

news

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In This Issue

Securing a stable, legal agricultural workforce

2

Farm Bureau: finish energy bill by year's end

3

Special Farm Bureau People insert: Young Farmers & Ranchers work to end hunger

4

Special Farm Bureau People insert: Farm Bureau unveils new 'Smart Farm' mural

5

Roll call vote

6

Retail milk prices don't reflect farm-level prices

7

Grass-fed beef could help producers increase profits

8

WTO meeting ends in disagreement

The recent World Trade Organization ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico, ended Sept. 14 in division between developing countries and developed countries over cuts in farm subsidies, reductions in tariffs and rules on investment, government procurement and other issues.

After reportedly making headway on talks to cut agricultural subsidies, a top priority for developing countries, the talks broke down over whether to launch new negotiations on the so-called Singapore issues: foreign investment, competition, trade facilitation and transparency in government procurement.

"Agriculture, as you know has been the lynchpin of these negotiations, but it was not the reason we did not reach consensus at this meeting," Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman told reporters.

Although all four of the Singapore issues were priorities for the European Union, the EU offered to drop two of them after a group of 22 developing countries (G-22) balked at embarking on the new negotiations before getting what they wanted on agriculture. The G-22 countries were still unwilling to move forward even on the two remaining issues: trade facilitation and transparency in government procurement.

In addition, the G-22 countries resisted offering greater access to their markets by reducing tariffs on agricultural goods, a top priority for the

United States. The American Farm Bureau Federation has said for months that tariff reductions must go hand-in-hand with other reforms.
See WTO meeting, page 3



Talking trade

American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman and leaders of several other U.S. farm groups spoke with reporters before heading to Cancun, Mexico, Sept. 10-14, for crucial world trade talks. The groups outlined the criteria for a new trade agreement to have their support.

Corner Post

FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES

Major input items, 2002



Source: USDA, NASS

Compromise labor reform bill to debut

Sens. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) and Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), leading proponents of immigration reform in the Senate, this week are expected to introduce legislation that would reform the H-2A agricultural guest worker program.

The bill, supported by the American Farm Bureau Federation, would streamline the H-2A program, move toward a market-based wage rate and offer a one-time opportunity for illegal farm workers to earn an adjustment of status.

The 50-year-old H-2A program grants temporary visas for agricultural laborers to come to the United States and work on farms. Farmers must prove they have tried to recruit workers locally for seasonal work, but have been unable to fill their labor needs.

Austin Perez, AFBF labor specialist, said AFBF has been working for years to streamline the "slow, cumbersome

and bureaucratic application process" and limit the "excessive and mounting litigation" associated with H-2A.

The bill also would move toward a market-based wage rate for the H-2A program in place of the adverse effect wage rate (AEWR). The AEWR averages the wages that more-skilled farm workers receive with those of less-skilled farm workers, therefore inflating the wage for the less-skilled farm workers.

Recent estimates of the AEWR for 2004, which are based upon Agriculture Department farm wage surveys, reach over \$9 per hour in several regions throughout the United States. Wage rates for field and livestock workers increased by a weighted average of 3.6 percent for the first three quarters of 2003.

Farm Bureau policy supports allowing employers to pay H-2A workers no

less than the average wage for workers in a particular commodity and occupation in a geographic region.

Additionally, the bill would grant a one-time opportunity for illegal farm workers to earn legal status by identifying themselves and ensuring the U.S. government that they are not otherwise excludable from the United States.

Perez believes that the volume of legislation on labor issues indicates a growing interest in and awareness of the need for immigration reform. "It's a positive sign that so many bills have been introduced, and each has certain components that Farm Bureau supports," Perez said. He added that Rep. Henry Bonilla (R-Texas) would soon be introducing AFBF-supported farm labor legislation in the House.

Separately, AFBF is supporting the
See Labor reform, page 7

VIEWPOINT

Securing a stable, legal agricultural workforce

By Sen.
Larry Craig



Guaranteeing homeland security starts at home—and often, down home on the farm.

As one of only two senators to serve on both the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security and the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship, I've had the rare opportunity to take part in both the policy and funding ends of this important issue. On both subcommittees, I've pressed for increasing border and immigration enforcement. Congress has reorganized 22 federal agencies into the Department of Homeland Security and we are now working to see that the agency has the resources and the direction to do the jobs that need to be done.

