

# NEBRASKA CATTLEMAN

The ONLY publication dedicated to the Nebraska cattle industry.



April/May 2022 • Volume 78 • Issue 4

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### On The Cover

Keeping alleyways dry in spring can be a challenge. This footing is ideal for these calves south of Wilcox. Photo courtesy of Amber Harms Photography.



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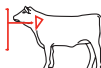
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50	0.5 mL	-	-
100	1 mL	-	-
150	1.5 mL	-	-
200	2 mL	-	-
300	3 mL	-	-
400	4 mL	-	-
500	5 mL	-	-
600	6 mL	-	-
700	7 mL	-	-
800	-	5.3 mL	-
900	-	6 mL	-
1000	-	6.6 mL	5 mL
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Leading into the recent Cattle Industry Convention in Houston, anticipation was focused on the potential policy actions in the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Live Cattle Marketing Committee Meeting. As a refresher, Nebraska Cattlemen members have been significantly involved in all discussions on this critical issue. For the past two years, Troy Stowater, Stephen Sunderman, Jeff Stolle and Ashley Kohls of Nebraska Cattlemen gave substantial time and intellect strongly advocating Nebraska Cattlemen policy. These individuals are owed a debt of gratitude for their commitment serving the Nebraska Cattlemen membership.

Some feel Nebraska Cattlemen's policy position "lost" in the Live Cattle Marketing Committee. While the vote to prohibit NCBA from pursuing a path to mandatory negotiated trade passed by a sizeable margin, other policies passed, creating positive outcomes related to current Nebraska Cattlemen live cattle marketing policy positions. These positive outcomes have been overlooked.

NCBA's Live Cattle Marketing Committee passed multiple resolutions in line with Nebraska's Cattlemen policy. One of those measures involved suggested changes to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) platform, including the addition of South Dakota and Illinois to the LMR footprint as part of the existing Iowa/Southern Minnesota region. Another will bring more clarity to the LMR "formula" reporting category by separating "non-value" alternative marketing agreements (AMAs) from transactions that have premiums and/or discounts attached for USDA Quality Grade and/or Yield Grade factors.

Language was adopted that encourages incentivizing research into the absolute costs of AMAs and alternative ways to establish base prices for non-negotiated transactions. Modifications to improve USDA's existing cattle contract library also won committee support.

It is also important to understand the NCBA policy vote process. Every NCBA state affiliate (including Nebraska Cattlemen) is granted one initial vote for all policy committee actions and board votes. From that starting point, state affiliates gain additional votes according to the dues they pay to NCBA. The more dues that a state affiliate pays to NCBA, the more votes they are given. The state affiliates with the most votes are the Kansas Livestock Association and the Texas Cattle Feeders Association. There is a sizeable drop down in votes to the next two state affiliates, which are Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and Nebraska Cattlemen. These four associations are well ahead of all other state affiliates.

Some Nebraska Cattlemen members have dropped their NCBA dues, citing frustrations with NCBA policy positions, namely live cattle marketing. The net and negative result of that action is ultimately minimizing Nebraska Cattlemen voting strength and influence within NCBA policy. If you ultimately want to win, you don't step away from the challenge. Stepping forward instead creates a substantial benefit.

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By Joel Weber, Dorchester  
Nebraska Cattlemen Feedlot Council Chair

## More in Common Than Not



Good afternoon from Dorchester. Along with my family, I run Weber Feedyards, a feeding and farming operation located 45 miles southwest of Lincoln. My great-grandfather started feeding cattle at this location, so I am the fourth generation to work this land with livestock and grain. My oldest son has intentions of continuing this operation so, hopefully, there will be something left after I make my mark on it.

This winter has come at the perfect time for Nebraska feedyards. After two years of tough economic times and rough winters, we have come through a fall and winter where we started printing black ink. The winter weather couldn't have been better. The pens have remained dry and the closeouts have shown it. Feeding cattle went from feeling like a disease to looking forward to closing out pens.

Leverage with our fat cattle seems within reach, as long as we can avoid another world crisis (Ukraine) and keep the black swans off the property. Long term, the cattle business feels bullish, but that can vanish into thin air as we have seen in the last few years. Demand is at record levels worldwide. It would be nice if we could get inflation in check as inputs have gone through the roof in every aspect of agriculture. It is hard to believe that just 18 months ago we were energy independent.

A lesson taught to many of us the last few years has been risk management. Markets will humble even the most astute managers. Things happen so fast with such violent swings that a marketing program involving a risk management plan has paid dividends through these uncertain times. There are so many risk management tools at our disposal; I would encourage everyone to look at the possibilities and find the right fit for your operation.

The Midwest seems to be headed into a serious drought. Montana and the Dakotas have already seen the effects of the drought, and it looks like it could be coming to Nebraska. Feed costs are approaching unsustainable levels and many operations are liquidating cow herds. The cow kill is running much above normal and will have a huge impact on feeder prices going forward.

Hook space has become the hot conversation topic among cattle feeders. COVID-19 wreaked havoc on the ability to fully staff packing plants. The drought of 2012 closed several of these plants, which in turn led to a bottleneck between the feedlot and packers. New COVID-19 variants have come and gone and each one has created challenges for feedyards. The tail from this bottleneck has been long. As recently as January, feedlots have seen fat cattle back up in the face of higher costs of gain. Several new packing plants have been planned and we all hope they succeed.

For too long, the feedlot industry has taken a dollar of profit and spent two dollars building pens. In the end, supply and demand dictate whether feeding cattle can be profitable. It is not the packers' responsibility to keep a feedlot in business. As cold as that may seem, it is no different from a store on Main Street. If there is not demand for what you are selling, change your business and find something that makes you profitable.

At the Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show, the state affiliates decided to keep government mandates out of our policy. This has been an extremely

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Reg: \*20259071 • Sire: S A V Raindance 6848

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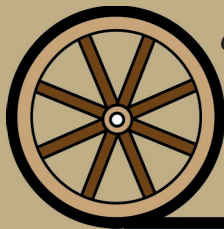
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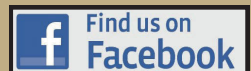
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# History of 1 Lilly Ranch

The history of 1 Lilly Ranch begins with Iowa businessman Charles T. Stewart, who purchased grazing land from homesteader James M. Harris on the North Fork of the South Loup River in Logan County, Nebraska in 1883. The original name of the cattle company established by Charles Stewart was the Milldale Farm & Livestock Improvement Co., Limited, with offices at 525 So. 7th in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Although Charles Stewart never moved to Nebraska, he made frequent extended trips each year "to check the Milldale interests, and he spent much time working in the saddle, buying land, surveying for fencing and directly operating the properties" (The Nebraska Farmer, January 7, 1961). Commencing in 1885 Charles Stewart purchased additional land in McPherson and Arthur counties, and more property was later added. While longhorn and roan cattle were the original Milldale stock, Herefords were introduced in 1893 and remained the mainstay until Angus cattle were introduced in 2005.

Charles Stewart and his wife, Frances Beach Stewart, had one daughter, Marie. She married D.J. McFerren and moved to Illinois. The McFerrens had two daughters, Marie M., who married E.H. (Shoey) Shoemaker, and Jane M., who married Dave Allen. When Charles Stewart died in 1939, his wife continued to take an active interest in the ranches from her home in Council Bluffs, as did his daughter and son-in-law in Illinois. After World War II, his granddaughters and their husbands, the Shoemakers and the Allens, moved to Nebraska to join the cattle corporation. In 1952 the name of the ranch was officially changed to Milldale Ranch Co. at North Platte, Nebraska.

The McFerrens moved from Illinois to North Platte in 1957, and by 1961 the five-owner corporation (Marie McFerren, Marie M. and E.H. Shoemaker, Jane and Dave Allen) had four ranches on 60,000 acres of owned and leased grassland in three counties. In 1982 the ranches were divided between Charles Stewart's two granddaughters, Marie M. Shoemaker and Jane M. Allen. The Shoemaker family retained the original Milldale Ranch in Logan County, and the Allen family took over the ranch land in Arthur and McPherson Counties.

In 2016 the Logan County 33,000 acre Milldale Ranch was again divided between E.H. and Marie Shoemakers daughters. At that time Sandy (one of the two daughters) and Eric Hornbacher along with their family Tyler Carraway and Jennifer Carraway took over the operation of 17,660 acres now referred to as 1 Lilly Ranch. The headquarters of this new ranch was always referred to as the "Lilly Place". The family and the ranch utilize the number 1 Brand on the Left Hip after the split. The Family chose the name 1 Lilly Ranch and embraced the slogan,

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# 2022 NEBRASKA CATTLEMEN

## MIDYEAR MEETING

### JUNE 9-10 | VALENTINE



**The 2022 Nebraska Cattlemen Midyear Meeting** is planned for June 9-10 in Valentine. Activities will start mid-day on Thursday, June 9, with the annual Nebraska Cattlemen Midyear Golf Tournament at the Frederick Peak Golf Club. For those not golfing, a tour is planned to visit local attractions and businesses. A third option is a floating excursion with Brewers Canoers & Tubers for those who want to enjoy the beautiful Niobrara River. Following the golf tournament, floating trip and tour, all members are invited to attend the Welcome Reception at the Cherry County Event Center on the Cherry County Fairgrounds. Members from across the state will enjoy an evening of food, drink and socializing.

Friday events will start at the Valentine High School. Nebraska Cattlemen members will take part in industry discussions during the six Nebraska Cattlemen policy committee meetings addressing animal health and

nutrition; brand and property rights; education and research; marketing and commerce; natural resources and environment; and taxation issues. Meetings will be scheduled before and after lunch. This is your opportunity to shape policy and provide direction for leadership and staff. The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation Luncheon will be held in the Valentine High School gymnasium.

Watch for more information and registration materials on the Nebraska Cattlemen website, [nebrascacattlemen.org](http://nebrascacattlemen.org), or on Nebraska Cattlemen social media platforms. ■NC■

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY, JUNE 9

- 11:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.** Midyear Golf Tournament at Frederick Peak Golf Club
- 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.** Area Tours
- 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.** Float the Niobrara River
- 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.** Nebraska Beef Ambassador Contest
- 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.** Welcome Reception at Cherry County Fairgrounds Event Center

### FRIDAY, JUNE 10

*(All meetings/luncheon are at Valentine High School)*

- 7:30 a.m.-9:15 a.m.** Brand and Property Rights Committee  
Natural Resources and Environment Committee
- 9:15 a.m.-10:00 a.m.** Allied Industries Council  
Member Services and Revenue Development Committee
- 10:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m.** Animal Health and Nutrition Committee  
Taxation Committee
- 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** NCW Consumer Education and Promotion Committee
- 12:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.** Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation Luncheon
- 2:00 p.m.-3:45 p.m.** Education and Research Committee  
Marketing and Commerce Committee

*Times are tentative and subject to change prior to event.*

## LODGING INFORMATION

There are several events scheduled in the Valentine area at the same time as Midyear. It is recommended you book hotel rooms early. Nebraska Cattlemen has negotiated special rates at the Niobrara Lodge and Comfort Inn. When making reservations, refer to the Nebraska Cattlemen Midyear Meeting. Other lodging options are available in the area.

