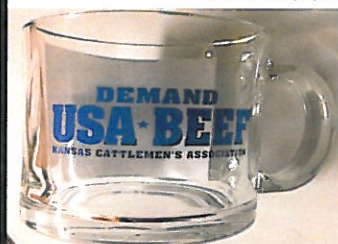
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The Kansas Cattlemen's Association has advertising and sponsorship opportunities available. As a non-profit 503c(5), KCA depends on your contributions to help independent producers receive representation in Topeka and Washington, D.C. KCA is fully funded by member and sponsor donations. KCA News is the regular KCA publication, and is circulated throughout the state to members, vendors, advertisers, feed yards, and sale barns as well as online. For more information regarding advertising, sponsorship, and more, please contact the KCA offices at 785-238-1483 or online at www.kansascattlemen.com.

www.kansascattlemen.com

KCA Annual Meeting Scheduled for Nov. 20th

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA) Annual Membership Meeting will be held in Dodge City, KS on Friday, November 20, 2015 at the Western State Bank Expo Center Media Room at 4:00 p.m. All cattle producing members of KCA are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be followed by the 17th Annual Convention and Trade Show on Saturday, November 21, 2015. Additional information is posted at www.kansascattlemen.com as it comes available. To RSVP, call 785-238-1483.

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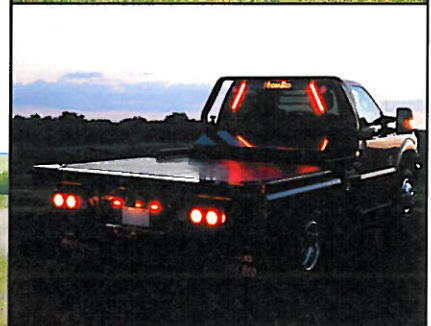
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A message from the PresidentDJ Edwards

Hello Again,

The winds of change are upon us, whether it is the season or the markets. The markets I would guess are much more on your minds than the seasons.

It is very amazing that a few months ago, all we heard was, there are not enough cattle. However, now all we hear is there is too much beef.

It seems that every negative factor in the market is against us now. Too much competing markets (over production or lack of export or too many imports). Our currency has greatly appreciated

compared to our importing countries and our exporting competition (lack of exports and too many imports).

This current market crunch has not isolated anybody from the crash. It is being felt, or about to be felt, in all segments of cattle production.

Let's hope that mother nature doesn't throw us a curve too. Take time to enjoy some USA Beef; the fruits of your labor.

- DJE

Mandatory Price Reporting Reauthorized Continued

"There are so many factors that play a part in whether we profit on sale day, break even, or lose the ranch. We saw a large selloff and exodus from the industry during the last drought. That was a natural event that resulted in empty ponds and feed prices too high to warrant the investment. We will soon be facing the situation of people calling it quits, because ranching is too expensive to just be a hobby. Without a com-

petitive cash market in Kansas, the independent producer will have a hard time sustaining a profit within their operation," stated Tyler Dupy, Executive Director of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association.

KCA will host a competition panel at the 17th Annual KCA Convention and Trade Show in Dodge City, Kansas on November 21, 2015. The panel of experts from around the country will discuss concerns and difficulties independent producers face with competition including grid and formula cattle, transparency, and imports.



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Vehicle Sale Supports KCA

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association is selling an organization vehicle via online auction. Proceeds from the sale will go to support the initiatives of the KCA. To view the listing and to make a bid on the vehicle, please visit www.bigiron.com. keyword "785-209-2584" or search for the sale ending October 28, 2015.

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Lesser Prairie Chicken Final Rule Vacated

On September 1, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Midland Division vacated the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ("Service") Final Rule listing the Lesser Prairie Chicken ("LPC") as threatened. The Service had published its final rule listing the LPC as threatened on April 10, 2014 amidst significant controversy as to whether the listing was

needed. In conjunction with the decision to list the LPC as a threatened species, the Service issued a "special take rule" under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act. The 4(d) Rule allowed those who participate in the Western Association of Wildlife Agencies ("WAFWA") Range-wide Plan ("Plan") to be exempt from the ESA Section 9 prohibition.

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Jodie's Dish

Ingredients

- 1 1/2LB Round Steak
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- 4 C Beef Broth
- 3 T Soy Sauce
- 1 Clove Garlic
- 2 Green Peppers
- 4 T Corn Starch
- 1/3 C Cold Water
- 2 Chopped Tomato (optional)

Leah's Pepper Steak

Instructions:

Make use of those fall vegetables this month with a simple, yet delicious meal the whole family will be sure to love! Start by breaking out the large frying pan and get it warming up. Slice up the beef, onions and green peppers, season with salt and pepper, and brown them in the pan until all are tender. The aromatics of this dish are sure to make the whole family come to the kitchen to investigate!

