

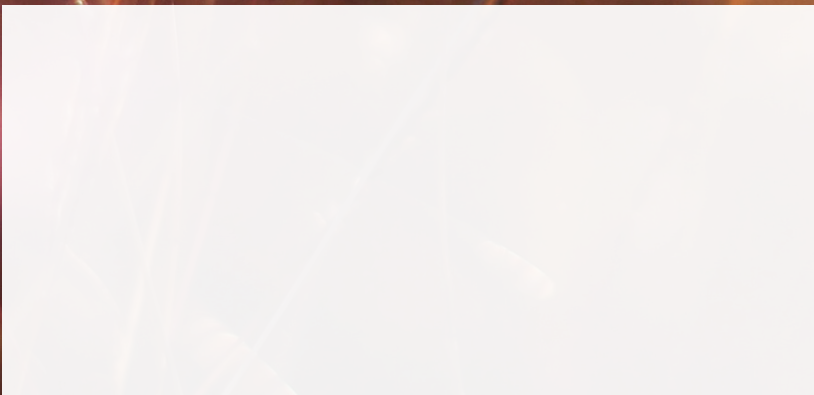
Convention 2024

THE

South Dakota

CATTLEMAN

The official publication of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association



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SDCA Calendar of Events

December 10 - 11

SDCA Convention & Trade Show
Pierre, SD

January 29

SDCA Board of Directors Meeting
Pierre, SD

January 30

SDCA at the Legislature
Pierre, SD

February 4 - 6

NCBA Cattlemen's Convention & Trade Show
San Antonio, TX

Advertising Opportunities

The South Dakota Cattleman is published six times a year and sent to SDCA members including beef producers, beef industry supporters, property owners, allied industry partners, as well as state and local government officials with a circulation over 1,000.

Advertising deadline is the 5th of the month prior to publication.

The SDCA e-newsletter, **The Cattle Guard**, is emailed to all SDCA members every week. **The Cattle Guard** contains updates and news from SDCA, industry partners, and NCBA.

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South Dakota



Mission

To advance the interests of South Dakota Cattlemen through representation and promotion of the beef industry.

Vision

To be an organization where members can work together to protect their interests; seek solutions to industry problems; provide a unified voice, and to build the good will, esteem, and recognition the industry deserves.



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- The Cattle Guard weekly newsletter
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South Dakota



From the Cattle Pen

Warren Symens, SDCA President



Whether you raise cattle or you also raise crops, chances are you've come to the end of your production season. Here we've finished the soybean harvest and by the time this article goes to print, we will likely be done with corn. The calves are home, where they settled in right away and are eating well. The open heifers and cull cows are on feed so they're ready for market by the end of the year. These practices are repeated year after year, generation after generation. The upcoming season reminds us all how much we have to be thankful for and prepares us for the coming of the Christ child. I'm reminded why we place our faith where we do.

Each spring, following what's usually a cold, desolate winter, we welcome the newborn calves, and put seed in the ground, blindly believing that the calves will grow, the seeds will sprout, and we'll have something to show for all of the hard work come harvest time. We turn cows out to grass, turn in the bulls, and have faith they'll all do what they're supposed to do, so we can do it all again next year. It never turns out perfectly, and sometimes it really goes off the rails, but if we didn't have faith in the process, none of us would put in the effort. It's a heritage of faith we've been given by those who came before us, one that we work to pass on.

In the past year, I've put 7000 miles on my pickup, crisscrossing the state. I've also flown to each coast, representing the members of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association. Your executive committee, board members, and staff have also spent countless hours on the road, on planes, on the phone, and on Zoom meetings, doing the business of the association. We've represented you in Washington D.C., in Pierre, and at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Summer Business Meeting in San Diego, CA, with our policy book in hand, being the voice of membership wherever decisions were being made that affected the sustainability of family farms and ranches.

SDCA board members and policy chairpersons have taken valuable time from their operations to learn and train to better serve their neighbors. The staff and SDCA Leadership Academy Steering Committee has put in place a leadership program to prepare the next group of people to step up and continue working on behalf of the cattle industry in the state.

Throughout the year, the state organization hosts several opportunities to meet with our members. This year, we held several

Region Roundups across the state talking about the issues that concern us and presenting valuable information to those affected most. Most importantly, the Region Roundups were a chance for us to listen to each other and understand what's happening around the state, so we can have a consistent and sound message as an organization.

The SDCA annual convention is coming up in Pierre on December 10th and 11th. Endless hours go into planning and preparation to make sure the business of the Association is completed. Programming will inspire members and provide educational opportunities to take back to their operations. Awards will be presented, and people will be recognized for their hard work. New regional representation will be elected, as well as executive leadership. The President's Auction will raise funds to ensure that we can continue to travel around the state and country, serving membership to the best of our ability.

Why do so many people take so much time from their own farms and ranches to serve? Why are so many hours and so much effort spent working for the Association? Why do so many of us travel across the state to gather with other farmers and ranchers in cafes and meeting rooms? Why do we bother bringing our voice to try and affect the process of passing laws and regulations in Pierre and Washington D.C.? It's all because of what we believe in.

I believe in this organization. I believe in what it represents. I believe in coming together, learning from each other, informing each other, and I believe in the compromises that result. I believe in the membership most of all; the farmers and ranchers that spend each spring and summer faithfully planting the seed, calving the cows, weaning the calves, and reaping the harvest of a year's worth of hard work and faith. I believe in my neighbors across the state who choose to pass on the heritage of faith that was given to them.

With your support, the SDCA will continue to put in the time and miles on the road, in the Capitol meeting rooms, and at national policy discussions. We'll continue to move forward and find better ways to serve our members. The staff, the board, and I are just a phone call, text, or email away. After all, nobody can do it alone. It's up to all of us to be an active part of what we all believe in.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas, and as always, I invite you to come, grow with us.



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View from My Side of the Fence

Craig Bieber, Vice President



Membership

In a time of unprecedented challenges and evolving landscapes, there is one fundamental truth that remains constant for our industry: the strength of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association (SDCA) lies in its members. Our shared commitment to advance the interests of cattle producers, advocate for sound policies, and foster a vibrant future for agriculture is what drives this organization forward.

As Vice President of the SDCA, I have seen firsthand the incredible impact that comes from engaged membership and proactive policy development. Together, we are not just stakeholders in this industry — we are its architects, shaping its future with every decision we make, every conversation we start, and every new member we welcome into our ranks.

It's easy to forget that an organization is only as strong as the people who stand behind it. Our members form the backbone of the SDCA, representing voices from diverse operations across South Dakota who share a common goal: the sustainability and success of the cattle industry. Each member brings unique experiences, perspectives, and energy that strengthens our collective voice.

The SDCA thrives when its membership thrives. By renewing and expanding our membership base, we ensure that our voice is heard loud and clear in Pierre and beyond. When we stand together, we are more than just a trade association — we are a movement that can influence real, lasting change.

Policy Development & Leadership

As cattle producers, we know that policy decisions, whether local, state, or national, have a direct impact on our livelihoods. From environmental regulations to trade agreements, from taxation to animal health standards, the policies set by lawmakers can make or break the future of our operations. This is why the SDCA places such a strong emphasis on policy development.

Good policy doesn't happen by accident. It's the result of thoughtful conversations, active involvement, and careful consideration of the long-term effects on our industry. As members of the SDCA, we have the opportunity — and the responsibility — to shape those policies. By engaging with elected officials, participating in discussions, and voicing our concerns, we play a pivotal role in crafting the laws and regulations that govern our work.

