



Jon Wooster

FROM THE
**COW
BOSS**

**United States Cattlemen's Association
Working Tirelessly for U.S. Ranchers**

Like a windmill getting the job done day in day out, the U.S. Cattlemen's Association (USCA) reached its one year anniversary this past March. No noise or celebratory news made it to the countryside, and rightly so. Cattle producers established and support USCA because ranchers need to focus on ranching and not worry about the politics east of the Potomac. Currently USCA is the only national cattlemen's association that solely represents cattle producers and independent feeders and maintains a full-time presence in Washington D.C. While you work to keep your cattle operation going, USCA works the halls and conference rooms of Capitol Hill to ensure you remain competitive and profitable.

A little over a year ago, rumblings from Congress swirled around a legislative plan to "marry" or combine mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) with a mandatory animal identification system (ID). USCA staff immediately went to work in addressing this, and brought in ranchers to inform Congress of the negative ramifications of these actions. The plans to legislatively combine COOL and ID were shelved and cattle producers continued their business minus the worry of dealing with a new law mandating ID. Now it appears that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is once again trying to combine the two, and USCA is riding point to prevent it.

The opponents of COOL hatched a plan to weaken COOL during summer work on the Farm Bill. When the House Agriculture Committee began marking up various titles of the Farm Bill, a fight to ward off an amendment to gut COOL broke out. USCA worked with COOL allies including the National Farmers Union to lobby key House members and in the 11th hour COOL was preserved. At last, the identity of the U.S. cattle producer will stand out all the way to the market shelf and importers will finally have to face the reality of consumers' ability to choose to buy American.

Throughout the years, Congressional support for COOL has mattered very little to USDA as the agency did its best to impede progress on implementing a workable COOL law. With this in mind, USCA went to work with House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and created a timeline that based the availability of USDA operating funds on its progress on writing COOL regulations. Congress passed an appropriations bill that placed this timeline into effect, and USDA was finally corralled into advancing a law that, despite being on the books for years, had not received the proper attention from USDA.

If the multinational corporations and importers lived in a perfect world, ranchers would give up being involved in the political process, close up shop, and go home. USCA believes the best defense is a full time offense. A perfect example of this is the USDA's work to quietly introduce and implement a regulation that would allow increased meat imports from Argentina despite Argentina's

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The Wheel Team

President

*Jon Wooster, San Lucas, CA
831-385-5316*

Director Emeritus Lifetime Appointment

*Leo McDonnell, Columbus, MT
406-332-5597*

Region 1

*Lee Engelhardt, Moses Lake, WA
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Region 3

*Chase Carter, Clayton, NM
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Region 4

*Doug Zalesky, Hesperus, CO
970-259-7118*

Region 5

*Chuck Kiker, Beaumont, TX
409-842-5070*

Region 6

*Dennis McDonald, Melville, MT
406-537-2333*

Region 7

*Jim Hanna, Brownlee, NE
308-748-2233*

Region 8

*Allan Sents, Marquette, KS
620-241-7283*

Region 10

*Danni Beer, Keldron, SD
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*Jay Miller, Washington, VA
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Affiliate Council

*Bruce Dopslauf, LaGrange, TX
979-247-4255*

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*Jess Peterson
202-870-3867*

From the Cow Boss, from page 1

known foot and mouth disease (FMD) problem. USCA took the lead in defeating the USDA's attempts.

We began work with a coalition, known as the America Task Force Argentina (ATFA), and have spent the past four months highlighting the bad acts carried out by Argentina. Argentina has cost taxpayers and U.S. businesses billions by turning its back on repaying loans. Plus, this is a nation that sides against rural America in the WTO. Why then would USDA reward them by allowing them to be the first country to increase meat imports despite its FMD problem? USCA and ATFA took part in a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. highlighting these issues. USCA and AFTA are committed to working with Capitol Hill to oppose and defeat this rule.

The Farm Bill is reaching its final stages and contains provisions that, for the first time include a Livestock Title.

This title was a specific goal for USCA. USCA worked to include several provisions, including an amendment to limit packer ownership of cattle and the creation of an office of special counsel that would be charged with investigating and enforcing antitrust laws. Unfortunately, these provisions were not included. However, USCA was successful in working with other like-minded groups to ensure the Livestock Title included the following provisions:

- Language that enables producers to decline to be bound by an arbitration clause in a livestock or poultry contract.

- Language that enables a producer to settle a dispute in the federal judicial district where he or she lives rather than where the company headquarters is located.

- Language that clarifies and implements country of origin labeling of meat, fruits and vegetables, peanuts, pecans and macadamia

nuts (targeted *continued on page 4*)

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THE HORN WRAP

The Horn Wrap call is sponsored by USCA and is for non-members and members. It is an informal call held the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 AM Mountain Time.

Join Jess Peterson to discuss issues facing the cattle industry. Guest speakers on occasion will be asked to participate.

Just call 785-686-2400 then enter the access code 032007#. Join us early in the call as lines might not be available. Please email us at usca@uscattlemen.org if you have any problems getting on the call.

USCA Introduces New Membership Levels

The annual dues for USCA remain the same; however, new premier levels have been introduced.

Annual Membership Dues:

- Cattle Producer Level (owns cattle) ~ \$100 per year
- Business Member Level ~ \$100 per year
- College Student Level ~ \$25 per year
- Junior Member Level (18 and younger) ~ \$25 per year

NEW Premier Memberships:

- MAVERICK Level ~ \$150-\$499
- WRANGLER Level ~ \$500-\$999
- DROVER Level ~ \$1000 or more

Check out the membership form on page 3.

USCA Committees

USCA has formed committees to address the issues facing the cattle industry including: COOL, Animal ID, Animal Health & Welfare, Trade, Marketing & Competition, and the Beef Checkoff. USCA also has a Membership Committee.

As an USCA member, you are welcome to join any of these committees. USCA welcomes your input and needs your help in driving this organization. Just let us know if you are interested by emailing usca@uscattlemen.org.

Building Your Organization

Buidling your organization - USCA - is key to resolving cattle industry issues. If you would like to host a meeting or fundraiser in your area, we are here to

help in any way. Please call Judie Manuel, USCA Membership Co-Chair, at 406-429-7101 or email membership@uscattlemen.org.

