

October 16, 2009



**Legislators Slow to Act on State Water Deal  
Details for CCA/CCW Convention Now  
Available, Register by Oct. 27**

**Governor Takes Action on CCA-Priority  
Legislation**

**Mexico Joins Canada in WTO Complaint  
Against U.S. COOL**

**Enter Your Photos in the CCA/CCW Photo  
Contest, \$500 Grand Prize!**

**NCBA Working to Preserve Cattlemen's Private  
Property Management Rights**

**Industry Supports Government Plan to Manage  
Wild Horses**

**California and DOI Agree to Expand Renewable  
Energy Development on Public Lands**

**Fundraiser to Benefit Young Cattlemen's  
Committee to be Held Oct. 24**

**Attention Young Cattlemen: CCA Now  
Accepting Applications for Convention  
Interns**

**CCA-Supported Federal Disaster Program  
Made Available to California Cattle  
Ranchers**

**Cattle Fax Weekly Market Highlight**

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## **Legislators Slow to Act on State Water Deal**

Following a tentative deal struck by California's Big 5 last weekend, legislative leaders have yet to vote on a state water bond to deal with the ongoing water crisis that has left Central Valley farmers with little water forcing many to fallow land and dramatically decrease production.

A policy bill to require new statewide policies to conserve and more efficiently use water will also be accompanied by a bond that will appropriate funding for conservation, conveyance and most importantly new water storage. The amount of the bond is still being debated by legislative leaders and the Governor due to pressure from state labor organizations that are concerned that a large bond might endanger general fund expenditures used to pay state employees. So far, discussions have focused on a bond package ranging from 15 billion to 9 billion.

The Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee plans to hold an information hearing on the legislation and bond next Wednesday, however no floor session has been scheduled by either Assembly Speaker Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) or Senate Pro Temp Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) to take up the full legislation in either house. CCA continues to work on shaping the legislation to ensure that it does not impact water rights or place additional unnecessary conservation burdens on ranchers while maintaining funding in the bond for conveyance and surface water storage.

CCA will continue to update members as negotiations continue between legislative leaders and the Governor. If a bond is passed, it will be placed on the ballot for approval by California voters in November.

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### **Details for CCA/CCW Convention Now Available, Register by Oct. 27**

Registration information is currently available for the 2009 CCA/CCW Convention, which will be held Nov. 11-13, at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, Nev.

A complete registration packet will soon be arriving in your mailbox, but CCA encourages you to register early by either printing off the [registration form](#) and mailing or faxing it to the CCA office or by registering electronically through the CCA [Web site](#).

Should you have any questions about registration or about the convention, please contact Chaley Paulson in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or [chaley@calcattlemen.org](mailto:chaley@calcattlemen.org). Room reservations can be made at the Nugget by calling (800) 648-1177 and requesting the California Cattlemen's Association room block. Room reservations are due by Thursday, Oct. 29.

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### **Governor Takes Action on CCA-Priority Legislation**

**Assembly Bill 94**, authored by Assemblymember Noreen Evans (D-Santa Rosa), the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act, was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger

on Sunday, Oct. 11. This measure was supported by California Cattlemen's Association, California Rangeland Trust and various other signatories of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition. The tax credit is designed to encourage donation of lands and conservation easements as a means of protecting natural resources. AB 94 extends the tax credit, which is administered through the Wildlife Conservation Board, and is unique in that it does not impose General Fund pressures because funds are reimbursed from other sources. Contact Tracy Schohr at (916) 444-0845 or [tracy@calcattlemen.org](mailto:tracy@calcattlemen.org) should you have questions.

**Senate Bill 448**, authored by Sen. Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills), was approved by the Governor this week. This bill creates the State Safe Harbor Program, which encourages landowners to manage their lands voluntarily to benefit endangered, threatened or candidate species without being subject to additional regulatory restrictions as a result of their conservation efforts. SB 448 was supported by a broad coalition of agricultural and environmental stakeholders that urged the Governor to sign this landmark legislation. To learn more about the State Safe Harbor program, please contact Tracy Schohr in the CCA office.

**Senate Bill 135**, authored by Sen. Dean Florez (D-Shafter), was approved by the Governor this week. This bill, which bans tail docking, was originally opposed by CCA, but was drastically amended to exempt owners of livestock who may need to dock a tail on an emergency basis in order to alleviate the animal's pain or distress, and to remove a reporting requirement that would require a livestock owner to report to the California Department of Food and Agriculture following an emergency procedure. If you have questions, please contact Dawn Clover at (916) 444-0845 or [dawn@calcattlemen.org](mailto:dawn@calcattlemen.org).