Our organization has long been a respected and credible voice in Pierre. This credibility is not something we take lightly. It has been earned over decades of consistent, thoughtful advocacy, and it is a reflection of the trust that our members have placed in us to represent their interests. The challenges we face today, whether they be related to market access, sustainability, or the

future of rural communities, demand that we continue to lead with this same level of dedication and foresight.

One of the most critical aspects of policy development is the need for strong leadership. But leadership doesn't happen in isolation — it emerges from engagement. It's not enough for a select few to be involved in these conversations, we need the full participation of our members to ensure that every facet of the cattle industry is considered when developing policies that impact our future.

I encourage each and every member of the SDCA to become more engaged in policy discussions. Attend meetings, be active in your local affiliates and within policy committees and at convention. Voice your opinions and contribute to the direction we take as an organization. Your input is not just valuable — it's essential. Every time a member steps up, our collective strength grows, and we become more effective in shaping the policies that will guide our industry for years to come.

A Strong Future

As we look ahead, the importance of membership, policy development, and leadership cannot be overstated. The cattle industry is evolving, and with it, the challenges and opportunities we face are changing. But one thing remains certain: by working together, we can overcome these challenges and seize the opportunities that lie ahead.

Our organization's future depends on you. When you renew memberships, actively participate in discussions, and shape the policies that impact us, we collectively secure the future of the SDCA and the cattle industry for generations to come.

Now, more than ever, we must stand united, with a shared vision and a firm resolve to protect and promote the interests of cattle producers across South Dakota. Together, we are the driving force behind meaningful change. Together, we are shaping the future.

Let's continue to build that future — one member, one policy, one voice at a time.

CRAIG BIEBER IS A TOP HAND



Initiated in 1992, the NCBA's Top Hand Program recognizes members' commitment to growing NCBA's membership-driven organization.

This quarter's winner was SDCA's very own, Craig Bieber! Craig is the newest addition to the NCBA Top Hand Club for going above and beyond in recruitment efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS, CRAIG!



Backgrounding Calves

Matthew Diersen, PhD

Griffith Chair in Agricultural Finance at South Dakota State University



Tighter cattle supplies resulted in all-time high prices for South Dakota calves during the first eight months of 2024. Prices recently have only been eclipsed in 2023 and 2014. The high value means retaining ownership, even backgrounding to a feeder

weight, would need to result in a large return to justify the risk involved. Soon, most of the input costs (calves and feed) will be known. There is production risk present, mainly from the weather. The dominant risk, however, is the output price risk tied to the feeder cattle market. This article aims to look at cost changes and financial considerations of backgrounding calves into 2025.

When making the decision to background calves, first, evaluate income potential from other sources. This will answer how much backgrounding would need to generate to make financial sense. Operating loan interest rates have changed little since a year ago, close to 9%. That would be a high hurdle for producers with borrowed funds. In contrast, investment returns have come down slightly. Treasury notes provide a reasonable benchmark when evaluating investment returns. The 10-year treasury securities currently yield a 4% return. A year ago, it was close to 5%. In the fall of 2020, it was below 1%. Producers and outside investors looking at a risky venture, like feeding cattle, would want the returns to exceed that of something like treasuries. The point is that equity capital may be attracted to feeding cattle this year because other investments have a lower return.

In recent weeks, 5-600 pounds steers have been trading for \$300.00 per cwt. or \$1,650.00 per head. Regardless of the ration used to add weight to calves, it likely ties to some roughage source and some energy source. A ration based on 1.1 tons of hay and 15.5 bushels of corn would roughly capture the feed costs involved to grow a steer to 800 pounds. August prices received by farmers in South Dakota from USDA-NASS were \$95.00 per ton for other hay and \$3.66 per bushel for corn, suggesting a feed cost of \$161.00 per head. Last November, those prices were \$130.00 per ton and \$4.47 per bushel – meaning feed costs were \$50.00 per head higher.

The March 2025 feeder cattle futures provide a price estimate for feeder steers. The contract is cash settled and trades through the last Thursday of the month and reflects the national weighted average price for steers weighing 700-899 pounds. One could add basis to the futures price. A typical South Dakota basis for March would be \$3.00 per cwt., but the basis is suppressed in this example to provide a conservative estimate of returns. The March futures

price was recently \$245.00 per cwt. or \$1,960.00 per head. Taking off the feed costs and the value of the calf suggests a gross margin of \$148.77 per head. Such a margin would be a record high based on historic South Dakota calf values

and feed costs, exceeding the \$116.59 per head margin in 2019. The return in this scenario, spanning five months, would exceed the risk-free return of treasuries and exceed the average cost of financing. Calf prices could be bid up and reduce that return.

The futures price of \$245.00 is not guaranteed. To lock in that price, one must either use futures, forward contract the sale, or set a floor price through put options or Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) insurance. Using historical futures data compiled by the Livestock Marketing Information Center (Imic.info) suggests that feeder cattle futures can move substantially from November through March. The final futures price, months out, is rarely unchanged from its starting point. However, the futures price is unbiased – being wrong to the upside and the downside in similar amounts and at similar frequencies. Producers are likely more concerned about downside moves. Price declines of almost \$20.00 per cwt have happened twice in the past decade. That equates to a \$160.00 per head loss to backgrounding if left unhedged. Selling futures could lock in a favorable gross margin but would also limit returns from futures price increases.

A floor price would require buying put options or LRP. The cost of those products would be tied to the underlying risk in the market. The recent volatility level is under 14%. The typical level of volatility for the March contracts during the preceding November is 12-24%, more often at the lower end of that range. Thus, the coverage cost would not be high for the risk level, but for the price level. Regardless, LRP has a subsidy level that gives it a cost advantage over a put option. The risk in this setting would be mitigated with the producer incurring a small cost to eliminate any significant potential downside moves in futures prices.

Overall, the market currently reflects the higher returns needed to attract equity capital under the current interest rate environment. Sharply lower feed costs offset the higher calf prices to give a high backgrounding margin justified by returns elsewhere. The cost to offset the feeder price risk is expected to be below the average for this time of year.



What Factors Improve Colostrum in Cow-Calf Operations?

Julie Walker and Russ Daly

South Dakota State University Extension

Colostrum is the “starter kit” for every calf with the nutrients plus passive immunity (antibodies) to start their life off correctly. Producers understand the importance of ensuring that a high-quality colostrum is consumed by calves in a timely matter. High-quality colostrum contains at least 50 g/L of antibody immunoglobulin (IgG), contains less than 100,000 cfu/ml of bacterial contaminants and is free of infectious disease agents, according to a University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine study. We can’t tell the quality of colostrum by visual appraisal; however, research indicates that various cow-herd management impact the quantity or quality (concentration of immunoglobulins) of colostrum produced.



with a body condition score of 5 or 6 at calving tend to produce more and higher-quality colostrum compared to thinner cows (< 4). Depriving cows nutritionally in late gestation will not consistently result in lower antibody concentration in her colostrum. Nutritional deprivation, however, may affect the quantity of colostrum the cow produces. Providing adequate levels of trace minerals also improves immunoglobulin concentration compared to cows on mineral-restricted diets. On the other hand, there is some evidence that over-conditioned cows produce colostrum with lower immunoglobulin concentration. The bottom line is that maintaining cows in a moderate to good BCS at calving, along with providing adequate levels of trace minerals, will enable cows to produce plentiful, antibody-rich colostrum.

Nutrition

Let’s start with nutrition. Pregnant cows can generally utilize poor quality feeds and get along just fine. However, proper nutrition (i.e., forage plus supplement) prior to calving is key to the development of high-quality colostrum. Development of colostrum starts 4 to 5 weeks per to calving. Hence, the last trimester nutrition, especially the last 60 days, is a critical time to ensure that the cows have the appropriate nutrients to develop the best colostrum. Hough et al. (1990) reported no change in immunoglobulin (IgG) concentration between cows fed 100% or 57% of nutrients requirement prior to calving; however, colostrum volume and calf absorption of IgG was lower for the restricted cows. Corah et al. (1975) did not measure colostrum; however, results indicate calves born from dams with restricted pre-calving nutrition are more susceptible to disease from scours and have a higher mortality rate (Table 1).