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# Grain Bin Safety

## *Tips and Tricks*

By Grace Vehige, Contributing Writer

Research by the University of Nebraska Medical Center shows that in 2020, there were a total of 64 agricultural-confined, space-related cases, including 35 grain entrapments. It is important for farmers and ranchers to take the right safety precautions.

When it comes to farm injuries, we all know someone who has been affected. Maybe it was even you. One of the leading causes of farm-related injury or death is found in and around the grain bin.

“Most people know somebody who’s been impacted by [grain bin-related injuries]. So, thinking about that, I really like to emphasize the preparedness – being prepared for something, a clog to happen or for the unexpected to happen,” says Aaron Yoder, associate professor in the Department of Environmental, Agricultural and Occupational Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Yoder is also a Grain Handling Safety Coalition Board member, which only further exemplifies his passion and knowledge for grain bin safety. According to Yoder, preparedness is one of the top contending items for safety, though he notes it can be a bit of an oxymoron in this sense.

“We should be prepared for an auger to break. Be prepared for a belt to fall off an electric motor. Have a plan for how you’re going to fix that,” Yoder explains. “Because oftentimes, we make bad choices when we do things in the spur of a moment, when we’re in a rush and when we need to get things done.”

At the end of the day, however, in the “spur of the moment” is when an injury will likely take place.

Even if you are working at a smaller site, having a plan in place is a strong tool for grain bin safety. Yoder suggests, at the minimum, shutting off all equipment and having an observer watch as you enter the grain bin, though tools like safety harnesses are also highly encouraged. While not everyone can afford expensive safety equipment, it is important to still have a plan in place to keep operators safe – especially when the job can come down to life and death.

“Some of [the suggested safety tools] are expensive equipment that many can’t afford to have on their own operations, but again, not having a plan in place to react quickly and prevent those engulfments from occurring is probably the largest hazard that we see,” Yoder says. “Of course, there’s all the other typical machinery hazards that are there with moving parts, but engulfment is the one that can be the most fatal.”

## Safety Tips and Tricks

When it comes to general tips and tricks for grain bin safety, Yoder has a list of what he considers the dos and don’ts of grain bin operation. Of the things to consider, Yoder stresses the

### NATIONWIDE: AWARDING GRAIN SAFETY

If you are interested in winning grain bin safety equipment for your local fire department, be sure to enter Nationwide’s “Nominate Your Fire Department Contest.” The nomination form is currently open and is scheduled to close April 30.

Entering the contest is as simple as sending an email describing how your local fire department would benefit from grain entrapment training and a rescue tube. For the full set of instructions, visit [Nationwide.com](http://Nationwide.com) and search for Grain Bin Safety Week 2022.

### ‘It Won’t Happen to Me’

According to Yoder, one of the most serious injury events involving grain bins is having an individual engulfed. To avoid this, the grain bin safety expert suggests the following.

“We encourage people never to enter the grain bins at all, but there are some situations where it may be necessary. In that case, following the right procedures for doing that, especially in larger workplace environments where they have to have a written plan of how to enter an area like that, is necessary,” Yoder shares.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



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importance of not working alone, being prepared and having the right equipment on hand.

Yoder and his team previously developed the following list outlining four crucial grain bin safety tips:

1. Never enter a bin where there is evidence of crusting on the surface or within the grain mass. If grain has been removed from the structure and the surface has not flowed toward the outlet, stay out.
2. If there is any sign that the grain is going out of condition, or has already done so, it needs to be moved immediately.
3. Perform all observations or unplugging efforts from outside the bin, at the top access hatch. Watch for overhead power lines when handling long probes.
4. If the grain has become crusted or the floor outlets become plugged, preventing grain removal according to the bin manufacturer's recommendations, contact a professional grain salvage service that has the experience and equipment to break up and remove out-of-condition grain.

It is also beneficial for farmers and ranchers to receive grain bin safety training.

"We all think that if we've done something for a long time, we know exactly how to do it, but we can still learn from others and assist in training new employees," Yoder says. "So, if we have somebody who's not as familiar with the systems that we're working with, making sure they're trained appropriately and not afraid to ask questions is crucial."

One of the training programs Yoder is involved with is the Feedlot 15 Program, which includes modules on feed safety and grain bin handling safety. According to Yoder, it emphasizes training yourself so you can not only be more aware of your operational safety but also encourage others to improve their safety procedures as well.

"This program is useful so if an incident does happen, the worker knows what to do. They know not to just dive in and try to tackle it themselves and to actually ask for help," Yoder explains about Feedlot 15. "It gets other people to think about it. They all say two heads are better than one, for the most part. Thinking about what we do before we jump into the task, especially one that's not a normal task, can help prevent some of those injuries as well."

## Technological Advancements

When you think about it, the systems many farmers and ranchers use for grain handling have been around for a long time. In terms of technological advancement in the grain-handling realm, there have been few attempts at long-term safety solutions. However, that does not mean there is not potential for the future.

"I think there's lots of opportunities for technology to improve our safety, both in the grain quality side and the handling side," Yoder says.

Often, new technologies can be a great way to improve safety standards. When considering Yoder's point that most grain bin-related accidents are a result of engulfment, investing in a new technology may be worth considering.

Coincidentally, Chad and Ben Johnson, a Nebraska father-son duo, have been working on an innovation called the Grain Weevil, which is a grain bin management robot. Its purpose? Reduce injuries.

Chad explains the initial focus of the robot was for it to do the tasks that are most dangerous for a farmer, and that is to go into a grain bin. However, the team quickly realized the robot could do tasks to help maintain grain quality, which research shows to be the No. 1 safety aspect of having a grain bin in the first place.

"The higher the quality of your grain, the less likely you are to have to get in the bin and end up having an accident," Chad says. "So, our robot actually can help manage the quality of grain from start to finish."

While the grain bin management robot is still under development, the team shares their end goal: "We want this tool to be an easy choice over picking up the shovel, climbing up the ladder and hopping in. It has to be easier to use than that because we need people to stay out of the bins. That's the entire reason we're doing this," Ben says.

For more information about the Grain Weevil, visit [www.grainweevil.com](http://www.grainweevil.com). On the alternative, if you are worried about the cost of investing in a product like this, just remember – you cannot put a price on safety.

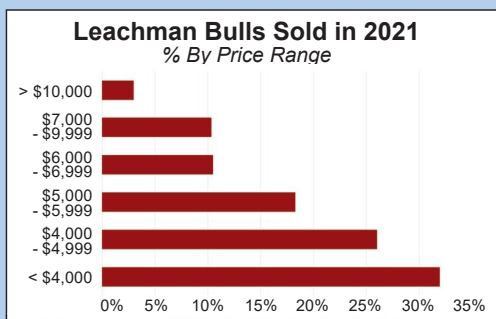
"If we think [grain bin-related injuries] don't happen, it is going to happen to us," Yoder says. "We know from statistics that they do happen quite often. So, trying to balance out what's the cost savings from [investing in safety tools] is almost like a risk management technique." ■ **NC** ■



Ben Johnson, Grain Weevil's chief innovation officer, developed the grain bin management robot with the vision of keeping farmers and ranchers out of grain bins and out of harm's way.

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# Constructing Effective Livestock Facilities

By Shaye Koester, Contributing Writer

**P**rocessing and housing facilities are a necessity for livestock producers. They contribute to animal welfare, animal performance and an operation's overall profitability, not to mention have an impact on labor efficiency and safety. When building and designing these facilities, many questions arise, such as: 1) What design is best? 2) Where do I start? 3) What steps can I take to make the process go smoother? and 4) Is this a project I can do myself or should I hire someone? All these components can easily be overwhelming, but tips, insights and advice from experts provide guidance on how to simplify the process and make it go as smoothly as possible.

## Key Design Components

Success is a personal definition. The same goes for livestock facilities, which look different for every operation. An effective feedlot facility will differ from that of a cow-calf operation or a dairy. Further, they will vary from feedlot to feedlot and ranch to ranch.

"There is no perfect facility for every feedlot, dairy or cow-calf producer," says Zach Settje, Settje Agri-Services

partner. "The facility is simply a tool that helps you better manage animal performance, facilities maintenance and employee retention."

There will always be things you wish you could've done a little different and things you will opt to change as you use the facility more. From a more technical and design standpoint, there are three key factors that contribute to successful facilities.

"Building design, good dirt work and communicating with your contractor are important," says Brian Turner, Central Confinement Services president. This should come as no surprise since a solid foundation and good communication are critical to any project's success.

## Where to Start?

The starting point for creating a new facility includes evaluating how many head the facility needs to accommodate and then looking at which facility will match your location and operation goals. Don't forget to factor in where you want your operation to be in 5 to 10 years in terms of overall size and labor force. Both Turner and Settje mention that producers either regret

not building big enough right away or limit themselves on size because they didn't maximize the space available on their property in the first place.

As you get started, it is important to develop a budget and understand what type of design your operation can afford.

"You need to know what your operation is going to be able to return in the coming years in order for you to make an educated decision on what budget and facility is going to work best for you," Settje says. This goes back to understanding your operational goals and available resources.

If you are looking into confinement systems, flooring type is another consideration and decision to make early on.

"You need to evaluate which design will be the most beneficial to keep cattle comfortable in terms of hoops or monoslope designs," Turner says.

How you manage your manure will help you decide which flooring option and building structure are the best fit, especially as you consider ventilation and the goals of your confinement system.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



The importance of well-built bunk lines that accompany covered pens cannot be underestimated. *Photo courtesy of Central Confinement Services.*



Facilities include bunks, pens, buildings, and loading and processing systems. This three-way cattle loading system added value to a feedlot in western Nebraska. *Photo courtesy of Settje Agri-Services.*



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## Project Timeline and Supply Chain Outlooks

Construction projects can take more time than initially thought, but you can do your part to move the process forward during a building project. Obtaining permits and factoring in lead time for getting building materials have the biggest impact on your timeline.

“Make sure everything is in order with your permit and financing to ensure the construction process can move forward,” Turner says. A simple hoop barn system typically takes 60 to 75 days to complete, and larger projects for feedlots can be completed within a construction season.

Supply chain issues haven’t been friendly to construction projects. The combination of COVID-19 and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine are ongoing causes for concern for continued supply chain disruption over the next 6 to 12 months. However, there are actions

producers can take to help mitigate this challenge.