**Senate Bill 173**, authored by Sen. Dean Florez (D-Shafter), was vetoed by the Governor on Sunday. This bill contained language to require mandatory food recalls, but was amended throughout the Legislative process to instead allow the State Public Health Officer to adopt regulations for voluntary food recalls. Food recall measures have recently passed in Georgia and in Texas. Please contact Dawn Clover in the CCA office if you would like more information.

**Assembly Bill 1242**, authored by Assemblymember Ira Ruskin (D-Redwood City), was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger. This CCA-opposed bill would have declared it the policy of the state that every human being has the right to clean, affordable and accessible water on an equitable basis. This policy would have elevated domestic preference policy over and above all other uses, and add the requirement that all water for humans be "affordable", yet did not elaborate on affordability, which could potentially affect other ratepayers. Please contact Dawn Clover or Justin Oldfield at (916) 444-0845 with questions or concerns.

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**Mexico Joins Canada in WTO Complaint Against U.S. COOL**

The Mexican government announced yesterday that it will join Canada in moving forward with a World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement process against U.S. mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL). Canada and Mexico are our top two trading partners, together accounting for 59 percent of total U.S. beef, beef variety meat and processed beef product export revenues last year. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is extremely concerned that these WTO cases could lead to damaging retaliatory actions against U.S. beef.

In order to gain a better understanding of COOL's effects on the entire beef chain, NCBA has asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to reinstate a joint Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)/Economic Research Service (ERS) study entitled, "Economic Analysis of Country of Origin Implementation Costs for Producers and Processors in the Beef, Pork and Lamb Industries" that was to be completed in cooperation with the Livestock Marketing Information Center (LMIC). Unfortunately, the FY 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Bill did not direct USDA to reinstate the funding for this purpose.

CCA continues to monitor the issue and supports the completion of needed studies to quantify costs and benefit data collected in the first year under the COOL legislation.

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### **Enter Your Photos in the CCA/CCW Photo Contest, \$500 Grand Prize!**

Have you taken a photo you are particularly proud of? By entering your photos in the CCA/CCW photo contest, you have the chance to win \$500 as well as numerous other prizes. Pictures may compete in the categories of People, Rural Life, California Landscapes, Animals and Wildlife and a new category, "Beef. It's What's for Dinner," sponsored by the California Beef Council. Ideas for photos in the new category are endless. From cattle in a field and children eating hamburgers at a picnic to photographing a beef entrée, the imagination is really the limit!

The contest is open to all CCA/CCW members and their immediate family. Deadline for photos is Oct. 31. For more information, including rules and entry forms for the contest, visit [www.calcattlemen.org](http://www.calcattlemen.org) or contact Stevie Ipsen in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or [stevie@calcattlemen.org](mailto:stevie@calcattlemen.org).

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### **NCBA Working to Preserve Cattlemen's Private Property Management Rights**

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is working to prevent passage of S 727, the so-called "Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009." While the bill was recently scheduled for rapid consideration in the Senate, there appears to be enough bipartisan opposition to prevent the bill from moving forward.

Sponsored by Sen. Mary Landrieu (D- LA), S 727 would ban the processing of horses for reasons other than safety or public health, while providing limited alternatives for the humane management of these animals. While the legislation is intended to protect horse

welfare, it would ultimately do more to harm horses than it would to protect them.

Banning the processing of horses will result in more, not less, horse welfare issues, including abuse, neglect and abandonment. Abusing, starving or turning a horse loose to fend for itself is not humane, and there are not enough adequate horse adoption and rescue facilities to protect these animals. In addition to creating unintended consequences for horses, this bill would set a dangerous precedent by jeopardizing citizens' private-property management rights. Decisions about animal welfare must be based on scientific facts and solid husbandry practices, not merely emotion.

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### **Industry Supports Government Plan to Manage Wild Horses**

On Oct. 9, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar released a new plan to more properly manage wild horses and burros in order to relieve pressure on western rangelands while maintaining needed fertility control to more effectively maintain the health and size of wild horse herds. The proposal would create wild horse preserves in the Midwest and eastern portion of the country that are currently not inflicted by drought and wildfire and would employ new methods of fertility control to more appropriately manage the increasing size of wild horse herds that have put forage pressures on ranchers and western rangelands.