Testing feedstuffs and formulating a ration aid in ensuring that the cows nutrients needs are being meet. Body condition scores provide the best visual assessment of the animal’s nutrient status. Cows

Vaccinations

Vaccinating cows and heifers in late pregnancy against diarrhea-specific pathogens is a strategy that can improve colostrum quality. While dam vaccination has not been shown to increase overall colostrum immunoglobulin concentration, research indicates vaccines do induce an increase in the concentration of pathogen-specific (vaccine-specific) antibodies in the colostrum. Vaccines against E. coli, Clostridium perfringens Types C & D, rotavirus, and coronavirus are available. Special attention should be paid to label instructions regarding vaccine timing. While some vaccines are labeled for administration well ahead of calving, vaccines given too close (< 3 weeks) to calving may not provide sufficient time for an immune response to take place relative to colostrum formation. Requirements for booster doses (especially in heifers) should be followed.

Environmental Factors

Little research is available that has evaluated the effect of environmental conditions on colostrum production. With spring calving herd, the environmental stressor is normally cold stress; however, heat stress seems to impact colostrum production with lower immunoglobulin levels. There is evidence that heifers undergoing heat stress produce lower immunoglobulin levels colostrum than heifers housed in cooler conditions. So, fall-calving herds may have impacted on colostrum quality. Furthermore, the antibody profile of colostrum is influenced by the organisms a cow is exposed to. Hence, colostrum from cows brought in from different locations in late gestation may contain antibodies to different infectious organisms than are present in the cow’s new location.

Table 1. Impact of nutrient restrictions on calf performance and health.

Second-Calf Cows	100% of Requirements	50% of Requirements
Weaning wt. ^a , lb	320	294
Calf Scours rate %	33	50
Mortality	0	19

Corah et al., 1975.

^a Weaning occurred at ~185 days



Timing

Timing for a calf to receive colostrum is a short time period (ideally 4 hours) to allow absorption of the immunoglobulins. The newborn digestive system allows large molecules to pass through the tissue walls. Immunoglobulins are extremely large molecules and rely almost completely on this trait of the newborn's digestive system for absorption. These openings that previously allowed immunoglobulins to pass through the gut wall into the blood stream close by 24 hours following birth. In order for a calf to receive the benefits of immunoglobulins, a calf should ingest 5 to 6 percent of its body weight (on average about 2 quarts) of colostrum within 4 hours, ideally within 1 hour of birth.

Other Considerations

There are other management factors that impact the calves' ability to consume colostrum or milk.

- Poor udder conformation (e.g. dropped teats) make it difficult for newborns to find the udder and nurse.
- Mastitis acutely affects colostrum production while the associated pain and discomfort may discourage the cow from allowing the calf to nurse.
- Mothering ability has been shown to significantly affect immunoglobulin levels in calves after they consume colostrum.
- Calving difficulty due to any reason may result in calves that are slower to stand and nurse, and more likely to suffer from acidosis, delaying immunoglobulin absorption.

Culling practices that focus on retaining females with well-constructed udders, good mothering ability, and calving ease will positively affect colostrum production, as well as many other parameters within the herd. Prompt and appropriate intervention for dystocia cows will also indirectly help colostrum utilization within the herd.

Summary

Starting early to stack the deck for the cow to produce high-quality colostrum is critically important to give the calf the best chance. Good management and appropriate nutrition provide the best opportunity for high quality colostrum production.

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THE SOYBEAN POD

Beefing Up Nutrition: Warren Rusche Discusses Soybean Meal's Impact

with host Tom Steever

14:42

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Daybreak Ranch

Ranch Management School Leaves Lasting Impact

Megan Sanders

Following drought in the 1970s and the financial crisis of the 1980s, Highmore, SD cow-calf operator Jim Faulstich looked for opportunities to improve the bottom line at Daybreak Ranch. Faulstich knew changes needed to occur, he attended several holistic seminars before enrolling in an RMC Ranching for Profit school. The school prioritized preserving natural resources, increasing profitability, and using available resources. After attending the Ranching for Profit school, it became clear what changes would best serve his operation.

Faulstich learned from the Ranching for Profit school was that there were changes he could make to his operation to make it more cost-effective. By pushing their calving date from March to May, he was able to reduce feed costs. Less feed consumption meant Faulstich's summer was no longer consumed having to put up large amounts of feed. Calving in less variable weather also resulted in an increased calf crop percentage and profit margins. Making this change in his operation allowed Faulstich to appreciate his lifestyle much more because fewer cold nights were spent calving. Overall, working with nature and not against it resulted in decreased overall inputs and an increased quality of life.

The Ranching for Profit school emphasized justifying additional inputs. "There are always new ways to improve production, but not always profitability," states Faulstich. Using the newest technique is not always the best option for profitability because of the additional expenses that come with it.

Following the Ranching for Profit school, Faulstich made the decision to add agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises to his operation. One agricultural enterprise he introduced is

grazing a flexible number of yearlings based on each year's grass production. Non-agricultural hunting enterprises were able to be created because of the improvement of wildlife habitat and natural resources on the ranch.

Faulstich believes that individuals can't afford not to participate in the Ranching for Profit program. The advice Faulstich offers to future program participants is to engage with the other students, "it is a great opportunity to network and expand your knowledge from individuals aside from the instructors." An additional way to have a greater takeaway from the Ranching for Profit class is by taking it out of the area where you live. Taking one of the programs offered in another part of the state introduces you to people with different practices, increases your overall knowledge, and possibly changes your thought process on certain matters.

Through the program, Faulstich developed a network with fellow producers. Together, the producers increased their knowledge by asking the hard questions and building relationships with each other and the instructors. They continue to meet yearly and receive ongoing support.

The Ranching for Profit school offers options that range from an introductory seminar to week-long courses offered in various locations across the United States. The RMC Ranching for Profit owner Dallas Mount will lead a seminar during the Cattlemen's Land & Legacy event held during the South Dakota Cattlemen's Convention on December 10. This two-hour seminar is included in the one or two-day convention registration and is a great opportunity for anyone wanting to learn more about whether the Ranching for Profit School is the right fit for their operation.



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What to Know About USDA's Updated Traceability Rule?

Securing the Herd. Faster Response.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), an agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has updated tagging requirements for certain classes of cattle moving across state lines. Since 2013, these cattle have required some form of official animal identification: either a brand, tattoo, group ID number, metal clip tag, or electronic ear tag (EID). Beginning on November 5, 2024, if you move these specific classes of cattle across state lines using an ear tag as your form of official animal identification, those tags must be an EID tag—not a metal clip tag.



This requirement still only applies to sexually intact beef cattle that are 18 months or older; dairy cattle of all ages; and any cattle that are going to rodeo, show, or exhibition. **These criteria are not changing under the updated rule.**

This requirement still only applies to the types of cattle mentioned above when they move across state lines. Cattle that are staying within one state their whole life do not need an EID ear tag. **That hasn't changed under the updated rule.**

This requirement does not apply to feeder cattle. **This updated rule is not about feeder cattle.**



EID tags are encoded with a unique, 15-digit number specific to that animal; that's it. The only additional data points that will be stored in your state veterinarian's database are contact information for the person receiving the tag, contact information for the person distributing the tag, and the date of distribution. That is all. These tags cannot track greenhouse gas emissions or the constant GPS location of cattle. No other type of data is collected or available to APHIS. The public cannot access the data stored in state or federal animal health databases.



