

News Release

Nebraska Cattlemen

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For Immediate Release

Nebraska Cattlemen Opposes Water Transfers

(June 12, 2006) LINCOLN, NE – Water availability and use is a short and long-term issue for Nebraska cattle producers. At its Midyear Conference June 9 in Holdrege, Nebraska Cattlemen adopted interim policy which states it opposed the physical transfer of surface water from basin to basin unless the applicant can demonstrate that there would be no harm to existing surface or ground water users.

The policy originated from the NC Natural Resources and Environment Committee's Water Policy Subcommittee.

Subcommittee chairman, George Cooksley of Anselmo said, "Water availability and water use laws are both very complicated issues and it is impossible for one resolution to address each water situation. However, the Nebraska Cattlemen has been and will continue to be very engaged in shaping public policy and regulations to insure cattle producer concerns are addressed."

Committee chair Chuck Folken of Leigh added, "This position was approved by NC as interim policy, but to become full policy it must be reviewed at the Cattlemen's annual convention in late November. Producers who want specific aspects addressed are encouraged to contact George Cooksley, the NC office or myself, or attend the meetings at the annual convention in November."

Other issues addressed at the Cattlemen's Midyear meeting included livestock waste regulations, foreign trade, University of Nebraska animal science teaching and research funding, animal identification, ethanol by-products, instrument grading and brand legislation.

The Nebraska Cattlemen association serves as the spokesman for the state's beef cattle industry and represents professional cattle breeders, ranchers and feeders, as well as 48 county and local cattlemen's associations. Its headquarters are in Lincoln and second office in Alliance serves cattlemen in western Nebraska.

This and other Nebraska Cattlemen information is available at www.nebraskacattlemen.org.