A critical part of this effort depends on how we handle problems in our current farm workforce. Americans need and expect a stable, predictable, legal workforce in agriculture. Willing

American workers deserve a system that puts them first in line for jobs that provide fair market wages. All workers deserve decent treatment and protection of basic rights under the law. Consumers need a safe, stable domestic food supply. Our nation needs secure borders, a safe homeland and a government that works. Yet Americans are being threatened on all these fronts, because of a growing shortage of legal workers in agriculture.

To address these needs, I have introduced legislation known as "AgJOBS," the Agricultural Jobs, Opportunity, Benefits and Security Act of 2003. This effort builds upon years of discussion and suggestions among growers, farm worker advocates, Latino and immigration issue advocates, members of both parties in both houses of Congress and others.

Our farmers face serious challenges regarding their workforce. Of the United States' 1.6 million agricultural workers, more than half are not legally authorized to work here, according to government estimates based, astoundingly, on self-disclosure in worker surveys. Reasonable private estimates run to 75 percent or higher.

With recent stepped-up documenta-

tion enforcement, farm workers are being scattered and the workforce is being constantly and increasingly disrupted. Ag employers want a legal workforce and must have a stable workforce to survive, but federal law actually punishes employers who are "too diligent" in checking worker documentation. Some growers already have gone out of business, lacking workers to manage their crops at critical times.

Workers smuggled into the United States illegally cannot claim the most basic legal rights and protections. They are vulnerable to predation and exploitation. Many have paid "coyotes," labor smugglers, thousands of dollars to be transported into and around this country, often under inhumane and perilous conditions. Tragically, reports continue to mount of horrible deaths suffered by workers smuggled in enclosed truck trailers or abandoned in the desert.

Meanwhile, the only program in place to respond to such needs, the H-2A legal guest worker program, is profoundly broken. The H-2A process is slow, bureaucratic and inflexible. It is so expensive and hard to use, it will place only about two to three percent

of the total workforce. A General Accounting Office study found that the Labor Department misses statutory deadlines for processing H-2A employer applications more than 40 percent of the time.

The solution is reform. AgJOBS legislation provides a two-step approach to a stable, legal, safe ag workforce. It would streamline and expand the H-2A guest worker program—the long-term solution. It would provide a one-time adjustment to legal status for farm workers already working here—providing the near-term bridge that would allow American agriculture to adjust to a changing economy.

AgJOBS would not create an amnesty program. Neither would it require anything burdensome to workers. Eligible workers already in the United States could continue to work in agriculture, but could now do so legally. They would be given the chance to earn adjustment to legal status by demonstrating reliability and a strong work ethic. Adjusting workers may also work in another industry, as long as the agriculture work requirement is satisfied.

AgJOBS is a win-win-win approach. Workers would be better off than under the status quo, with legal protections, higher wages, better working conditions and safer travel.

Growers would get a stable, legal workforce. Consumers would get better assurance of a safe, stable, American-grown food supply, avoiding increased dependence on imported food. Law-abiding Americans want to make sure the right to stay in our country is earned, and that illegal behavior isn't rewarded now or encouraged in the future.

When thousands of farm workers are brought out of this "underground economy," register with this government program and verify compliance with the law, border and homeland security would benefit.

AgJOBS will be an important step toward a more secure farm sector and nation.

lives have forever changed, making phrases like "Orange Alert" and "terrorist cells" commonplace in everyday conversation. Yes, there are still threats. But we are better prepared than we were just two years ago, and we are resilient. For the American spirit is epitomized by that which compelled anonymous men and women on that fateful day, to act contrary to every human instinct, and run head long into burning buildings, laying down their lives for people they had never met. The terrorists knew of our military might and the wealth of our nation. But this courage, resilience and resolve they did not account for.

Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) is chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and a member of House Judiciary and Homeland Security committees.

Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) is a member of the Senate Appropriations; Energy and Natural Resources; Judiciary; and Veterans Affairs Committees.

American courage and resilience

By Rep.
Bob Goodlatte



Just two years ago, on a deceptively beautiful September day, America's collective national memory was seared with devastating images of crumbling skyscrapers, a smoldering Pennsylvania field and the very symbol of our military might ablaze. The terrorists sought to instill fear in the hearts of Americans. They perceived us as weak, unwilling or unable to fight back, seemingly content to shrink from the international stage and fade into the shadows of history.