Measure out the beef broth and soy sauce, stir together, and then add the mixture to the meat and vegetables, allow to simmer together. While the flavors are coming together on the stove, mix the corn starch and water together, finally adding them to the pan as well. Mix together, and continue to simmer for a few minutes until thickened. Serve over rice topped with tomatoes.

Cattlemen Take Part in Field Day in Soldier, KS

Cattle ranchers in Jackson and surrounding counties received Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training and took part in other educational opportunities at the Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA) 2015 Cattle Field Day in Soldier, KS. The free event was hosted by Schreiber Red Angus, who provided the venue and lunch to all who attended.

"As independent producers, we too often find it can be difficult to find the time to attend educational opportunities, so in this case, KCA brought the classroom right to the ranch. It is exciting to have attendees engaged in a hands-on application within the country setting," commented Tyler Dupy, KCA Executive Director.

Attendees started the day with BQA training provided by Dr. Dave Rethorst of the Beef Cattle Institute. Beef Quality Assurance is a national program that provides guidelines for beef cattle production. The program raises consumer confidence through offering proper management techniques and a commitment to quality within every segment of the beef industry. BQA guidelines are designed to make certain all beef consumers can take pride in what they purchase, and can trust and have confidence in the entire beef industry.

Following lunch, Jody Holthaus of Meadowlark Extension discussed brush control and noxious weed management. Holthaus discussed how buckbrush is an undesirable species in grazing lands due to its shading out of desirable species therefore reducing grazing area. A proper pasture management plan can effectively reduce invasive species, while increasing edible foliage for livestock.

The Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) was discussed by Dr. Don Sunday of the Heartland Veterinary Clinic. The

new VFD rule will take effect October 1, 2015, and requires veterinary prescriptions for all VFD treated feed. In addition, prescriptions can only be delivered electronically or hand written.

Multiple live demonstrations were provided throughout the day. Triple C, Inc. provided attendees with demonstrations of their HydraBed bale handler. With its numerous attachments like the Square Bale Flaker, Dump Box, and Hydra Feeder, the HydraBed has numerous benefits out on the ranch.



Kelly Kennedy discussed Timed AI, and how it is beneficial and cost effective with regard to breeding and herd management. Additionally, Kennedy demonstrated with live cattle, the process of AI prep step 1, which allows heifer cycle synchronization.

Following the AI demonstration, HSB Welding and Fabrication demonstrated skid steer attachments, including: backhoes, stump push-

ers, and dozer blades. Lang Diesel, Inc. was on site with a Challenger tractor and Massey Ferguson bailer.

Proud sponsors of the KCA Field Day included: Atchison Animal Clinic, Blair Milling, Beef Cattle Institute, Boyett Sales, Denison State Bank, Farmers State Bank, Feyh Farm Seed, Foster Ford, Inc., Heritage Tractor, Holton Farm & Home, Holton Livestock Exchange, Inc., HSB Welding & Fabrication, HydraBed by Triple C, Inc., Jackson County Farm Bureau Association, Jackson Farmers, Inc., Lang Diesel, Inc., Meadowlark Extension, Schreiber Red Angus, St. Joseph Stockyards, Stallbaumer Lumber & Hardware, State Farm - Gus Suarez, Agent, and Zwonitzer Propane.

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USDA Announces Conservation Incentives for Working Grass, Range and Pasture Lands

Beginning Sept. 1, farmers and ranchers can apply for financial assistance to help conserve working grasslands, rangeland and pastureland while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands.

The initiative is part of the voluntary Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a federally funded program that for 30 years has assisted agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. In return, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. CRP has helped farmers and ranchers prevent more than 8 billion tons of soil from eroding, reduce nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to cropland by 95 and 85 percent respectively, and even sequester 43 million tons of greenhouse gases annually, equal to taking 8 million cars off the road.

The CRP-Grasslands initiative will provide participants who establish long-term, resource-conserving covers with annual rental payments up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land. Cost-share assistance also is available for up to 50 percent of the covers and other practices, such as cross fencing to support rotational

grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife. Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks and fences.

With the publication of the CRP regulation today, the Farm Service Agency will accept applications on an ongoing basis beginning Sept. 1, 2015, with those applications scored against published ranking criteria, and approved based on the competitiveness of the offer. The ranking period will occur at least once per year and be announced at least 30 days prior to its start. The end of the first ranking period will be Nov. 20, 2015.


To learn more about participating in CRP-Grasslands or SAFE, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp or consult with the local Farm Service Agency county office. To locate a nearby Farm Service Agency office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>. To learn more about the 30th anniversary of CRP, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPis30 or follow on Twitter using #CRPis30.

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Keeping You In The Know: Health Insurance

Fall is here and we will soon be into winter. If the Farmer's Almanac is correct, we will have a record year for moisture. I am sure you are all preparing for this as you wind down your summer activities and move into the winter mode. This is relative in many other aspects of life as we know it. This is also the time of year that keeps us hopping in the employment benefits arena as well.

