



Beef Business

► A look at current events affecting the cattle industry

AngusSource PVP status renewed

AngusSource,® the American Angus Association Process Verified Program (PVP), was renewed May 1 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for one year.

The program, which qualifies Angus genetic-, age- and source-verified cattle, continues to show steady growth. March 2008 was the top enrollment month, qualifying 14,107 head for AngusSource and charting a 21.7% year-to-date increase in cattle enrolled.

Producers who enroll in AngusSource have the opportunity to customize their verification certificates and add additional health and management information. Cattle are then advertised via the online cattle listing site and weekly e-mails that are received by more than 600 buyers interested in AngusSource calves. To date there has been a 17.4% increase in the number of cattle advertised at www.angussource.com/listings.html.

The scope of the AngusSource PVP expanded in 2007 to include a feedyard umbrella. Working mainly with farmer

feeders, AngusSource has been able to assist producers in receiving premiums of up to \$40 per head.

For more information about AngusSource, visit www.angussource.com, call 816-383-5100 or e-mail angusource@angus.org.

Humane Society releases more videos

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) released another undercover video early May, with footage of several neglected “downer” cows at livestock auctions in four states. According to HSUS, the videos were taken during April and May at auctions in Maryland, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Texas.

Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer said the HSUS notified him of their investigation into the mistreatment of farm animals transported to livestock auctions and stockyards. The dairy cattle shown in the video were non-ambulatory and were abandoned in the parking lots of these auctions and yards. “These animals were not in slaughter facilities. However, even though this is not a food safety issue, these actions of

animal cruelty are not acceptable,” Schafer said.

Schafer said the USDA plans to work with federal, state and local authorities, and industry groups to help resolve the issue.

AVMA releases animal welfare brochure

Amidst animal welfare violations, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has released a new brochure describing its philosophy regarding animal welfare.

The brochure, titled “Animal welfare: Seeing the forest and the trees,” is geared primarily for veterinary students and is available at www.avma.org/issues. It states that science and ethics should be the basis of decisions about animal welfare as well as a whole-system approach and careful consideration of the consequences of decisions.

The brochure encourages veterinary students to seek out additional information about animal welfare from sources such as the AVMA web site, serve on organization entities, and participate in the Intercollegiate Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Competition.

Russia allows for importation of U.S. livestock

USDA announced May 8 that the United States will begin exporting breeding cattle; bovine embryos; breeding, fattening and slaughter swine; and breeding and sport horses to Russia. Russia will accept cattle born on or after implementation of the United States’ 1997 ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban.

Russia is turning to the world market to import livestock and genetics to restore its livestock herd, which has been declining during the last 15 years, according to USDA.

MN governor signs TB bill

A plan to eradicate bovine tuberculosis (TB) from Minnesota cattle is now law, according to *The Associated Press* (AP).

Gov. Tim Pawlenty signed the \$6.2 million bill May 5, saying the disease threatens the state’s livestock industry. The plan includes paying ranchers to depopulate their herds and putting up fences to keep deer from spreading the disease.

Washington Watch

Farm Bill debuts amid likely veto

The Farm Bill Conference Committee, consisting of members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, debuted its version of the Farm Bill May 8, allocating \$300 billion toward the legislation.

U.S. cattle on feed up slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for harvest in the United States for feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.7 million head April 1, 2008. The inventory was slightly above April 1, 2007, figures but 1% below April 1, 2006, figures. This is the second-highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.74 million, 11% below 2007 figures and 5% below 2006 figures. Net placements were 1.67 million head. This is the second-lowest placement for the month of March since the series began in 1996.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.84 million, slightly below 2007 figures, and 6% below 2006 figures. Other disappearance totaled 63,000 head during March, 12% below 2007 figures and 30% below 2006 figures.

Table 1: No. of cattle on feed, placements, marketings and other disappearance, 1,000+-head-capacity U.S. feedlots, April 1, 2006-2008

	No. of head (1,000 head)			2008 as % of	
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007
On feed March 1 ^a	12,023	11,599	11,853	99	102
Placed on feed during March	1,837	1,960	1,736	95	89
Fed cattle marketed during March	1,958	1,843	1,842	94	100
Other disappearance during March ^b	90	72	63	70	88
On feed April 1	11,812	11,644	11,684	99	100

^aCattle and calves on feed are animals for harvest being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade USDA Select or better.

^bIncludes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service.

At press time, the bill was scheduled for floor votes from both the House and Senate; however, the legislation seemed doomed from the beginning with the threat of an impending veto by President Bush.

Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer also expressed his displeasure with the proposal, saying the President will veto the bill since it fails to include much-needed reform and increases spending by almost \$20 billion.

Schafer said the legislation "lacks meaningful farm program reform and expands the size and scope of government."

Of the House and Senate Farm Bill version, 73% would go to nutrition programs; 16% toward commodity programs, crop insurance and disaster programs; and 7% would go toward conservation programs, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) reported.