“When you start the process of your planning, design and construction, do not waste time,” Settje says. “It’s going to sound bad, but do not waste time thinking about things too long. If you spend a week or two deciding on something, that could compound into a month or two delay down the road.”

## Hire It out or Keep It In-House?

Who should do the work? Like many other factors, the answer to this question is dependent on your time availability as a manager and the type of facility you are putting up.

“Either method is fine, but you need to realize that if you are already wondering how you are going to get everything else done and add a construction project to the mix, you probably need

someone else to help you out,” Settje says.

If you have the time, labor and resources to handle the project yourself and still take care of everything else on your operation, then building it yourself may be an option to consider.

It’s no secret that a lot of work goes into designing and constructing livestock processing and handling facilities. You need to evaluate your operation’s goals, choose a facility that best fits your environment and property, decide who should do the work and obtain your permit and financing. Professional building contractors have the resources and experts to guide livestock producers in the right direction as they work to build facilities that meet their needs.

While there are a lot of steps, it doesn’t have to be overwhelming. With the right resources, you can make it a simple process, ensuring you made a worthwhile investment when the project is complete. ■ **NC** ■



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# Management Over Medicine

## Using Best Management Practices to Mitigate Bovine Respiratory Disease

By Micky Burch, Nebraska Cattleman Senior Writer



Ronald Tessman, DVM, recommends using a pull-and-treat approach until an established percentage of animals within a pen has been met, then consider treating the whole pen to prevent a severe BRD outbreak.

It's probably not a stretch to say most folks who raise cattle have employed a few four-letter words on occasion. But if such a thing as "three-letter words" exist, then BRD would certainly top the list among cattle producers.

Bovine respiratory disease (BRD) is the No. 1 infectious disease among all sectors of the cattle industry, reports Ronald Tessman, DVM, Elanco technical consultant. BRD accounts for the highest percentage of non-predator deaths in all cattle and calves.

A large part of the issue with BRD is the anatomy and physiology of the bovine respiratory tract and the fact that, for the size of the animal, the lung capacity is very small – something that's obviously not likely to change.

There are four main bacteria that affect cattle: *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *hemophilus* and *mycoplasma*; and four main viruses: infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV), parainfluenza-3 (PI3) and bovine viral diarrhea (BVD). According to Bovine Respiratory Disease Group

team lead Eduardo Casas, Ph.D., DVM, research leader of the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service, National Animal Disease Center's Ruminant Diseases and Immunology Research Unit in Ames, Iowa, BRD is a multifaceted problem caused by the combination of infectious bacteria, viruses, environment and stress.

There are several stress factors and management practices that may contribute to BRD:

- Poor nutrition
- Mixing groups of calves from multiple sources
- Unfavorable cattle handling techniques
- Poor vaccination protocols
- Lighter weight calves transported long distances
- Calves that have been in marketing channels for extended periods of time

### Possible Prevention

Tessman relays that the best BRD prevention practices start at the cow-calf level with the female.

"Think more broadly about management and what we can do to put those animals in better health throughout their lives," he says. He recommends females maintain a body condition score of 6 or 7.

"That calf in utero needs to be growing appropriately so its immune system is adequate and it's a good, healthy calf by the time it hits the ground," he states. "And that cow needs to be on a good plane of nutrition so she produces quality colostrum, and we can get good passive transfer."

From there, Tessman recommends implementing an annual vaccination protocol. "You should be working with your local veterinarian who knows your herd to help you develop that protocol," he says, reminding producers that cattle must be in good health to respond appropriately to vaccines.

Still, his recommendation for a foundation calf vaccination protocol includes:

- Two doses of a modified-live BRD vaccine
- *Mannheimia/Pasteurella* vaccine

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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Tessman also recommends that replacement heifers receive two doses of a modified-live BRD vaccine, but aged females can be switched to an annual killed vaccine.

As calves grow and are weaned, many may enter a backgrounding or 45-day bunk-breaking scenario. When bringing in stocker or grass calves, it's becoming popular to rest cattle before they are worked through the chute/vaccinated. Although there's no set standard for rest, one suggestion is overnight, along with offering feed and water. Another suggestion is two hours of rest for each hour cattle have been on a truck.

"It would seem, pleasingly, that the industry is getting better at considering and mitigating some of these factors," Casas and his BRD team observe. "Thought and effort, for example, are given to present clean and dry accommodation to tired calves after their journey to a new location."

Further BRD mitigation includes animal husbandry practices like providing sufficient bunk space as calves grow, clean pens and waterers, adequate bedding and pen space, and quiet handling techniques. Focusing on animal husbandry allows vaccine

and antibiotic treatments to work most effectively while the animal is in a low-stress physical state, which is when they are most healthy.

## Treatment Protocols

While prevention is the goal, it's almost impossible to prevent all health issues. Managers should be prepared to deal with calf health issues like BRD during times of stress, especially directly after weaning and when moving calves. "The big-player bacteria are often present in calves even at the cow-calf level – we import them wherever we move the calves," Casas' team explains. "That means there will always be some risk of BRD, no matter how carefully we manage cattle."

Casas' team relays that signs of BRD can be subtle, and the skills to detect the disease by health providers may take time to develop. Still, the first warning signs of BRD are an animal not eating or separating itself from other animals. Oftentimes, it will have droopy ears, a cough, runny eyes and/or a snotty nose. Overall, their behavior will be depressed, Tessman describes, and they could show signs of increased respiratory rate. Once in the chute, it's important that caregivers first check the

animal's temperature to determine the degree of sickness.

Early identification of a sick animal is key for treatment, and Tessman recommends individual operations establish a treatment protocol they are comfortable with. On a first-round treatment, he likes to use a macrolide antibiotic.

"It offers a little more activity over a longer period of time upon initial treatment," he explains. For a follow-up treatment, he would use a fluoroquinolone or a florfenicol.

On lower-risk animals, Tessman recommends using a pull-and-treat approach until an established percentage of animals with BRD has been met. For example, if in the first day or two 10 percent of a pen has been pulled, it may be time to consider treating the whole pen to prevent a severe BRD outbreak that would require multiple treatments, resulting in more antibiotic usage.

While administering antibiotics, producers and feedlot managers should always keep responsible use in mind to avoid antibiotic resistance. Tessman says drug administrators need to make sure they are using the correct dose, which means having an accurate weight on the animal.

"I know it's tough in cow-calf situations because we don't often have scales, so we need to educate ourselves as to the weight of our animals at every opportunity," he points out. That may include when selling cull cows or bred females.

Most important, Tessman says, is considering whether to administer an antimicrobial, which, like the BRD group points out, takes time and training of caregivers, but is not a small decision in the big picture.

"Limiting antibiotic use is the most obvious way to keep antibiotic resistance low," Casas' team states. "To the extent possible, effort taken to purchase, handle and manage cattle with their well-being in mind is likely to pay dividends for the producer and the industry, and preserve antibiotics for when we really need them." ■

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# Laying the Groundwork for Efficient Cattle Feeding

By Macey Mueller, Contributing Writer

**F**rom bunk lines and alleys to large silage pads and full pen slabs, concrete is literally at the foundation of any good feeding facility, making it a more productive environment for cattle, easier to manage animals and manure, and more feed efficient for the bottom line.

Rick Stowell, University of Nebraska-Lincoln animal environment Extension specialist, says not only is mud hard on machinery and personnel, but as a surface breaks down into mud, cattle may make fewer visits to the feed bunk and expend more energy doing so.

“We know that mud negatively affects feed efficiency,” he says. “It pays to manage mud in a feedlot, and that’s where concrete comes into play to provide good footing for the animals and make it easier for them to travel between the bunk, water source and resting places.”

## Construction Considerations

Supply chain issues and labor shortages have caused a steep increase in construction expenses over the past two years, and Stowell estimates the

cost for poured concrete at \$125 per cubic yard plus trucking and contractor costs, which vary by location and site. When planning a concrete project, he says consideration should be given to ready-mix vs. roller-compacted concrete (RCC) applications.

“One advantage of ready-mix concrete is that the spout can get into tight places,” he says. “On the other hand, roller-compacted concrete could potentially save up to 25 percent if the pad lends itself to this type of construction and the trucking distance is reasonably short.”

Stowell says that although concrete is typically a durable and long-lasting material, the weakest part of a concrete slab is where it stops. Even in lightweight applications like a bunk pad, he suggests the back edge be thickened to at least 12 inches so it doesn’t erode and break off. He says the current recommendation is to pour a slab extending 12 feet from the bunk to ensure that cattle can be on concrete when walking behind animals eating at the bunk and help with drainage in the high-traffic area.

Heavy applications where trucks are driving or equipment is loading feed require a thicker and stronger con-

crete – up to 6 to 8 inches thick. Edges should be thickened and often include reinforcement like rebar or metal mesh.

Stowell explains that although concrete is a popular choice for silage storage floors, making it more efficient for workers and easier on equipment, silage leachate contains acids that can break down the cement used to form the concrete and pit the surface.

“Because of its resistance to silage acids, asphalt is an alternative option for storage pads and bunker silo floors, with concrete aprons poured to provide extra durability where feed trucks are unloaded and loaded most often,” he says.

## Preparation Pays Off

Regardless of the application, Stowell says the base of any concrete project has to be well prepared, with consideration for drainage and settling.

“No matter how good your concrete, if you pour or place it on a poorly drained area, it’s not going to last very long,” he says.

Andy Divine is a second-generation owner/operator of Divine Concrete with locations in Nebraska and South Dakota. In his decades of experience, he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



Roller-compacted concrete is often used in mid- to large-scale applications to save on materials, labor and curing time.

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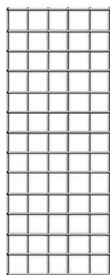


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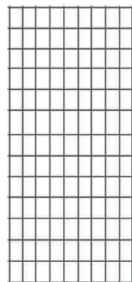


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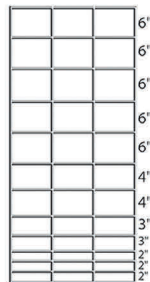
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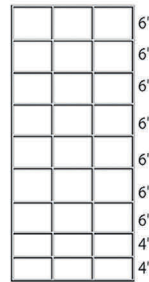
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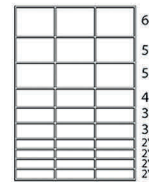
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After pouring a slipform bunk pad, Divine Concrete finishes it with 3/4 -inch grooves every 6 inches to collect dirt and provide traction on the slab.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR EFFICIENT CATTLE FEEDING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

says proper siting, dirt work and long-term planning are crucial to the life of the concrete and to efficient future expansion.