The threat of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and other foreign animal diseases has never been greater than it is today. We need a modernized, accurate, and fast traceability system in order to respond quickly to an animal disease outbreak. This will help keep more herds safe during an outbreak, let those producers get back to business faster, and minimize the financial hit to the cattle industry. **The best insurance policy we can have against the next major disease incident, like FMD or BSE, is having a traceability system that works better than the one we have today.**



Last year, Congress instructed APHIS to spend \$15 million on EID tags for producers. Those tags have been handed out at no cost to all the state veterinarians across the country. Contact your state veterinarian for instructions on how to get free tags for your operation. Of course, producers are also able to purchase tags from the manufacturer at the average price of \$3 per head.

For more information, contact the state animal health official.



Leading with Facts, Not Fear: The Role of EID in Cattle Traceability

Editorial by SDCA President
Warren Symens

Finding accurate information concerning the cattle industry is becoming increasingly challenging. Too often we see distorted and misrepresented facts used to promote a special interest narrative. Unfortunately, conspiracy theories spread like wildfire, while truth and facts are met with suspicion.

From late spring to early fall, the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association held a series of six Region Roundup meetings across the state. These meetings are used to connect and communicate with members, and reach out to potential new members, while also providing programming focused on important issues facing producers. The 2024 Region Roundup meetings focused on the update to the 2013 United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) rule regarding traceability in cattle. Since 2013, any sexually intact cattle 18 months of age or older, rodeo or exhibition cattle, and dairy cattle have required official identification before moving across state lines. The updated rule, which goes into effect November 5th, changes the required form of official identification from a visually readable identification to a visually and electronically readable form of identification.

These meetings, that were open to the public, were held at meeting halls, local cafes, and livestock barns. Dr. Beth Thompson, State Veterinarian and Executive Secretary of the South Dakota Animal Industry Board (SD AIB), as well as the assistant state veterinarian Dr. Mendel Miller presented to each group. Not only did they provide information to assist producers as they prepare to comply with the updated rule, but also hosted an open forum to answer questions and address concerns that producers voiced. They came on behalf of the SD AIB to communicate what the national identification system rules will be and what producers need to know to comply with them, not as representatives of SDCA. We appreciate their willingness to share the facts with the farmers and ranchers that attended.

The rule change is as simple as was stated: anything that needed to be identified before, needs to be identified after November 5th, and the method of identification now must be electronically and visually readable. Cattle identified with an approved method before November 5th are grandfathered into the system, so no cattle need to be re-tagged. No additional data is collected that wasn't previously. No information can be acquired through the federal Freedom of Information Act or state open records laws, and challenges to those laws have been upheld by the courts. Nevertheless, efforts are underway to enhance those laws and protect data collected under the rule from being disclosed or used to track or compile information on methane emissions.

Under the current rule, the number on the metal clip on tag is read, written down, and filed to be later manually entered into a database. Under the updated rule, the electronic identification (EID) tag can be electronically read, and the number can be uploaded into a database. There are no other changes to the information gathered. The tags can be put in at any time, and can be acquired free through your veterinarian, and electronic readers can be found through those means as well. The ONLY difference is that the identification number can be read electronically, making the data input process faster and more accurate.

SDCA members have created and approved policy that supports using the latest technology available to enhance animal disease traceability. Our members believe it is extremely important to be able to trace any animal that falls into the required group, to protect the nation's cow herd. While South Dakota has a system that works, the ability to have EID will enhance the efficiency of this trace back. It is important to remember that not every state has as robust a system as South Dakota, and this rule change puts the nation on the same level. Tracebacks will be done far faster and more accurately, all but eliminating the possibility of unnecessary quarantines or, God forbid, euthanization.

Electronic tags have been around for many years. As the technology has improved, they are being used more and more. People in the cattle industry are seeing the benefits of having an accurate and efficient method of identifying individual animals. Electronic tag use is being driven by the industry. This is evidenced by the number of producers putting in EID's to steer calves to comply with the requirements of the buyer of their calves. The USDA/APHIS is merely using the technology industry has developed to improve our nation's traceability program to limit the impacts of a possible catastrophic disease outbreak.

We've been using EID in every calf on our operation for many years. It hasn't hampered processing, hasn't added any expense, and hasn't had a single negative impact on our operation. In fact, we've found the ability to trace cattle through the harvest process valuable to our breeding decisions. We believe, as do the members of SDCA, that it's important to embrace new technologies that provide opportunities to enhance the profitability and sustainability of the cattle business.

Look at the EID requirement for what it actually is, not what it is being made out to be. Don't be misled into believing it is about carbon credits, greenhouse gas emissions, or anticipating slaughter cattle numbers. It is about USDA APHIS utilizing new technology to improve the current national identification system.



Pursuing your Livestock and Conservation Goals Together

Laura Kahler

South Dakota Grasslands Initiative Director

The correlation between grasslands and states with abundant cattle populations is high, so it should be no surprise that in South Dakota, our state was developed for ruminants, with 95% of the state historically covered in a mix of tall and short grass prairie. Today, about 50% of those native grasslands remain.

Grassland and forages are needed for all classes of cattle, and are especially important in South Dakota where we are typically in the top five states for beef cattle numbers and calf production. Outside of the need for grasslands for our agricultural production, many landowners and communities benefit from the habitat provided for wildlife, pollinators and grassland songbirds, the healthy soil that is able to absorb, store and clean water, and the aesthetics the landscape provides residents and visitors.

The relationship between cattle and grassland ecosystems can be mutually beneficial. When cattle are consuming grass and forbs on pasture, they can simultaneously be used as a tool to manage desirable plant species, to keep the grass height at the needed height for ground nesting birds to raise their young, and put nutrients back in the soil through their manure.

Conservation focused entities are well aware that one of the top five principles for soil health is to incorporate livestock on the ground. Organizations that are focused on habitat for waterfowl, upland game, and ecosystem services that grasslands provide in South Dakota know that their goals can be obtained by helping grassland operators and landowners meet their goals as well. This mutually beneficial relationship can be seen on ranches around the state.

Eric Jennings is a rancher in Lawrence County who has collaborated with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to ensure his land is working optimally for his cattle, and that his cattle are being used as a tool to manage his grasslands near Spearfish Creek. NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) financial assistance allowed Eric to better control how he uses grazing to manage his grasslands and the riparian zone along the creek. With assistance to fund cross fencing and water systems on his property, he is able to rotate through his land, varying the season of use and ensuring 45-50% utilization of the forage followed by a season for recovery for the following year. This allows Eric to increase the forage available to his cattle, while also seeing an increase in the biodiversity of plants and wildlife on his operation. Jennings' land included



Class 4 soil being used as crop ground, which was adequate in a strong moisture year, but with poor production otherwise. With NRCS EQIP funds, he received financial assistance to take the marginal crop ground and convert it to a diverse perennial grass system. These native plants are flourishing on the Class 4 soil, and they provide some of the highest forage production on his ranch. As proof to the ecological benefit to the soil and ecosystem, when digging to install a Mesonet station in his new pastureland, abundant native grassland roots were at 40" deep, a mere five years after the seeds were first planted. These deep roots play a role in his resilient grasslands that, unlike the former cropland, are able to provide adequate forage for his cattle even in a drier year while also sequestering carbon.

Another operation that has collaborated with several partners is the 2024 South Dakota Leopold Award Winner, Blioux River Ranch, run by Barry and Eli Little in Hamlin County.