UNITED STATES CATTLEMEN'S Association

P.O. Box 339 ~ San Lucas, CA 93954

Email: usca@uscattlemen.org ~ Web: www.uscattlemen.org

Telephone: (831) 385-5316

MEMBERSHIP—DONATION FORM

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA) is to present an effective voice for the United States cattle industry. USCA is dedicated to, and focused on, efforts in Washington, D.C. to further the interests of cattle producers on mandatory country of origin labeling, international trade, market competition, reform of the mandatory beef checkoff, animal health, welfare and identification, private property rights and other issues that affect the United States cattle industry.

Name _____

Ranch Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Own cattle: _____ Yes _____ No Tribal Member: _____ Yes _____ No

Annual Membership Dues:

- Cattle Producer level (owns cattle) ~ \$100 per year
- Business Member level ~ \$100 per year
- College Student level ~ \$25 per year
- Junior Member level (18 & younger) ~ \$25 per year
- Founding Member ~ \$1000 (available until June 1, 2008)

** NEW ** Premier Memberships:

- MAVERICK level \$150 to \$499
- WRANGLER level \$500 to \$999
- DROVER level \$1000 or more

Affiliate Organization Membership Dues:

- 1 to 100 members ~ \$100 per year
- 101 to 999 members ~ \$1 per member
- 1000 members or more ~ \$1,000 per year

- Donation Only
(I do not wish to become a member at this time)

AMOUNT REMITTED: _____

Only members owning cattle have voting rights. One member—one vote.

Contributions are not deductible as a charitable contribution but may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense.

Please mail completed form along with your check to our Treasurer at:

UNITED STATES CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 339 ~ San Lucas, CA 93954

Your Support is Appreciated!

From the Cow Boss, from page 2
 implementation date is September 30, 2008).

- Language that improves oversight of USDA's enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act requiring the agency to provide an annual compliance report detailing the number and length of time spent on investigations of potential violations of the act.

- Language that allows state inspected meat to be shipped across state lines.

Although the Livestock Title in the Farm Bill falls short of providing the proper measures to ensure transparency in the marketplace, USCA is pleased with the progress made. USCA has a full-time presence in Washington, D.C. and has already received strategic advice to advance several pieces of long-awaited

and much-needed legislation. USCA is on Capitol Hill working the conference rooms and working to level the playing field for U.S. cattle producers.

USCA is the only national cattlemen's association that is requesting signatures to build support for legislation that would enable beef checkoff dollars to promote U.S. beef. COOL is coming, but in order to make it work cattle producers need to market their label. USCA will not quit until this is a reality. You can join the effort. Log on to www.uscattlemen.org and download a beef checkoff sheet and start signing up your fellow producers, neighbors and area businesses to help build support to promote your product.

With a budget smaller than most state organizations and a membership of a few

dedicated producers, USCA has achieved real results. The first push relied heavily on volunteer hours and dollars from a handful of people. USCA has proven that for very little cost success can be achieved in the conference rooms. However, every day there is a new challenge and a new issue and we need continued support to be there with your message. Now is the time to pull together. USCA is united because of YOU. It's the cattlemen's association doing the job so you can focus on your work at home! It's your UNITED STATES CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Join today by calling 202-870-3867 or logging on to www.uscattlemen.org.



Support the U.S. Cattle Producer and Support a U.S. Product!

Dear Members of the United States Congress:

We are seeking an amendment to the Beef Promotion Act that will allow a portion of the Beef Checkoff dollars collected from U.S. cattle producers, to be used in the specific promotion of products derived from cattle that are born, raised and processed in the United States.

We, the undersigned cattle producers, encourage you to support the U.S. cattle industry!

Print Name	Signature	I own cattle: ___Yes ___No
Address	City	State
	Zip	Telephone
		email
Print Name	Signature	I own cattle: ___Yes ___No
Address	City	State
	Zip	Telephone
		email
Print Name	Signature	I own cattle: ___Yes ___No
Address	City	State
	Zip	Telephone
		email
Print Name	Signature	I own cattle: ___Yes ___No
Address	City	State
	Zip	Telephone
		email

Return completed form to: USCA, P.O. Box 339, San Lucas, California 93954 Form circulated by: _____

COUNTRY CONNECTION

With
Jess Peterson



Country Common Sense Crossing Over to the Capitol!

The United States Cattlemen's Association keeps moving forward! The past few months have been exciting times as USCA continued to expand its "country connection."

March and April Events across the Country.

March 1-4 found participants at the National Farmers Union Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada signing up to support Beef Checkoff dollars to promote U.S. beef. This convention was a great opportunity for me to meet members of the National Farmers Union and introduce them to USCA!

Following this event, I was honored to speak at the Can Am Feeds customer appreciation dinner in Miles City, MT on Wednesday, February 19. With nearly 300 ranchers in attendance, this successful event allowed the USCA to discuss its work around preventing the USDA from implementing its faulty proposal to increase meat imports from Argentina.

Jeremy Seidlitz, Executive Director with the Montana Cattlemen's Association, and I then headed to Whitlash, MT to update ranchers on the activities of MCA and USCA. Over 65 ranchers attended this event and folks were excited about the work being done on the Farm Bill. Several ranchers signed up on the spot to support their

state and national associations working hard for them!

On Friday, April 25th, Southeastern Stockgrowers met in Miles City, MT. Lyle Peterson and I were able to provide a brief update on USCA activities. I was impressed with the level of involvement this group has with the local, state, and national issues.

From Miles City I traveled to the Fallon Creek Cattlewomen's meeting on April 30th in Plevna, Montana. Jeanne and Art Drange had previously heard USCA speak at the Miles City meeting and invited me to this meeting to again discuss numerous topics of interest. Once again, this was a very well attended meeting where the ladies cooked up steaks for their husbands! Hot topics included USCA's work on enhancing the beef checkoff and amending it such that a portion of dollars could be used to promote U.S. beef. I really appreciate Jeanne's work in setting up this meeting and look forward to meeting with them again!

Meanwhile, Back in D.C.