In a statement released by Public Lands Council President Skye Krebs, Ione, Ore., he said, "Secretary Salazar's proposal is a rational approach to managing this population problem. This solution recognizes both the importance of preserving wild horses and burros and the need to maintain productive, healthy rangeland for multiple uses."

CCA and PLC will continue to work with the Department of Interior and other federal land management agencies to ensure policies actually manage wild horse populations without increasing burdens on ranchers in the West.

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### **California and DOI Agree to Expand Renewable Energy Development on Public Lands**

On Oct. 12, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to pledge federal and state support to increase renewable energy projects on government owned lands throughout California. Projects resulting from the MOU are intended to help attain the Governor's Executive Order to achieve 33 percent of California's energy from renewable sources.

Specifically, the MOU will establish Renewable Energy Policy Group comprised of federal and state officials to coordinate efforts and generally remove federal and state regulatory barriers to the development of renewable energy projects, most notably solar and wind.

CCA is working with both the Obama and Schwarzenegger Administrations to ensure that the construction of renewable energy projects will not impact ranchers grazing on public lands and if projects are to be placed on public grazing allotments, ranchers are appropriately allotted additional ground nearby to graze cattle for forage lost.

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**Fundraiser to Benefit Young Cattlemen's Committee to be Held Oct. 24**

The annual dinner fundraiser for California's Young Cattlemen's Committee will be held Oct. 24, at 6 p.m. in the University of California, Fresno State Ag Pavilion. In addition to a great meal, a weight guessing contest, a silent auction and dessert auction will be held at the event to raise money to help future producers attend lobbying trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C., as well as other educational activities.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Megan Huber in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or YCC Chair Brie Witt at (209) 327-7546.

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**Attention Young Cattlemen: CCA Now Accepting Applications for Convention Interns**

For any members of CCA's Young Cattlemen's Committee interested in getting involved, networking with members of CCA and the California CattleWomen, Inc., as well as meet other young cattlemen throughout California, CCA is currently taking applications for interns at convention.

Serving as an intern for the convention is a great way to serve those involved in the ranching industry as well as learn more about the organization for yourself. This year's convention supplies additional opportunities to network, as the convention is held in conjunction with Nevada Cattlemen and CattleWomen. The 93<sup>rd</sup> annual CCA/CCW Convention will be held Nov. 11-13, at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, Nev.

Intern applications are available on the homepage at [www.calcattlemen.org](http://www.calcattlemen.org) and are due to the CCA office on or before Oct. 21, 2009. For more information, contact Megan Huber in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or [megan@cattlemen.org](mailto:megan@cattlemen.org).

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**CCA-Supported Federal Disaster Program Made Available to California Cattle Ranchers**

After many months of engagement by CCA officers and staff, working alongside California representatives of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), a federal disaster relief program - Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) - is now available to producers in California who purchased non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) or other qualified

crop insurance and suffered losses from drought and other natural disasters in 2008 and 2009.

CCA is working with FSA and producers in affected counties to ensure that rollout of the program covers all qualified producers. It is suggested that ranchers contact their local FSA office to verify eligibility and make an appointment to ensure that the county office has access to tools necessary to assist ranchers with verifying eligibility and processing their enrollment.

CCA is extremely pleased to see this program made available in light of current economic difficulties facing cattle producers, many of which have been caused by our ongoing drought. For more information about the disaster program contact Matt Byrne in the CCA office at (916) 444-0845, or contact your local FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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### **Cattle Fax Weekly Market Highlight October 16, 2009**

The fed cattle market traded from steady to as much as \$2 higher this week in a moderate trade. In the North, dressed trade occurred at \$126 to \$128 and \$80 to \$83 live, while the South noted \$83 in Kansas and \$84 in Texas. Boxed beef improved modestly for the week with Ribs and Trimmings seeing the best interest. Sale volumes for beef were moderate at best. Feeder cattle prices were quoted \$1 to \$2 higher on the week while calves ranged from steady to as much as \$2 firmer. Slaughter cows were mostly steady to \$1 higher. Receipts were light due to rain in many regions. Corn prices continued to firm in sympathy with higher oil prices and a lower dollar.

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### **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](mailto:stevie@calcattlemen.org).

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**This newsletter is a publication of the California Cattlemen's Association.**

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