

Express has been reserved, and attendees must make their own reservations by calling 1-877-863-4780 by Sept. 1.

### Ohio Angus Field Day Sept. 21, Mansfield, Ohio

The Ohio Angus Association will conduct its field day Sept. 21 at the

Mansfield Correctional Institute Farm in Mansfield, Ohio. Angus breeders and enthusiasts are invited to spend the day in Mansfield as the interesting and educational program is sure to be enjoyable to all in attendance.

Registration is at 9 a.m., and the program will begin at 10 a.m. Featured speakers for the field day include Gerald Stokka, veterinarian, Pfizer Animal Health; Fernando Silveira, veterinarian, The Ohio

State University; and Brian House, beef specialist, Select Sires Inc.

A catered lunch will be served, and participants will be offered a wagon tour of the Mansfield Correctional Farm. In late afternoon the Ohio State Reformatory tour will begin.

Bryce Schumann, American Angus Association chief executive officer (CEO), will also be in attendance to meet and speak with Angus breeders.

## Cattlemen join forces at conference

More than 850 cattlemen met in Denver, Colo., July 15-19 for the 2008 Cattle Industry Summer Conference, hosted by National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB), American National CattleWomen (ANCW), National Cattlemen's Foundation (NCF) and Cattle-Fax. The following are brief highlights from the annual summer meeting.

Members of NCBA voted July 19 to oppose government intervention in the renewable fuels marketplace and to support immediate efforts to significantly reduce the effects of that intervention on the cattle industry.

The vote, taken at the 2008 Cattle Industry Summer Conference, amends current NCBA policy to allow for more engagement in the debate over renewable fuels, as well as active promotion of a market-based system of renewable energy.

"NCBA is an organization of cattlemen and for cattlemen that is always working on solutions to challenges facing the industry," said Andy Groseta, a beef producer from Cottonwood, Ariz., and NCBA president. "The decisions made at this meeting allow us to create a more favorable business climate and aggressively oppose policies that would negatively impact cattle producers."

Other resolutions included beef quality assurance (BQA) efforts, cattle health, conservation, climate change and national security policies. Amendments and resolutions approved at this meeting are interim policy until they can be voted on January 2009 by the board of directors at the Cattle Industry Annual Convention in Phoenix, Ariz.

At the summer meeting, NCBA also launched a Governance Task Force to study the association's governance workings and identify improvements.

"We're always looking at how we can better serve cattlemen. I think our willingness to improve what we do is a large reason why we are one of very few associations experiencing double-digit growth in membership," Groseta said. Membership in NCBA has grown by 12% this year.

One such improvement in services was an interim policy passed July 19 to introduce a Young Producers Council at NCBA. In his term as president, Groseta has advocated engaging and developing programs to serve younger producers. The Young Producers Council will focus on reaching producers between the ages of 18 and 35.

### Checkoff discussions

The Federation of State Beef Councils Division of NCBA hosted discussions during the meeting about the importance of qualified state beef councils working together and maintaining a coordinated state and national program to increase beef demand and improve the business climate for beef.

"We leave here with a renewed sense of purpose and unity to support an effective state and national checkoff partnership," said J.D. Alexander of Pilger, Neb., Federation Division vice chairman. "With limited resources, it's even more important that we find the most effective and efficient ways of investing in programs to increase beef demand."

In discussions on how to better coordinate the work of state beef councils and efforts of the national Federation, members raised the

possibility of changing the name of the Federation.

Also during the summer conference, joint checkoff committees with members representing CBB, the Federation of State Beef Councils, individual state beef councils and other groups met to review and recommend programs in research, information, education and promotion that can help increase demand for beef.

The programs are funded through the \$1-per-head beef checkoff. The recommended programs will be presented to the Beef Promotion Operating Committee, made up of producers representing the CBB and the Federation, for funding. Final programs must be approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) before implementation.

Expressing his optimism about the future of the cattle industry, Groseta pointed to positive trends, including increased producer support of the Beef Checkoff Program. Seventy-four percent of producers now say they approve the program, as compared to 72% who approved in January 2008.

### Forward view

Groseta said he is encouraged by growing support among cattlemen because cattlemen face a growing list of opportunities that need to be addressed. He said the changing industry presents new policy challenges.

"This is an exciting time for the cattle industry, with a great deal of opportunities before us. Now, more than ever, it's critical that we present a unified voice so that we can take advantage of these changing dynamics," Groseta stated. "Meetings like this allow us to roll up our sleeves and work together to make this a stronger industry."

The 2008 Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show will take place Jan. 28-31, 2009, in Phoenix, Ariz.

### W.D. Farr Scholarship awarded

The academic careers of two outstanding graduate students were recognized July 17 with scholarships awarded in honor of one of the cattle industry's greatest pioneers. NCF honored the late W.D. Farr of Greeley, Colo., through two annual \$12,000 graduate scholarships bearing his name.

Mitchell Bowling is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Animal Sciences at Colorado State University, where he also received his master's degree. He received his bachelor's degree in animal science from Texas A&M University. Originally from Texas, Bowling is utilizing his degree work in meat science and food safety to increase exports of U.S. meat products.

Crystal Mathews is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication at the University of Florida. A native of Missouri, she received her master's degree from Texas A&M University and her bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri. Mathews' academic work focuses on agricultural education and communication with an emphasis on leadership. In her degree program, she is conducting research on volunteer leadership in the beef industry.

For more information visit [www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org](http://www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org).

**Editor's Note:** Information provided by NCBA and NCF.