Fortunately, by using my cell phone and wireless email via my "crackberry," I was able to keep in touch with Washington as I traveled to these meetings in the countryside. However, no amount of technology can take the place

of relationships and a full-time presence in Washington D.C. Because USCA has gained a seat at the table, industry representatives are constantly send-



USCA the latest information regarding legislation, meetings, and events. It would be impossible for cattle producers to have the proper representation and information without these relationships and teamwork. I really appreciate the help Hill staffers, USDA officials, and industry associations have provided to USCA. Obviously, current and continued investments work for both sides and USCA will continue to play a helpful role in ensuring the U.S. cattle industry remains strong and competitive.

The Farm Bill finally reached the President's desk after traveling a long and hard road. It was unfortunate that Congress did not include an amendment to limit packer ownership of cattle or the creation of an office of special counsel that would be charged with investigating and enforcing antitrust laws. USCA was successful, however, in working with other like-minded groups to ensure a first-ever Livestock Title that clarified the regulations regarding the implementation of mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) and interstate meat commerce by state-inspected processing plants.

Long-term Legislative Goals and the Elections.

Of course, the plan to address these important issues continues! You have my word as the lobbyist for USCA on Capitol Hill that we will not rest until meaningful competition reform is implemented. Next steps to ensuring meaningful reform are stand-alone legislation and preparing for

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Jess Peterson (middle) with Erik Johnson, (left), National Association of Counties; and Lynne Bradley, (right), American Library Association at a Title IX meeting.



USCA MID-YEAR MEETING GALVESTON, TEXAS - JUNE 26, 2008

Leave the felt hats and long sleeve shirts at home, USCA is going tropical. The USCA mid-year meeting is going to be held at beautiful Moody Gardens in historic Galveston, Texas, June 25-27 in conjunction with the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA). Having the opportunity to have the meeting in conjunction with the ICA gives USCA the atmosphere of a cattlemen's convention with a trade show, numer-

ous speakers, including Undersecretary Bruce Knight, a whole lot of hospitality, and access to several hundred ICA members who need to be members of USCA.

USCA will have a business meeting Thursday, June 26 beginning at 8 a.m. USCA directors have set aside as much time as needed to address the many issues facing the cattle industry and to develop interim policy and positions. USCA members are welcome to participate in the rest of the activities scheduled for the convention at the same economical rates as ICA members.

Moody Gardens is a resort type hotel that caters to families with lots of activities for kids. For more information about Moody Gardens refer to their web site at www.moodygardens.com or just google Moody Gardens. Located within walking distance right next door to the hotel is Schlitterbahn, a fun packed water park.

The historic shopping district, the Strand, located just a short distance from the hotel, is jam packed with shops and restaurants for your enjoyment. With a cool breeze still blowing off the Gulf in June you can also visit the beautiful beaches on the south side of the island and stroll down the sea wall.

You should have received a convention packet in the mail. If you didn't and would like to register or for more information go to the USCA website at www.uscattlemen.org or ICA's website at www.ica-texas.com. If you would like, you can call Christy at the ICA office in Lockhart, Texas at 512-620-0162.

There are two major airports in Houston, Hobby and Bush International. Hobby is closest to Galveston and is the home of Southwest Airlines with economical flights. Houston (IAH) Bush International, has all the major carriers, but is about thirty minutes further to the Northeast. Make plans to attend the USCA mid-year meeting and help shape the future of the U.S. cattle industry. Get your meeting registration in early and take advantage of the discounts.

Important

Changes

Independent Cattlemen's
Association of Texas

Ahead



34th Annual
Convention & Trade Show
Moody Gardens, Galveston, Texas
June 25-27, 2008

Don't miss one of the state's premier events with,

- innovative cattle management seminars,
- incredible industry trade show,
- exciting family fun night, and
- world class entertainment!

Also Featuring:

BONUS

BEEF CATTLE PROGRAM

An event for ranchers who have been in the business for a short time or a lifetime. Open to the public.



3 Hours
BQA Credit

10 a.m. - Wednesday, June 25, 2008
Galveston County Fair Grounds
Hitchcock, Texas

We're saving a place for you!

For Registration Information
Contact Christy at (512) 620-0162 or tica@icatexas.com
www.icatexas.com

