



# Beef Business

► A look at current events affecting the cattle industry

## Manhattan selected for DHS facility

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released its final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) Dec. 5, recommending Manhattan, Kan., as the preferred site for the state-of-the-art, high-security laboratory facility to study foreign animal and zoonotic (transferable from animal to human) diseases that can affect livestock.

While a formal Record of Decision will officially designate a site this month, officials are expected to follow the Manhattan recommendation. The facility design is set to begin in 2009, with plans for construction to begin in 2010. It is expected that the NBAF would be operational by 2015.

The NBAF will replace the current facilities at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) off the New York coastline. (To learn more read "Plum Island" or "Tug of War Over Animal Disease Research" available at [www.angusjournal.com](http://www.angusjournal.com)).

Further details on the proposed NBAF and the site-selection process are available at [www.dhs.gov/nbaf](http://www.dhs.gov/nbaf).

## MN discovers TB-positive cows

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health

announced Dec. 4 that three mature cows sent to harvest from a buyout herd in Beltrami County tested positive for bovine tuberculosis (TB). The herd is located in the state's Modified Accredited Zone, within the Management Zone. This finding will not result in a downgrade of status for this area or the state.

For more information on TB, visit [www.mntbfree.com](http://www.mntbfree.com).

## TB identified in Indiana

The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) announced Dec. 2 it is investigating a case of bovine TB in a beef cattle herd in southeastern Indiana. The TB-positive cow was identified through routine testing at a meat-processing facility in Pennsylvania.

Indiana's bovine TB-free status will remain under federal guidelines. The last time an Indiana herd tested positive for the disease was in the 1970s.

## Industry Events



### Farm transition workshops Jan. 2009, Kansas

To help families develop a plan to suit their operation, Kansas State University

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(K-State) Research and Extension and the K-State Farm Analyst Program will again host "Keeping the Family Farming" workshops. Meetings will take place in three locations, with a maximum of 20 to 25 families in each location.

The cost for the two-day session is \$300 per family of four, plus \$75 for each additional participant. The fee includes all materials, two lunches and one evening meal.

A list of specific locations and more information can be found at <http://agmanager.info> (click on Upcoming Events) or by contacting Lavell Winsor at 785-313-4974 or [lwinsor@ksu.edu](mailto:lwinsor@ksu.edu).

## 4-State Beef Conference

Jan. 14-15; Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri

K-State will team with Iowa State University (ISU), the University of Nebraska (NU) and the University of Missouri (MU) to present the 25th Annual 4-State Beef Conference.

The conference, which is designed to give beef cattle producers in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska an annual update on current cow-calf and stocker topics, will take place in four different locations, one in each state, so cattle producers can attend the location most convenient for them. The program will be the same at each location.

The registration fee is \$25 per person, and reservations are requested by Jan. 9, 2009. The fee includes a meal and a copy of the conference proceedings. To view specific locations or make reservations, contact any local county Extension office or visit [www.extension.iastate.edu/feci/4StBeef/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/feci/4StBeef/).

## 2009 Cattle Industry Annual Convention

Jan. 28-31, Phoenix, Ariz.

This year's Cattle Industry Annual Convention will be Jan. 28-31 in Phoenix, Ariz., at the Convention Center. The meeting will feature joint and individual meetings by five industry organizations, including NCBA, CBB, American National CattleWomen Inc. (ANCW), Cattle-Fax and the National Cattlemen's Foundation (NCF).

Visit [www.beefusa.org](http://www.beefusa.org) for additional details and schedule updates as they become available. If you have questions, call the NCBA Convention & Meetings Department at 303-694-0305.

For API coverage of the event, visit [www.4cattlemen.com](http://www.4cattlemen.com).

## U.S. cattle on feed down 7%

Cattle and calves on feed for harvest in the United States for feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.0 million head Nov. 1, 2008. The inventory was 7% below Nov. 1, 2007, figures and 8% below Nov. 1, 2006, figures.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.44 million head, 11% below 2007 figures but slightly above 2006 figures. Net placements were 2.37 million head.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.81 million head, 3% below 2007 figures but 3% above 2006 figures.

Other disappearance totaled 67,000 head during October, 43% above 2007 figures but 17% below 2006 figures.

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

	No. of head (1,000 head)			2008 as % of	
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007
On feed Oct. 1 <sup>a</sup>	11,385	10,967	10,415	91	95
Placed on feed during Oct.	2,430	2,725	2,438	100	89
Fed cattle marketed during Oct.	1,765	1,876	1,814	103	97
Other disappearance during Oct. <sup>b</sup>	81	47	67	83	143
On feed Nov. 1	11,969	11,769	10,972	92	93

<sup>a</sup>Cattle 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.

<sup>b</sup>Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service.