"I've seen several feedlots rapidly go from 250 head to 1,500 head and then on up to 3,000 head but have to redo a lot of concrete work because the existing layout doesn't allow for the increased traffic patterns," he says. "Creating a master plan to know how each expansion phase should be added will really help to alleviate some growing pains and cut down on expense."

## Timing Is Vital

Because there is often a small window of time during the year when feedlots improve or expand concrete facilities, Divine says it is critical to do a site visit, complete the necessary paperwork and have a plan in place in advance.

"We are usually the busiest after the hay is cut, before harvest begins and when the ground is dry, which only leaves about eight weeks to finish a lot of feedlot jobs each summer," he says. "A successful project starts months beforehand so we can identify any problem areas and ensure the site is properly prepared."

Divine Concrete uses modified technology and processes comparable to road construction to build slipform paved aprons for bunk slabs that are 16 feet wide, 5 inches thick and reinforced with rebar for the bunk to sit on. Divine says the process allows his crew to place up to 1,000 feet of concrete slab in a day.

The company also sells about 30,000 feet of precast fence-line feed bunks in a 20-state region each year. The company has a dedicated precast facility with specifically designed mixes and, although they offer designs comparable to many of the precast options on the market, Divine says his bunk's fence system sets it apart from other similar products.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

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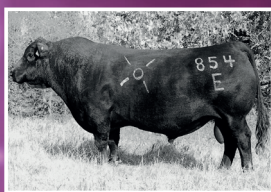
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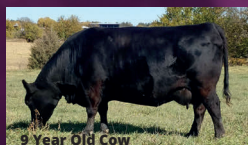
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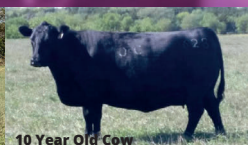
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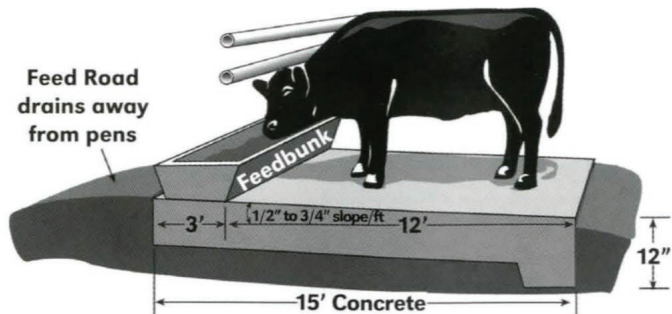
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"It's unique because it's a two-part system," he says. "One part is cast into the bunk when it is poured and then the post fits down inside as opposed to other systems that are bolted to the bunk."

## Concrete Options

Roller-compacted concrete is also gaining traction in the livestock industry, and Mike Peltz and his brother, TJ, used



This figure from an Extension publication called *Planning a New Cattle Feedlot* shows a typical cross-section of feedbunk and apron.

their extensive concrete construction experience developed in the family business to establish The CattleCrete Company three years ago specifically to service agricultural producers. Peltz says traditional RCC is most economical for mid-size projects like aprons, alleys and feed pads, and large-scale projects like lining entire pens to help manage mud.

The traditional RCC process uses a combination of rock, sand and cement in different ratios compared to ready-mix products. RCC is mixed in a portable pugmill plant on-site and placed using a high-density paver. Peltz says his crew can mix and place up to 1,200 to 1,500 yards of RCC a day.

"RCC can save producers on materials, labor and curing time, especially with the increased cost of steel because it is not needed in the process," he says. "We can pour a slab one day and you can have equipment on it the next, and we know that valuable time is money to our customers."

CattleCrete also specializes in a continuous slipform bunk system. They use a custom bunk machine with a unique design that places the fence post in a 5-inch curve on the backside of the bunk separate from the low side of the bunk itself, which helps reduce pressure and increases the concrete's longevity.

"We are really focused on offering solutions for the livestock industry that improve efficiency and increase productivity for our customers," Peltz says. ■

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<sup>1</sup> Elanco Animal Health. Data on File.

<sup>2</sup> Lawrence, J., Ibarburu, M. 2007. "Economic analysis of pharmaceutical technologies in modern beef production." Proceedings, NCCC-134 Conference on Applied Commodity Price Analysis, Forecasting, and Market Risk Management; 10.

<sup>3</sup> Suarez, V., Lifschitz, A., Sallovitz, J., et al. 2009. "Effects of faecal residues of moxidectin and doramectin on the activity of arthropods in cattle dung." ScienceDiet.72 1551-1558.

<sup>4</sup> Environmental Assessment. Cydectin® moxidectin 0.5% Pour-On for Cattle. Fort Dodge Animal Health, June 1997.



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# ADMIRING AFFILIATE ACTIVITIES

By Jessica Rudolph, Nebraska Cattlemen Director of Membership-Retention

Nebraska Cattlemen events and local affiliate events are opportunities to gather and build a community. When we think about sustainability, one of the factors is the social aspect. Cattlemen events provide a platform for connecting in the beef community. Here's a peek at what a few affiliates are accomplishing.

## Platte Valley Cattlemen

The meeting room was packed at the Wunderlichs' in Columbus for the Platte Valley Cattlemen membership meeting on Jan. 18. The evening commenced with a social hour where current and new members became acquainted. The membership meeting kicks off the year and sets the tone for upcoming meetings. Platte Valley Cattlemen has many active members, yet they still gained new members at the meeting.

Caleb Franzen has been a member of Platte Valley Cattlemen and recently

decided to join Nebraska Cattlemen.

"The Platte Valley Cattlemen are great people to talk to and learn from. I love to listen to speakers at our meetings and learn new things from them. I'm excited to stay more up-to-date with what is going on in Nebraska in the beef industry through my new membership with Nebraska Cattlemen, as well," he says.

Jake Judge is from Atkinson and graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He works in agriculture in Humphrey and was excited to attend his first Platte Valley Cattlemen meeting.

"I decided to join Platte Valley Cattlemen because I wanted to feel connected to the cattle industry, the community and the issues affecting both of them," Judge says.

The Platte Valley Cattlemen holds various events throughout the year. Their "Ladies Night" in February focuses on women in agriculture. The affiliate brings in a female speaker to connect with women in the affiliate. Platte Valley Cattlemen hosts a golf tournament fundraiser in August. Affiliate leadership says that it is a well-attended and engaging event.

## Ogallala Affiliate

The Ogallala Affiliate held a meeting that focused on the cattle market outlook. Jeff Stolle, Nebraska Cattlemen vice president of marketing, addressed beef producers on the topic.

Stolle updated producers on the fed cattle and feeder cattle outlook. He noted that fed cattle slaughter has been challenged by absenteeism in the early weeks of 2022, dampening short-term demand for finished cattle to some extent and holding prices in a rather tight range to start the new year. He said that

calf and yearling values have started 2022 with a firm to higher tone and are likely to have underlying support moving forward amid rather aggressive, ongoing beef cow liquidation.

Nearly 100 producers from the greater Ogallala area attended the meeting. Stolle is planning to give market updates to other affiliates soon.

## Boyd Holt Cattlemen

The Boyd Holt affiliate held an event to ignite their 2022 meetings. Producers attended to learn about what the Nebraska Cattlemen does and learn what they can gain from the affiliate. John Ecklund, Nebraska Cattlemen Region 4 Member Services vice chair, gave testimony on Nebraska Cattlemen membership. Ecklund and his wife, Deb, lived in California for 24 years before moving to Nebraska. Ecklund said Nebraska Cattlemen gave them a sense of community, and engaging with the organization as an associate member has given him networking opportunities.

Adam Sawyer, Nebraska Brand Committee president, and John Widdowson, Nebraska Brand Committee executive director, spoke to attendees about brand inspection.

The Boyd Holt affiliate plans to have a barbeque this summer to provide area producers with a place to socialize and learn.

## Sandhills Affiliate

The Sandhills Affiliate held a winter ball on New Year's Eve in Mullen. The event featured a prime rib dinner and entertainment, including silent and live auctions with a plethora of items, and a live band.

The Sandhills Affiliate held their an-

CONTINUED )



The South Central Cattlemen Association affiliate meets in Red Cloud to discuss membership and plan for future meetings.

nual business meeting in January. They had many speakers at the meeting, including Mitch Rippe, Nebraska Beef Council; John Widdowson, Nebraska Brand Committee; Heather Kime, Merck Animal Health; and Brenda Masek, Nebraska Cattlemen president.

Masek said that a notable event for the affiliate is "Dismal Day." The Sandhills Affiliate hosts a golf scramble at the Dismal River Club. The course has two 18-hole courses plus a shooting range. Kat Kennedy, Nebraska Cattlemen Region 2 Member Services vice chair, said there is a great turnout for the event.

"Last year, there were about 20 teams. So many people came that the golf course almost ran out of golf carts for us. It was a really fun event," she says.

## Saunders County Livestock Association

The Saunders County Livestock Association drew more than 100 attendees to their event. Speakers included Connor Biehler, University of Nebraska-Lincoln beef systems Extension educator, who updated members on the work of Nebraska Extension. Rod Keil, Nebraska Cattlemen Region 7 Member Services vice chair, talked about the importance of Nebraska Cattlemen membership.

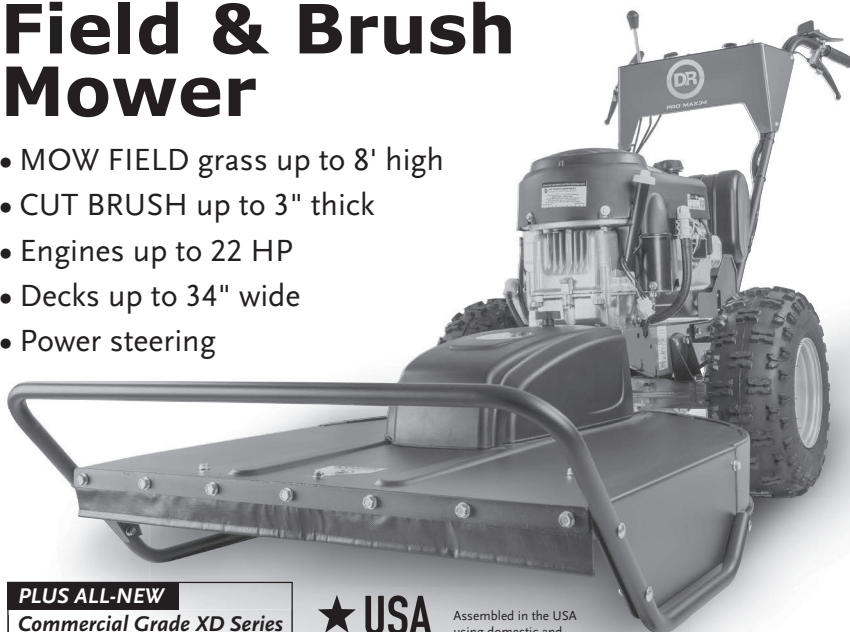
Across the state, affiliates partake in a variety of activities, including hosting a variety of speakers that give producers an opportunity to continually learn new things about the beef industry. Personally, I am proud to be part of the Nebraska Cattlemen family where I feel at home. Local affiliates add to the association's vitality and to the health of rural communities. I want to applaud Nebraska Cattlemen members for engaging in their affiliates; it is truly noticed.

