



Cattle Call

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Annual Convention a Success, Despite Last-Minute Move

Due to the recent fires around La Veta, the convention was moved to the Hampton Inn & Suites in Pueblo. It was a well-attended success with approximately 75 attendees. Starting off the festivities was a delicious dinner at The Hangar Bar & Grill on Friday.

Saturday began with a discussion on policy, the results of which will be laid out in detail in the winter newsletter after we receive marked ballots from the membership. Hopefully everyone voted and sent in their marked ballots by the postmark date of September 15th. Election results for Board and Director positions will also be posted in the winter newsletter.

Now for the meat and potatoes of the convention: Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) and Trade Tariffs, the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Crowley County native Shad Sullivan started off by telling attendees why he switched from Colorado Cattleman's Association (CCA) to CICA. What it boils down to is this: CICA does a better job of researching current/proposed policies and how they would affect cattle producers. He also warned members about the GRSB and WWF, and the negative impacts their current sustainability movement would have on livestock owners.

Former feedlot owner and Texas resident Matt Thompson spoke next, showing audience members how increasing environmental regulations put he and his wife, Janet, out of business in Australia. Matt also warned attendees about the GRSB and WWF, and how much effect their sustainability movement could have on environmental policy on a global level.

Bill Bullard, CEO of R-Calf, was the final speaker of the day. He discussed possible new COOL legislation from the Trump Administration and why trade tariffs would actually boost economic gains for livestock owners.

The articles in the next few pages dive into the GRSB and WWF and what exactly they are up to. There is also a shorter article on page 6 that talks about the proposed tariffs and the effect they would have on cattle producers.

I would like to give a big thank you to Janell and Jaylynn for making the convention a big success.

-Andee Leiningner, Newsletter Editor

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

The World Wildlife Fund, in agricultural circles, has a reputation for being unfriendly and downright under-handed toward livestock producers.

On their website, the WWF has named Beef as one of their key food commodities that they are "doing something about", in terms of sustainability. On their website, they say "Beef production has several distinct and significant impacts on the environment. More agricultural land is used to raise cattle than all other domesticated animals and crops combined. In addition, cattle eat an increasing proportion of grain produced from agriculture, are one of the most significant contributors to water pollution and soil degradation, and are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Finally, processing cattle into meat, meat by-products and leather is a major source of pollution in many countries....Research shows that ruminant livestock account for between 7% and 18% of global methane emissions from human-related activities.(www.worldwildlife.org)"

They then turn around and say "There are many ways beef production—when sustainably managed—can achieve conservation benefits. Grazing maintains the health of grasslands, improves soil quality with manure, and preserves open space and wildlife habitat. Additionally, carbon is sequestered in the grasses and soils of grazing lands. Beef production also provides social benefits by sustaining livelihoods and community vibrancy in rural areas where grasslands dominate. In the Northern Great Plains, for example, WWF is partnering with ranchers, recognizing that their viability is key to keeping grasslands intact. When ranchers manage land for long-term health, wildlife and people, everyone wins. (www.worldwildlife.org)" What the website doesn't say, is what exactly is meant by "sustainably managed".

I did some more digging about the project they allude to in the Northern Great Plains, (WY, MT, ND, SD, NE). It's called the American Prairie Reserve, a six-county project in Montana. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) published an article in 1999, identifying an area in Northeastern Montana as a top priority for grassland conservation. So the WWF formed the Prairie Foundation, which was renamed the American Prairie Foundation before ending up as the American Prairie Reserve. It is now a freestanding non-profit organization, whose purpose is to purchase and permanently hold title to private lands which glue together existing pieces of public lands. (www.americanprairie.org). "So far, they have acquired approximately 350,000 acres, the goal is to reach 500,000 acres in "order to permanently conserve key habitat in the region's wildlife corridors and improve public access to more than 20,000 acres of private lands. (www.americanprairie.org)" An article published in the Glasgow Courier on June 1, 2016 revealed the APR's ultimate goal, to run bison on this newly acquired land, as they are currently doing on their other acquired lands. (www.glasgowcourier.com) The APR plans to reach 10,000 head of bison by 2030.

In a YouTube video I found that was published by the Aspen Institute on August 7, 2013, entitled Imagine America's Serengeti: Building the Largest Wildlife Reserve in the Continental United States, this 500,000 acre acquisition of private property is to aid in a 3.5 million acre wildlife corridor. Please go to youtube.com and search for this video. It's...eye-opening, to say the least.
-Andee Leininger, Newsletter Editor

Calendar and Events Page

Monthly Board Meetings

-Board meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month. If any of our members have issues or concerns that they want to be addressed, they should contact their District Representative. The DR will be more than happy to discuss these concerns at the next board meeting.

