



The Palmetto Cattleman

*A Leader Letter for the South Carolina
Cattlemen's Association*

May 5, 2008



I wanted to start this Palmetto Cattleman out with a letter from your Executive Director. We have just finished a great convention. I want to personally say thank you to the vendors of the convention, we had 47 vendors. WOW! With out there support of this industry it would have been hard to have such a convention of this magnitude. Also, I wanted to thank the behind the scenes guys who picked up speakers and helped with the camera. We did video tape the speakers, so once available; we should have copies for anyone that would like one. In addition, I want to thank the Clemson crew for taking us on a tour of the Simpson Station Farm. It really gave us a chance to look at the research Clemson is doing first hand. Also, this week May 7, 2008, we will have the Taste of SC, at the statehouse grounds. The event starts at 11:00 and ends around 2:00pm. Parking should be at 900 Assembly St. That runs around the side of the statehouse. The event will be held behind the Blatt Building. You will see white tents outside. Afterwards, if anyone is interested we will tour the statehouse. Also, this week, May 8 & 9, there will be a NCBA Region II meeting in GA. If anyone is interested in attending please contact me for more info. Like always my phone and door is always open, let me know if you have any concerns or just want to talk cattle.

Sincerely,
Peter Wilkins

Taste of South Carolina will be May 7, 2008

The South Carolina Cattlemen's Association will help host the Taste of South Carolina on May 7, 2008 at the statehouse in Columbia. The event will begin at 11:00 a.m. and conclude around 2:00 p.m. This is a great way for producers to come to the statehouse and visit with their congressmen. In addition, the cattlemen will be serving "Beef" to them, with other commodities being represented. Afterwards, if anyone is interested in taking a tour of the statehouse, we will be happy to show you the grounds and how the legislative process works. If you wish to attend this great function on the statehouse grounds, please contact Peter Wilkins or Nancy King, so we can get a head count for the event. Also, upon coming to Columbia contact your local legislators to let them know you are coming to visit.

Farm Bill Update

By: Colin Woodall, NCBA

The Conference Committee on the Farm Bill finally met tonight at 6:15 PM EDT, and just adjourned for the weekend at 1:00 AM. The principal members of the Conference (Harkin, Chambliss, Peterson, & Goodlatte) have been meeting all week to craft a final deal to move the farm bill forward. They finally reached that deal this afternoon and were able to make a lot of progress on the farm bill tonight. The deal has not been put down on paper and distributed to the public, and for a while tonight it looked like that might cause the conference to blow up. Enough details were revealed, however, to allow the consideration of all the remaining titles of the farm bill.

Of interest to NCBA members was the consideration of the conservation and livestock titles. The members of the conference took action on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in regards to the total funds available for an EQIP contract. It was agreed to by both the House and Senate that individual EQIP contracts will not exceed \$300,000 over six years. However, the Secretary of Agriculture may grant a waiver for environmentally significant projects which would boost that number to \$400,000 over six years. After agreeing to this provision, the entire conservation title was accepted.

The livestock title was then brought up for consideration. The first order of business was to determine whether or not these provisions would be under a livestock title (as found in the Senate bill) or a miscellaneous title (as found in the House bill). The House receded from their position, and as a result, the new farm bill will have a livestock title in it. The ban on packer ownership of cattle was the only outstanding issue in the livestock title to be addressed by the members of the Conference. Several members of the conference committee took the time to speak in favor of NCBA's position on removing the packer ban from the bill. Those members included:

Rep. Dennis Cardoza (D-California)
Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kansas)
Rep. Robin Hayes (R-North Carolina)
Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-North Carolina)
Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Virginia)

Those members who spoke in favor of the packer ban included:

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa)
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa)
Rep. Leonard Boswell (D-Iowa)

After debate on the provision, the Senate put the packer ban up for a vote. The packer ban was voted down by a resounding voice vote, and the proponents of the packer ban did not even call for a recorded vote of each individual Senator's position (which is customarily done by the losing side to ensure that they really did lose). Watching the vote, however, we know that the following Senators voted to remove the packer ban. They include:

Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-Georgia)
Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kansas)
Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-Arkansas)
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Michigan)

Senators Thad Cochran (R-Mississippi) and Dick Lugar (R-Indiana) were not present for the vote but had registered their proxy with Sen. Chambliss.

Since it failed on the Senate side, the House did not have to vote and the packer ban was removed from the farm bill. In addition, the Office of Special Counsel was removed from the farm bill before the members of the conference had to vote on it.

Had it gone to the House side, we know the following members had committed to support NCBA and vote the packer ban down. They include:

Chairman Collin Peterson (D-Minnesota)
Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-North Carolina)
Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-North Carolina)
Rep. Dennis Cardoza (D-California)
Rep. David Scott (D-Georgia)
Ranking Member Bob Goodlatte (R-Virginia)
Rep. Frank Lucas (R-Oklahoma)
Rep. Jerry Moran (R-Kansas)
Rep. Robin Hayes (R-North Carolina)
Rep. Randy Neugebauer (R-Texas)

Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colorado)

All titles of the farm bill have been considered and accepted, but they are not quite done yet. A handful of outstanding issues, such as AGI caps and payment limits, still have to be worked out. House and Senate Ag Committee staff were instructed to work over the weekend to try and find a solution to these issues, and Chairman Harkin expects to reconvene the conference committee next Tuesday afternoon to finish the bill. He also expects to vote on the conference report next week and have it on the President's desk before the current 2002 Farm Bill extension expires on May 16th. Once the conference committee completes their action, the resulting conference committee report cannot be amended and is subject only to an up or down vote by the entire House and Senate.