If your affiliate has an interesting story or has unique events to share, we want to feature you! If you have a story to share, contact Jessica Rudolph at [jrudolph@necattlmen.org](mailto:jrudolph@necattlmen.org). ■ **NC** ■

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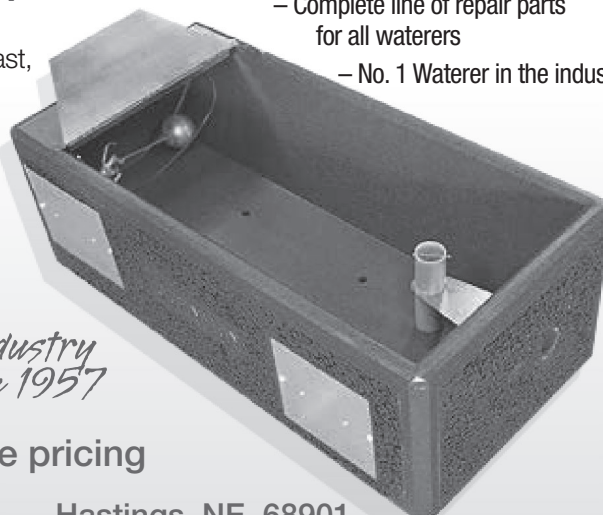
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# Country Music Star John Michael Montgomery to Headline the 2022 Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska



**T**he Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska, a charity whose mission is to raise money for cancer research through an annual fundraiser, will bring country music star John Michael Mont-

gomery to the 2022 event taking place at the Cass County Fairgrounds in Weeping Water, June 3-4.

Cattlemen's Ball attendees can look forward to hearing Montgomery's top

hits, including "I Swear," "Life's a Dance," "Be My Baby Tonight," "I Can Love You Like That" and the classic country singalong, "Sold (The Grundy County Auction Incident)" on Saturday evening.

"We're really excited to bring John Michael Montgomery to the 2022 Cattlemen's Ball," says Mark Rathe, one of the event hosts. "He's someone every country music fan knows, and his songs are some that everyone can sing along to. His performance is going to be a highlight of the weekend for sure."


Rathe encourages those interested in attending to purchase tickets early, as sales are capped at 1,500 for a two-day pass and 3,000 for a Saturday-only pass. He expects it to be a sell-out event.

Since the inaugural event in 1998, the Cattlemen's Ball has raised more than \$16 million to fund cancer research. Ninety percent of the proceeds go to the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, and the remaining 10 percent is returned to the local community for health and wellness initiatives.

Rathe has set an informal goal to raise \$2 million at this year's event, which would be a record-breaking accomplishment.

"Our location gives us a unique advantage," he says. "We're a rural, agriculture-based community, which is typical for Cattlemen's Ball locations, but we're also ideally situated between Nebraska's two largest cities. I think that combination will enable us to draw a large, diverse crowd. We want people to know this event isn't just for cattle producers and cowboys – it's for all Nebraskans."

Tickets to the event are on sale now and can be purchased at [cattlemensball.com](http://cattlemensball.com).

To learn more about the Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska and stay up-to-date on event announcements, follow along on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. ■ 

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# Meet the Newest Nebraska Cattlemen Board Member

By Jessica Rudolph, Nebraska Cattlemen Director of Membership-Retention

## Allen Bruntz, Friend Member Services – Region 8 Vice Chair



Allen Bruntz is living a legacy in agriculture on Bruntz Farms, near Friend. Along with his father, Bruntz owns the family's cow-calf, feedlot and farming operation.

As he reflects on his journey in the beef industry, Bruntz says his family has been a major influence.

"I remember talking to my grandpa, who owned cattle, about being involved in agriculture," he says. "I want to follow in his footsteps, as well as those of the rest of my family."

Bruntz Farms has been passed down from generation to generation and has

expanded over the years; Bruntz wants to keep progressing the operation and adding new practices that he can pass down to his children.

Bruntz's involvement with the Exeter Feeders and Breeders affiliate began 12 years ago and really progressed when he was asked to represent the affiliate and assist with the Nebraska Cattlemen Beef Pit at the Nebraska State Fair. After that, he served on the Exeter Feeders and Breeders Board of Directors and was president last year. He says he enjoyed being part of the affiliate's board of directors. He especially enjoyed meeting new people. Serving the affiliate has led him to his role at Nebraska Cattlemen.

"I am honored that I am now serving on the Nebraska Cattlemen Board of Directors as vice chair of Member Services for Region 8," he says. "It is the next step for learning, meeting people and growing as a person."

Bruntz attended Southeast Community College where his studies focused on crop production. Before returning to the family operation, Bruntz worked for Pioneer for four years. After returning to the farm, he married his wife, Amanda, who grew up in the area. Amanda's family also has a cow herd. The couple has three children, Blake, Brock and Atley. Bruntz enjoys spending time with his family and attending the kids' various sporting events.

Bruntz is looking forward to seeing the behind-the-scenes work of Nebraska Cattlemen. He is excited to meet new people and gain perspective. He also wants to keep spreading the message of Nebraska Cattlemen.

**Editor's Note:** Other new Nebraska Cattlemen Board members were highlighted in the February issue of the Nebraska Cattlemen magazine. ■ Ng ■

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In early March, the second half of the 107th Nebraska Legislature flew past the halfway point of the session. In addition to normal legislative happenings, other important events of note include bi-annual revenue projections.

On Feb. 28, the Economic Forecasting Board met and set new state revenue projections – voting to increase revenue projections. For those unfamiliar with the work of the Economic Forecasting Board, the board’s revenue projections are used by the Legislature to determine the amount of general funds available for new legislation.

For the current fiscal year (FY2021-22), the board increased projections of

sales and income tax revenue by \$370 million over prior forecasts. For the next fiscal year (FY2022-23), projections were increased by \$405 million. That would put total expected tax revenue receipts at \$5.72 billion this fiscal year and \$5.96 billion next fiscal year. Such an increase would also grow Nebraska's cash reserve (rainy day fund) to \$1.7 billion. This forecast has put the Legislature in prime position to deliver a multifaceted tax relief package.

Property tax relief, and ultimately reform, remains Nebraska Cattlemen's highest priority. It's imperative we continue to work toward a more equitable tax system where property, sales and

income taxes are balanced. But what does balance look like? This is a question we're commonly asked by legislators: How much is enough? How much more funding is necessary to achieve the balance commonly referenced by the agriculture lobby?

With property tax relief currently provided by the Legislature, the state is still roughly \$700 million short of property tax relief to achieve the desired balance. To put this into perspective, with current tax relief from LB1107 credits, property taxpayers continue shouldering 42 percent of the tax burden among sales, income and property taxes. To reach a desired level of 33 percent, it will take another \$700 million of property tax relief and/or reform. To further elaborate, if LB723 doesn't pass this legislative session, another \$900 million is needed to achieve balance. Additionally, if income taxes are reduced through the implementation of LB939 without a corresponding and proportionate property tax reduction, this imbalance will grow by the amount of income tax reduction.

All that said, Nebraska Cattlemen staff remains committed to meeting and conversing daily with legislators and Gov. Ricketts' policy research office to reach an agreeable place where Nebraska property taxpayers are first in line to receive available funds for tax relief this legislative session. We look forward to our next legislative update to share the results of these conversations and efforts to further expand property tax relief efforts for all taxpayers in Nebraska. ■■■

Currently, there are three “prime time” tax proposals on the table to give back excess tax revenues to hardworking Nebraskans.

Protecting property tax relief delivered through the Refundable Income Tax Credit created in 2020. Without action from the Legislature, Nebraskans will lose nearly \$200 million of tax relief through the Refundable Income Tax Credit in 2024.

Accelerating the phased-in tax exemption on social security income from 10 years to five years.

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Manager, Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center, UNL, and  
Galen Erickson, Ph.D.

Cattle Industry Professor of Animal Science and Feedlot Extension Specialist, UNL

# New Research Shows Promise

## Beef Production as Part of the Solution

High demand for cereal grains in the last two decades has increased agricultural costs per acre and, as a result, competition between grain and livestock producers for tillable acres has increased. An experiment was designed to address shortages of economically priced pasture in the Corn Belt. Drylot cow-calf production

was studied as an option for producers struggling to find summer pasture. In addition, the environmental footprint of conventional and drylot production was studied.

The conventional system consisted of spring calving, summer pasture grazing and corn residue grazing post-weaning. The drylot system was a no-grass



Cows with calves with GPS collars to monitor location in the footprint model. This air emissions equipment simultaneously measures trace gases coming into and leaving the ecosystem.

system by design. Cows were drylotted from early spring until mid-fall. Cows calved mid-summer in the dry lot and went to graze cover crops, which were planted after wheat harvest. Cover crop grazing ended mid-January, and cows then grazed corn residue before returning to the feedlot. Calf performance was measured during backgrounding and finishing phases, and data were collected through slaughter. The performance of these systems was presented in our 2022 Nebraska Beef Report ([https://beef.unl.edu/documents/2022-beef-report/02\\_Carlson\\_et\\_al.pdf](https://beef.unl.edu/documents/2022-beef-report/02_Carlson_et_al.pdf)).

## Greenhouse Gas Measurements

The major portion of the research focused on the environmental footprint of these two systems. What made this research different was the measurement of carbon sequestration. It has been well documented that cattle produce methane. Reliable models have been developed that will predict methane production based on intake, ingredients used and animal size. The incorporation of carbon into ecosystems used for beef production has had limited study.

Methane and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) production from the cattle in these two systems were measured in the drylot and feedlot phases using a pen-chamber. For the grazing portions

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48



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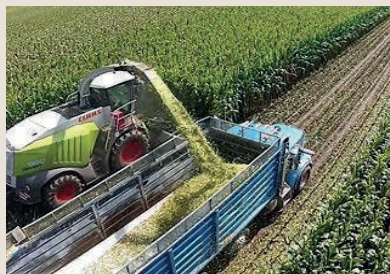
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By Jana Jensen  
Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation Fundraising Coordinator



Childhood and Family Development Center.

