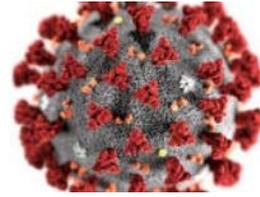


COVID-19 Updates



4.10.2020

Nebraska Cattlemen leadership and staff continue work diligently to make a difference for members during the COVID-19 disaster. NC is working at any and all levels with the highest-ranking members of the federal, state and local governments.

The morning of Good Friday, April 10, NCBA organized - with state affiliates including with Nebraska Cattlemen - a meeting via conference call with USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue and Under Secretary Greg Ibach. The meeting was exclusively focused on two items: current and ongoing market-related challenges (especially the packing sector) and relief efforts via the CARE Act.

Secretary Perdue said he hopes next week to have more formalization of financial relief to cattle producers. To be clear, the Commodity Credit Corporation does not have a 'cattle title' like crops, dairy and pork. USDA received the authority from the CARES Act of an additional \$9.5 billion for specialty crops, farm-to-market programs and livestock. USDA is working with all groups including NCBA to create a system to award cattle producers harmed due to COVID-19.

Sec. Perdue also emphasized he has ongoing, pointed conversations with the packing sector pushing them on what producers are facing. The Secretary noted that USDA found their investigative abilities under the Packers and Stockyards Act to be insufficient to gain certain needed information to conclude their investigation into the Holcomb, Kansas plant fire and therefore, the investigation has now become a multi-agency effort.

This week, we got notification that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has extended its Emergency Declaration through May 15th. The extension of the Emergency Declaration will continue the emergency relief from Parts 390 through 399 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, such as hours-of-service rules, for motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance in support of relief efforts related to the COVID-19 outbreaks. The declaration can be found here: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency/expanded-emergency-declaration-under-49-cfr-ss-39023-no-2020-002-relating-covid-19>

States are continuing to issue their own emergency declarations that are providing hours-of-service relief as well as relief from truck weight limits. It is recommended to check with your state associations and state departments of transportation for more information on the state-level application of the emergency declarations on trucking rules.

On Wednesday of this week Nebraska Cattlemen sent a letter to the Department of Justice requesting an investigation. [Read the letter here.](#)

PRESS RELEASE: [Nebraska Cattlemen Board Address Black Swan Market Responses](#)

Rural Radio Network Interview: [Nebraska Cattlemen President Ken Herz talks about actions NC has taken since a Board of Directors meeting that was held on Tuesday & the upcoming webinars.](#)

Other Updates:

[Livestock Temporary Increase Guidance](#)

[President Donald J. Trump Approves Nebraska Disaster Declaration](#)