In this they misjudged. Our resolve was only strengthened by the devastating loss of life. Congress, working with the president, has sought to confront the unique threat posed by terrorism, unparalleled in our national experience.

Our Armed Forces have traveled to distant shores to preserve the peace, successfully toppling both the Taliban in Afghanistan, which we know supported Al Qaeda, and Saddam Hussein, in Iraq, who gave safe haven to terrorist organizations. While efforts to secure the rule of law are still under way in both nations, those who harbor

and are sympathetic to terrorists are no longer in control.

Domestically, U.S intelligence and law enforcement have made tremendous progress in hunting terrorists abroad as well as those operating on our own soil, and taking them into custody before they can carry out their murderous attacks. Some we know of, like the October 2002 capture and indictment of six suspected members of the Al Qaeda terrorist network operating out of Buffalo, N.Y., but there are countless others that we will never read of in the newspapers.

Additionally, we largely succeeded in dismantling and freezing the terrorist financing network, which consists of over \$125 million in assets, in more than 660 accounts.

Perhaps most notably, Congress created the Select Committee on Homeland Security, and then approved the corresponding department, in an effort to coordinate our national anti-terrorism efforts. The necessity for cooperation and information-sharing among our intelligence agencies and the need for a federal-state-local partnership of first responders, became painfully apparent following the 9/11 attacks.

Just hours after the attacks, homemade banners, a hearty few of which still remain, fluttered over railings of highway overpasses, seeking divine protection for a shaken nation. Our

Farm Bureau
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Farm Bureau: finish energy bill by year's end

As members of the conference committee work to hammer out the details of comprehensive energy legislation, the American Farm Bureau Federation urged the lawmakers to reach a compromise to finish the bill.

"It is vital that U.S. energy policy be modified as soon as possible by passing comprehensive energy legislation prior to recess this year," wrote AFBF President Bob Stallman in a Sept. 11 letter to energy bill conferees.

Conferees began work on the bill earlier this month, with a pledge to finalize their conference report by the end of September.

"We want to make sure this opportunity is not missed. It's going to be key to get this bill done by the end of the year," said Troy Bredenkamp, AFBF energy specialist. "I think it's going to be very difficult to move legislation in 2004, it being an election year."

Estimates show that this year, U.S. farmers spent \$1 billion to \$2 billion more than last year just to plant a crop. Additional production costs were caused by higher fuel prices and higher input costs for fertilizers and farm chemicals as natural gas prices tripled. "A new energy policy will bring more energy affordability, reliability and opportunity to rural America and U.S. agriculture at a time when it is needed most," Stallman said.

AFBF urged conferees to include in their report the following provisions:

- A more aggressive schedule for the renewable fuels standard (RFS), including at least a 3-billion-gallon-per-year standard to begin in 2005 and culminate with 5 billion gallons per year by 2012. AFBF believes the current House and Senate RFS schedules do not reflect the growth the industry has had to undertake to meet short-term demand created by existing law.

- Adoption of the Senate Finance Committee's energy tax provisions for the tax title, which would improve the Highway Trust Fund by as much as \$2 billion annually and provide tax incentives for renewable energy, domestic oil and natural gas production.

- Increase domestic energy production by adopting provisions that would lead to increased use of clean

coal technology, nuclear energy and renewable fuels, along with increased production and transportation of oil, natural gas and electricity.

- Retain affordable and reliable electricity by adopting modifications assuring continued affordability for rural customers serviced by rural electrical cooperatives while maintaining a high electrical reliability standard.

Both the Senate and House energy bills contain provisions that encourage the use of renewable energy sources such as ethanol, biodiesel, biomass and wind.

In addition, both bills increase domestic exploration and production of oil and gas, which would decrease U.S. dependence on foreign sources of energy.

What a difference a year makes...