Tonight's action also means that we are one step closer to having a country-of-origin labeling law that USDA can write a rule for. The language in the farm bill provides for the same four-tier labeling system that was passed as a part of the House farm bill back in July of 2007. The only change is that the grandfather date has been extended from January 1, 2008 to July 15, 2008.

The last hurdle for the farm bill will be whether or not the President will sign it. Although he has not made a formal statement that he will veto the bill, he made several comments this week that he would. The principal members of the conference met with Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer and Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner all day on Tuesday to try and find a way to satisfy the White House. If the President does veto it, the House and Senate will have to find a way to override the veto or we will revert to the 1949 permanent law or a long-term (up to 5 year) extension of the 2002 farm bill.

We are not out of the woods yet, but we made more progress tonight than we have in a long time. We will keep you posted as this moves forward and we learn more details about the final funding deal. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Elizabeth Bostdorff or me at (202) 347-0228.

Thank you for all of your time and help in contacting your members of Congress and helping NCBA be successful in this farm bill endeavor. We couldn't have done it without you. Please take the time to thank your members of Congress who helped us achieve our goals.

Test your Knowledge!

1. [Who brought the first cattle to North America?](#)
2. [What is the connection between beef and the name Uncle Sam, symbolizing the United States?](#)
3. [When was the first agricultural fair in the United States?](#)
4. [When was the hamburger invented and by whom?](#)
5. [And what about French fries?](#)
6. [On average, a beef cattle operation is home to how many cattle?](#)
7. [How many different breeds of beef cattle can be found in the United States?](#)
8. [Which segment of American agriculture is the largest?](#)
9. [In America, on which single day of the year is the most beef consumed?](#)
10. [What is the most popular cut of beef in the United States?](#)

11. [Beef is the No. 1 food source for what nutrients?](#)
12. [How many cuts of beef meet the government guidelines for lean?](#)

Who brought the first cattle to North America?

Christopher Columbus brought cattle with him to the Western Hemisphere on his second voyage to the New World in 1493, but Hernando Cortez was the first to bring cattle to North America in 1519.

What is the connection between beef and the name Uncle Sam, symbolizing the United States?

During the War of 1812, a Troy, New York meatpacker, Sam Wilson, obtained a contract to supply beef to the Army. Wilson, who was known locally as "Uncle Sam," shipped the meat salted, in barrels. The barrels, being government property, were branded "U.S." and the teamsters and soldiers joked that the barrels were the initials of Uncle Sam himself. Later, anything marked with the same initials (as much Army property was) also became linked with the name Uncle Sam and led to the idea that Uncle Sam symbolized the Federal Government and the association stuck.

When was the first agricultural fair in the United States?

In 1807, Elkanah Watson, a New England patriot and farmer, earned the title, "Father of US agricultural fairs" by producing a small exhibit of sheep under an old elm tree in the town of Pittsfield, Massachusetts. In 1810 Watson staged a larger and more ambitious project, the Berkshire cattle show. The event was successful beyond all his expectations; entries included 386 sheep, 109 oxen, 9 cows, 7 folds, 3 heifers, 2 calves and 1 boar.

When was the hamburger invented and by whom?

The hamburger made its international debut in 1904 at the St. Louis World's Fair. The inventor was Fletcher Davis -- sometimes known as Old Dave -- who ran a small cafe on the Athens, Texas courthouse square in the 1880s. His early burger was described as a classic, greasy burger served on just-out-of-the-oven slices of bread and garnished with ground mustard mixed with mayonnaise, a big slice of onion, and sliced cucumber pickles. The people of Athens were reportedly so pleased with Fletcher's sandwich that they raised a pile of money and sent him to the World's Fair.

And what about French fries?

The story goes that, before returning to Texas, Davis was interviewed by a New York Tribune reporter who was intrigued by the hamburger and the fried potato strips he served with the sandwich at the World's Fair. Davis told the reporter the sandwich was his idea, but said he learned to cook the potatoes that way from a friend in Paris, Texas. Apparently the reporter thought he meant Paris, France, and reported that the hamburger was served with wonderful "french-fried potatoes." The name stuck, and history has forever given the wrong Paris the credit for french fries.

On average, a beef cattle operation is home to how many cattle?

40 head of cattle

How many different breeds of beef cattle can be found in the United States?

There are over 70 different breeds of beef cattle in the United States today.

Which segment of American agriculture is the largest?

The cattle industry is the largest segment of American agriculture based on cash receipts.

In America, on which single day of the year is the most beef consumed?

More beef is consumed on Memorial Day than any other day of the year. Fourth of July and Labor Day typically tie for the second most popular beef eating days of the year.

What is the most popular cut of beef in the United States?

Ground beef, Between 40 to 45 percent of all beef sold today is in ground form. This includes fast food hamburgers, ground beef from the grocery store and processed meats such as sausage, hot dogs and

lunch meat.

Beef is the No. 1 food source for which of the following nutrients?

Beef is the No. 1 source of Protein, Vitamin B₁₂ and Zinc. Beef is also the No. 3 food source of iron behind fortified cereal and grains.

How many cuts of beef meet the government guidelines for lean?

29 cuts of beef meet the government guidelines for lean, with less than 10 grams of total fat, 4.5 grams or less of saturated fat, and less than 95 milligrams of cholesterol per 3-ounce serving. The 29 cuts include some of Americans' traditional favorites like flank steak, tenderloin, 95 percent lean ground beef and T-bone steak, as well as newer cuts of beef, such as the Western Griller steak and Ranch steak.

Calendar of Events

May 7	Taste of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
May 8 & 9	NCBA Region II Conference, Columbus, GA
Aug. 3 and 4	South Carolina Junior Beef Round-Up, Clemson, SC