Early Bird Registration on Deadline: June 10

ICA 34TH ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW

2008 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday – June 25		2:00 p.m.	Welcome- Expo Hall A
9:30 – 10 a.m.	Registration –Galveston County Fair Grounds, Hitchcock		Peanut Gilfillian, ICA State President
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coffee & Pastries 	2:15 p.m.	General Session I –Expo Hall A
10 a.m. – 12 noon	Beef Cattle Basics Sponsored by Silveus Insurance Group Morning Session		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cattle Market Outlook Dr. David Anderson, Texas Cooperative Extension Livestock & Food Products Marketing Economist Texas Animal Health Issues Dr. Bob Hillman, Executive Director, Texas Animal Health Commission
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Peanut Gilfillian, President ICA Bull Selection Mark Cowan-Camp Cooley Heifer Selection Dr. Joe Paschal, Professor and Extension Livestock Specialist 	3:45	Break -Sponsored by Larry Windham & Assoc.
		4:00-5:00 p.m.	General Session I-Part II
Noon	Lunch -Sponsored by Silveus Insurance Group		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture From the Senate Floor Senator, Kay Bailey Hutchison (Invited) Texas Agriculture Update Todd Staples, Commissioner, Texas Department of Agriculture (Invited)
1 p.m.	Beef Cattle Basics – Afternoon Session	5 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Social- Trade Show Area, Expo Hall B
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pasture Management Dr. Jason Cleere, Assistant Professor/Extension Beef Cattle Specialist Beef Safety-On the Ranch Dr. Larry Boleman, Associate Executive Vice President For Operations, TAMU Beef Safety-In the Plant Dr. TR Lansford, Assistant State Director, Meat Safety Assurance Unit, TDSHS Speaker (TBA) 	6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	Auction, Drawdown and Dinner- Trade Show Area, Expo Hall B
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agribusiness Council Awards Live Auction ICA Drawdown
11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	ICA Golf Tournament –Sponsored by Central Life Sciences and Lyssy & Eckel Feeds Sack lunch provided, no denim allowed on course	8:30 p.m.	Enjoy Galveston & Moody Gardens!
5 – 8 p.m.	Convention Registration – Galveston County Fairgrounds	Friday – June 27	
5 – 7 p.m.	Trade Show Set Up/Registration –Expo Hall B	7 a.m. – noon	Registration Open – Expo Registration Room
6 – 9 p.m.	Family Fun Night Barbecue – Galveston County Fair Grounds, Hitchcock Sponsored by Agriland	7 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Trade Show Open – Expo Hall B
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Featuring a LIVE performance by ELVIS! Golf Tournament Awards BYOB 	7:30 a.m.	Breakfast – Expo Hall B Sponsor Presentation-Silveus Insurance Group
		9:00 a.m.	General Session II – Expo Hall A
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your Beef Checkoff Dollars at Work Richard Wortham, Executive VP, Texas Beef Council Trans Texas Corridor-Dead or Alive? Representative Lois W. Kolkhorst (Invited)
Thursday – June 26		10 a.m.	Break – Trade Show Area, Expo Hall B Sponsored by Lyssy & Eckel Feeds
6:30 - 7:30 a.m.	Trade Show Set Up/Registration –Expo Hall B	10:15 a.m.	Silent Auction Closes & Awarded –Expo Hall B
7 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Registration – Expo Hall Registration Desk	10:30 a.m.	Release Trade Show Exhibitors
7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Trade Show Open -Expo Hall B	10:30 a.m.	General Session III – Expo Hall A
7:30 a.m.	Coffee & Kolaches in Trade Show Sponsored by Farnam Livestock Tracking		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Cattlemen's Beef Association Update Andy Groseta, NCBA President (Invited) United States Cattlemen's Association Update Jess Peterson, USCA Director of Government Affairs
8:00 – 9:45 a.m.	Board of Directors/ Committee Mtg –Floral Hall A2	noon – 2 p.m.	Headliners Luncheon – Expo Hall A Guest Speaker: Bruce Knight, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, USDA
8:00-10:00 a.m.	USCA Meeting - Floral Hall A1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trailblazer Awards Cattlemen's Council Awards President's Council Awards Award ICA Steffany Lynn Sklar Memorial Scholarship
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Ladies' Shopping on the Strand (Optional Tour to Galveston Strand, includes lunch)	2:15 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Full Meeting of the Board of Directors and House of Delegates - Expo Hall A
10 a.m. - noon	Cattlemen's Conference – Expo Hall A Sponsored by Novartis Animal Health		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President's Address Executive Directors Report
noon – 1 p.m.	Lunch –Expo Hall B Sponsored by American National Bank-Gonzales	4 p.m.	2008 Convention Closes
1 – 2 p.m.	Exclusive Trade Show Hour / Silent Auction opens		

Country Connection, from page 5
the next Farm Bill.

Please also keep in mind there will be increased (or potentially decreased) opportunities for ranchers and farmers after the election in November. I hope you will check out where the candidates stand on the issues. Both Sen. Barack Obama (<http://www.barackobama.com/issues/rural>) and Sen. Hillary Clinton (<http://www.hillaryclinton.com/issues/rural>) specifically lay out plans for agriculture and rural America on their websites. Sen. John McCain's site does not have a specific plan for agriculture or rural America, but you can find other information about his campaign at: <http://www.johnmccain.com>.



Jess Peterson at the USCA booth at the National Farmers Union Convention in Las Vegas, NV

What's on the Radar.

This summer will be a busy one as USCA continues to build support to allow Beef Checkoff dollars to promote U.S. beef. Additionally, work remains on preventing the USDA from implementing its faulty proposed rule to increase meat imports from Argentina. Also, the proposed mega-purchase by JBS Swift is under intense scrutiny by the Department of Justice. USCA will be closely monitoring this issue and will do whatever it takes to ensure producers have a say in how this issue plays out.

Further, Congress will continue its work on the energy bill. USCA was one of the agriculture groups called in by members of Congress to provide input on legislation that deals with climate change and carbon credits offsets. USCA has formed a committee on this particular issue; if you are interested in participating, please let me know. Your input is greatly appreciated!

High fuel and corn costs are two issues causing some consternation in cattle country. Now more than ever, cattle producers need to ensure market transparency, fair trade, and promotion of U.S. beef. There is only one association that is truly getting it done for cattle producers: the United States Cattlemen's Association. Now is the time to rally behind the flag and go forward with a united voice, a voice united through USCA! As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Ride Tall,
Jess Peterson

A Great Offer from Tami Jo:

Greetings all: It's that time of year again... here at Agri-News we're on our annual drive for new subscriptions! We would like to offer a free six-month subscription (valued at \$25) to each of your members. Here's how it works: We'll send the paper absolutely free for six months, and each week your members will be able to read the latest in ag news and all about "what their organization is up to." After the six months are up, they can either renew or just let the subscription end. That'll be their choice... and naturally we hope they'll renew!

If any United States Cattlemen's Association members are interested in this offer, please let me know! And have a happy spring!

Tami Jo Arvik Blake, Agri-News editor
PO Box 30755, Billings, Montana 59107
406.259.5406, editor@imt.net

AGRINEWS
BEST AG NEWS

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES!!

Spring is finally here as seen in the sprouting green grass, flowers, and frisky baby calves. USCA, born just a year ago and like a newborn calf, has grown into a respected and hard-working organization. We have a wonderful website: www.uscattlemen.org to keep cattle producers updated on industry issues. Our beautifully designed quarterly newsletter reports the latest news to our membership base and other interested cattlemen. Advertising is available in both mediums. Banners with links to your website information is a terrific way to advertise and promote your business.

If interested in obtaining further advertising information or for rate schedules, please contact Judie Manuel at membership@uscattlemen.org.

The Wagner Vogele Team at Merrill Lynch Bringing common sense solutions to your farm or ranch!

The mere mention of retirement planning, estate planning and investments can overwhelm anyone. The Wagner Vogele Team at Merrill Lynch is helping to bring common sense solutions to your family and business. The Wagner Vogele Team at Merrill Lynch runs a unique practice for a select group of families and entrepreneurs, helping them to plan and manage all areas of their finances and investments from wealth transfer and estate planning to retirement income strategies.