According to NCBA, conservation programs received additional funding, with a total of \$4.4 billion dedicated to the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The Wetlands Reserve Program would also get an additional \$1.3 million.

The committee put an adjusted gross income cap on who could receive conservation funding, drawing the line at those who make \$1 million who are not considered farmers. For those who derive at least two-thirds of their income from farming activities, there is no conservation program income cap.

The commodity programs, however, feature an income cap for all commodity payments of \$500,000 for non-farmers and \$750,000 for farmers.

NCBA reports that the energy title boasts a blenders' credit for ethanol, set at 45¢ per gallon, and additional energy funds include cellulose and other biomass energy development. The 54¢-per-gallon tariff on imported ethanol was extended for another two years.

Industry Events

35th Annual 4-H Roping School **June 15-19, Stephenville, Texas**

The 35th annual Texas 4-H Calf Roping and Break-A-Way School will take place at the Tarleton State University Equine Arena in Stephenville.

The statewide event is open to boys and girls ages 12 and older, and applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participants should arrive before 2 p.m., June 15, and finish by noon June 19. Individual registration is \$350 for the week. The fee includes group insurance, meals,

lodging, stall rent for one horse and practice calves. All students will be housed in the Tarleton State University dormitories. A \$50 deposit will reserve a place. For more information, contact the AgriLife Extension office in Brown County at 325-646-0386 or e-mail Scott Anderson, Brown County Texas AgriLife Extension Service agent, at sa-anderson@tamu.edu. Applications are available at <http://brown-tx.tamu.edu>.

World Livestock Auctioneer Championship

June 28, Worthing, S.D.

Competitive livestock marketing at its best will be on display June 28 at the Sioux Falls Regional Livestock market in Worthing, S.D. Thirty-three of North America's best livestock auctioneers will compete for the title of World Livestock Auctioneer Champion during the 45th annual World Livestock Auctioneer Championship (WLAC).

The contest starts at 8 a.m. and is open to the public. Prior to selling cattle at the Saturday contest, the 33 semi-finalists are interviewed by a panel of Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) members on industry issues and topics. This interview will count for 10% of the semi-finalist's score.

Saturday morning, the semi-finalists will each sell several drafts of cattle. The 10 top scorers then return for a final round of selling. The three titlists — world, reserve and runner-up champion — are announced at an awards banquet the evening of June 28.

2008 BIF meeting **June 30-July 3, Calgary, Alta., Canada**

The 2008 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Research Symposium and Annual Meeting will take place at the Hyatt Regency in Calgary, Alta., Canada.

The event is expected to attract more than 500 seedstock and commercial producers, feedlot operators, academia, industry experts and beef industry service providers. Symposium topics will include the most current genetic improvement research and innovation dedicated toward advancements in beef production.

Angus Productions Inc. (API) will once again host online coverage of this popular industry event at www.bifconference.com. Symposium and tour schedules, accommodations and travel information, and archived coverage will be available in the weeks preceding the event. During and following the symposium, proceedings, audio, photos, synopses of presentations, and committee coverage will also be available.

A tentative schedule and registration information is now available by clicking on the BIF meeting link at www.canadianbeefbreeds.com.

2008 National Junior Angus Show **July 13-19, Des Moines, Iowa**

Angus enthusiasts across the nation won't want to miss the 2008 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) July 13-19 in Des Moines, Iowa. The Iowa Angus and Iowa Junior Angus associations will host "Christmas in July" at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. The weeklong event features the largest single-breed beef cattle show in the world, with more than 1,000 head of cattle exhibited by youth ages 9-21 years old — all members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

Youth will compete for top prizes in several divisions within the cattle show, including bred-and-owned heifers, bulls and cow-calf pairs; and owned heifers, cow-calf pairs and steers. Youth also have the opportunity to enter steers in a carcass contest.

In addition to the cattle show, numerous educational competitions, a showmanship clinic and mentoring program take place during the week. Six members also will be elected to the NJAA Board of Directors at the annual meeting.

For more information about the 2008 NJAS or junior Angus programs, including overviews of the contests, visit www.njas.info or contact the Junior Activities Department at 816-383-5100.

2008 LEAD Conference **Aug. 1-4, Billings, Mont.**

The annual NJAA Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference is set for Aug. 1-4 in Billings, Mont.

All juniors 14 to 21 years old are encouraged to attend this year's conference, themed "Take it to the Top." Juniors will have the opportunity to make new Angus friends, learn about current beef industry issues and tour agricultural and historical sites in "Big Sky Country." In addition, the NJAA Board will present interactive workshops that explore the beef industry as well as personal development topics. Tour stops will include prominent auction yards, bull studs, ranches and a rafting trip.

Conference space is limited to 200 participants, so reserve your spot soon. Early registration for juniors, advisors and parents is \$175 and due June 15. After this deadline, the rate increases to \$200, if space is still available. Registration and release forms are available in the green NJAA information packets that were mailed to all junior members earlier this year and on the NJAA web site.

For more information about LEAD, visit www.njaa.info or contact the Junior Activities Department at 816-383-5100.

