



# Other Convention Tidbits

Committees, working groups and membership meetings take center stage.

## Report on NCBA Tax & Credit Committee

California cattleman Kevin Kester has experienced firsthand the difficulties that can accompany the settling of a farm or ranch estate. Kester chairs the National Cattlemen's Association (NCBA) Tax and Credit Committee. During the 2013 Cattle Industry Convention in Tampa, Fla., federal estate taxes and estate planning were among the issues discussed.

Guest speakers included Florida-based attorney Michael Minton, who said passage of the American Taxpayer Relief Act in late 2012 locked in Bush-era tax cuts. The plan raised tax rates on capital gains and dividends, but only for households with income greater than \$450,000, and it reinstated some limits on exemptions and deductions for households with more than \$300,000 in income. The act kept the estate tax exemption level at \$5 million, but increased the rate at which amounts exceeding that amount are taxed from 35% to 40%.

"Passage of the act also means portability is here to stay," added Minton, explaining that portability is a way to reduce tax obligations for married couples. Prior to 2010, when a person with a taxable estate died without proper estate planning, and left the estate outright to a surviving spouse, the survivor typically lost the ability to shelter property from estate taxes upon his or her death. Portability allows for an unlimited marital deduction exempting property left to a surviving spouse.

"The act changes the dynamics of estate planning," added Minton, "because the survivor gets carryover, meaning if one spouse dies without using up his or her federal estate tax exemption, the unused portion may be transferred to the surviving spouse."

However, Minton believes the Obama administration and allies in Congress are still looking for ways to raise revenue by making more income taxable.

"They want to limit the duration of some trusts and are going after valuation discounts," he said. "It makes me very nervous."

Also addressing committee members was Ed Elfmann, senior legislative representative for the American Bankers Association. He lamented policymakers' failure to pass a five-year farm bill and overregulation of banking.

"No ag policy means no certainty," said Elfmann, adding that regulators unfamiliar with farming and ranching require substantial collateral for nearly all mortgage loans. Consequently, few are made.

"Community banks are being wrecked because they can't make many loans," stated Elfmann. "They don't even want much money deposited because they have no place to go with it. Unfortunately, there's not much worthwhile change in sight, due to congressional gridlock."

For the same reason, NCBA Director of Legislative Affairs Kent Bacus sees little hope of comprehensive tax reform. He also warned cattle producers to beware of the administration's expected push for increased

regulations on several fronts, including proposed rules for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) that could have negative impacts on cattle producers.

— by Troy Smith, field editor

## A New Tool for Battling BVD

A new decision-making program is available to help cattle producers respond to bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) infection, or to help develop effective strategies for guarding their herds against infection. Developed collaboratively by veterinarians from several states and dubbed BVD Consult, the online teaching tool only recently became available. That sounds like the beginning to a sales pitch, but producers can access this product at no cost.

Kansas State University veterinarian and author of the *Angus Journal's* "Vet Call" column, Bob Larson introduced the program to NCBA members attending a meeting of the Beef Cattle Herd Security/BVD Working Group on Thursday, Feb. 7. The meeting was in conjunction with the 2013 Cattle Industry Convention.

According to Larson, BVD Consult was designed to help producers and their veterinarians develop customized strategies. The program is based on decision-tree software like that used to teach medical students. By entering answers to a series of questions, BVD Consult will help identify specific challenges to the user's own operation, assess risk and recommend solutions for control or prevention of BVD. Reports summarizing a recommended

## NCBA members elect officers, approve new policies to conclude convention

The 2013 Cattle Industry Convention and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Trade Show wrapped up Saturday, Feb. 9, with the NCBA board of directors and membership meetings. Scott George, a dairy and beef producer from Cody, Wyo., was officially elected to succeed J.D. Alexander as NCBA president during the association's board of directors meeting.

The new NCBA president-elect is Bob McCan, of Victoria, Texas. Don Pemberton, Hopkinsville, Ky., is NCBA's new vice president.

Richard Gebhart, of northeastern Oklahoma, was elected chairman of the NCBA Federation Division, and Cevin Jones of Idaho is the Federation Division's vice chairman. The new NCBA Policy Division chairman is Philip Ellis of Bear Creek, Wyo., and Craig Uden of Elwood, Neb., is the new policy vice chairman.

"It is a great honor to be elected to lead NCBA for the next year. The opportunities for U.S. cattlemen and women are boundless," said George. "NCBA represents such diversity in the cattle industry. It takes all of us working toward the goal of being successful and providing

consumers with the world's safest, highest-quality supply of beef."

Nearly 6,500 cattlemen and women attended the industry's convention.

In addition to electing the new officer team on the final day of the convention, NCBA members also voted on new and expiring policy issues, including resolutions on cattle health and well-being; food safety; immigration; cattle marketing and trade; federal lands ranching and more.

"I am looking forward to seeing what this year will bring for the cattle industry," said George. "There will always be challenges, from the drought which deeply affected so much of cattle country, to educating our elected officials and consumers about our industry, to continuing to ensure that beef remains an affordable, nutritious choice for families to put on their dinner tables. But like the challenges we've faced in our past, we will overcome hurdles, we will succeed, and we will move our industry forward."

— Adapted from a news release by NCBA.



strategy can then be printed for the producer and his or her veterinarian.

"I hope this will help increase communication between producers and their veterinarians," said Larson, noting that many producers remain relatively uninformed regarding BVD, and some mixed-practice veterinarians have little practical experience with the disease.