Charles "C.B." Wagner and Ty Vogele of the Wagner Vogele Team at Merrill Lynch will again be attending USCA informational meetings in your area. These presentations offer ranchers and farmers a chance to learn more about financial and investment planning opportunities and how the Wagner Vogele Team can be an essential partner in helping your family and business achieve the results you desire.

If you are hosting a producer meeting and would like to have the Wagner Vogele Team make a short presentation, simply contact them at 866-606-5544 or email: charles_wagner@ml.com

Advertisement

ARGENTINA TRADE POLICY HURTING U.S. FARMERS

The USDA is contemplating a proposal that could devastate the U.S. agriculture industry, yet our government is doing little to stop it. This USDA proposal would allow the importation of Argentine beef from several regions, despite well documented instances of foot and mouth disease in the country. Unfortunately, this proposal is only the latest in a growing list of transgressions out of Argentina that could hurt the U.S.

Over the past several weeks agriculture workers in Argentina have engaged in ongoing protests against Cristina Kirchner's administration in response to massive tax increases levied against Argentine farmers. How does this impact the agriculture industry in the U.S.?

The last round of tax increases represent the latest in a series of moves by Cristina Kirchner to suppress profits for Argentina's farmers. Kirchner has also intentionally devalued the Argentine peso, creating an export incentive for Argentine farmers, giving them an unfair trade advantage over beef producers in the U.S.

These are abusive trade practices. In January USCA joined more than 30 other organizations in supporting the American Task Force Argentina (ATFA), a coalition united to convince the U.S. government to take action against Argentina for its repeated defiance of international norms, from unfair trade practices to its \$100 billion debt default in 2001.

ATFA and USCA met with several members of Congress, including representatives from the House Committee on Agriculture, to raise concerns over Argentina's actions, including a proposal from the USDA which would allow the impor-



Argentine beef packed and labeled.

tation of Argentine beef from select regions, despite well documented cases of foot and mouth disease in the country.

The success of American Task Force Argentina depends upon groups like the U.S. Cattleman's Association, whose support to ATFA has raised awareness of the U.S. Congress to Argentina's actions. There is more work to be done, however. To learn more about what you can do get our government involved, visit www.atfa.org today and sign up to support the fight against Argentina.

USCA AND CONNOLLY SADDLERY CONGRATULATE "RIDE TO THE PBR" WINNER MALORY HART

The United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA) and Connolly Saddlery are pleased to announce that Malory Hart of Cody, Wyoming was the lucky winner of the "RIDE to the PBR." She received two premium tickets and two VIP passes to the hospitality room at the recent NILE Professional Bull Riders (PBR) Invitational event. This promotion is a combination of USCA and Connolly Saddlery joining forces to reward hard working Americans along with providing them an opportunity to learn more about USCA. "We were pleased with the high level of participation that we had for this event," said Dave Wagner, owner of Connolly Saddlery. "It's great to see folks excited about USCA and the NILE Professional Bull Riders event. We encourage everyone to stay tuned in with our blog and podcast found through

our website for future promotions like this." USCA Vice President Chase Carter stated, "Due to the high level of sign ups, there is a good chance USCA and Connolly Saddlery will be doing this again next year! Through this event people were able to learn more about USCA. With an ever-changing list of issues affecting the industry, people need to keep logging onto the USCA website and reading the latest news. If you are not yet a member of USCA, you can log on and sign up for a membership on the website." In closing Carter noted, "USCA appreciates the NILE PBR and Connolly Saddlery for their generous support. It's really great have a company like the Connolly Saddlery that promotes agriculture and keeps giving back to the community."

USCA's Affiliate Corner...Working Together to Build a Stronger U.S. Cattle Industry

Montana Cattlemen's Association - MCA

MCA has received several monetary donations for **Beef-On-Every-Plate**, a program to help feed Montana's hungry. But we now need producers to help out with cattle donations. We have enough money to process an additional 20 head, so if you have a cow, bull, or steer you had planned to take to the sale yard, please consider donating instead to this worthwhile cause. Call (406) 259-5433 for more information.

The Montana Cattlemen's Association has scheduled its fourth annual Mid-Year meeting for Saturday, June 14 at the Hugh Broadus Ranch near Colstrip. The program is slated to begin at 10:00 a.m. and will feature a "gate-to-plate" discussion of the rapidly emerging natural beef market. Marty Earnheart from the Montana Department of Agriculture will be on hand to provide an update on Montana's new Certified Natural Beef program. Fred Wacker will discuss natural feeding and Patrick Brewer of Quality Foods and Processing in Miles City will also address the group.

At 1:00 p.m. a complimentary hamburger luncheon will be served, sponsored by Rocky Mountain Ranch Real Estate. Following lunch we will take a bus tour of the reclamation



efforts of Western Energy in Colstrip. The tour will return at 5:00 p.m. for cocktail hour at the Broadus Ranch, followed by a steak dinner. The steaks for the evening meal are Montana Natural Beef right off the Broadus Ranch and processed by Tom Connelley – "The South Dakota Beef-Man." This is a complimentary meal sponsored by Merrill Lynch. The evening will conclude with cowboy poetry by Jack Schwend and live entertainment by a local fiddler group.

The Broadus Ranch is located on Highway 39—12 miles south of Colstrip or 10 miles north of Lame Deer. Signs will be posted. To reserve your complimentary meals, please RSVP to mca@montanacattlemen.org or call (406) 259-5433. Open to the public - you do not need to be a MCA member to attend.

Beartooth Stock Association

The Beartooth Stockgrowers Association was founded in 1940, enlisting now over 120 members from Carbon and Stillwater Counties, Montana which lay along the Beartooth Mountain Front. The active association is currently spearheaded by President, Bill Myers, Vice President, Nate Espeland and six directors; Chris Arnold, J O Hash, Patty Hooker, Greg Keller, Doug Robinette and Dr. Bill Routen. Our capable secretary and treasurer with several experienced years is Cindy Donohoe.