Those who attended their Leopold Award tour were able to walk through a pasture filled with a lush array of native grasses and wildflowers, benefiting wildlife and pollinators. The Littles have continuously improved this pasture through different efforts over time. In 2011, they seeded it with native plants, utilizing Hamlin County Conservation District's drill, and working with NRCS to put it into the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). While this step increased biodiversity on the land, it was still lacking management options. Initially, the Littles' compatible use permit allowed haying every three years, however they felt that their land would do best with grazing. Working again with NRCS, the Littles were able to add a perimeter fence around the land and adjust their compatible use permit to allow for grazing. Their next step to building the health of this pasture is to work with Ducks Unlimited to cost share the well and water system which will allow better rotational grazing on their land. Ducks Unlimited has also assisted the Littles' with cover crops, which takes pressure off the grasslands by

providing another feed source for the cattle.

While on the Leopold Tour, attendees also noted a stark contrast on land management as they crossed the Big Sioux River. To the north of the bridge, cattle came to the river to graze, resulting in bare ground along the river edge. Conversely, to the south, green grasses and forbs are putting their roots down all the way up to the river. This is due to an easement the Littles'



DAKOTA CONSERVATION NETWORK

collaborated with Northern Prairies Land Trust (NPLT) on. This land had previously been in the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for a 15 year contract, during which the Littles found they preferred alternative water sources and could see the benefits to wildlife the plant life provided, especially in the winter. By putting it into an easement, they can continue to protect the land, while also cooperating with NPLT to develop a plan for strategic mob grazing to use the land for occasional cattle forage.

Conservation programs are available for all producers, and include technical assistance



for those looking to discuss options and ideas with a professional, as well as financial assistance. To get started with seeing what programs may be available for you in your county, a recently published website,



www.ConserveSD.org, compiles options for you to select the types of programs and program providers that you'd like to explore working with on your operation. The funds for these programs exist to support you as a landowner or operator to continue to play an instrumental role in stewarding your land, and perhaps explore a change that will let you take your conservation and production to another level.

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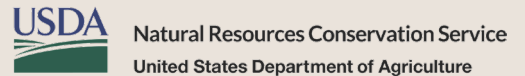




South Dakota Cattlemen's Association LEADING THE FUTURE

76th Annual Convention & Trade Show | December 10-11 | Pierre, SD

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2024 Convention Agenda

Tuesday | December 10, 2024

- 9:00 AM Exhibitor Move-In / Heavy Equipment Move-In
- 9:00 AM Registration Opens
- 10:00 AM Ag & Food Policy
- 10:00 AM Tax & Credit Policy
- 11:00 AM Live Cattle Marketing & International Trade Policy
- 12:00 PM Cattlemen's Land & Legacy
- 3:15 PM Trade Show Opens
- 3:45 PM Property Rights & Environmental Management / Federal Lands Policy
- 3:45 PM Cattle Health & Well-Being Policy
- 5:00 PM Best of Beef Happy Hour
- 6:00 PM Merck Roping Contest



- 7:30 PM President's Auction



Wednesday | December 11, 2024

- 7:00 AM Registration Opens
- 7:15 AM Breakfast
- 8:00 AM Market Update by CattleFax
- 9:30 AM Annual Membership Business Meeting
- 11:00 AM Trade Show Time
- 12:00 PM Keynote Luncheon
- 1:30 PM Cattlemen's Education Series



- 4:00 PM Annual Membership Policy Meeting
- 5:30 PM Trade Show Time
- 6:00 PM Happy Hour
- 6:30 PM Cattlemen's Banquet
- 8:00 – 9:30 PM Live Entertainment by Cody Henson Hullinger



*Agenda subject to change.

Cattlemen's LAND & LEGACY

NEW FOR THIS YEAR!

- Lunch & Keynote Mark Eisele
- 2024 South Dakota Leopold Conservation Award, Blioux River Ranch
- RMC Ranching for Profit Seminar



Mark Eisele

Tuesday Featured Keynote

Mark Eisele lives in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where his family runs Red and Black Angus cow-calf pairs, retained yearlings that sell into branded programs, and a custom haying operation on the historic King Ranch.

The ranch runs cattle on both privately owned and public lands with state and federal grazing leases. Eisele understands the delicate balance that is protecting private property rights and maintaining access to public lands while increasing numbers of people want to experience the beauty of the West. The King Ranch was recognized in 2015 for the Leopold Conservation Award and Wyoming Stock Growers Environmental Stewardship Award. Eisele also served as the 51st Wyoming Stock Growers Association president.

Both his parents came from ranching families, but he built most of their livestock business from scratch starting with four cows and a little equipment. He experienced the difficulties of agriculture as a young person with little capital. Eisele realized that if his family and ranch was going to both survive and thrive, he had to rely on the guidance support of his state and national associations and fellow producers. It's this that drives him as NCBA president, wanting to open up as many opportunities as possible for people who want to participate and succeed in this business.

Eisele has been heavily involved in the NCBA since 2009 when he sat on the board of directors before serving on the Animal Health and Wellbeing Committee for eight years. Since his start with NCBA, Eisele has served many roles including serving on the Nominating Committee, Public Lands Council - Legislative Session, Environmental Stewardship Award Wyoming (Region V), and being a Political Action Committee (PAC) donor, and currently serves as NCBA president.

Eisele has been married to his wife, Trudy, for 43 years, and has three adult children - Colton, Kendall, and Kaycee. Together, they enjoy working the family operation, as well as outdoor recreation, hunting, and volunteering for organizations.



Scan the QR code to watch Eisele award video.

Make Plans to Attend

Attendee and vendor registration is now open - scan the QR code and join us!

Register to Attend!



Explore the Trade Show!

**Ranch Management Consultants
Ranching for Profit Workshop**

The Cattlemen's Land and Legacy Event welcomes Dallas Mount of Ranch Management Consultants who will host a Ranching for Profit workshop that will leave you with resources and practical concepts that can be applied directly to your operation and improve your business. The Ranching for Profit Workshop is sponsored by the South Dakota Grasslands Coalition and the South Dakota Grasslands Initiative.



Presentation of the 2024 South Dakota Leopold Conservation Award to Blioux River Ranch

The Leopold Conservation Award honors ranchers, farmers, and forestland owners who go above and beyond in their management of soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat on working land. Sand County Foundation and national sponsor American Farmland Trust present the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 27 states for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. In South Dakota, the award is presented in partnership with the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and the South Dakota Grassland Coalition.



Dallas Mount

Meet Dallas

Dallas Mount is the owner of Ranch Management Consultants (RMC) home of the Ranching for Profit School and the Executive Link program. Dallas has led RMC since 2019 and worked with hundreds of ranchers across the US, Canada and Australia to position their business for economic profit and ecologic health. After working with University of Wyoming Extension for 18 years, Dallas started teaching the Ranching For Profit School in 2012 and quickly established himself as an elite instructor. Dallas holds a BS and MS from Colorado State University and has spent time working in cow-calf, feedlot, yearling, haying and grazing operations. Dallas, his wife Dixie, own and manage a grazing operation near Wheatland, WY. RMC is focused on creating profitable businesses, with healthy land and happy families.



Learn more about Ranching for Profit Workshops



Tuesday Evening- Fun for the Whole Family!



5:00 PM
Enjoy refreshments and a full spread of beef appetizers while you mix and mingle!



6:00 PM
Bring your rope & show off your skills at the Merck Roping Contest! Everyone is invited to participate!



7:30 PM

SNEAK PEEK!!

- Pasture Photo shoot by Katie Mauch
- Hot Air Balloon Ride for Two
- Safari for Two
- Black Hills Cabin Getaway
- Ice Fishing Trip
- Animal Health Products
- Items for the home and ranch and so much more!