In an effort to keep in touch with our members as well as educate the public and our policymakers, we recently renovated and expanded our web site. The address is the same: www.coloica.com . CICA is also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/coloica . AND we are excited about a totally new and improved email system which we just implemented. If you would like to receive our email communications and they aren't currently making it to your inbox, contact Sarah at sarahbledsoe@gmail.com. If you are not getting a hard copy of the newsletter and would like one, just call or text Andee at 719-469-1552. Having just listed our latest communication efforts all involving technology, just know that we still prefer sitting down over a cup of coffee with our members, discussing issues, proposing solutions and just getting to know one another.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello Members,

WOW is all I can say about the attendance at our 13th annual convention. I was very humbled by the turnout we had after having to make the tough last-minute decision to move convention due to the Spring Fire. I would like to thank everyone who took time out of their busy lives to attend our convention. Also, I would like to thank the board for their help before and during convention.

Special thanks to Jaylynn Tortorelli for all her hard work as our intern, Kerry Froese for bringing afternoon snacks, Julie Sumpter and Korry Lewis for helping with resolutions, Meet America, INC. for the meat for our evening meal, Sarah Bledsoe for keeping people updated on social media about the convention and anyone else I am forgetting that helped make our convention possible. Thank you to everyone who also bought gun raffle tickets and items from our auctions.

The speaker lineup was incredible this year with Shad Sullivan, Matt Thompson and Bill Bullard. Andee will have a great recap of the speakers from convention in this newsletter. Convention ended with a touching moment of surprising board member Janell Reid with a handmade quilt made by Koye Hendrix. We also recognized board member Tom Robb for his many years of service on the board.

Its doesn't seem like it should be time for grass yearlings to leave, weaning and shipping calves. With that being said it was a nice to see that the Electronic Logging Device (ELD) wavier for livestock haulers was extended till September 30th, 2019. I ask you to contact your elected official to help come up with a workable solution for agriculture.

Ballots have been sent out and need to be post marked by September 15th. Please let your voice be heard by sending in your vote.

I wish all of you plentiful moisture and higher cattle prices this fall.

Cody Jolly, CICA President

R-Calf CEO Bill Bullard talks about COOL and Trade Tariffs

At the convention, Bill Bullard presented the audience with graph after graph of why we need Country of Origin Labeling(COOL) to be reinstated.

It's quite simple:

American consumers want locally produced food, as evidenced by movements such as "Pasture to Plate" and "Farm to Table". Even restaurants are featuring menu items that have been "locally sourced". Why do American consumers want these locally produced foods? Because the US has the highest food health standards of any country in the world. And when it comes to the health and safety of your family, you want to give them the best food that you can. Which is why American consumers are willing to pay more for American beef. When consumers were able to differentiate between American beef and foreign beef from 2002 to 2015 (the last time COOL was active) cattle prices did, in fact, go up. Unsurprisingly, cattle prices also went down when COOL was repealed in 2015 as a result of a 2008 lawsuit by the World Trade Organization(WTO).

But, how will American beef producers get paid for their TRUE American product, when current legislation doesn't require packers to differentiate between American born and raised beef from foreign born and raised beef? That is exactly why COOL needs to be reinstated, so American beef producers can effectively and profitably market their beef.

In a statement issued by Bill Bullard on Monday, August 27, 2018, Bullard addresses the recent trade agreement between the US and Mexico."We have fully supported the Trump Administration's plan to renegotiate NAFTA...we don't yet know if the new agreement contains the critical requirement for COOL on Mexican beef..." He went on to say "...prior free trade agreements, particularly NAFTA, allow unlimited numbers of tariff-free cattle from countries like Mexico, where cattle are overproduced at a significantly lower cost. These lower-cost imported cattle displace opportunities for current and aspiring U.S. cattle producers to expand or start their herd." Bullard also points out the fact that the U.S.' "...domestic live cattle supply chain shrank by 6.5 million domestic cattle since (the implementation of) NAFTA...." The full article can be read at the R-Calf website, www.r-calfusa.org.

-Andee Leininger, Newsletter Editor

If any of our members have suggestions for article topics, or suggestions about the newsletter as a whole, please contact the Newsletter Editor. Thank you!

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