"It is important to give back to your community," says Jay Wolf, fellow cattleman from Albion. "My dad, Jim, always said that you should give at least 5 percent of your estate to your community, and your kids should do just fine with the remaining 95 percent."

Philanthropy runs generations deep in the Wolf family. Jay's grandfather was the founder, his dad, the builder, and Jay continues to develop the family holdings while preparing for his son, Alex, the fourth generation of Wolfs, to return and carry on with the businesses.

In Shickley (population 347), philanthropy is a significant part of local community development work. Shickley now benefits from \$2.75 million in local endowments. Thirteen generous Nebraskans have confirmed planned gifts to benefit the community, totaling at least \$1.9 million. Today, Shickley is using home-grown philanthropy to benefit its K-12 school district, provide early childhood education and build a multi-purpose community center.

Diller, Red Cloud, Norfolk, Hebron, O'Neill, McCook, Laurel, Ainsworth, Columbus, Ogallala, Pender, Imperial, Stuart, Ord, Bertrand, Howells – all these communities and many more are using local philanthropy to make key investments in their future and build endowments to sustain and enhance the quality of life for generations.

"The transfer of wealth opportunity is real. I see it in my work as a financial planner every day," says NCF Board member Kiel VanderVeen of Nebraska City. "It's why I chose to make my own planned gift and it's why our local affiliated fund is intent on reaching our goal of 100 planned gifts in the next five years."

The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation is a great place to consider sharing a portion of the Transfer of Wealth. The Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation is an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation. I personally work as a Nebraska Community Foundation affiliated

## Nebraska's Transfer of Wealth – An Opportunity to Make a Difference

The Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) announced the findings of its 2021 Nebraska Transfer of Wealth Study, documenting more than \$100 billion in Nebraska wealth passing from one generation to another over the next 10 years. Over 50 years, the figure swells to \$950 billion.

There is always a transfer from generation to generation, as parents pass away and leave their estates to their children. But if the heirs no longer live where they grew up, those critical resources leave as well. Importantly, many Nebraska counties are approaching or are already in the midst of their peak transfer years. The Transfer of Wealth Study illustrates the real urgency to act now.

The 2021 study is the third in as many decades and will be a vital tool in inspiring Nebraskans to think about their communities in bigger terms. Scenarios are driven by assumptions about the future, based on historical trends, census data, increasing agricultural land values, household income and other key indicators.

The unveiling of the study findings also marks the beginning of NCF's Five to Thrive campaign, which urges Nebraskans to consider leaving 5 percent of their estate to their hometown or their charity of choice. Giving just 5 percent to local charitable causes would amount to more than \$5 billion in the

next decade – and \$47.5 billion over the next half-century.

A detailed, interactive map on Nebraska Community Foundation's website, [www.fivetothrive.org](http://www.fivetothrive.org), breaks down the potential transfer amounts by county.

"If just 5 percent of the transfer of wealth were endowed, think of the impact that kind of money could have on education, health, prosperity and quality of life," says Jeff Yost, Nebraska Community Foundation president and CEO. "Think of how it could contribute to a community's ability to attract quality talent and young families. Harnessing just a small percentage could be a game changer for the future of our hometowns."

NCF affiliated funds benefitting Boone County (population 5,379) are making a huge impact in their homeplace. Collectively, the five funds have more than \$6 million of endowed assets, and 14 donors have confirmed their plans to leave gifts in their estate to benefit Boone County in the future. In the last decade, nearly \$5 million has been reinvested in the county through local NCF-affiliated funds. Projects supported include the Albion Aquatic Center, Boone County Agricultural Education Center, St. Edward Medical Clinic, Boone County trails system, investments in fine arts education and afterschool programming, and the brand-new Boone Beginnings Early

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

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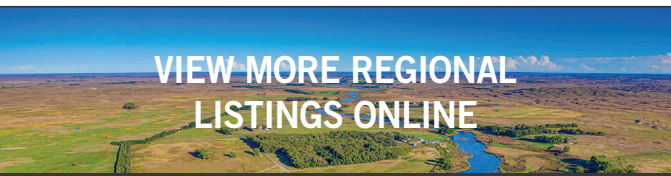
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of the systems, state-of-the-art eddy covariance techniques were used to measure greenhouse (GHG) flux (meaning the uptake and release of GHG). This required continuous monitoring of animal locations and highly sophisticated technology to measure trace gas concentrations multiple times per second. Combining gas concentration data with animal location data allowed us to

simultaneously measure carbon being incorporated or GHG released in these extensive systems while cattle were on pasture, cover crop or corn residue.

### Positive Results So Far

After consideration of new methods of GHG accounting, the conventional system with pasture grazing for 177 days offset about 140 percent of the

GHG equivalents produced during the pasture, backgrounding and finishing phases. For the drylot system, cover crop grazing (84 days) offset about 70 percent of the emissions from the system. There are a few different methods for converting GHG to carbon dioxide equivalents (same currency). Those conversion factors impact these offsets.

One outcome of this research shows that perennial bromegrass pasture that had been established 30 years before the start of the experiment is actively sequestering enough carbon into the soil to offset much or all of the emissions from beef production, at least for this one location and year. When only considering emissions, most previous work incorrectly models these impacts on carbon in beef systems by assuming all carbon uptake is directly related to CO<sub>2</sub> that cattle respire out, so methane production is the only negative. As a result, grazing was assumed to produce the most methane and thus the most negative environmental impact. This preliminary work suggests grazing could be the answer, and that previous modeling efforts need revision. More data needs to be collected across different soil and grass types and across multiple years before this can be definitively proven. In addition, final peer review is still ongoing. However, this is a huge step forward for our industry, and will help propel new research to guide ways we can use beef production as part of the climate solution, instead of part of the problem. ■ **NC** ■



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NEBRASKA CATTLEMEN FOUNDATION •  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 46

fund coordinator, but I also work with the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation, providing fundraising and planned giving services.

If you have any questions about how to make a gift to the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation, feel free to contact any Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation Board member or myself at (308) 588-6299, (308) 458-9685 or [janajensen@nebcom-mfound.org](mailto:janajensen@nebcom-mfound.org). ■ **NC** ■

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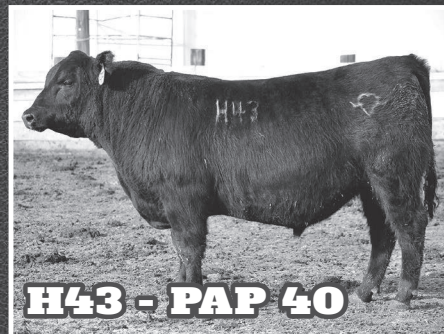
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By Jeff Willis  
NCIG Director



# Workers' Compensation and Telehealth

Providing instant care after a work-related injury or illness is not always possible. For most, a drive to a doctor's office or hospital is required to get help. We can dream of having an on-site nurse to provide care and assist with prevention efforts or we can look at technological advances in healthcare.

## Technology and Healthcare

There are a lot of terms floating around that describe technology and healthcare and during the pandemic, you may have become familiar with some. First, there is telehealth, which refers to the distribution of health-related services and information via telecommunication services and technologies. Telemedicine is more specific to the practice of remote

clinical services offered by a doctor or physician. mHealth, short for mobile health, describes wireless devices or cell phone technology that helps to educate patients about preventive healthcare services. Examples include disease surveillance, treatment support and chronic disease management. All of these terms describe ways for healthcare providers to connect to patients in more ways than just an office visit.

## How Can It Help Workers' Compensation?

When thinking about how telehealth can help improve workers' compensation outcomes, the first benefit to come to mind is having immediate health evaluations available by phone or tablet. A 24/7 tele-triage service

can provide quick support when an employee is injured. This is especially helpful when the injury occurs off-hours or when urgent-care facilities are not nearby. It is also beneficial for your employees and supervisors who aren't sure what kind of medical treatment is needed. The employee's situation is reviewed by a triage nurse who can offer health-based recommendations for next steps. Beyond the initial assessment of an injury, telemedicine can be used for follow-up appointments. It can save time away from work, provide access to specialists and monitor a patient's progress. mHealth options can keep the doctor and patient connected during the transition to self-care.

## Limitations

Telehealth has the potential to improve an employee's treatment process with faster, ongoing access to care, but it is not without its limitations. The first is an employee's comfort level with virtual healthcare. Some people will still prefer in-person treatment, and sometimes the injury or overall health of the individual justifies this treatment option. Then, there are the technology issues we all face like low signal or low battery. While these may be minor issues, it can disrupt the plan of care. Last, we also need to consider costs, physician availability (and ability to use telehealth options) and cybersecurity.

These limitations should be considered as you review how to include telehealth options in your workers' compensation program. Many insurance carriers include telehealth or provide tools and resources for creating your own telehealth support. At NCIG, we have relationships with many workers' compensation carriers and can help you find one that fits your budget, your safety requirements and your healthcare needs.

**About NCIG:** NCIG was established as a partnership between Nebraska Cattlemen and FNIC, formerly The Harry A. Koch Co., to provide you, Nebraska's beef producers, with risk management

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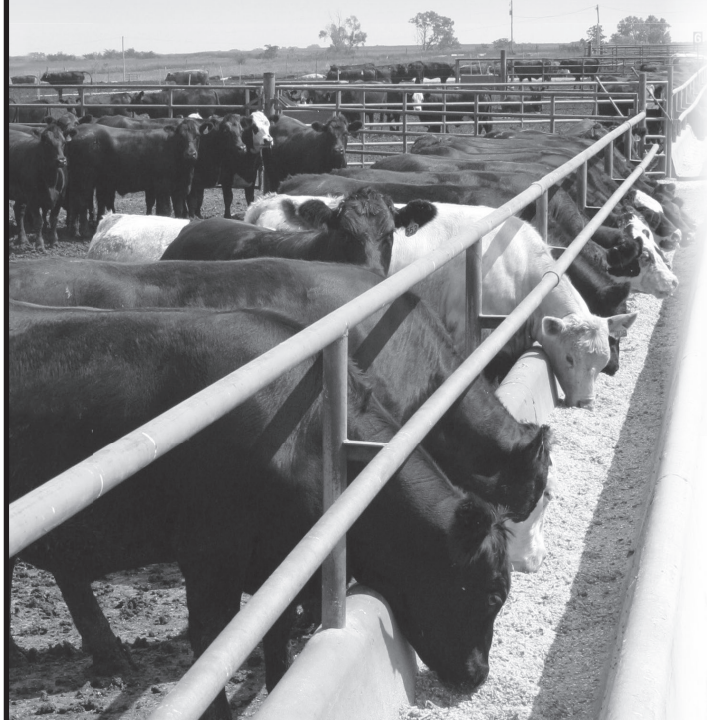
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Assistant Professor of Practice, UNL, and  
Jesse Fulton, M.S.,  
Director of Nebraska Beef Quality Assurance, UNL

## New Antibiotic Restrictions Soon to Become Reality

In 2017, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began implementing the Guidance for the Industry (GFI) #213, otherwise known as the veterinary feed directive (VFD). VFD implementation focused on veterinary oversight of medically important antibiotics delivered to livestock via feed and/or water, leaving a significant loophole for those products that were available over the counter (OTC) by other dosage forms. Because of this, on June 11, 2021, the FDA quietly published GFI #263, which put in motion the framework to remove any remaining medically important antimicrobials from OTC marketing channels, closing this loophole.