Spring 2002

A's Fertilizer and Feed, Inc. 123 W. Main St. Des Moines, IA 50201		Phone: (515) 315-1232 Fax: (515) 315-1232	Receipt	
Billing Address Mr. Jon Palmer 2302 Golden Acres Way Omaha, NE 68204				
April 14, 2002				
Invoice Details				
Item	Material Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount
001	Ammonia	45 tons	\$250/ton	\$11,250
002	Urea	18 tons	\$191/ton	\$ 3,438
			Net Value	\$14,688
			Total Freight	\$ 250
Total				\$ 14,938

Spring 2003

A's Fertilizer and Feed, Inc. 123 W. Main St. Des Moines, IA 50201		Phone: (515) 315-1232 Fax: (515) 315-1232	Receipt	
Billing Address Mr. Jon Palmer 2302 Golden Acres Way Omaha, NE 68204				
April 28, 2003				
Invoice Details				
Item	Material Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount
001	Ammonia	45 tons	\$373/ton	\$16,785
002	Urea	18 tons	\$201/ton	\$4,698
			Net Value	\$21,483
			Total Freight	\$ 300
Total				\$ 21,783

High natural gas prices are driving up the cost of fertilizer. It is estimated that farmers this year spent \$1 billion to \$2 billion more than last year just to plant a crop. Farm Bureau believes Congress needs to pass a final energy bill that increases domestic natural gas production in order to help farmers stay in business.

Pivotal WTO meeting ends in disagreement

continued from page 1

hand with any cuts in domestic farm subsidies.

While the United States and the EU are often criticized for outspending developing countries on domestic farm subsidies, developing countries impose huge tariffs on agricultural imports. The developing countries are loath to cut the tariffs because they raise revenue for those governments at the same time they protect domestic producers from global competition. However, their unwillingness to negotiate tariff cuts did not stop them from demanding that rich countries cut their subsidies.

United States Trade Representative Robert Zoellick, after the meeting had ended, told reporters that some countries wanted something for nothing,

and ended up with nothing.

"A number of countries just thought it was a freebie—they could just make whatever points they suggested, argue and not offer and give. And now they're going to face the cold reality of that strategy, coming home with nothing," he said.

"They missed the opportunity to cut our subsidies," he added. "They were there to be cut if they wanted to cut. They didn't do it."

AFBF President Bob Stallman said, "We had indicated our strong willingness to reduce domestic supports and to negotiate improved market access. All the world, especially developing countries, would have greatly benefited from a successful round. We insisted, however, that these talks had to be two-way negotiations."

The collapse of the meeting left analysts and observers speculating about what it all means for the Doha round, future free trade agreements and the WTO, which has now seen the failure of two ministerial meetings—the first in Seattle in 1999.

Zoellick said it's hard to believe that the negotiations, officially launched in November 2001 and scheduled to conclude by January 2005, can now finish on time. Meanwhile, the "peace clause" of the WTO agriculture agreement will expire at the end of this year, exposing some trade-distorting farm subsidies of the United States, the EU and others to potential challenge under the WTO's dispute settlement process.

Supachai Panitchpakdi, WTO director, has resisted calls to extend the peace clause, saying that the looming

expiration puts pressure on WTO countries to reach an agreement in the Doha round. However, it will be interesting to see if Panitchpakdi changes his mind now that it appears nothing short of a miracle will lead to an on-time conclusion of the negotiations.

Zoellick also said the United States would move forward in liberalizing trade through bilateral and regional agreements. "We're going to keep opening markets one way or another," he said. However, the Bush administration has not indicated whether it would be willing to negotiate the developing countries' top interest, cutting subsidies, in the free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations. The administration and Farm Bureau prefer that subsidy reductions be negotiated in the WTO.



Young Farmers & Ranchers work to end hunger



In a program described as America's first harvesters helping America's Second Harvest, the American Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) are "finishing the job" by working to make sure the food they produce makes it to the plates of hungry Americans.

The YF&R Committee has teamed up with America's Second Harvest (A2H), the nation's largest hunger-relief organization, to help end hunger in America through a campaign called "Harvest for All."

Jeff Gatzke, chairman of the YF&R Committee, was invited to address attendees of the A2H annual conference held earlier this month. "We boast that America enjoys the safest, most abundant and most affordable food supply in the world, yet we have people who are hungry, even starving to death, right here at home," he said. "I am personally committed to [the Harvest for All campaign] because I truly believe a farmer's job is not done until every American is fed."

Gatzke, a corn and soybean farmer from South Dakota, said that the idea behind Harvest for All is to feed Americans while empowering community members to be leaders. "By giving proper tools and resounding encouragement, we can foster a successful anti-hunger program that builds leadership and strengthens the very communities we are feeding," he said.