In my previous writing, I discussed how federal legislation has changed the health coverage landscape. As you might expect, congressional legislation is helping to drive up the cost on things like health insurance and even effects the way that hospitals and insurance companies work together.

If you are one of the lucky ones able to provide health insurance for your families or the families of your employees, you may have noticed that some of those old insurance plans have been grandfathered for the last several years. This has resulted in many costs holding tight. Understanding why this is so, can help you get a picture of the current and future landscape out there. If insurance companies were to increase the rates on these grandfathered plans, they would no longer qualify as a "grandfathered" health plan, which would mean the plan would have to meet new regulations for health plans under the Affordable Care Act. These new plans would have to provide enhance-

ments, such as free physicals once a year and many other changes that increase the cost of claims on the plan for the insurer.

Many people are finding cost savings by searching for a plan on the Federal Marketplace, also known as the Health Insurance Exchange. There are many advantages to looking for plans on the Exchange, but it is important that we understand what we are buying at the same time. The open enrollment on the Federal Marketplace will begin in mid-November and run through mid-February.

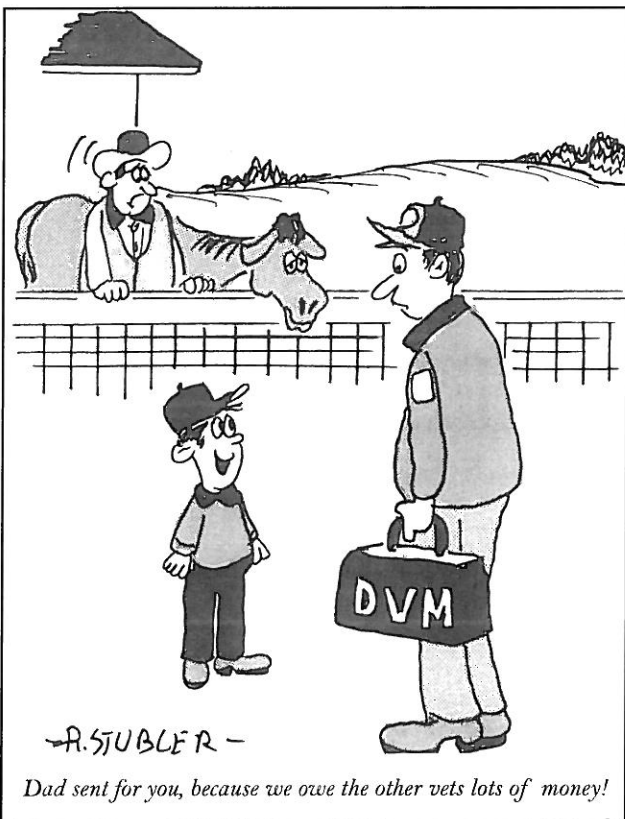
You need not have any special qualifications to get enrolled in a plan on the Exchange, and if you meet certain criteria, you may qualify for money to assist you in paying for the premium through a federal income-based subsidy. The process to apply for the federal subsidy is a fairly easy one, and the savings may make it worth your time to provide the requested information.

If you find yourself looking to the Exchange for your medical coverage I would recommend that, unless you are seasoned in the insurance industry and know the terms that go along with insurance, you have a professional assist you with the search. In most cases, the agent will provide this assistance to you at no charge, or they may be paid, via the Exchange, to assist you.

Ultimately, you want to make sure you find a health-care plan that matches the risk you can afford in regards to deductibles and co-insurances, because many of these plans carry a maximum out of pocket expense in the \$12,500 range. More importantly, you want to ensure you choose a plan that has a "network" of doctors in your area for you to seek treatment with.

Until next time, Take Care!

By Jim Fletcher
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KCA Calendar

- 11/20/2015 Annual Membership Meeting**
Dodge City, Kansas
- 11/21/2015 Annual Convention & Trade Show**
Dodge City, Kansas
 - Breakfast with the Board
 - Trade Show
 - Live Demonstrations
 - Industry Presentations
 - Lunch, Banquet & Auction

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Honorable Mention and Announcements

Woodson County

Many thanks to the Kansas Cattlemen's Association members who participated in the 4-H Premium Sale at the Woodson County Fair in the purchase of a premium steer for KCA. The 4-H seller of the steer was Andrew Pringle, and the sale earned the young rancher \$1,550. Members included Bill Ireland, DJ Edwards, Lee Robbins, Jon Petty, and Michael Olds. Thank you for supporting young ranchers and KCA!

Around the Office

KCA is excited to announce the addition of a new staff member to our offices in Junction City. Debbie Odell joins us as the Development Coordinator, and will help to coordinate regional membership meetings, seminars, conferences, and convention planning and fundraising. She has jumped right in helping to plan the upcoming Convention and Trade Show in Dodge City, KS on November 21st. Feel free to call the office to welcome Debbie.

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