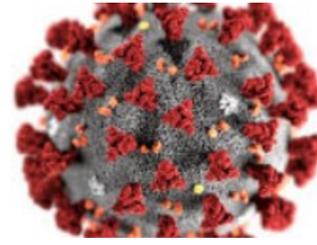


COVID-19 Updates



There is a great deal of uncertainty about the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the beef industry and our members. NC will provide updates on this page as more information becomes available. NC leadership and staff understands the anxiety and uncertainty that has resulted from the spread of this virus and are committed to doing our part to alleviate those concerns.

[Visit our Website](#)

March 21, 2020

NCBA Call:

NC Staff participated on a call with other state cattlemen's affiliates to discuss the continued efforts to formulate a "beef stimulus" payment. Call participants also discussed member concerns across the country regarding how they should respond should one of their employees test positive for the COVID-19 virus.

NC Beef "Think Tank" video call:

NC leaders, along with UNL extension economists and NC staff participated on a video call this afternoon to discuss current state and national efforts to address the impact COVID-19 has had on our members. During this call, leaders discussed the ongoing efforts to address extreme market volatility within the cattle industry, what NC can do to better leverage our current policy to increase cash negotiated trade, and what can be done to modify current risk mitigation tools to make them more appealing and user friendly for members.

Legislative Update:

The Nebraska Legislature also reconvened today to consider an [emergency appropriation](#) for \$83 million for COVID-19 response. Speaker Jim Scheer previously suspended the session following public health concerns. The appropriation was approved unanimously by the 44 senators who were physically present in the chamber. The Legislature will remain in session through Wednesday to see full passage of the emergency appropriation before recessing until the threat of the virus subsides. The emergency funding will be directed toward protective equipment and supplies, extra staffing for high risk facilities, and additional epidemiologists and interpreters.

MRS Update:

NC Market Reporting Service members noted scattered dressed bids up to \$185 from two majors buyers on Monday, with little to no seller interest noted at those levels. These bids were \$15.00/cwt dressed above where significant volume started last week (\$170 dressed), \$10.00/cwt above last week's practical top (\$175.00) and \$12.50+/cwt above last week's USDA/LMR Nebraska dressed weighted average (\$172.41). CME Live Cattle and Feeder Cattle futures closed Monday up their respective daily trading limits of \$3.00/cwt (LC) and \$4.50/cwt (FC), respectively, and buy pools and synthetic option settlements at Monday's 1pm CT close suggested that April Live Cattle futures would likely open Tuesday's session limit bid (+\$4.50/cwt) - trading on expanded limits due to today's limit higher close in the front two options.

Last week [NC sent a letter](#) to the entire federal delegation that called for a "beef stimulus" package as part of NC's efforts to find short term relief for our members in addition to addressing long term fixes to the current and ongoing market situation. Today, U.S. Senator Deb Fischer spoke on the Senate floor about how the outbreak of coronavirus is hurting the agriculture economy by driving down crop and livestock prices. She has been working with her Senate colleagues on measures in the coronavirus emergency package to provide relief for agriculture producers. [Watch here](#)

Other News:

NTV Grow article published over the weekend: [Cattlemen call for "Beef Stimulus" with concerns about price manipulation](#)

[Governor Ricketts announced](#) that the state is extending its tax filing deadline to July 15, mirroring the federal government's new tax deadline. However, he encouraged everyone who is able to still file by April 15 to not impact the state's fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Updated [Seedstock](#) Sales & [Business](#) protocols.

[COVID-19 Compliance Considerations for Employers](#)

[COVID-19 Relief Law Requires Paid Employee Leave](#)

[Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#)

March 20, 2020

This morning NC staff participated in a conference call with lead agriculture staff from Senator Fisher and Senator Sasses' 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.

Radio Report with Rural Radio Network: [Pete McClymont talks about NC actions for our members during this pandemic.](#)

NC recommends that livestock haulers keep both the [emergency declaration](#) AND the [FAQ](#) in their cabs at all times.

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, be better and pay cattlemen a more fair price for their cattle.**

[Seedstock Council Sale Updates](#) *Please remember to contact Talia Goes tgoes@necattlemen.org or at 402.719.2181 with your sale updates.

Times are tough. Unfavorable weather struck again yesterday across the state and things are moving quickly with COVID-19. Our members mental health is a priority for NC. We hosted a Stress Webinar on Tuesday of this week. If you were unable to join you may now watch the webinar [here](#).

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/2J12Rpi>

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 participated in a call with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Governor Ricketts' office, and other state 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 guidance on public gatherings of no more than 10 people, raising concerns on how such limit will financially impact producers
 - *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.

NC Staff participated in two conference calls on Thursday with staff from multiple other state affiliate organizations and NCBA to discuss the best path forward to secure funds for an "beef stimulus" payment direct to cattlemen. While multiple options and ideas are being discussed, the best path forward has not yet been identified. We will continue to participate in conversations with fellow state affiliates and congressional leaders to identify a beef stimulus program that will provide the most benefit to our members on a short timeline. NCBA staff is meeting hourly with congressional staff and agency leaders to aid in these efforts.

This afternoon Nebraska Cattlemen notified media of the multiple conversations with our federal delegation regarding our official ask. Read release [here](#).

NC sent COVID-19 updates and virus protocol emails to the [Feedlot Council](#) and [Advertisers](#).

March 18, 2020

[Nebraska Cattlemen sent out a COVID-19 Updated 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.

Please follow us here:



TWITTER: For market updates and tweets please consider following NC team member Jeff Stolle [@JeffStolle](#)