

Stay Informed

Industry leaders encourage producers to stay informed and involved in the beef industry

“There is a lot of education, a lot of fellowship, a lot of fun, a lot of entertainment, a lot of inspiration and a lot of policy-making at this convention, and I thank you for your input,” said Scott George, president of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) as he welcomed attendees to the first general session of the 2014 Cattle Industry Convention.

The past year has been a journey, Scott said, noting the third-longest government shutdown in U.S. history, Farm Bill detours and NCBA’s opposition due to mandatory country-of-origin labeling (mCOOL), and reauthorization of the Animal Drug User Fee Act.

Additionally, he mentioned the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) upgraded the United States’ bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) status to negligible, the highest available. This adds to already growing global beef export markets. He added that continued work with the Five Nations Beef Alliance, which includes the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Mexico, is continuing its work to



PHOTOS BY KASEY BROWN

► National Cattlemen’s Beef Association members elected Bob McCan, Texas, as their president.

eliminate trade barriers.

Weldon Wynn, chairman of the Cattlemen’s Beef Board (CBB), said he is honored to represent the cattle industry’s “self-help program,” the beef checkoff. He

advised cattlemen to stay informed and get the word out on the benefits of the checkoff. There is plenty of misinformation about it, Wynn noted, and it is up to everyone to correct those errors.

Moms, millennials and more

ANCW explains why moms and millennials are target audience of new advocacy program.

Millennials account for about 25% of the U.S. population, so it is imperative to reach them as potential beef consumers, says Sarah Bohnenkamp, executive director of the American National CattleWomen Inc. (ANCW). Woman-to-woman conversations are powerful, and there are more than 80 million millennials in the United States.

Bohnenkamp noted that the older millennials have young families and spending power. They like beef, but have concerns. They are health-conscious, and this gives ANCW an opportunity to influence mothers of the “nugget generation.”

A new checkoff-funded program for which ANCW will manage each tactic is the Moms, Millennials and More (M3) program. It aims to inform and persuade millennials, many of whom are moms, to consume beef more often. The goal will be accomplished through many avenues, including retail and metro shows, Moms’ Day on the Farm events, campus events and social media advocacy. Additionally, youth-development programs to help achieve the overall goal include the National Beef Ambassadors Program, consumer youth education, collegiate CattleWomen programs and junior CattleWomen programs.

Bohnenkamp urged members to fill out the feedback form on the ANCW M3 feedback form on www.ancw.org, because more action will be taken soon from the ideas generated from the forms.

In all aspects of the program, good advocacy skills are needed, Bohnenkamp said. She recommended that all members become

Masters of Beef Advocacy, which is a free and self-paced program on www.beef.org.

Sherry Hill, Cook-Off program director, said, “You are viewed as consumers’ connection to all things beef, good or bad. You must engage, listen, share appropriate information and make a positive impression.”

She shared some social persuasion research, and while some of the results may seem like common sense, they are still important to realize. To persuade, it is just as important what you say as how you say it. Messages from credible sources are more persuasive, as are those that connect to the audience. Persuasion is influenced by price, message framing and sequencing, and the environment affects the extent to which the message is received.

“When making claims, the optimal number of claims is three,” Hill emphasized. Having a moderate amount of claims, ideally three, reduces skepticism vs. an overload like 10 claims.

To optimize interactions with consumers, Hill explained a few tactics. Ask the consumers questions, and then paraphrase and empathize when emotions are high. Keep your message simple, and watch your body language. Share simple resources.

She suggested sharing three resources with consumers: www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com, www.beefnutrition.org, and www.factsaboutbeef.com.

— by Kasey Brown, associate editor

The CBB completed cutting-edge research on beef cuts, beef safety and quality assurance, and issues management to address misinformation about the beef industry. Due to consumer research, Wynn explained that all marketing efforts will shift to digital marketing to expand the reach and access the millennial generation (see “Moms, millennials and more”).

“Change can be scary, but I have faith in our market research to guide us in the right direction” he asserted.

The Federation celebrated its 50-year anniversary in 2013, and its grass-roots direction helps strengthen beef demand, he said.

Barbara Jackson, president of the American National CattleWomen Inc. (ANCW), highlighted the organization’s committee restructure to put more focus into beef promotion, youth development and legislation. She emphasized that the ANCW promotes synergy with other industry organizations.

