



Beef Business

►A look at current events affecting the cattle industry

TB discovered in Nebraska herd

According to Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) State Veterinarian Dennis Hughes, NDA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinarians discovered a herd of beef cattle in the Rock County area in early June that tested positive for bovine tuberculosis (TB).

The herd, which is under quarantine, is undergoing herd testing and an epidemiological investigation. Further information on TB can be found at www.agr.ne.gov under the Bureau of Animal Industry link.

ACRE deadline extended

Among the major U.S. field crop commodities, wheat is the crop most likely to benefit from the extension to enroll in the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) farm support program introduced in the 2008 Farm Bill, according to an Ohio State University (OSU) specialist.

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has extended the sign-up deadline from June 1 to Aug. 14 to give farmers more time to review details of ACRE.

FCC releases preliminary strategy for rural broadband

The Acting Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Michael Copps released a report May 27 titled "Bringing Broadband to Rural America: Report on a Rural Broadband Strategy." The report identifies common problems affecting rural broadband and offers some recommendations to address those problems. It can be found at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/ruralbroadband>.

Oregon firm recalls ground beef

SP Provisions, a Portland, Ore., establishment recalled approximately 39,973 pounds (lb.) of ground beef products that were potentially contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7, the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced June 2.

The recalled products were produced on various dates from April 8 through May 28, and were distributed to retail establishments as well as hotels, restaurants and institutions in Oregon and Washington.

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Grants available for safety improvements

Successful Farming® magazine and Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (FS4JK) are again providing Farm Family Grants to 10 individuals. The program gives rural residents up to \$250 to make safety improvements to their family farms or host safety programs in their communities.

To apply for a Farm Family Grant, submit a one-page request describing how you will use the money to make safety improvements to your farm, how others will benefit from your project, and an estimated budget to FS4JK by Sept. 1. Applications can be sent to Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, 11304 Aurora Ave., Urbandale, Iowa 50322 or e-mailed to Shari@fs4jk.org.

Jobless rate hits 9.4% in May

The unemployment rate rose yet again in May, settling at 9.4%, according to an article in *The Washington Post*.

Labor Department statistics show 345,000 jobs were lost in May; however, economists were expecting losses in the near 525,000 jobs. May's job loss rate is the smallest rate of job loss since September, according to the article. "It is the strongest evidence yet that the economy's downdraft of the winter has given way to a more steady, measured decline," wrote Neil Irwin, *Washington Post* staff writer.

Wendy's announces policy on cage-free eggs

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) released a statement May 22 announcing that, "After lengthy discussions with The Humane Society of the United States, Wendy's announced today that it is starting to use cage-free eggs."

Now, the chain is using a minimum of 2% cage-free eggs, HSUS reported.

At press time, the organization appeared

U.S. cattle on feed down 3%

Cattle and calves on feed for harvest in the United States for feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.8 million head May 1, 2009. The inventory was 3% below May 1, 2008, figures.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.60 million head, 4% above 2008. Net placements were 1.53 million head.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.87 million head, 7% below 2008 figures.

Other disappearance totaled 69,000 head during April, 8% below 2008 figures. This is the second-lowest other disappearance for the month of April since the series began in 1996.

Table 1: No. of cattle on feed, placements, marketings and other disappearance, 1,000+-head-capacity U.S. feedlots, May 1, 2008-2009

	No. of head (1,000 head)		2009 as % of
	2008	2009	2008
On feed April 1 ^a	11,684	11,162*	96
Placed on feed during April	1,536	1,600	104
Fed cattle marketed during April	2,010	1,871	93
Other disappearance during April ^b	75	69	92
On feed May 1	11,135	10,822	97

^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.

^bDecember of the preceding year.

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

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 102

to have its sights set on McDonald's. According to HSUS, a representative was set to urge shareholders at McDonald's annual meeting to approve a resolution adopting the switch to "cage-free" eggs.

Claire Danes to play Temple Grandin in film

According to Colorado State University (CSU), Claire Danes will play Temple Grandin, CSU animal sciences professor in an upcoming HBO film.

Filmed mostly during summer 2008, the film is currently in post-production and is scheduled for release sometime in 2010. According to *Drovers*, the film focuses on the

autistic professor's life and experiences in the 1960s and 1970s.

Industry Events

K-State Beef Conference **Aug. 13, Manhattan, Kan.**

"Making Money in Hard Times" is the theme for this year's K-State Beef Conference, planned for Thursday, Aug. 13, at the Frick Auditorium in Kansas State University's (K-State's) College of Veterinary Medicine.

The conference is especially geared for

cow-calf producers and designed to provide take-home knowledge to enhance profitability.

More information and registration forms are available at www.asi.ksu.edu/beefconference or by contacting Linda Siebold at 785-532-1281 or lsiebold@ksu.edu.

Virginia Angus Ass'n tour **Aug. 23-25, Virginia**

The Virginia Angus Association will host a "Presidential Angus Tour" at Angus farms in northern and central Virginia as well as stops at two presidential homes — Monticello and Montpelier.

Registration for the Presidential Angus

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Tour is \$80 per person before July 20 and \$130 per person after. The final registration deadline is Aug. 12.

All participants are encouraged to come in a day early and attend the 2009 Virginia Cattlemen's Field Day.

For more information about the Presidential Angus Tour, visit www.vaangus.org or call the Virginia Angus Association office at 540-337-3001.



ID Info Expo
Aug. 25-27, Kansas City, Mo.

Now in its eighth year, the ID Info Expo will take place at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City. According to organizers, the expo provides a forum in which livestock stakeholders can discuss issues surrounding the implementation of the U.S. national animal identification (ID) system.

Sponsored by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA), the event will

center on the theme "The ID Mandate: Meeting Consumer and Government Demands" and will include presentations, discussion sessions and a tradeshow. Individuals who register prior to July 17 receive a discount.

Complete conference information and online registration is available at www.animalagriculture.org.