"After going through BVD Consult, even veterinarians with minimal BVD experience should be able to give pretty good advice," said Larson, also suggesting this type of educational program could be applicable to other infectious diseases.

"My dream would be to do 'Trich Consult' next," said Larson, referring to the problematic reproductive disease trichomoniasis. "It could work for others, too."

— by Troy Smith, field editor

### ANCW Elects Leaders, Names Outstanding Cattlewoman

Barbara Jackson, Tucson, Ariz., was elected the 62nd president of the American National CattleWomen Inc. (ANCW) during the organization's 2013 Annual Meeting in Tampa, Fla. ANCW is a voice for women who support and promote the beef industry.

Jackson grew up in the beef industry and is following in the footsteps of her mother, Pat Stevenson, who was ANCW president in 1970. Her roots as a CattleWoman run deep.

Her family has owned and operated Red Rock Feeding Co., a 30,000-head feedyard in Southern Arizona since 1964. Today she is part-owner of the operation.

Over the years she's served as president of the Arizona State CowBelles, as Region VI ANCW director, ANCW vice president and ANCW president-elect. She has also served as a member of the National Beef Speakers Bureau and as a committee member on the National Beef Cook-off® and Animal Well-being committees.

"Barbara has helped blaze the trail for women with a passion for the U.S. beef industry," said Jill Ginn, past ANCW president. "She is a professional role model, advisor and mentor doing all she can to support this industry with her passion, experience and knowledge. Following in her parent's footsteps, Barbara is a legacy not only for ANCW but for the beef industry, as well."

Jackson has a bachelor's degree in animal science with a minor in ag economics from Washington State University. Her career has always been connected with agriculture. She started her career with Syntex, a pharmaceutical company, and then she worked as a consultant. Her career with Syntex took her from sales representative to

national accounts coordinator to director of public relations and advertising. It was during those career-building years that she met her husband, Tim Jackson. Together they founded Animal Health Express in 1989. The Tucson-based online business sells animal health supplies, tack, livestock equipment and pet supplies.

ANCW's 2013 Executive Committee members are:

President Barbara Jackson, Arizona;  
 President-elect Patti Buck, Colorado;  
 Vice President Melanie Fowle, California;  
 Recording Secretary Gretchen Groseta, Arizona;  
 Past President Tammi Didlot, Oklahoma;  
 Region I Director Ann Nogan, Pennsylvania;  
 Region II Director Michelle Boyles, North Carolina;  
 Region III Director Penny Zimmerman, Minnesota;  
 Region IV Director Desta Crawford, Texas;  
 Region V Director Peggy Biaggi, Oregon;  
 Region VI Director Suzanne Menges, Arizona;  
 Region VII Director Judy Reece, North Dakota.; and  
 Parliamentarian Linda Brake, Arizona.

Susie Magnuson was named the 2012 Outstanding CattleWoman of the Year, an award sponsored by Purina Animal Nutrition LLC.

For more than 25 years, Magnuson has been involved in the beef community as a rancher and farmer, as a promoter of beef and as a leader in CattleWomen organizations. She started her CattleWoman involvement in the late 1980s with her local Weld County CattleWomen group. Over the years she has served on many local, state and national CattleWomen committees, served in multiple officer positions and served as a mentor. Her achievements include: 1994-1995 Colorado CattleWomen President, 2004 ANCW President, National Beef Speakers Bureau member and 2012 ANCW Parliamentarian.

Youth education and beef promotion are two areas in which Magnuson has contributed countless volunteer hours. She has given numerous presentations to students, helped serve dinners for fundraisers, coordinated beef promotion booths, and helped with as many beef-focused activities as she could.

Upon graduating from college, she returned for a two-year mission in the Congo. After her mission, she returned to Colorado, where she met Ted Magnuson. Ted and Susie were married in 1982 by Susie's father, and they lived on the family farm west of Eaton, where she still resides today.

### Producer support of the beef checkoff remains high

Support for the beef checkoff remains high, according to a recent survey of beef and dairy producers nationwide. Support, at 76%, is unchanged since January 2012 and is at a historic high.

The nationwide survey of 1,200 beef and dairy producers conducted by the independent firm Aspen Media & Market Research in late December 2012 and early January 2013 found an overwhelming majority of beef and dairy producers continue to say their beef checkoff has value for them in many ways:

- ▶ Eight out of 10 producers say the beef checkoff has helped to contribute to a positive trend in beef demand.
- ▶ Seven out of 10 producers say the beef checkoff contributes to the profitability of their operations, is there for them in a crisis and represents their interests.
- ▶ Seven out of 10 beef producers believe the checkoff is well-managed.

"Support for the checkoff remains high," says Joint Producer Communications Working Group (JPCWG) Chair and a producer from Keldron, S.D., Danni Beer. "Interestingly, the survey shows that about one-third of producers don't consider themselves informed about the checkoff. With the fairly significant reduction in the producer communications budget for FY 2013, the working group will be exploring fresh, innovative and efficient ways to communicate with producers about their checkoff and the work the program does for them so we can improve those numbers."

A copy of the research report is available at [www.beefboard.org/news/files/FY2013/PAS\\_Topline\\_0113.pdf](http://www.beefboard.org/news/files/FY2013/PAS_Topline_0113.pdf)

For more information about your beef checkoff investment, go to [MyBeefCheckoff.com](http://MyBeefCheckoff.com).

— News release by Cattlemen's Beef Board.

Magnuson is a mother to two sons who now work on the family farm with her. In 2011 she was diagnosed with breast cancer, but fought it with all her faith and might and is now in remission.

— Adapted from a news release by ANCW.

