March 20, 2020

This morning NC staff participated in a conference call with lead agriculture staff from Senator Fisher and Senator Sasse’s office. During the call, NC staff answered many of their questions about how the live cattle and boxed beef markets function and what factors contribute to market volatility. Also during the call, there was extensive discussion of numerous “beef stimulus” proposals that are currently on the table at the federal level.

NC Staff participated in more conference calls with other state affiliate organizations and NCBA. During these calls, we continued to flesh out what type of “beef stimulus” package would be the most beneficial to ALL sectors of the production beef cattle supply industry. Also during the call, we learned more about the phone calls that NCBA staff has had with leadership within the packing industry, detailing on the direct and aggressive push back stating that they need to do better, better and pay cattlemen a more fair price for their cattle.

Other news:
Renewable Fuels Nebraska Statement Regarding COVID-19 and State of the Ethanol Industry
US Department of Health & Human Services Guidance on Critical Infrastructure/Essential Workers
Governor Ricketts issued an executive order extending the expiration date of all DMV issued licenses and registrations. Complete text of the executive order is available at https://bit.ly/2J12Rpj

March 19, 2020

This morning NC sent a letter to our Congressional Delegation.
Letter to Nebraska Congressional Delegation: Nebraska Cattlemen Official Request For Relief

NC Staff participated in two conference calls on Thursday with staff from multiple other state affiliate commodity organizations, to share concerns regarding how COVID-19 is impacting agriculture. During the call, NC officially requested the following:

- Guidance from the Nebraska Department of Transportation regarding whether the federal waiver on hours-of-service regulations also applies to livestock haulers on state highways/county roads.
  - Yes, livestock haulers are exempt from hours-of-service regulations on county, state and federal roads through April 12, 2020. Drivers wishing to haul under this exemption are suggested to print out and keep in their cab a copy of the Expanded Emergency Declaration, available here.
- Official request to deem packing brand inspectors, packing plant workers, feedyard workers, and any other agricultural employee as essential critical infrastructure employees under any state emergency order.
- Guidance from the state on whether livestock production sales must strictly adhere to the CDC and White House guidelines, including moving sales online, social distancing, and practicing good hygiene. However, the state will NOT by shutting down private businesses, including seedstock sales and markets.
- Make every effort possible to adhere to the CDC and White House guidelines, including moving sales online, social distancing, and practicing good hygiene. However, the state will NOT by shutting down private businesses, including seedstock sales and markets.
- Heightened attention and help dealing with bandwidth issues in rural areas, particularly as schools are moving to online courses and employees are teleworking.
- The creation of a livestock employee identification card to help identify employees that are deemed essential.

March 18, 2020

NC sent COVID-19 updates and virus protocol emails to the Feedlot Council and Advertisers.
Nebraska Cattlemen sent out a COVID-19 Update to all membership.

Nebraska Cattlemen sent out a media release: Nebraska Cattlemen Applauds Action Letters to COVID-19 Task Force and Packers

NC sent out a COVID-19 update and virus protocol to the Seedstock Council

The NC Executive committee and staff held a call to finalize the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Immediate Action asks for Nebraska’s Congressional delegation.

March 17, 2020

Nebraska Cattlemen sent out a news release to all membership and media NC Works Diligently Through COVID-19

White Paper: MFP & CCC program

NC Executive committee, council leaders and staff participated in a conference call to discuss concerns heard from members and ideas on how to best implement and communicate those concerns to agencies and elected offices.

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TWITTER: For market updates and tweets please consider following NC team member Jeff Stolle @JeffStolle