

April 15, 2022

USDA TO HOST LISTENING SESSION ON CATTLE CONTRACTS LIBRARY PILOT PROGRAM

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 directed Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to create a Cattle Contracts Library Pilot Program to increase market transparency for cattle producers. This listening session provides an open forum for industry stakeholders to share their feedback and help identify expectations for the program. The intent of this session is to hear from industry, and as such there will not be time for a discussion or questions. AMS is specifically interested in insights on the following questions.

1. What information should a Cattle Contracts Library include to be most helpful to cattle marketers?
2. What concerns do you have with the USDA releasing a Cattle Contracts Library?
3. What format should be used to present the information contained in a Cattle Contracts Library?

The Session will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. CT. You can participate virtually by joining the webinar and registering in advance at [Webinar Registration - Zoom \(zoomgov.com\)](https://www.zoomgov.com/join/9171111111)

Given the short notice and as an extension of the session, AMS will accept written comments through April 28, 2022, and can be submitted to Wash.LPGMN@usda.gov.

Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act of 2022

The AFBF Board recently interpreted policy as it relates to S. 4030, the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act of 2022. At the special meeting, AFBF's Board of Directors reviewed provisions contained within S. 4030 and adopted a resolution stating, "The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) will continue to stay engaged in the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act, but with strong opposition to the provision on mandatory minimum negotiated trade." AFBF is committed to staying fully engaged with lawmakers, USDA, and other stakeholders to find solutions for price discovery and transparency while remaining opposed to mandates on how cattle are purchased.

The Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act of 2022 is sponsored by Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE) and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and is cosponsored by 16 other Senators from both sides of the aisle. S.4030 would add language to price discovery by including in the definition of negotiated prices transactions at stockyards and on other cattle trading platforms through "approved pricing mechanisms" that would qualify as a negotiated transaction under the mandatory minimum. The bill also directs the Secretary of USDA to create 5-7 new cattle marketing regions that include all lower 48 states. The mandatory minimums would also be established by the Secretary in each of the newly established regions.

For a one-page highlight of the bill, please click [here](#).

USDA OFFERS DROUGHT ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS

The U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that ranchers who have approved applications through the 2021 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) for forage losses due to severe drought or wildfire in 2021 will soon begin receiving emergency relief payments for increases in supplemental feed costs in 2021 through the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) new [Emergency Livestock Relief Program \(ELRP\)](#).

To be eligible for an ELRP payment under phase one of program delivery, livestock producers must have suffered grazing losses in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks or a D3 (extreme drought) or higher level of drought intensity during the 2021 calendar year and have applied and been approved for 2021 LFP. Additionally, producers whose permitted grazing on federally managed lands was disallowed due to wildfire are also eligible for ELRP payments, if they applied and were approved for 2021 LFP.

For more information, please reach out to your local FSA office, South Dakota Farm Bureau, or click [here](#).

NEW STATE VETERINARIAN

South Dakota's new State Veterinarian will be Dr. Beth Thompson. Dr. Thompson currently serves as the Minnesota Board of Animal Health Executive Director. She will exit her role in Minnesota, May 8. Dr. Thompson is originally from Groton, SD and she earned her DVM and swine medicine certification from the University of Minnesota Veterinary School in 2007. She also has a law degree from the William Mitchell College of Law in 1992. Dr. Beth Thompson replaces Dr. Dustin Oedekoven who took a job as chief veterinarian with the National Pork Board in February. South Dakota Farm Bureau looks forward to continuing our great working relationship with the State Veterinarian and welcomes Dr. Beth Thompson back to her home state of South Dakota.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Avian influenza has hit South Dakota poultry producers. Over one million South Dakota birds have been euthanized making this the worst avian disease outbreak since 2015. Specifically, egg-laying hens account for two-thirds of the birds that have died of bird flu or in the culling of infected flocks.

Additionally, some 4% of the U.S. layer flock has died in the two months since the first confirmation of avian influenza. Consequently, egg prices have surged by 52%. However, the recent detections do not present an immediate public health concern. While the transmission rate from animals to humans is low, it is a zoonotic disease, meaning it can be shared between species. To learn more about Avian Influenza and to remain up to date on the latest related news and information, you can visit the [APHIS webpage](#)

Contact for Questions

Krystil Smit

SDFB Executive Director

Email: k.smit@sdfbf.org

Cell: (605) 261-2960

Matthew Bogue

SDFB State Public Policy Director

Email: Matthew@sdfbf.org

Cell: (605) 377-8833