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NCBA Petitions EPA to Reject Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding

NCBA, with support from state affiliates, including CCA, joined the Coalition of Responsible Regulation to appeal a recent decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency declaring that manmade greenhouse gas emissions are harmful to public health and welfare.

This decision, known commonly as the endangerment finding, sets the stage for the Obama Administration to bypass Congress in order to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from all sources, including agriculture, without a Congressionally- debated and Congressionally-adopted national climate change program.

The endangerment finding would require greenhouse gas emissions to be regulated similar to pollutants that actually cause adverse health impacts under the Federal Clean Air Act. Regulating greenhouse gas emissions using the same programs authorized under

the Clean Air Act to regulate pollutants that contribute to acid rain or smog would be devastating for all emission sources and businesses.

Recent events known as “climategate” have also called into question the validity of the data used to justify manmade global warming and NCBA’s appeal will address this issue as well. NCBA filed a similar but separate petition as well in December 2009 with the D.C. Court of Appeals.

CCA supports both petitions and adamantly opposes the use of the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. CCA will update members as both petitions are reviewed and debated. For more information on this issue, members can contact Justin Oldfield in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or e-mail him at justin@calcattlemen.org.

Senate Committee to Hold Oversight Hearing on Williamson Act

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Chaired by Sen. Dave Cox (R-Fair Oaks), is holding a legislative oversight hearing on March 3 entitled, “The Williamson Act: Past, Present and Future?”

Legislative staff has contacted CCA to participate in a discussion on the importance of Williamson Act contracts, as a tool to keep land in ranching. CCA Treasurer Jack Hanson will be providing testimony on behalf of ranchers with land in the Williamson Act, as well as his beneficial perspective as a County Board of Supervisor. Please contact Dawn Clover at dawn@calcattlemen.org with further questions.

ARB Holds Truck Rule Workshops Throughout California

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) has scheduled a series of workshops throughout the state to better educated truck owners and operators about the statewide Truck and Bus Regulation. The workshops will focus on registering farm and ranch trucks under the CCA supported agricultural provisions and educate others on the various compliance options of the rule should truckers be ineligible to participate in the ag program.

CCA has proposed additional dates and locations to ensure all producers have the opportunity to attend workshops including sites on the Central Coast, Northern California and the Imperial Valley. Sites that are currently scheduled are:

Wed., Feb. 24, 1:30 to 4 p.m. & 5 to 7:30 p.m.	Air Resources Board, El Monte
Thurs., Feb. 25, 1:30 to 4 p.m. & 5 to 7:30pm	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (APCD), Fresno
Monday, March 1, 1 to 4:30	Calaveras County Library, San

p.m.	Andreas
Tuesday, March 2, 9 a.m. to noon & 5 to 7:30 p.m.	Air Resources Board, Sacramento
Thursday, March 4, 8 to 10:30 a.m.	California Tower, Riverside
Monday, March 8, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.	Monterey Bay APCD, Monterey
Tuesday, March 16, 1 to 3 p.m.	Holiday Inn, La Mesa
Thursday, March 18, 9 a.m. to noon & 5 to 7:30 p.m.	Air Resources Board, Sacramento
Monday, March 22, 1:30 to 4 p.m.	Yuba County Government Center, Marysville
Wednesday, March 24, 1:30 to 4 p.m.	Ventura County APCD, Ventura

On-Road Diesel Truck Rule Information from CCA

Producers wanting to take advantage of the special agriculture provisions CCA worked to enact in the On-Road Diesel Truck Rule must report to the California Air Resources Board by March 31, 2010.

A fact sheet on the ag provisions of the rule as well as the reporting form can be downloaded from the CCA Web site, www.calcattlemen.org, under the "Current Issues Update" section. For more information on the truck rule, contact Justin Oldfield in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or e-mail justin@calcattlemen.org.

32nd Annual CCA Steak and Eggs Legislative Breakfast set for March 23

CCA's annual Steak and Eggs Legislative Breakfast will be held March 23 at the Sutter Club in Sacramento at 6:45 a.m. This unique event offers you the opportunity to interact one-on-one with your elected leaders as well as hear from a slate of speakers about what your government officials and CCA are doing for you.