As part of Harvest for All, state and county Farm Bureaus will work with A2H affiliates across the nation to organize activities to

help relieve hunger in their communities. A2H reports that for every dollar donated, the organization is able to distribute 28 pounds of food. And in one hour of volunteer time, an individual could sort more than 200 pounds of surplus food.

In keeping with the competitive nature of YF&R, Harvest for All participants from each state Farm Bureau will compete to put in the most time, make the most donations and raise the most money for A2H food banks in their respective states.

A specially designed Web site will allow participants to track and compare their



progress in each of the three categories. The winning state in each category will be awarded \$5,000 from Syngenta to donate to its choice of A2H-affiliated food banks.

Harvest for All activities are already under way in some states. For example, young farmers from the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation observed National Hunger Awareness Day on June 5 by donating and serving a

Louisiana-grown lunch for children in a summer feeding program at the True Vine Baptist Church in Alexandria. Before lunch, members kept the group of kids entertained with "ag-tivities," hands-on projects to teach children about agriculture.

The YF&R Committee and A2H are planning a national event in Rapid City, N.D., in November to commemorate the Harvest for All partnership. Young farmers and ranchers from across the country will come together to sort food and feed the hungry.

AFBF encourages all farmers and ranchers to help end hunger in their communities by making a financial donation to A2H, volunteering at their local food banks and donating food and grocery products. The A2H Web site, www.secondharvest.org, has a listing of food banks and food rescue organizations and is equipped to receive online donations.

"As an organization representing America's first harvesters—our farmers and ranchers—AFBF is working to raise public awareness of the issues related to domestic hunger," said AFBF President Bob Stallman. "Supply is not the problem, but making sure that a share of the food we produce makes it to those less fortunate is a worthy goal for everyone involved in agriculture."

Additionally, AFBF and A2H worked together on legislation that would increase tax deductions for farmers and ranchers who make charitable donations of food. The Charitable Giving Act of 2003 (H.R. 7), known as the CARE bill, is expected to reach the House floor in the coming weeks.



Louisiana young farmers and ranchers commemorated National Hunger Awareness Day June 5 by preparing lunch for children at True Vine Baptist Church in Alexandria, La. They also played games including "ag-tivities," hands-on projects that help teach the children about agriculture.



Members of the Louisiana Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee gathered for fun and food with a group of children who rely on school feeding programs for adequate nutrition. The event was part of the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers "Harvest for All" program.



Farm Bureau unveils new 'Smart Farm' mural

Farm Bureau's exhibit at Innoventions at Epcot at Walt Disney World Resort® has something new for guests: a new mural depicting seasonal activity on a "Smart Farm."

"I hope through looking at the mural, guests will see how agriculture is using advancements in technology," said Marsha Purcell, American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture managing director. "Farmers are using satellite and computer technology to produce the food and fiber that we all need in a way that will protect the environment for future generations."

The Florida Farm Bureau introduced members of the creative team who are developing the Farm Bureau exhibit to several farmers who use Global Positioning Systems (GPS)

on their farms. GPS is one of many technologies changing the face of farming. The technology helps farmers work more precisely and efficiently and preserve natural resources.

The exhibit has always focused on the benefits of biotechnology. Guests can still go through the Farm Bureau exhibit and be exposed to how biotechnology is revolutionizing the agriculture industry. And now they will also see how GPS is helping modern farmers use satellites and computers in their homes and on their tractors to manage their farms better.

Many guests today have some knowledge of GPS. Some may even have a GPS unit of their own, for use in boating, hiking and

other recreational activities. But they probably don't realize the technology is used in agriculture as well.

As shown on the mural, farmers use GPS to locate precisely the areas of high and low yield in a field. They can then determine if the low-yield areas lack water or fertilizer or have insect problems, and treat only those areas of the field. That reduces their use of irrigation water, fertilizers and pesticides.

Farm Bureau became the sponsor of Beautiful Science in January 2003. With member support, Farm Bureau hopes to enhance the exhibit by expanding the breadth of agriculture stories.



Farm Bureau women set high goals for 2004

Every year, Farm Bureau Women's Committee members work to educate the non-farming public about farmers and Farm Bureau and provide training to help Farm Bureau women be good spokespersons for agriculture.