View full list of auction items on dvauction.com





Niel Fulton

Wednesday *Featured Keynote*

A native of Miller, South Dakota, Fulton has been serving South Dakotans through various leadership roles in both the private and public sector roles for decades. Today he is focused on nurturing the next generation

of leaders as Dean of the Knutson School of Law at the University of South Dakota. Dean Fulton will discuss the importance of civic engagement and how to influence decision makers and consider becoming decision makers in today's climate.

After graduating from Yale University with a B.A. in Political Science, Dean Fulton attended the University of Minnesota School of Law, graduating summa cum laude in 1997. He spent two summers working with the May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson law firm in Pierre during law school. Fulton then went on to serve as a law clerk for Judge Diana Murphy of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals after graduating from law school. After his clerkship, he returned to May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson where he served as general counsel to the South Dakota

Public Assurance Alliance and the South Dakota Public Entity Pool for Liability, the South Dakota Bankers Association and the Office of the Governor. During this time, Fulton lobbied the South Dakota legislature for a variety of public and private clients.

In 2007, Fulton became Gov. Rounds' chief of staff. In that capacity, he oversaw the day-to-day operations of state government, managed legislative and budgetary proposals for the Office of the Governor, drafted legislation on many issues and worked with public and private organizations across the state.

In 2010, Fulton was chosen by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals as federal public defender for North Dakota and South Dakota. In this role, he oversaw a staff of 45 lawyers, investigators and support staff in five offices across both states. Fulton's appellate advocacy experience includes arguing almost 40 cases before the Eighth Circuit and more than 10 before the South Dakota Supreme Court.

In 2019, Fulton was selected as the 14th Dean of the Knutson School of Law.

Leadership Panel Discussion



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While in Pierre

While you're in Pierre, stop by the historic capitol and take in one of our state's unique holiday traditions – Christmas at the Capitol. The tradition that began in 1981 with only 12 trees, has expanded to nearly 100 festively decorated trees that fill the capitol rotunda and three floors of historic hallways. The centerpiece of the display is the official South Dakota Christmas tree in the capitol rotunda, often a towering spruce carefully chosen from the Black Hills. The trees are decorated by cities, businesses, non-profit groups, and other civic organizations from across the state.



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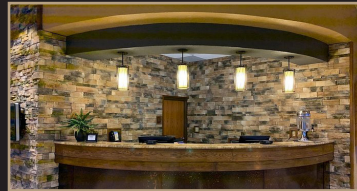
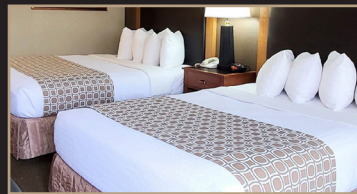
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Katie Mauch
 STAFF



Megan Sanders
 STAFF



Kristen Smith
 INTERN



Grace Sargent
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Taylee Stroup
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Making the Most of Membership

Jake Harms



The closer we get to the end of the year, the busier life seems. With all of the national and international issues facing our lives, it is sometimes hard to focus on the issues close to home. The presidential election, massive storms in the southeast, and unrest across the seas and around our borders - not to mention the division in the cattle industry - can sometimes make it feel like the issues close to home aren't a big deal.

I try to keep up on what is going on in the world, but it can seem daunting to even ponder the question, "what can we do?" That is why I am thankful for the members of SDCA. There are a large number of media outlets covering issues at the national and international level. However, it seems more difficult to find sources at the state level where you can find well researched information without a strong bias. The SDCA has policy on legislation and other industry issues that is formed by the members. We want to make sure our members understand the issues and how the organization's policy positions would affect them. Our membership has varying thoughts on each issue, and it is important for each of us to do our due diligence and consider all aspects of the issues as we create policy.

Included in our membership is the Cattle Guard, a weekly e-newsletter published by SDCA. In addition to the regular informative content in the newsletter, leading up to the elections and during the legislative session SDCA shares a breakdown of what the ballot initiatives, state legislation and amendments mean. With pivotal decisions impacting for our state's producers, being involved in associations that can make sure cattlemen and women's voices are heard. Together we can help steer our agriculturally driven state to work for us, rather than against us. As other states

around the country have seen anti-ag agendas grow, it is essential that we prevent those ideas and policies from taking root to protect our producers now and in the future. By standing together we can do that. If you know of neighbors or acquaintances who are not members but worry about the future of our state, encourage them to become a member of SDCA and quell those fears.

On top of working hard in the capital, SDCA has been busy exploring other avenues for funding and gaining more members. Between our volunteers at various events and Directors putting together regional round ups, we have had a successful year in putting our organization in front of more people. As the association continues to find opportunities to raise money and obtain more members we are also needing more volunteers. Taking time out of an evening or weekend is not easy, I completely understand. With four children, 6 and under, it can be a difficult task to just find time to get everything done around the house. Instead of seeing my time spent for SDCA as volunteer time, I choose to see it as an investment in my future and the potential future of my children, should they decide to shape their life around this industry.

As we go forward into this election season and legislative session, I urge you to take time to dissect the proposed legislation and see how it would affect you and your operation. SDCA is working hard to make sure the information is broken down with the facts. As you discuss these issues with others, encourage them to become members of SDCA if they aren't already so they can make their voices heard and take advantage of the other membership perks, including our new partnership with Neogen.



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Join SDCA and receive a FREE .5 gallon of Prozap® Protectus Pour-On! Treats up to 65 head of cattle at 1,000 pounds per animal!

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The Leave Your Mark Legacy Fund is a voluntary fundraising initiative to support specific SDCA programs and initiatives selected by the SDCA Board of Directors that will advance the interests of cattlemen across our state and ensuring the sustainability and growth of the organization. The SDCA Board of Directors has elected to earmark contributions to the Leave Your Mark Legacy Fund in fiscal year 2025 to support the creation and administration of the new South Dakota Cattlemen's Leadership Academy.

The SDCA launched the new South Dakota Cattlemen's Leadership Academy to strengthen our association and tackle the challenges ahead by identifying and developing future leaders within the beef industry. The South Dakota Cattlemen's Leadership Academy will empower emerging leaders with knowledge of the various sectors of cattle production and marketing, skills to communicate and advocate on behalf of producers, and the desire lead into the future. Enclosed is additional information about the Leadership Academy. Learn more and apply at sd cattlemen.org.

Contributions to the Leave Your Mark Legacy Fund are tax deductible, thanks to the partnership between the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and the South Dakota Cattlemen's Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Members who go above and beyond their membership dues to support the Leave Your Mark Legacy Fund will be recognized in an issue of The South Dakota Cattlemen magazine and on the SDCA website, or they may choose to give anonymously.

Thank you for considering a donation to the Leave Your Mark Legacy Fund. Together, we can continue to make a lasting impact on SDCA and the future of the beef industry.



Together, we can continue to make a lasting impact on the future of the beef industry.

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Farewell

I would like to thank the SDCA board for giving me the opportunity to serve as one of the Directors of the South Dakota Beef Industry Council (SDBIC). I have served for twelve years and in that time have served on the Executive, Budget, Promotion and Research Committees. My favorite was the Budget Committee, where I often created chaos by opposing any spending that, in my opinion, didn't get the best "bang for your buck." I didn't always win, but I always advocated for fiscal responsibility.

The greatest accomplishment during my time on the board is the success of the Build Your Base program. This is a home-grown program that was started five years ago to promote beef as a 'center of plate' protein for high school athletes. It has since expanded to all the universities in South Dakota, to numerous other states, and to Olympic athletes who have carried the message of the importance of proper nutrition to countries worldwide.

Lastly, I want to thank all the many wonderful people I had the privilege of getting to know while serving on the SDBIC. We didn't always agree, but we were never disagreeable.