Guidance #263 recommends sponsors of medically important antimicrobial drugs that continue to be available OTC and approved for use in animals (companion and food producing), regardless of delivery mechanism, to voluntarily bring these products under veterinary oversight or prescription marketing status. These product labels will now contain the prescription (Rx) statement, "Caution: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian."

While very little information about GFI #263 was aimed toward livestock producers, it may have significant impacts on the way livestock owners

can access antibiotic therapy for their animals. While this change does not require that products be purchased from a veterinarian, going forward, producers will be legally required to obtain a prescription from a licensed veterinarian with which the producer has a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR). For many producers, this means products that they may have purchased from a local feedstore, farm supply store or co-op may no longer be on those store shelves.

Much like when the VFD was implemented in 2017, some of these businesses may simply pull these products from store shelves and decline to offer products as they do not have the required framework to meet the legal burden of acting as a "pharmacy," which requires the ability to review veterinary authorized prescriptions and track refills of those prescription products. For those that do continue to stock these products, producers will have to produce a prescription prior to purchasing.

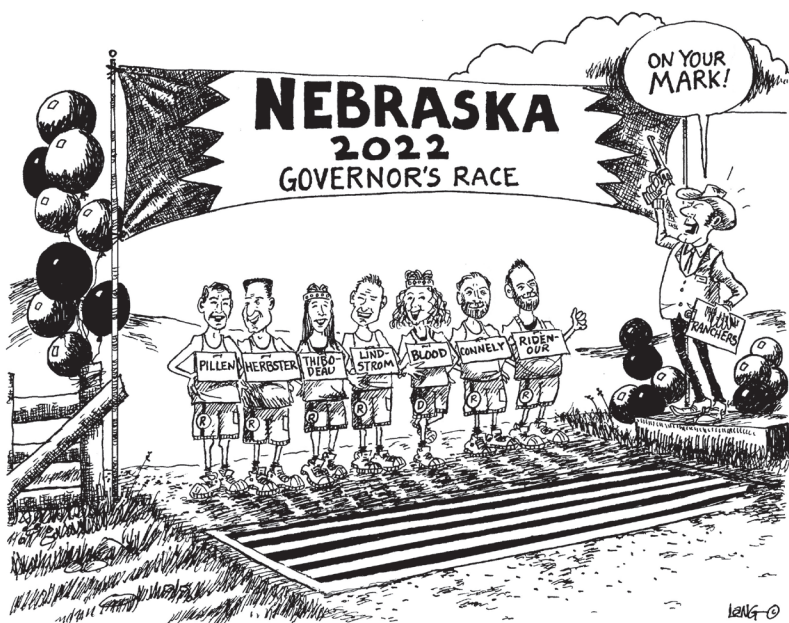
Those producers who already have a VCPR in place and purchase their animal health products through their veterinary office, or who purchase through other distributors under an existing prescription system, will likely notice little change in their ability to source these products. However, those producers who don't consult a veterinarian on a regular basis will need to establish a valid VCPR prior to purchasing these products as they start to disappear from OTC access. While the definition of a valid VCPR does vary from state to state, Nebraska's definition is outlined in the Nebraska Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act as follows:

Veterinarian-client-patient relationship means that:

1. The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the animal and the need for medical treatment, and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarian's instructions;
2. The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal to initiate at least

(CONTINUED)

### Consider This



a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal. This means that the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal by virtue of an examination of the animal or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept; and

3. The veterinarian is readily available or has arranged for emergency coverage and for follow-up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or the failure of the treatment regimen.

Furthermore, Nebraska Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) recommends that you have a written, documented VCPR form filled out with your herd veterinarian and that you get a copy of all documented prescriptions. These records should be maintained for a minimum of two years. Nebraska BQA offers a VCPR form on their website under the resources tab that producers can print off and fill out with their veterinarian. This VCPR form should be updated or reviewed annually.

So, to the nitty gritty, for what products should producers expect to see these changes and when will these changes happen?

The following are some products that will get label changes to prescription-only status:

- Oxytetracyclines
  - Injectables: Liquamycin LA-200, Noromycin 300 LA, Bio-Mycin 200, Agrimycin 200, etc.
  - Boluses: Terramycin Scours Tablets, OXY 500 Calf Boluses
- Penicillins (Penicillin G procaine, penicillin G benzathine)
  - Injectables: Penicillin injectable, Dura-Pen, Pro-Pen-G, Combi-Pen 48, etc.
  - Intramammary tubes: Masti-Clear, Go-dry, Albadry Plus
- Sulfa-based antibiotics (sulfadimethoxine, sulfamethazine)
  - Injectables: Di-Methox 40 percent, SulfMed 40 percent
  - Boluses: Albon, Sustain III Cattle and Calf Boluses, Supra Sulfa III Cattle and Calf Boluses

- Tylosin
  - Injectables: Tylan 50, Tylan 200
  - Cephalirin, cephalirin benzathine
  - Intramammary tubes: ToDAY and ToMORROW

Additionally, several swine medications fall under the new guidance:

- Lincomycin
  - Injectables: Lincomix 100, Lincomix 300, LincoMed 100, LincoMed 300

- Gentamicin
  - Injectables: Garasol, Gentamicin Piglet Injection

When Guidance #263 was published on June 11, 2021, it was structured with a two-year phase-in for manufacturers of these products to make label changes and come into compliance with the guidance so they would be able to continue marketing their products without

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54



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interruption. All products covered under GFI #263 are to be removed from OTC availability by June 11, 2023. The expectation is that producers will see familiar products start to disappear from store shelves over the next 14 months as manufacturers finalize label changes and refine their marketing and distribution channels to assure compliance with prescription requirements.

It is important to remember that these critical products are not being removed from the marketplace, but instead being brought under veterinary oversight in order to combat overuse/misuse due to OTC access. Furthermore, producers should NOT “stock-up” on these products to avoid needing a prescription once this change takes effect.

Again, these products will still be readily available.

Animal health products have expiration dates and are sensitive to storage time and conditions. Purchasing large quantities of animal health products may lead producers to have an excess of products unused by the date of the product's expiration. Products used after the expiration date are less effective and may not work as intended, leading to higher incidences of treatment failure. Disposal of expired antimicrobials can present challenges as well. In the long run, it is easier and safer to purchase products only when needed under the guidance of a veterinarian.

Additionally, this guidance affects only medically important antibiotic products. Antiparasitics, injectable and oral nutritional supplements, oral pro/prebiotics and topical non-antibiotic treatments will not be affected and will remain available through OTC marketing channels just as before. Now more than ever, producers need to seek out and establish a VCPR with a trusted veterinarian to provide input on antibiotic selection for their operations so the best treatment options can be selected with antibiotic stewardship, animal welfare and livestock economics – all important decision-making factors. ■

NCIG • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 50

services specific to the work you do. This joint venture is a valuable benefit for current and new Nebraska Cattlemen members. With NCIG, you have access to a variety of leading carriers to provide a vast selection of products at competitive rates. Our team of licensed professionals provides support with claims, loss control, safety and compliance. You also have access to personal and employee health insurance options, including access to a direct primary care program powered by Strada Healthcare. Learn more at [nebrascacattlemen.org/ncig](http://nebrascacattlemen.org/ncig) or by contacting Jeff Willis, NCIG director, at [NCIG@necattlemen.org](mailto:NCIG@necattlemen.org) or (402) 861-7045. ■

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A well-thought-out and implemented marketing plan can produce tremendous value to a producer. Risk management is an important, yet often overlooked, part of a marketing plan. It is often viewed as an unnecessary cost because it does not always result in the highest market price.

With this information in place, you develop marketing goals and pricing

objectives you would like to achieve. This process requires knowledge of cash flow needs such as cost of production, current market conditions, willingness to accept risk and possible linked decisions such as retention of livestock for further development and value-added opportunities.

Good marketing plans have price and date triggers. As you assess the current market conditions, you should be able to set some price expectations. These price expectations, along with knowledge of your cash flow needs and willingness to accept risk, will help form your price targets. Combining price targets with date targets will set you up for success. Even a successfully

implemented marketing plan does not always result in the highest market price in a given year, but taken over multiple years, the average profit is generally higher with a marketing plan than without one.

For example, suppose you are a cow-calf producer expecting to market approximately 500 weaned calves in late October. You expect the calves to weigh between 500 and 600 pounds with about 200 heifers and 300 steers in the mix. You have a good local auction market you plan to sell them through but may look to sell some early via video auction or private treaty sale if market prices look good. These early sales would still involve a late October delivery/pick-up date with most of the steers weighing between 550 and 600 pounds and most of the heifers between 500 and 550 pounds.

Current Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) October 2022 Feeder Cattle futures contracts are trading for \$183.45 per hundredweight (/cwt). Historically, local auction prices for 5-weight heifer calves in October have shown a positive basis of \$0 to \$10 above the CME Feeder Cattle price. Local steer prices typically run 7 to 10 percent higher than heifer prices, assuming a 40-pound weight differential. You also know that, historically, the CME October contract price this time of year can easily be as much as \$20/cwt above or below the final settlement price in October, although about one-third of the time it ends up being pretty darn close.

Using \$163 to \$203 for the range on national price and \$0 to \$10 for the range on basis for local prices compared to the national price, you project a possible price range from \$163 to \$213/cwt for your heifers. Adjusting by 8 percent, you also project a possible price range of \$176 to \$230/cwt for your steers. Using \$183 for the national price and a positive \$5 basis, your expectations are to sell heifers at \$188 and steers at \$203. This produces a weighted average price expectation, across both steers and heifers, of \$197/cwt. The low end for the weighted average price range is

A man wearing a brown cowboy hat, glasses, a dark vest over a blue shirt, and yellow gloves is looking off to the side. He is standing in front of a large green number 1. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with a fence line. The overall tone is professional and trustworthy.

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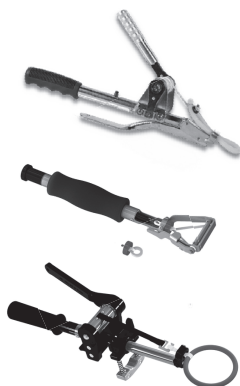
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\$171. Looking at your cost of production and projected cash flow needs, you do not feel comfortable accepting the risk of receiving a weighted average price below \$165/cwt.

