



**SCCA Membership Dues are Due by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Along with your support let's all try to increase your county/state memberships by 10%. Through the support of your memberships we can all help make the effort to better our operations.**

**The SCCA would like to Welcome**

Claire Bradbery - elect from District 1  
Brent Glenn - elect from District 2  
Graham DuBose - elect from District 5,

**To the SCCA Board of Directors, they will be serving a 3 Year Term. The SCCA Board meets quarterly a Year. If there is something the SCCA can do for you, please contact the SCCA office or your district board member. If you would like to know who your board member is visit [www.sccattle.org](http://www.sccattle.org)**



Visit your local SC DMV to support Scholarships and Research. The proceeds from the sales of the Tag will go to the South Carolina Cattlemen's Foundation.

**April 29, 2009 will be the "A South Carolina Taste"**

This is a great event to attend to visit with legislators and staff at the State house in Columbia. The event will kick off between 11:00 and go until around 2:00. Please come out to meet with your legislators, these are some pressing times, and with your help we can keep SC legislators on our side. Please call the SCCA office to let us know if you will be attending.

**Beef Exports Rebounding**

According to a USDA report released last week, the U.S. totaled \$3.62 billion in beef, beef variety meat, and processed beef-product exports in 2008. This is the highest level the U.S. has seen since the 2003 (pre-BSE) level of \$3.86 billion.

The U.S. is still capable of an additional \$1 billion in annual beef exports to Japan, which is why regaining access to this country continues to be a top priority for NCBA. NCBA members recently passed a policy to further efforts to increase access to Japan through a staged or multi-step approach.

## Overall Decline in U.S. Farms May be Leveling Off

On Feb. 4, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service released results of the 2007 Census of Agriculture. The census is conducted every five years. The census counted 2,204,792 farms in the United States, a 4% increase from 2002. The number of farms nationwide has been on a declining trend since World War II. The latest figure indicates a leveling of this trend, with a net increase of 75,810 farms.

Other figures of interest include:

- Beef cattle are raised on 764,984 farms in the U.S.; this is down from 796,437 in 2002;
- 57% of farmers either work in town (36%) or are retired (21%);
- 900,327 (41%) of these farms have annual receipts of less than \$2,500.

## U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 7%

According to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on Jan. 1. The inventory was 7% below Jan. 1, 2008 and 6% below Jan. 1, 2007. The inventory included 7.07 million steers and steer calves, down 8% from the previous year. This group accounted for 63% of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.10 million head, down 6% from 2008.

## Feeding Moldy Hay

Dr. Rick Rasby, Professor of Animal Science,  
University of Nebraska

Feeding moldy hay to livestock is a tough decision. All hay contains some mold, but when mold becomes noticeable the decisions become important.

Usually, mold makes hay less palatable, which can result in lower intake or in animals refusing to eat the hay. Many other problems from mold occur because of mycotoxins produced by certain mold fungi. This also is part of the decision problem since not all molds produce mycotoxins and the amount produced by those that do is unpredictable.