Thank you and while my time is done on the SDBIC, I will never be done advocating for beef.

Todd Mortenson

SDBIC Upcoming Events/Activities

2024-2025 SD Jr Beef Ambassador Training + SDSU Tours

Nov 2, 2024 | Brookings, SD

SDBIC Board of Director Meeting

December 9, 2025 | Ft. Pierre, SD

South Dakota Cattlemen's Conference

December 10-11, 2025 | Pierre, SD

Black Hills Stock Show + Rodeo Rapid City

January 31 – February 8, 2025 | Rapid City, SD

- FFA Days Presentations – February 3, 2025
- Beefy Chili Cookoff – February 1, 2025
-

To learn more about SDBIC upcoming events and activities, visit sdbeef.org or SDBIC's Facebook page.



Meet Your SDBIC Chairman



Carl Sanders

Carl Sanders represents the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association on the South Dakota Beef Industry Council Board (SDBIC) and currently serves as the board Chairman. Carl, his wife Kari, and their three kids work together on their agricultural operation east of Oral, South Dakota. Megan is junior at South Dakota State University, Kyle is in his first year at Mitchell Tech, and Ray is a sophomore in high school. The Sanders run a cow/calf operation and raise irrigated corn and alfalfa, with water from Angostura Reservoir.

After college, Carl had the opportunity to lease a ranch that bordered his parents' place, where they had their own cows and ran some of the ranch owner's cows on shares. Over the years, they have purchased the share cows and United States Forest Service grasslands permit that went with the ranch, leased Carl's parents' grass and purchased their cows, and bought much of the ranch they had been leasing. In late October, they sell steers through private treaty right off the cow, selling to the same buyer for 23 of the last 24 years. When heifers are weaned, they turn them back out on cornstalks and alfalfa fields until December and will sort off replacement heifers and sell the balance privately or through a sale barn.

Q: What do you think is most the important thing about serving on the SDBIC?

A: "I became involved with the SDBIC four years ago, and Kari had been on the board a few years before that. I got involved as a way for me to give back to the beef industry and promote our great product. The more involved I became the more I understood the safeguards that go into the program. Your checkoff dollars are being spent wisely."

Q: What's something you wish everyone knew about the efforts of the Checkoff?

A: "Many producers do not understand how the funds can be used, or how the money can be allocated to contractors. SDBIC's board is made up of 24 members from eight organizations, each contributing their own strengths, knowledge, and interests. Each organization has three members, but only one vote. The eight organizations include: SD Beef Breeds, SD Stockgrowers, SD Farm Bureau, SD Cattlemen's Association, SD Farmers Union, SD Cattlemen's Auxiliary, SD Livestock Auction Markets, and the SD Cattlegirls. I wish producers would ask more questions about how the checkoff works and how their dollar is invested, and not rely on gossip they hear from around the local coffee shop. Get ahold of any SDBIC director and they will be glad to answer any of your questions."

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Taya Runyan

SDCA Executive Director

SDCA Working for You

It feels good in an echo chamber. When we surround ourselves with people who reinforce our views and avoid alternative ideas, it validates our opinions and brings us together. But there is danger in spending too much time, or all our time in an echo chamber. When confronted with big challenges or tough issues the easiest path forward is to surround ourselves with allies, and dig into our position, poised for a fight. The much harder path is to look deeper, seek out smart people who hold different opinions and be willing to listen and learn. This may reinforce your beliefs, make them stronger, more articulate, and prepare you to confidently discuss your position. This might also change your beliefs. Upon learning new information or hearing another perspective, you might find some shift in your opinion, or you may change your mind all together.

I believe that openness and intellectual curiosity is what makes the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association such a strong organization. These leaders step out of the echo chamber even when it's uncomfortable. They are willing to learn and embrace change, and rather than fight every step of the way when confronted with something new, they know when to pivot and find a path forward to success.

At the most recent SDCA Board of Director's meeting, each director took a few minutes to share with their fellow directors and staff what they were listening to, reading, and watching for news, entertainment, and professional development. What struck me most during this exercise about the leaders of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association was the diversity of those sources, and the purposeful seeking out of opinions from folks who shared different ideology and viewpoints.

As we tackle important issues in the industry, challenge yourself:

- Recognize when you are in an echo chamber and seek out a few sources you know will present a different perspective. There are media bias charts available online where you can find your favorite news sources and then explore others on the spectrum.
- Know that when you seek out unbiased news you, will find information you don't like.
- Ask yourself why you feel the way you do, how your background, values, experiences, etc. influence your opinion?
- Think about people you respect who hold opposing views and why they feel the way they do.
- Consider what facts or circumstances, if any, would make you change your mind?

SEPTEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The SDCA Board of Directors met September 19 in Pierre for their quarterly meeting. In addition to the regular business, the board approved the meeting dates for 2025. If you are interested in attending a board meeting or have business to bring before the board, please keep these dates in mind!

SDCA Board of Directors 2025 Meetings

Jan 29, 2025, Pierre

Jun 18, 2025, Pierre

Mar 19, 2025, Virtual

Sept 18, 2025, Pierre

Log in to the members page on the sd cattlemen.org website to view the meeting agendas and minutes.

CONVENTION

Convention is about a month away! We have two packed days that are focused on conservation and leadership, how what we do today as producers can influence our operations and the industry for generations to come. Please register early and reserve your hotel room at the Ramkota by November 10 to guarantee the convention room rate!

A new addition to the convention is the Cattlemen's Land & Legacy event. Following the conservation focused programming stay for the Merck Roping Contest (all ages and skill levels are welcome) and President's Auction!

Day two will explore leadership within the industry, local communities, and beyond. Our keynote and education series panel will discuss the importance of bringing your voice to these important roles. In addition to awards and member honors at the Cattlemen's banquet, we will introduce the inaugural class of the SDCA Leadership Academy. Finish out the event with live music from local SD talent Cody Hullinger.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Committee Chairs will be meeting in mid-November to review resolutions and prepare for convention. Each committee will host a zoom meeting to review sunseting resolutions any new resolutions assigned to the committee. We want to hear from YOU during this grassroots process! Please contact to the SDCA office or any of the committee chairs to be added to the pre-convention meeting invite. Also watch the Cattle Guard for more details and links to the meeting invites. Please consider attending one or all of them!

SDCA ELECTIONS

The SDCA board is comprised of two Region Director from each of the five regions. The Region Directors are elected for two-year terms, with one Director being elected on a rotating basis. Regional Directors can serve up to three terms.

Region Directors serve as the connection between the members in the local affiliates in their respective regions and the Board of Directors. Voting cards be mailed in early November and voting will open November 15!

TRACEABILITY RULE GOES INTO EFFECT NOV 5

The effective date of the updated USDA rule that required official identification to be both visually and electronically readable is here. USDA'S final rule only changes the type of ear tag that can be used, it does not change the class of animals that are required to be tagged. If you have questions on how to obtain EID tags or any other questions, please contact vssd@usda.gov or call 605-224-8168.

GETTING READY FOR SESSION

The 100th Legislative session kicks off January 14, 2025. The SDCA will be keeping track of legislation that impacts producers, and you can follow along with the online bill tracker at sdcattlemen.org. We will also send out weekly legislative e-updates about the bills we are working on and those we are following.



FIND OUR LEGISLATIVE TRACKER HERE!



Updates from Capitol Hill

Continuing Resolution

In a final series of votes before the fall recess, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) that will continue to fund the government through December 20, 2024. Although this is a stopgap measure and not a regular budget, APHIS will still have the authority to make EID tag purchases come the new fiscal year, even while operating under a CR. The CR also includes an extension of authority for the Livestock Mandatory Reporting program. The Lame Duck session of congress will begin on November 12, 2024.