Recently a fire fund was reinstated during the Midland Bull

Test banquet, our area was struck very severely with the 230,000 acre Derby and Sanders fires of 2006. The Fire Fund has helped local producers with fencing costs, as well as renovating a home that was damaged by a separate fire in 2007. Also during the Midland Test Banquet we co-sponsored the featured speaker Dr. Gordon Carstens of Texas A & M. He spoke on the innovative system used to measure RFI. With rising feed costs, feed intake will be another important factor for producers to consider. For three days our association assisted with the registration, catalog and informational updates for the Midland Bull Test customers. We thank Leo McDonnell for this opportunity for all enjoyed mingling with fellow producers from around the United States.

For Science Fair enthusiasts we award a financial prize for the most outstanding agriculture project. This year the project was won by a trio of girls from Billings pursuant to their work with microbes and organisms near adjacent feedlots. This group will travel to National Science Fair. We hope to have a presentation by the trio is scheduled for our next meeting.

Keeping youth involved in agriculture is essential to agricultural interests; two 4-H awards are presented yearly to outstanding young adults involved in their county fair. As well, we are firm believers in higher education; a scholarship which we administer and judge is awarded yearly to a promising student who intends to pursue an agricultural degree from Montana State University. This year's winner was Jay Erfle of Rapelje, MT.

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The Beartooth Stock Association working the registration desk at the Midland Bull Test Sale.

USCA's Affiliate Corner...Working Together to Build a Stronger U.S. Cattle Industry

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas - ICA

The 34th Annual Independent Cattlemen's Association Convention and Trade Show is going to be one of the best ever!

The event will be held in Galveston at Moody Gardens, June 25-27, 2008—and, YES Schlitterbahn is open! This will be the perfect destination for a family get-a-way.

The Wednesday Pre-Convention program is shaping up to be information-packed with a wide variety of topics from beef safety on the ranch and in the packing plant to pasture management and herd selection. The South East Texas ICA chapter has graciously volunteered to cook for the Wednesday program.

ELVIS is coming! Yes, we have Elvis performing Wednesday night during the Family Fun night event, sponsored by AgriLand and the South Central Texas ICA Chapter. They say, if you didn't know better, you'd think Elvis really was back. A good time is sure to be had by all. Bring your lucky clover, and join in the games and card tournaments or just sit and visit with old and new friends. This event is all about fun.

We have a wonderful list of speakers lined up again this year. The cattleman's conference is on schedule for Thursday, sponsored by Novartis. You will have "information overload" at the end of the day!

Thursday night's events, the draw-down and live auction, are stepping up this year. The average value of the drawdown prize will be more than \$200! Tickets are the same price as last year (one for \$75 or two for \$125), but the

prizes will be better. The grand prize is a 2008 Honda FourTrax Foreman 4X4 ES donated by Southeast Texas Independent Cattlemen's Association and Triple L Power Sports, Orange, Texas. Tickets are still available, so call Christy at the office (512) 620-0162 today and order yours.

The trade show is already filling up so if you know a business or vendor that would like a booth, tell them to hurry! The booth packets are available online with the calendar of events or by calling Christy at (512) 620-0162.

We'll see you in Galveston!



Cattle Producers of Washington - CPoW

Spring is supposed to be on its way but in Washington State it's dragging its heels kicking and screaming. Cattle Producers here in Washington State would like to see a change in the weather to grow some grass, work some calves, and allow ranchers the opportunity to turn the cattle out.

Cattle Producers of Washington (CPoW) had a very successful legislative session this year. CPoW successes were mostly in the prevention of bad legislation. CPoW has had some positive supporters but like our weather this spring CPoW has had to continually push its message to get some folks to listen. We've had to drag them kicking and screaming to the table to get positive things done for Washington State. The status quo will not give our kids an opportunity in this great life we call ranching.

CPoW's relationship with USCA has been a positive affiliation. CPoW has been able to effect positive change in Washington State and USCA has been helpful and supportive on many state and national issues affecting Washington State. Hopefully, CPoW has returned the favor and helped USCA on the federal front. CPoW and USCA have proven that you can affect positive change with nothing more than a dedicated bunch of volunteers, a positive outlook that adheres to honesty

and integrity, and a small budget. CPoW has always followed these principals and the results of our labors are starting to bear fruit. With the multitude of issues confronting cattle producers today, it is essential to continue

supporting those organizations that put honesty and integrity first. These organizations need you to give of your time and your contributions to help further the cause for the benefit of YOU, the United States cattle producer.

CPoW is working with both state and federal folks to ensure the future for the next generation is bright and full of promise like a warm spring and grass for the cattle. We as cattle producers must be willing to leave our ranches once in a while and dedicate some time and effort to effect change for the cattle industry that we all love.



USCA Jackets Now Available!

Made in the USA medium weight jackets embroidered with the USCA logo are now available. These jackets can be ordered in either black or brown and include a zip-out liner. The cost of this quality American made jacket is \$50. Embroidered logo on the back of the jacket is an additional \$25 and \$8 for the front chest. You may contact ACES in Billings, Montana, at (406) 652-5587 to place

your order. Ask for item #524. Please call Judie Manuel at 406-429-7101 or email membership@uscattlemen.org if you have any questions.

You may also supply your own garment for ACES to embroider. However, in staying true to supporting American made products, we suggest the article carries the "Made in the USA" label.



USCA MISSION STATEMENT

To present an effective voice for the United States cattle industry. USCA is dedicated to, and focused on, efforts in Washington, DC to further the interests of cattle producers on mandatory country of origin labeling, international trade, market competition, reform of the mandatory beef checkoff, animal health, welfare and identification, private property rights and other issues that affect the U.S. cattle industry."

All Aboard!

USCA is pleased to announce that interested producers can take an organized tour of the JBS Swift plant in Greeley, Colorado.

Participants will fly into the Denver International Airport in Denver, Colorado on the evening of Thursday, July 24th. On Friday, July 25th participants will board a bus departing at 7:45 am en route to the JBS Swift plant in Greeley. The tour will last approximately 2 hours. After the tour concludes, the participants will meet at the JBS Swift headquarters for an 11:00 a.m. lunch. The bus will then take the participants to the airport in time to catch evening departing flights.