From raising funds for Agriculture in the Classroom and other agricultural education initiatives, to conducting farm safety programs, to hosting receptions for state legislators in order to highlight the agricultural products in their states, Farm Bureau women perform important public services and public relations work. About 38 state Farm Bureaus have Women's Committees.

"Some of the women hold a conference for school teachers, to increase their awareness of agriculture," explained Terry Gilbert, American Farm Bureau Women's Committee chair. "Some of the women get very involved

in the policy development process in their states and help lobby their elected officials. And, of course, the Women's Committees do Food Check-Out Day."

The Women's Committee holds Food Check-Out Day around the 40th day of each year, the day when most Americans have earned enough to pay for their yearly food supply, to show just how affordable food is in the United States. Committee members select a different city each year for the event, buy food and donate it to a local Ronald McDonald House charity.

Committee members met last week in Orlando, Fla., to view the "Beautiful Science" exhibit at Innoventions at Epcot, the science-based theme park at Walt Disney World® Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. The committee also planned activities for the

rest of this year and next year, including the National Women's Leadership Conference that will be held in Milwaukee next May.

The Women's Committee is also trying to raise \$25,000 for the White-Reinhardt Fund for Education, which is named after Berta Lee White and Linda Reinhardt. The two are former Women's Committee chairs known for their commitment to educating teachers, students and consumers about agriculture.

The fund, launched last year, will provide grants for innovative agricultural education programs, scholarships for teachers to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom annual conference and general support for the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's "Educating About Agriculture" program.



Farm Bureau Women's Committee members pose in front of the new mural depicting seasonal activity on a typical "Smart Farm" that uses computer and satellite technology to conserve resources. The women also met to plan committee activities for the next year.



Farm Bureau Women's Committee members from around the country gathered last week to view the Farm Bureau-sponsored "Beautiful Science" exhibit at Innoventions at Epcot at Walt Disney World Resort® in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

FOR THE RECORD

Roll Call

vote

vote

vote

vote

vote

vote

vote

House votes on Cuba travel

The House on Sept. 9 approved, 227-188, an amendment that would ease restrictions on U.S. citizens traveling to Cuba.

Rep. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) offered the amendment to the Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004 (H.R. 2989). The amendment would require the Treasury Department to approve travel for Americans who plan to visit Cuba to facilitate sales of U.S. agricultural products.

Sales of food products to Cuba have been allowed since 2000, when Congress enacted the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act.

Although Cuba did not begin purchasing U.S. food until late 2001, sales of wheat, corn, rice, soybeans and dairy and poultry products quickly grew in 2002 and could reach \$200 million by the end of this year.

In addition to facilitating future agricultural sales, Farm Bureau believes easing the 40-year-old travel ban would increase demand in Cuba for high-quality U.S. food products, and help bring freedom and democracy to the Cuban people through increased interaction with Americans.

Farm Bureau favored a "yea" (Y) vote on the amendment.

LEGEND: Y — yea n — nay ? — not voting S — Speaker

Name Party
3 Boswell (D) Y
4 Latham (R) Y
5 King (R) n

Kansas

1 Moran (R) Y
2 Ryun (R) n
3 Moore (D) Y
4 Tiaht (R) n

Kentucky

1 Whitfield (R) Y
2 Lewis (R) n
3 Northup (R) n
4 Lucas (D) Y
5 Rogers (R) Y
6 Fletcher (R) Y

Louisiana

1 Vitter (R) n
2 Jefferson (D) Y
3 Tauzin (R) n
4 McCrery (R) n
5 Alexander (D) Y
6 Baker (R) n
7 John (D) Y

Maine

1 Allen (D) Y
2 Michaud (D) Y

Maryland

1 Gilchrest (R) n
2 Ruppberger (D) Y
3 Cardin (D) Y
4 Wynn (D) Y
5 Hoyer (D) Y
6 Bartlett (R) n
7 Cummings (D) ?
8 Van Hollen (D) Y

Massachusetts

1 Olver (D) Y
2 Neal (D) Y
3 McGovern (D) Y
4 Frank (D) Y
5 Meehan (D) Y
6 Tierney (D) Y
7 Markey (D) Y
8 Capuano (D) Y
9 Lynch (D) Y
10 Delahunt (D) Y