You are questioning how much feed will be available this year and at what price. Therefore, at the moment, you do not expect to retain any of the calves much past October. However, given current cow inventories and market signals, you would like to keep at least 40 percent of the calves unpriced into late September in order to benefit from any potential market price increases.

At present, you have no reason to think a weakened basis will develop between your local cash market and the national CME Feeder Cattle contract price. Therefore, you are most concerned about price volatility in the national price situation between now and October. You also realize the market signals favor using put option tools instead of selling future contracts to address that volatility because you want to be able to benefit from potentially strong market prices should they materialize.

Livestock risk protection (LRP) insurance is a subsidized insurance product

offered through local livestock insurance agents by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Risk Management Agency (RMA). It operates much like a put option in that you can set a floor on the national price for a given point in the future by paying a premium. You check the RMA website and find that they are currently offering LRP Feeder Cattle coverage with an end date as far out as the end of September. Price expectations are at \$182.235 for heifers weighing less than 600 pounds (Weight 1) with coverage prices available as low as \$163.99 for a producer premium of \$1.72/cwt. This would put the floor on national price at \$162.27 for your heifers. Combined with LRP coverage on your steers and basis effects, you can easily create a floor price above the \$165 minimum threshold for your minimum price received.

You decide to monitor the LRP insurance offerings with a goal of putting in a national floor price for your steers and heifers as soon as that is possible at a weighted average price at or above \$170 for the end of October. Furthermore, you plan to monitor the markets between now and the end of September, looking for private sale

opportunities to price up to 180 steers and/or 120 heifers at or above \$188 and \$203/cwt, respectively. At the end of September, you plan to assess the situation and decide whether to pursue video auction opportunities or plan to market remaining calves through the local auction market.

This is one example of how a cow-calf producer could develop, think through and implement a marketing plan during the 2022 production year. Every producer needs to take ownership of their own marketing plans and create a solution that best fits their situation. Building and implementing marketing plans each year is a habit that informs better marketing decisions now and into the future.

*This material is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2018-70027-28586. ■ Ng ■*

#### LEADER'S LETTER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

controversial topic since the pandemic caused boxed beef prices to soar and we couldn't seem to get current. Both sides of this issue have their points but, in the end, the majority in that room kept the government out of our business. After going through the first 14 months of this administration, I can tell you I don't want them with more power to tell me how I run my business.

Cattle feeding has been a way of life for my family for a long time. This business has allowed me to meet and befriend some of the best people on earth. We face many challenges in our industry and there is plenty of disagreement on how best to address these challenges. At the end of the day, we need to realize we have more in common than we have differences. We need to work together, not against each other, for the good of the industry.

Nebraska Cattlemen membership gives us a great opportunity to get involved and help this industry keep moving forward. I look forward to hearing from you at the next Nebraska Cattlemen Feedlot Council meeting this summer! ■ Ng ■



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## Calendar

### April

- 1 Springlake Angus & Guests Sale, Lynch
- 2 Kraye Angus Ranch Bull Sale, Mullen
- 2 Washington County Cattlemen Banquet, Arlington
- 3 Hassebrook Charolais Farms Production Sale, Albion
- 4-5 Leachman Grass Time Sale, *SmartAuctions.co*
- 5 Webo Angus Bull Sale, Lusk, Wyo.
- 7 A&B Cattle Annual Bull Sale, Bassett
- 7 Dawson County Affiliate Meeting, Cozad
- 7 Wulf Cattle Bull & Heifer Sale, *DVAuction.com*
- 8 Canaday Annual Bull Sale, Yankton, S.D.
- 9 Dybdal Charolais Production Sale, Laurel
- 9 Fink Beef Genetics Bull Sale, Randolph, Kan.
- 9 UNL Bull Sale, Lincoln
- 11 Herbster Angus Farms Bull & Female Sale, Marysville, Kan.
- 12 Nebraska Cattlemen Board of Directors Meeting, North Platte
- 14 McClun's Lazy JM Ranch Angus & Polled Hereford Sale, Torrington, Wyo.
- 14 Sonderup Charolais Ranch Bull Sale, Fullerton
- 15 Sellman Ranch Production Bull Sale, Crawford
- 18 Ohlde Cattle Co. Bull & Female Sale, Palmer, Kan.
- 20 Keller Windchime Angus Bull & Female Sale, Dunlap, Iowa
- 20 Tielke's S5 Angus Ranch Annual Bull Sale, Bassett
- 20 Walter Angus Farms Bull Sale, Ogallala
- 23 Cuming County Feeders Banquet, Wisner
- 23-25 7 Triangle 7 Cattle Co. AI Training, Akron, Colo.

### June

- 3-4 Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska Inc., Weeping Water
- 9 Beef Ambassador Contest, Valentine
- 9-10 Nebraska Cattlemen Midyear Meeting, Valentine
- 12 Northeast Affiliate Steak Fry, Wayne
- 16-18 7 Triangle 7 Cattle Co. AI Training, Akron, Colo.
- 20 Platte Valley Cattlemen & NC Farmer Stockman Tour

### July

- 25-28 Cattle Industry Summer Business Meeting, Reno, Nev.

### August

- 9 PAC in the Pasture, Mullen

### October

- 11 Nebraska Cattlemen Board of Directors Meeting, Lincoln

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# Nebraska Cattlemen in Action

## Thayer County Livestock Feeders Banquet



Thayer County Livestock Feeders President Marc Hanson presents his retiring address at the 57th Annual Feeders Banquet Feb. 12 in Deshler. Others in attendance at this year's annual banquet included Nebraska Cattlemen Membership Chair Mark Goes, Nebraska Cattlemen Past President Ken Herz, Nebraska Sen. Tom Brandt and his wife, Sandra.

## Lower Loup Cattlemen's Meeting



Nebraska Cattlemen Vice President of Marketing Jeff Stole, left, discusses the market outlook during the Lower Loup Cattlemen's meeting March 8 in Gibbon. Also pictured is Lower Loup Cattlemen President Brandon Nuttelman, right, of Amherst.

## Northeast Nebraska Cattlemen Meeting



Stephen Sunderman, Norfolk, speaks to the Northeast Nebraska Cattlemen members during their membership meeting Feb. 21 in Wayne. The group discussed federal issues that the National Cattlemen's Beef Association is working on along with marketing legislation that is being discussed in Washington, D.C.

## Exeter Feeders and Breeders Membership Drive



Exeter Feeders and Breeders Affiliate President Cory Rains, right, visits with Allen Bruntz, affiliate member and Nebraska Cattlemen Member Services – Region 8 chair, prior to the start of the Exeter Feeders and Breeders membership meeting Feb. 14 at the Friend Country Club. Current members were encouraged to bring a guest who may be interested in membership to the "Ladies' Night Membership Drive."

## Nebraska Cattlemen on Pure Nebraska



Nebraska Cattlemen Executive Vice President Pete McClymont appears on the *Pure Nebraska* television show Feb. 21. During the interview, he discussed Nebraska Cattlemen member participation and other highlights at the 2022 Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show, Feb. 1-3 in Houston, Texas.

## Young Nebraska Cattlemen-Lincoln Meeting



Bobbie Krizwickham, public affairs/outreach coordinator for the Nebraska State Office of the USDA-Farm Service Agency, speaks with members of the Young Nebraska Cattlemen-Lincoln affiliate during its March 9 meeting. Krizwickham discussed loan offerings for beginning farmers and ranchers. Some of the young producers in the affiliate have utilized these loans and were anxious to learn more.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62



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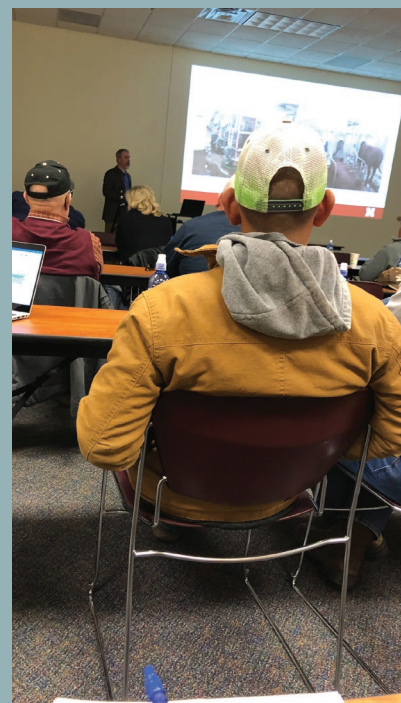


## Cass/Otoe County Cattlemen's Meeting



Members of the Cass/Otoe County Cattlemen listen to speakers at the affiliate's March 2 seminar in Syracuse. The day-long seminar featured nine speakers representing various disciplines in the beef industry. Suzanne Jagels, Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska staff, and Mark Rathe, host of the 2022 event along with Candi Rathe and Dr. Scott and Karen Lubben, informed attendees that this year's event will take place June 3-4 at the Cass County Fairgrounds and asked for volunteers. Mitch Rippe, Nebraska Beef Council (NBC) director of nutrition and education, gave an update on programs NBC has developed and implemented over the past year.

## Feedlot Roundtable



Galen Erickson, Ph.D., Nebraska Extension beef feedlot specialist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, addresses attendees of the 2022 Beef Feedlot Roundtable in North Platte Feb. 23. The roundtables were hosted Feb. 22-24 in Bridgeport, North Platte and West Point. Attendees, including beef feedlot managers, owners, employees and allied industries, learned new information related to feedlot price reporting, health, labor and sustainability.

## South Central Cattlemen's Banquet



It is a full house for the comedy show at Hastings Auditorium as part of the South Central Cattlemen's Banquet Feb. 12. The night also included a meal, live auction and awards presentation. Some of this year's award honorees included Fairfield Co-Op, Supporting Business of the Year; Amber Hallgren, Member of the Year; and Bailey Hinrichs, Young Producer of the Year.

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EVP PERSPECTIVE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

There are other critical NCBA positions and actions that have created producer and member value, especially during the pandemic. If any producer applied for and was awarded a Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) check due to COVID-19 disruptions, it was nearly exclusively due to the work by NCBA and state affiliates like Nebraska Cattlemen – not other national cattle or ag groups. NCBA was also largely responsible for saving cattle

producers from the current administration's proposed damning changes to the federal tax code regarding generational transfer. Those proposed changes would have crippled our future.

When considering your family's operation and future, your investment via Nebraska Cattlemen and National Cattlemen's Beef Association has and will create ongoing value for you and your family. Thank you for your membership. ■NC■



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