To reserve your spot on this tour, please notify Jess Peterson by July 21st at 202-870-3867 or jess@westernskiesstrategies.com. Please feel free to call Jess Peterson with questions about this event.



Beartooth Stock Assn., from page 10

Our year end banquet and meeting held each January is a well attended event with educational seminars and speakers topped off with a fine dinner and dancing. Several standing committees keep us abreast on current concerns and news; Sandra Miller-Peck keeps us updated on water issues, Dr. Bill Routen informs us of animal health issues, while Doug Robinette and Noel Keogh report on efforts and developments on Corraling Change. Corraling change is a venture spearheaded by the Beartooth Stockgrowers' Association and is all about ranchers helping ranchers take a proactive approach to help manage and protect riparian and watershed areas, more about Corraling Change in the next issue.

IS THE SOUTH KOREAN MARKET REALLY OPENING TO U.S. BEEF?

In late April South Korea announced they were going to allow US imports of bone-in beef from cattle of all ages into their country. Finally, the U.S. was making some headway putting this whole BSE issue behind us with the reopening of one of our major export markets. It was believed that this move would open the door for passage of a free trade agreement between the U.S. and South Korea in the U.S. Congress.

However it seems South Korean president Lee Myung-bak is coming under a lot of criticism for changing their import restrictions on U.S. beef. South Korean consumers have lost confidence in the safety of U.S. beef. According to a poll conducted by Dongseo Research of a thousand South Korean consumers, 75 percent doubted the safety of U.S. beef. Approximately 80 percent think the South Korean government needs to renegotiate the deal. The old saying goes, you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.

Opposition lawmakers in South Korea have announced they will file a lawsuit to stop bone-in U.S. beef from entering the country. Three opposition parties were threatening to file a constitutional suit three days before the terms of the Korea-U.S. agreement on imported beef was supposed to be implemented.

The safeness of U.S. beef should never have become a political issue.

USCA feels the USDA was premature in opening the border to older Canadian cattle. Opening the Canadian border should

not have been USDA's top priority. Proving the measures taken by the U.S. cattle industry to mitigate and prevent the spread of BSE in the U.S. cattle herd were effective and that we still have the safest beef in the world should have been USDA's top priority. More emphasis should have been put on building confidence in the health and safeness of the U.S. cattle herd and beef.

USCA has expressed concern over new regulations agreed to in the deal with Korea. These regulations allow bone-in beef from cattle of any age providing that the U.S. expands the U.S. feed ban. The expanded feed ban is going to cost the rendering industry millions of dollars. These costs will either be passed down to cow-calf producers in the form of lower prices for calves, or passed up to consumers in the form of higher prices for beef.

It is amazing the cattle industry groups that supported the expanded feed ban without even considering the cost. USCA has called for a cost benefit analysis comparing the benefit of increased market access to the cost of this increased regulation scheduled to go into effect in 2009. Even this cost benefit analysis could very well prove to be futile if more effort isn't made to prove the U.S. doesn't have a BSE problem, and if more effort isn't made to take measures to guarantee that we do not import any more BSE problems. We all realize that in addition to an open market, we also need the confidence of the Korean consumer.

USCA OUT AND ABOUT



USCA booth promoting the Beef Checkoff petition



Jess Peterson speaking at an USCA meeting in Miles City, MT



Lee and Connie Engelhardt sporting the new USCA jackets at the Midland Bull Test Sales.

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

By Doug Zalesky

International Trade Co-Chair for the U.S. Cattlemen's Association, and a member of the American Task Force Argentina

Trade issues found their way back into the political spotlight this month as Congress and the White House tussled over a trade deal with Colombia.

Supporters of the pact say we must bolster Latin American countries like Colombia that oppose Venezuela's American-hating dictator, Hugo Chavez.

Using that same logic, one would assume Administration officials would go out of their way to rebuke Chavez sympathizers. But that's not what's happening with Argentina.

In the midst of serious allegations that Argentina's president accepted \$800,000 in secret campaign contributions from Chavez, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is looking to reward the recently elected leader with an unprecedented trade arrangement.

Under this proposal, select regions of the country would be allowed to ship meat products to America even though Argentina has a checkered history with Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

We all remember what happened in England when a FMD epidemic swept across its countryside in 2001. Rural economies sputtered as scientists scrambled to get a grasp on the situation. The outcome was a disaster as six million animals were destroyed and the livestock industry lost nearly \$20 billion.

This same scene could easily play out here in the U.S. if our government is not diligent. The only question now is whether U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer will stand up and do the right thing for U.S. cattle producers and the economy.

If the USDA's regionalized beef trade plan is approved, our

only defense from Argentine FMD will be an imaginary border and the hope that Argentina can be trusted to police itself. But Argentina has proven time and time again it is not worthy of that kind of trust.


Worldwide lenders to Argentina are at risk of losing over \$20 billion in defaulted debt since 2005. It's important to note that this outstanding debt negatively affects many American citizens including retired teachers whose pensions have suffered as a result.

And when U.S. trade negotiators went to great lengths to accommodate Argentina and other developing countries in past WTO talks, American farmers were repaid with a litany of expensive trade cases.

Even Argentina's own farmers and ranchers are unhappy with the current state of affairs. Argentine farmers violently protested a proposed sliding-scale system of export taxes on agricultural products. If Argentine farmers and ranchers don't trust Argentina's new president, why should U.S. farmers and ranchers?

We have a saying in cattle country. Every man must earn two things in this world: an honest living and the trust of his neighbors.

Right now, Argentina is doing neither. Argentina needs to make progress on addressing these issues. Until it does, our government should not even consider measures which would jeopardize the U.S.'s rural economy by rewarding Argentina's bad acts.



**Don't Miss the USCA Mid-Year Meeting
June 26, 2008
Galveston, Texas**

USCA's website is fresh and innovative. Check out www.uscattlemen.org often. The site is updated constantly with news and information to help inform you, the cattle producer.