Michigan

1 Stupak (D) Y
2 Hoekstra (R) ?
3 Ehlers (R) Y
4 Camp (R) Y
5 Kildee (D) Y
6 Upton (R) Y
7 Smith (R) Y
8 Rogers (R) n
9 Knollenberg (R) ?
10 Miller (R) n
11 McCotter (R) n
12 Levin (D) Y
13 Kilpatrick (D) Y
14 Conyers (D) Y
15 Dingell (D) Y

Minnesota

1 Gutknecht (R) n
2 Kline (R) n
3 Ramstad (R) Y
4 McCollum (D) Y
5 Sabo (D) Y
6 Kennedy (R) n
7 Peterson (D) Y
8 Oberstar (D) Y

Mississippi

1 Wicker (R) n
2 Thompson (D) Y
3 Pickering (R) Y
4 Taylor (D) Y

Missouri

1 Clay (D) ?
2 Akin (R) n
3 Gephardt (D) ?
4 Skelton (D) n
5 McCarthy (D) Y
6 Graves (R) ?
7 Blunt (R) n
8 Emerson (R) ?
9 Hulshof (R) n

Montana

AL Rehberg (R) Y

Nebraska

1 Bereuter (R) Y
2 Terry (R) Y

Name Party

3 Osborne (R) Y
Nevada

1 Berkley (D) n
2 Gibbons (R) n
3 Porter (R) n

New Hampshire

1 Bradley (R) n
2 Bass (R) Y

New Jersey

1 Andrews (D) n
2 Loblundo (R) n
3 Saxton (R) n
4 Smith (R) n
5 Garrett (R) n
6 Pallone (D) n
7 Ferguson (R) n
8 Pascrell (D) n
9 Rothman (D) n
10 Payne (D) Y
11 Frelinghuysen (R) n
12 Holt (D) Y
13 Menendez (D) n

New Mexico

1 Wilson (R) Y
2 Pearce (R) n
3 Udall (D) Y

New York

1 Bishop (D) Y
2 Israel (D) Y
3 King (R) Y
4 McCarthy (D) Y
5 Ackerman (D) n
6 Meeks (D) Y
7 Crowley (D) Y
8 Nadler (D) Y
9 Weiner (D) Y
10 Towns (D) ?
11 Owens (D) Y
12 Velázquez (D) ?
13 Fossella (R) ?
14 Maloney (D) Y
15 Rangel (D) ?
16 Serrano (D) ?
17 Engel (D) n
18 Lowey (D) Y
19 Kelly (R) n
20 Sweeney (R) n
21 McNulty (D) Y
22 Hinchey (D) Y
23 McHugh (R) n
24 Boehlert (R) Y
25 Walsh (R) n
26 Reynolds (R) n
27 Quinn (R) n
28 Slaughter (R) Y
29 Houghton (R) Y

North Carolina

1 Ballance (D) Y
2 Etheridge (D) Y
3 Jones (R) n
4 Price (D) Y
5 Burr (R) n
6 Coble (R) n
7 McIntyre (D) Y
8 Hayes (R) n
9 Myrick (R) n
10 Ballenger (R) n
11 Taylor (R) n
12 Watt (D) Y
13 Miller (D) Y

North Dakota

AL Pomeroy (D) Y

Ohio

1 Chabot (R) n

Name Party

2 Portman (R) n
3 Turner (R) n
4 Oxley (R) Y
5 Gillmor (R) n
6 Strickland (D) Y
7 Hobson (R) n
8 Boehner (R) n
9 Kaptur (D) Y
10 Kucinich (D) ?
11 Jones (D) Y
12 Tiberi (R) Y
13 Brown (D) Y
14 Latourette (R) Y
15 Pryce (R) n
16 Regula (R) n
17 Ryan (D) Y
18 Ney (R) Y

Oklahoma

1 Sullivan (R) n
2 Carson (D) Y
3 Lucas (R) n
4 Cole (R) n
5 Istook (R) n

Oregon

1 Wu (D) n
2 Walden (R) n
3 Blumenauer (D) Y
4 Defazio (D) Y
5 Hooley (D) Y

Pennsylvania

1 Brady (D) Y
2 Fattah (D) Y
3 English (R) n
4 Hart (R) n
5 Peterson (R) Y
6 Gerlach (R) Y
7 Weldon (R) Y
8 Greenwood (R) Y
9 Shuster (R) n
10 Sherwood (R) n
11 Kanjorski (D) Y
12 Murtha (D) n
13 Hoeffel (D) Y
14 Doyle (D) Y
15 Toomey (R) Y
16 Pitts (R) n
17 Holden (D) Y
18 Murphy (R) n
19 Platts (R) n

Rhode Island

1 Kennedy (D) n
2 Langevin (D) Y

South Carolina

1 Brown (R) n
2 Wilson (R) n
3 Barrett (R) n
4 Demint (R) Y
5 Spratt (D) Y
6 Clyburn (D) Y

South Dakota

AL Janklow (R) ?