“To promote beef to some degree of success, we must work together,” she said.

A record-setting number of more than 8,200 cattlemen attended the industry’s convention. This year’s convention participants heard from industry leaders, gathered insight on industry trends, met with their fellow cattlemen, and enjoyed a night at the Grand Ole Opry in the heart of Nashville.

Officers elected

A new team of officers was elected for each organization at the end of the 2014 Cattle Industry Convention.

American National CattleWomen

The new ANCW officer team includes Patti Buck, Colorado, president; Melanie Fowle, California, president-elect; Ann Nogan, Pennsylvania, vice president; Jo Stanko, Colorado, recording secretary; and Barbara Jackson, Arizona, past president.

Completing the 2014 Executive Committee are: Region I director, to be determined; Region II director, Michelle Boyles, North Carolina; Region III director, Penny Zimmerman, Minnesota; Region IV director, Desta Crawford, Texas; Region V director, Jeannie Kiehn, Washington; Region VI director, Suzanne Menges, Arizona; Region VII director, Judy Reece, Nebraska; chairwoman of the board, Evelyn Brown, Alabama; and parliamentarian, Susie Magnuson, Colorado.

Cattlemen’s Beef Board

The CBB elected Kim Brackett, Idaho,

CBB chairman; Jimmy Maxey, California, vice chairman; and Anne Anderson, Texas, secretary-treasure.

The 11-member CBB Executive Committee includes Maxey, chairman of the Executive Committee; Brackett; Anderson; Dean Black, Iowa; Laurie Bryant, an importer; Barbara Jackson, Arizona; Mike McCormick, Mississippi; Brett Morris, Oklahoma; Laurie Munns, Utah; Kent Pruismann, Iowa; and Gary Sharp, South Dakota.

The Executive Committee is responsible for carrying out CBB policies and conducting business, and for making decisions necessary to administer the terms and provisions of the Act and Order between meetings of the full board.

The Beef Promotion Operating Committee (BPOC) was created by the Beef Promotion Research Act to help coordinate state and national Beef Checkoff Programs. The 20-person committee includes 10 members appointed from the Federation of State Beef Councils.

CBB members elected to the 2014 Beef Promotion Operating Committee include Brackett; Maxey; Anderson; Marty Andersen, Wisconsin; Sarah Childs, Florida; Dave Edmiston, Texas; Linda Gilbert, South Dakota; Ted Greidanus, California; Brittany Howell, Kansas; and Hank Maxey, Virginia.

Federation of State Beef Councils

The Federation of State Beef Councils, a contractor to the Beef Checkoff Program and national home of state beef councils, is a division of the NCBA. Cevin Jones, a cattle feeder from Eden, Idaho, was elected chair

of the Federation of State Beef Councils. Elected vice chair was Jennifer Houston of Sweetwater, Tenn.

As chair of the Federation, Jones will serve as vice chair of the BPOC, which recommends beef checkoff projects funded at the national level. Houston will also serve on that committee. Approval of BPOC-recommended projects and budgets is required by the CBB and the USDA.

In addition to Jones and Houston, other Federation members of the BPOC for 2014 are Austin Brown III, Texas; Clay Burtrum, Oklahoma; Dawn Caldwell, Nebraska; Teri Carstensen, Iowa; Jerry Effertz, North Dakota; Steve Hanson, Nebraska; Scott McGregor, Iowa; and Irv Petsch, Wyoming. Retiring as Federation regional vice presidents were Houston, Region II, and Jane Frost of New Mexico, Region VI. Replacing them were Donna Jo Curtis of Alabama and Linda Brake of Arizona, respectively.

National Cattlemen’s Beef Association

NCBA Officers are Bob McCan, Texas, president; Philip Ellis, Wyoming, president-elect; Tracy Brunner, Kansas, vice president; Richard Gebhart, Oklahoma, treasurer; Craig Uden, Nebraska, policy division chair; Kevin Kester, California, policy division vice chair; Forrest Roberts, Colorado, CEO; and Scott George, Wyoming, past president.



Editor’s Note: This article contains information compiled from the Angus Journal’s online coverage of the 2014 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show, which is available online at www.4cattlemen.com.



► The Cattlemen’s Beef Board members elected Kim Brackett, Idaho, 2014 CBB chairman.