Still No Farm Bill

On September 30, 2024, Congress's one year extension of the 2018 Farm Bill expired, leaving many programs authorized but

unfunded. The Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act added nearly \$18 billion in funding for farm bill conservation programs outside the farm bill, but only for certain programs deemed "climate-related". These programs are all at least partially funded with supplemental funding that doesn't have to be spent until fiscal year 2031, including the Conservation Stewardship Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP, other than livestock projects), the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

While it is safe to assume congress will not be passing a new Farm Bill this year, efforts will continue after the election to secure a new Farm Bill as soon as possible.

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SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Collegiate Cattlemen

Collegiate Cattlemen's Club has started off the school year strong. In September they hosted their first meeting of the semester with 130 students in attendance enjoying brisket sandwiches and hearing from guest speaker Craig Bieber. They also had the opportunity to learn about membership in South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and National Cattlemen's Beef Association and what internships and scholarships were available.

Outside of general meetings, the club's executive team has also participated in recruitment events such as the Student Engagement Expo and the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) Ice Cream Social. They were able to connect with students on a more personal level to learn about their agriculture backgrounds and share how they could benefit from joining a beef cattle-focused extracurricular. Between these two events over 100 students signed up to join the email list to get more information about the club and general meeting dates.

Another program the club has initiated on campus is 'Ag in the Classroom.' The idea for the series was created by CCC's president, Megan Sanders, in order to better connect the agriculture clubs at SDSU with elementary classrooms in Brookings.

"The series was created to give elementary-age students a hands-on learning experience over various sectors of the ag industry," Sanders said. "It's off to a great start and we're planning to continue these visits in order to spark greater ag learning in these second-grade classrooms."

Sanders has coordinated with the presidents of various CAFES clubs to sign up to facilitate a different ag-focused workshop each month. In the month of September, dairy club hosted an activity for the students to make ice cream in a bag and learn about dairy manufacturing. In October, the pre-veterinary club will be teaching about the role of veterinarians in the agriculture industry with BINGO, a bandaging demonstration and finding a foreign body activity.





Policy Chair's Announcement

Eric Jennings
Vice Chair
Ag & Food Policy

Eric Jennings has been appointed as Vice Chair of the Ag and Food Policy Committee for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Eric will work with Committee Chair Jeff Schafer of North Dakota to lead the committee that addresses general ag policy, federal farm programs, disaster relief, nutrition & health, and more. Congratulations Eric!



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CLASSIC BEEF TENDERLOIN ROAST WITH CRANBERRY DRIZZLE

Beef Tenderloin Roast served with Brussels sprouts and a tangy cranberry sauce. This *Beef. It's What's For Dinner.* recipe is certified by the American Heart Association®.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 beef Tenderloin Roast Center-Cut (2 to 3 pounds)
- 1 pound yellow onions, peeled, cut into wedges
- 2-2 pounds Brussels sprouts, trimmed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1-4 teaspoons salt, divided
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme leaves
- 1 tablespoon pepper

Sauce

- 3 cup balsamic vinegar
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped shallots
- 1 can (16 ounces) whole berry cranberry sauce

COOKING:

1. Heat oven to 425°F. Combine onions, Brussels sprouts, oil and 1 teaspoon salt on metal baking pan; toss to coat. Set aside.

Cook's Tip: Peeled Cipollini or pearl onions may be substituted for yellow onions and omit cutting into wedges. Cipollini onions look and taste like small, flat onions but are actually bulbs of the grape hyacinth. Sometimes referred to as wild onions, they can often be found in the produce department of large supermarkets. To easily peel, place in boiling water 10 to 15 seconds. Remove from water and immediately place in a bowl of ice water. Drain and peel skin.

2. Combine thyme and pepper in small bowl. Reserve 1 teaspoon thyme mixture for sauce; set aside. Press remaining thyme mixture evenly onto all surfaces of beef Tenderloin Roast.
3. Place roast on rack in shallow roasting pan. Insert ovenproof-meat thermometer so tip is centered in thickest part of beef. Do not add water or cover. Place prepared vegetables in oven with roast. Roast beef in 425°F oven 35 to 45 minutes for medium rare; 45 to 50 minutes for medium doneness. Roast vegetables 45 to 50 minutes or until tender and lightly browned.

Sauce

1. Meanwhile, prepare sauce. Combine vinegar and shallots in small saucepan; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 3 minutes. Stir in cranberry sauce; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 6 minutes to blend flavors, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat; stir in reserved 1 teaspoon thyme mixture and remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt. Keep warm.
2. Remove roast when meat thermometer registers 135°F for medium rare; 145°F for medium. Transfer roast to carving board; tent loosely with aluminum foil. Let stand 15 to 20 minutes. (Temperature will continue to rise about 10° to 15°F to reach 145°F for medium rare; 160°F for medium.)
3. Carve roast into slices; serve with vegetables and sauce.

Nutrition information per serving, 3 oz serving: 286 Calories; 711 Calories from fat; 79g Total Fat (2.8 g Saturated Fat; 0.34 g Trans Fat; 0.8 g Polyunsaturated Fat; 3.6 g Monounsaturated Fat) 71 mg Cholesterol; 319 mg Sodium; 29.3 g Total Carbohydrate; 5 g Dietary Fiber; 27.5 g Protein; 4.4 mg Iron; 754.8 mg Potassium; 5.5 mg NE Niacin; 0.9 mg Vitamin B₆; 3.5 mcg Vitamin B₁₂; 4.1 mg Zinc; 23.1 mcg Selenium; 81.9 mg Choline.

This recipe is an excellent source of Protein, Niacin, Vitamin B12, Zinc, and Selenium; and a good source of Dietary Fiber, Iron, Vitamin B6, and Choline.



1 HR
45 MIN



12
SERVINGS



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HOW MANY?



Key found on page 32.





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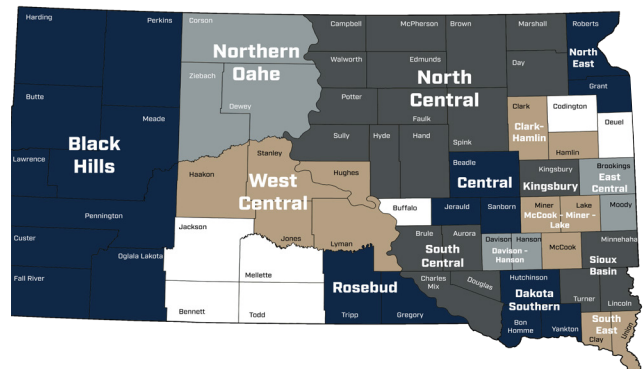
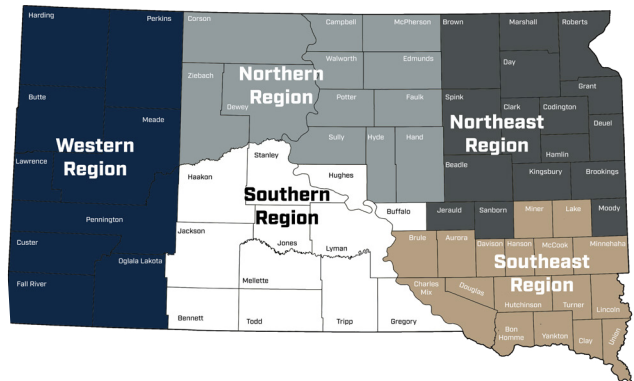
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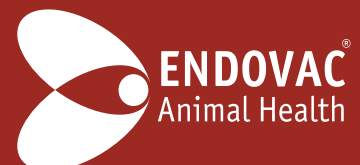
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–JW Henson,
Hillview Farms



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