

April 16, 2010



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USDA Releases Order to Reduce Federal Tuberculosis Movement Restrictions

On Thursday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published a Federal Order to amend tuberculosis (TB) rules by reducing Federal movement restrictions and testing obligations for animals in areas and herds not affected by TB. This is outstanding news for California producers who have been experiencing heightened restrictions since TB was found in a small number of Central Valley dairies in 2008.

The order will provide needed flexibility to the federal program to improve tracking and control of the disease at known points of risk while better enabling producers not affected by TB to move animals between states. It took effect immediately and will remain in place for two years, unless extended or amended by further changes.

Implementation of this order will prevent automatic future downgrades of an entire state’s TB status and subsequent restrictions on movement of all cattle, a problem that has long placed undue financial hardship on California beef producers. Additionally, the rule indicates that California cattle not linked to TB-impacted herds will no longer face additional federal movement restrictions, stating that “Cattle or bison originating in the State of California may move interstate without restrictions.”

States do still retain the ability to set their own import regulations under the Federal change, but it is expected that some will now consider further relaxing their import requirements on California cattle. CCA suggests checking with the state veterinarian's office in the destination state before shipping cattle to learn the latest requirements.

CCA has worked diligently with our state veterinarian and NCBA over the past two years to reduce restrictions on California cattle and identify needed improvement to the Federal TB program. CCA is extremely encouraged by this first step to provide flexibility that has not been available under existing regulations and will continue working with other states to keep California cattle moving as we move through the spring run.

If you have any questions about the Federal Order released this week, continuing efforts to modernize the federal program or the state's TB status, please contact Matt Byrne in the CCA office. A complete copy of the Federal Order can be found on the USDA Web site

at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2010/04/printable/federal_order_tb.pdf

CCA Updates Members on Important Legislation

Assembly Bill 1709, authored by Assembly Member Connie Conway (R-Visalia), gained unanimous passage out of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture Wednesday with amendments to assure all California licensed vaccines will be registered with the United States Department of Agriculture prior to the California program's removal. As introduced, this bill removed the California program with no assurance that currently available vaccines, such as anaplasmosis, would continue to be made available to California's livestock producers. Following a number of stakeholder discussions between the author, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the livestock industry, an agreement was reached to provide statutory assurance on the continued availability of vaccines, as well as a reporting requirement from CDFA on the status of the transition from state to federal licensure and registration.

Senate Bill 1303, authored by Senator Lois Wolk (D-Davis), gained unanimous passage out of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on Tuesday. SB 1303, co-sponsored by California Cattlemen's Association and California Farm Bureau Federation, extends accidental take protection for landowners within the California Endangered Species Act. This provision was created in 1997 by legislation authored by then-Senator Jim Costa (D-Fresno). This bill now moves to the Senate Committee on Appropriations for further review.

Assembly Bill 1721, authored by Assembly Member Sandre Swanson (D-Oakland), was held in the Assembly Committee on Agriculture Wednesday following extensive testimony and opposition. This bill, opposed by California Cattlemen's Association, prohibits the application of pesticides within a specified area surrounding schools. CCA opposed this measure based on the sweeping land use implications. Currently, a school district may purchase land within agricultural areas, and if enacted, AB 1721 would dictate that pesticides not be applied on adjacent agricultural land, despite current laws

and regulations that already restrict use and applications in order to ensure the health and welfare of nearby residents and agricultural employees.

Please contact Dawn Clover at dawn@calcattlemen.org for more information or with any questions you may have.

“AG” Diesel Truck Labels Available From CCA

CCA is offering “AG” labels for members who registered agricultural trucks with the Air Resources Board in accordance with the Truck and Bus Regulation. Two labels are required per truck with one label to be affixed to each door. Labels will be distributed on a first-come-first-serve basis with roughly 40 labels available. Please call the CCA office if you would like truck labels and indicate how many trucks you’ve registered in the agricultural program. Trucks registered in the agricultural provisions must be labeled by April 30, 2010.

For more information on the truck rule, contact Justin Oldfield in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or e-mail justin@calcattlemen.org.

Celebrate Earth Day April 22 by Speaking Out!

Next Thursday, April 22, is the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. As ranchers, we know nobody cares more for the planet and Mother Nature than cattlemen. Unfortunately, many people around the globe do not realize just how much beef producers do for Mother Nature.

If you would like to use Earth Day as an opportunity to speak out and tell your story of land and animal stewardship by sending an opinion editorial piece or letter to the editor to your local newspaper and would like CCA’s help, we would love to help you in expressing the ways you care for the environment each and every day. This is also a great opportunity to share with the public the importance of the Williamson Act and its impact on ranchers and the public!

To get help from CCA in spreading the message that ranchers are the everyday environmentalists, contact Stevie Ipsen in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or stevie@calcattlemen.org.

CCA Scholarship Applications Available, Deadline May 24

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 veterinary 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 be attending college in California and 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.

CCA Participates in UC Davis Williamson Act Survey Project

CCA is working with a graduate research team based at UC Davis to conduct an anonymous survey of members on the importance of the Williamson Act. Surveys will go into the mail this week to 700 randomly selected members with a goal of determining how the elimination of Williamson Act funds will impact ranching operations and rangeland conservation in the state.

Members who receive the survey are encouraged to fill it out and send it back so the results can be anonymously tabulated. No personal information was shared with the UC Davis research team or will be collected for compiling survey results.

“It is extremely important for members who receive the survey to complete and return it,” said Tom Talbot, president, California Cattlemen’s Association. “As CCA continues to work with the California State Legislature and the Governor to obtain a full reinstatement of subvention funding to counties for the Williamson Act, it is important for us to have access to this sort of information to better make the case for our state’s ranchers.”

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Tracy Schohr in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or tschohr@calcattlemen.org.

Animal Behavior Workshop Coming to San Luis Obispo

The University of California Cooperative Extension is hosting a workshop on April 29 on Animal Behavior Principles & Training Livestock to Eat Weeds. Come learn how to make “weeds” part of your animals’ diet and improve your pasture at the same time. The event will be held at the Cal Poly Beef Center in San Luis Obispo. For more information and to register, [click here](#) or call (805) 781-5938 to reach Jim Zingo (jzingo@co.slo.ca.us) or Bill Tietje (tietje@berkeley.edu).

Cattle Fax Weekly Market Highlight April 16, 2010

Cattle trade is wrapped up this week at steady to \$2 lower compared to last week. The live cattle market was higher today with April up \$0.875 at \$98.00 and June was up \$1.35 at \$94.30. The feeder cattle market was higher today with April up \$0.40 at \$112.25 and May was up \$0.60 at \$112.80. The boxed beef market was mixed with Choice up \$0.22 at \$166.96 and Select was down \$0.22 at \$164.63. May corn was 5 1/2 cents higher today at \$3.63 1/4.