Following the breakfast, CCA staff will coordinate legislative office visits where you can personally meet with politicians from your area to share the importance of looking out for beef producers. Ag Day at the Capitol is also held on March 23, so you may also visit California commodity groups on the lawn of the capitol building to celebrate agriculture.

In addition, there will be a PAC-200 dinner held at Chops Steakhouse on March 22, the night prior to the breakfast. For information on becoming a PAC-200 member, to RSVP for the dinner or breakfast or to sign up for legislative visits, contact Chaley Paulson in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or by e-mail at chaley@calcattlemen.org.

Independent Contractor Withholding Opposed by Chamber of Commerce

A large coalition led by the California Chamber of Commerce opposed a budget proposal to require businesses, non-profit organizations and local and state agencies to withhold 3 percent of payments to independent contractors in order to address the state's budget deficit. An independent contractor is a person or entity hired to provide a specific service or product, but not hired to work as an employee.

The proposal would allow the California Franchise Tax Board to keep 3 percent withholding interest free until the independent contractor pays taxes the following year. The state issued a similar decree last year for employers and employees, which has resulted in a net increase in tax collections to the state and less money in the hands of taxpayers until tax season.

This issue did not gain momentum this week, but CCA staff will keep members informed of further developments in the 8th Extraordinary Session on Budget that may impact your bottom line.

Senate Budget Committee Approves "Revenue Increases"

On Tuesday, the Senate Budget Committee rejected a Legislative Analyst's Office proposal relative to State Responsibility Area fees, a concept that was previously opposed by CCA, and instead approved the Governor's Emergency Response Initiative proposal to levy a 4.8 percent surcharge on residential and commercial property insurance in order to generate roughly \$200 million for the general fund.

According to the Governor, if the proposal is approved, property owners throughout the state would pay a surcharge of approximately \$48 per policy beginning January 2011. The Committee also approved a plan to allow companies to apply only 68 percent of past operating losses against income in 2010 and moved to prevent corporations from assigning tax credits in 2010 to affiliated corporations or subsidiaries. The legislature has until Monday to act upon these proposals.

On a slightly more positive note, the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy, chaired by Assemblyman Manuel Pérez (D-Coachella), held a hearing that demonstrated the importance of existing tax credits and enterprise zones, for companies in California to remain in business, to assist in any attempt at future economic recovery and to decrease unemployment in some of California's hardest hit communities.

CCA staff will keep members apprised of further developments on these proposals.

Chico State Beef Day to be held Tomorrow

The 19th Annual California State University, Chico (Chico State) Beef Day and Trade Show will be held Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Chico State Farm. Registration for the full-day event will begin at 8 a.m. with presentations set to begin at 9. This event serves as the primary fundraiser for Chico State's Young Cattlemen's Association, so all producers and allied industry affiliates are encouraged to attend.

This year's featured speakers will be Fred Provenza, Ph.D., an animal behavior and management expert from the College of Natural Resources at Utah State University as well as Frank Mitloehner, Ph.D., an air quality specialist at the University of California, Davis, who will talk about his research on livestock contribution to climate change.

In addition to these prestigious speakers, there will also be updates from CCA, University of California Cooperative Extension, California State University, Chico projects, as well as breakout educational sessions in the afternoon.

Cost for attendance is \$8 for students and \$12 for the general public. Registration fees include a Tri-tip lunch prepared by the Butte County Cattlemen's Association. Trade show booth space is available at \$150/space and includes two lunches. This is a great opportunity to support the future leaders of beef production, gain up-to-date information about your way of life and network with other beef producers and advertise your business!

For more information, contact Dave Daley, ddaley@csuchico.edu, (530) 898-6343 or (530) 898- 4539.

Artificial Insemination Clinic to be Held at UC Davis

The Young Cattlemen's Association at the University of California, Davis, is hosting a bovine artificial insemination clinic on March 25, 26 and 27 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The 3-day course will be offered on the Davis campus and will include classroom instruction as well as practice with cows.

The cost is \$325 per person with all fees due in early March. The class will be taught by Michael Lane, DVM along with two resident veterinarians from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. All participants will be given a certificate of completion from UC Davis; however, it is not an official certification course such as those offered by AI corporations.

The group is taking sign-ups now and the class usually fills up quickly. Please contact Kristy Perano by e-mail at kmperano@ucdavis.edu as soon as possible if you are interested in the class.