All Cattle and Calves
 January 1st, 2008 Inventory vs. 2007 Inventory
 USDA National Agriculture Statistical Service
 Totals may not add up due to rounding

Rank	State	2008	2007	% Change	% of Total
1	Texas	13,800,000	14,000,000	-1.45%	14.28%
2	Kansas	6,700,000	6,400,000	+4.48%	6.93%
3	Nebraska	6,550,000	6,650,000	-1.53%	6.78%
4	California	5,450,000	5,500,000	-0.92%	5.64%
5	Oklahoma	5,400,000	5,250,000	+2.78%	5.59%
6	Missouri	4,300,000	4,450,000	-3.49%	4.45%
7	Iowa	4,000,000	3,950,000	+1.25%	4.14%
8	South Dakota	3,700,000	3,700,000	0.00%	3.83%
9	Wisconsin	3,400,000	3,400,000	0.00%	3.52%
10	Colorado	2,750,000	2,700,000	+1.82%	2.84%
11	Montana	2,600,000	2,400,000	+7.69%	2.69%
12-13	Kentucky	2,400,000	2,460,000	-2.50%	2.48%
12-13	Minnesota	2,400,000	2,420,000	-0.83%	2.48%
14	Idaho	2,230,000	2,180,000	+2.24%	2.31%
15	Tennessee	2,130,000	2,310,000	-8.45%	2.20%
16-17	Arkansas	1,810,000	1,750,000	+3.31%	1.87%
16-17	North Dakota	1,810,000	1,850,000	-2.21%	1.87%
18	Florida	1,710,000	1,730,000	-1.17%	1.77%
19	Pennsylvania	1,610,000	1,600,000	+0.62%	1.67%
20	Virginia	1,570,000	1,620,000	-3.18%	1.62%
21	New Mexico	1,530,000	1,580,000	-3.27%	1.58%
22	New York	1,450,000	1,420,000	+2.07%	1.50%
23	Oregon	1,390,000	1,340,000	+3.60%	1.44%
24	Wyoming	1,320,000	1,430,000	-8.33%	1.37%
25	Ohio	1,270,000	1,270,000	+0.79%	1.31%
26	Alabama	1,250,000	1,320,000	-5.60%	1.29%
27	Illinois	1,240,000	1,340,000	-8.06%	1.28%
28	Georgia	1,130,000	1,170,000	-3.54%	1.17%
29	Washington	1,090,000	1,140,000	-4.59%	1.13%
30	Michigan	1,070,000	1,060,000	+0.93%	1.11%
31	Mississippi	990,000	980,000	+1.01%	1.02%
32	Arizona	970,000	940,000	+3.09%	1.00%
33-34	Indiana	890,000	900,000	-1.12%	0.92%
33-34	Louisiana	890,000	860,000	+3.37%	0.92%
35	Utah	850,000	830,000	+2.35%	0.88%
36	North Carolina	830,000	850,000	-2.41%	0.86%
37	Nevada	450,000	500,000	-11.11%	0.52%
38	West Virginia	415,000	420,000	-1.20%	0.43%
39	South Carolina	400,000	400,000	0.00%	0.41%
40	Vermont	265,000	275,000	0.00%	0.27%
41	Maryland	205,000	220,000	-7.32%	0.21%
42	Hawaii	152,000	158,000	-3.95%	0.16%
43	Maine	86,000	89,000	+3.37%	0.09%
44	Connecticut	50,000	53,000	-6.00%	0.05%
45	Massachusetts	46,000	44,000	+4.35%	0.05%
46	New Jersey	38,000	38,000	0.00%	0.04%
47	New Hampshire	36,000	49,000	-36.11%	0.04%
48	Delaware	22,000	23,000	-4.55%	0.02%
49	Alaska	16,000	15,500	-3.23%	0.02%
50	Rhode Island	5,100	4,900	-3.92%	0.01%
	Total	96,669,000	97,003,000	-0.99%	100.00%



United State Cattlemen's Association
P.O. Box 339
San Lucas, CA 93954

Coming Events

May 20 - Tuesday (5 p.m.)

Eagles in Lewistown, MT

No-Host Social Hour - 5:00 p.m.

Prime Rib Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Jess Peterson - USCA Director of Government Relations

Sponsored by: Fort Dodge Animal Health and The Wagner Voegel Team
Contact: Judie Manuel (406) 429-7101

May 21 - Wednesday (noon)

Wrangler Bar and Café in Grass Range, MT

Hamburger Lunch

Jess Peterson - USCA Director of Government Relations

Sponsored by: Fort Dodge Animal Health and The Wagner Voegel Team
Contact: Judie Manuel (406) 429-7101

May 21 - Wednesday (5 p.m.)

Winnett Bar in Winnett, MT

5:00 p.m. No-Host Social Hour

6:00 p.m. Steak Fry

Jess Peterson - USCA Director of Government Relations

Sponsored by: Fort Dodge Animal Health and The Wagner Voegel Team
Contact: Judie Manuel (406) 429-7101

June 14 - Saturday (10:00 a.m.)

MCA Mid-Year Meeting

Broadus Ranch, Colstrip, MT

Update and discussion of Certified Natural Beef Program

Bus tour of Colstrip reclamation efforts

Complimentary hamburger lunch and steak dinner

Evening entertainment by local fiddler group and cowboy poet Jack Schwend
Call (406) 259-5433 or email mca@montanacattlemen.org to reserve meals

June 17th - Tuesday

Moses Lake, Washington

Pillar Rock Cafe

6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Meeting

Speaker: Jess Peterson-USCA Director

of Government Relations
RSVP: Lee Engelhardt at 509-766-0161

June 26 - Thursday (8:00 a.m.)

USCA Mid-Year Meeting

Floral Hall, Moody Gardens Hotel
Galveston, TX

Contact: Chuck Kiker (409) 842-5070

Details at: www.uscattlemen.org

June 25 - 27, 2008

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas

34th Annual Convention and Trade Show

Moody Gardens Hotel, Galveston, TX
USCA update 10:30 a.m., June 27,

Expo Hall

Program and registration details:
www.icatexas.com

Contact: (512) 620-0162

FORT DODGE

Fort Dodge Animal Health

Beef Health Solutions for Today's Cattle Producers

Those who will not risk, cannot win. -John Paul Jones