



## Leadership and Solutions from Your NCBA

January, 2011 edition

*NCBA's Government Affairs Team continues to work hard each and every day to give producers like you a strong voice on Capitol Hill. Below are just a few examples of how NCBA positively influenced the legislative and regulatory climate for cattle producers over the past month:*

### **Estate Tax Reform Victory for US Cattle Producers**

The U.S. House of Representatives voted in favor of extending all expiring tax cuts at midnight on Dec. 17, 2010, with a vote of 277 to 148. This passage is subsequent to the Senate's 81-19 vote on Dec. 15, 2010. Once the President signs the bill into law, it will reduce the top rate of the estate tax, commonly known as the death tax, to 35 percent; increase the exemption level to \$5 million; index exemptions to inflation; and include a stepped-up basis. The estate tax reform was among NCBA's top policy priorities for 2010. In fact, NCBA has had estate tax reform as a top priority for more than two decades. In 1988, NCBA, which was then the National Cattlemen's Association, along with the National Federation of Independent Business joined forces to create the Family Business Estate Tax Coalition. The group is now comprised of more than 60 entities ranging from the Air Conditioning Contractors of America to the American Farm Bureau Federation to the National Newspaper Association. The Coalition, formed by NCBA, is a well respected advocate and united front for small business owners, including farmers and ranchers.

### **NCBA Speaks Up for Cattle Producers Financially Harmed by Eastern Bankruptcy**

As the largest and oldest national trade association representing U.S. cattle producers, your NCBA is committed to representing and protecting the interests of cattle producers across the country. That is why, on Dec. 22, 2010, NCBA sent letters to USDA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) seeking financial assistance for cattle producers affected by the bankruptcy of Eastern Livestock Company, LLC (Eastern). On or around Nov. 3, 2010, Eastern, a company based in New Albany, Ind., that bought and sold cattle in 11 states across the Mid-South, Midwest, and West, began issuing unfunded checks to cattle producers and livestock market operators. According to USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), Eastern owes more than \$130 million to 743 sellers in 30 states. Specifically, NCBA requested USDA provide emergency access to short-term, low interest and/or government-backed loan programs. Additionally, NCBA requested a list of SBA loan programs that may help producers finance their family farms and market operations.

### **Consumers and Producers to Benefit from Mandatory Nutrition Labeling**

The final rule published in the Federal Register on Dec. 29, 2010, titled "Nutrition Labeling of Single-Ingredient Products or Chopped Meat and Poultry Products" was a win for U.S. cattle producers. NCBA supports nutrition labeling on beef products and is pleased to see USDA moving forward with this effort. According to comments submitted by NCBA, cattle producers support the inclusion of all nutrients found in beef being included on the label. NCBA believes this information is helpful in educating the public on the important contribution beef makes to a healthy diet. NCBA would have preferred that USDA would have granted our request for an 18-24 month implementation period. NCBA will continue its longstanding history of working with retailers, consumers and USDA on the implementation of the rule. Additionally, we are hopeful USDA will work with industry to find the least disruptive and most cost effective way to implement the rule.

*As the largest association of cattle producers, NCBA works to create new markets and increase demand for beef. Efforts are made possible through membership contributions. To join, contact NCBA at 866 BEEF-USA or [membership@beef.org](mailto:membership@beef.org). To contact Congress on these and other issues important to U.S. cattle producers, visit <http://capwiz.com/beefusa>.*