UC Cooperative Extension Offers Herd Health Workshops in North State

Next week, the University of California Cooperative Extension will be holding four workshops for beef producers surrounding the importance of herd health. The meetings will be held in Montague at Montague Elementary School from 7:30 to 9:15 a.m.; in Williams on Friday, Feb. 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Louis Cairo's Restaurant; in Cottonwood on Friday, Feb. 26 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Shasta Livestock Auction Yard; and in Eureka at the Agriculture Center on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 1 to 4 p.m.

The meetings will feature veterinarians, UCCE personnel and beef industry experts from throughout California as well as Les Anderson, Ph.D., from the University of Kentucky, who will address the reproductive physiology of successfully getting cows bred to meet the needs of commercial producers.

For more information or to RSVP for the meeting in Montague, contact Dan Drake at (530) 842-2711; for the meeting in Williams, contact Josh Davy at (530) 527-3101; for the meeting in Cottonwood, Contact Larry Forero at (530) 224-4900; and for the meeting in Eureka, RSVP to Yana Valachovic at (707) 445-7351.

Stockmanship and Stewardship Tour Returns to California

The 2010 Stockmanship and Stewardship Tour is coming to an auction market near you! Take this opportunity to learn more about effective stockmanship, low-stress animal handling and being a good steward of your livestock. These efforts raise value, protect the livestock industry and preserve the farming and ranching way of life.

The tour features stockmanship instructor and nationally-recognized clinician Curt Pate, as well as other industry leaders. Programs will be held at the Tulare County Stockyards in Dinuba on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 12:20 p.m.; Escalon Livestock Market in Escalon on Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 11 a.m.; and at the Shasta Livestock Auction Yard in Cottonwood on Friday, Feb. 26 at noon.

This event would not be possible without numerous sponsors and supporters. Sponsors of the tour include: Merial, Midcontinent Livestock Supplements, The American Quarter Horse Association, Purina, Miraco Livestock Water Systems, Priefert Ranch Equipment and Tru-Test. California endorsers and supporters of the event include the Livestock Marketing Association, the California Cattlemen's Association, the National Beef Checkoff Program, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the California Beef Council.

For information on any of the tour stops, contact the respective auction markets above. We hope to see you there!

Attention Young Cattlemen: CCA Scholarship Applications are Now Available

Scholarship applications are now available on the CCA Web site, www.calcattlemen.org. Each year, CCA affiliates give nearly \$20,000 in scholarships to California's future beef producers.

Undergraduates, master's degree students or veterinarian students attending or enrolled in a junior college, four-year college or university with current membership standing at CCA may apply. To be considered, students must have graduated from a California high school or are attending college in California must have at least a 2.75 GPA.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, applications are due May 24. For more information, contact Megan Huber in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or megan@calcattlemen.org.

Cattle Fax Weekly Market Highlight February 19, 2010

The fed cattle market moved sharply this week, as cattle sold \$2 to \$3 higher. In the North, the bulk of the sales occurred at \$90 to \$91.50 live and \$145 dressed. In the South, trade occurred at \$92 to some tops in Texas at \$92.50. Moderate volumes were noted. Boxed beef moved higher as well as buyers eyed limited production and needed to keep at least some product around them. Feeder cattle prices were \$2 to \$3 higher for the week, while calves were \$5 to \$10 firmer. Demand for all classes is excellent. Slaughter cows were quoted primarily \$2 better. Corn remained in a mostly sideways pattern.

Help Your Business and Your Industry by Joining CCA Today

Do you like what you see here? Are you interested in participating in these important efforts and receiving additional publications about California's beef cattle industry? If you're not yet a member, you can lend your support by joining the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) today. CCA is the only membership organization in California dedicated solely to looking out for the interests of ranching families and California's cattle industry.

CCA staff and officers work every day to ensure that our members have a known voice in Sacramento and in Washington, D.C. CCA defends your private property rights; works towards preserving private and public rangeland; protects the health of California's cattle herd; and provides scholarships to help the next generation of ranchers remain in the industry.

Joining this critical effort is simple for cattle producers, landowners and supporters of the industry. Call Stevie in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or email requests for membership information to stevie@calcattlemen.org.

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