Tennessee

1 Jenkins (R) n
2 Duncan (R) n
3 Wamp (R) n
4 Davis (D) Y
5 Cooper (D) Y
6 Gordon (D) Y
7 Blackburn (R) n
8 Tanner (D) Y
9 Ford (D) Y

Texas

1 Sandlin (D) Y
2 Turner (D) Y

Name Party

3 Johnson, S. (R) n
4 Hall (D) Y
5 Hensarling (R) n
6 Barton (R) n
7 Culberson (R) n
8 Brady (R) Y
9 Lampson (D) Y
10 Doggett (D) Y
11 Edwards (D) Y
12 Granger (R) n
13 Thornberry (R) n
14 Paul (R) Y
15 Hinojosa (D) Y
16 Reyes (D) Y
17 Stenholm (D) Y
18 Jackson-Lee (D) Y
19 Neugebauer (R) n
20 Gonzalez (D) Y
21 Smith (R) n
22 Delay (R) n
23 Bonilla (R) n
24 Frost (D) Y
25 Bell (D) Y
26 Burgess (R) n
27 Ortiz (D) n
28 Rodriguez (D) Y
29 Green (D) n
30 Johnson, E. (D) Y
31 Carter (R) n
32 Sessions (R) n

Utah

1 Bishop (R) n
2 Matheson (D) Y
3 Cannon (R) n

Vermont

AL Sanders (I) Y

Virginia

1 Davis, J. (R) n
2 Schrock (R) n
3 Scott (D) Y
4 Forbes (R) n
5 Goode (R) n
6 Goodlatte (R) n
7 Cantor (R) n
8 Moran (D) Y
9 Boucher (D) Y
10 Wolf (R) n
11 Davis, T. (R) n

Washington

1 Inslee (D) Y
2 Larsen (D) Y
3 Baird (D) Y
4 Hastings (R) n
5 Nethercutt (R) Y
6 Dicks (D) Y
7 McDermott (D) Y
8 Dunn (R) ?
9 Smith (D) Y

West Virginia

1 Mollohan (D) Y
2 Capito (R) n
3 Rahall (D) Y

Wisconsin

1 Ryan (R) Y
2 Baldwin (D) n
3 Kind (D) Y
4 Kleczka (D) Y
5 Sensenbrenner (R) n
6 Petri (R) n
7 Obey (D) Y
8 Green (R) n

Wyoming

AL Cubin (R) n

Name Party

Alabama

1 Bonner (R) n
2 Everett (R) Y
3 Rogers (R) n
4 Aderholt (R) n
5 Cramer (D) Y
6 Bachus (R) n
7 Davis (D) Y

Alaska

AL Young (R) n

Arizona

1 Renzi (R) n
2 Franks (R) n
3 Shadegg (R) n
4 Pastor (D) Y
5 Hayworth (R) n
6 Flake (R) Y
7 Grijalva (D) Y
8 Kolbe (R) Y

Arkansas

1 Berry (D) Y
2 Snyder (D) Y
3 Boozman (R) Y
4 Ross (D) Y

California

1 Thompson (D) Y
2 Herger (R) Y
3 Ose (R) n
4 Doolittle (R) ?
5 Matsui (D) Y
6 Woolsey (D) ?
7 Miller, George (D) Y
8 Pelosi (D) Y
9 Lee (D) Y
10 Tauscher (D) Y
11 Pombo (R) n
12 Lantos (D) Y
13 Stark (D) Y
14 Eshoo (D) Y
15 Honda (D) Y
16 Lofgren (D) Y
17 Farr (D) Y
18 Cardoza (D) Y
19 Radanovich (R) n
20 Dooley (D) Y
21 Nunes (R) n
22 Thomas (R) n
23 Capps (D) Y
24 Gallegly (R) Y
25 McKeon (R) n
26 Dreier (R) n
27 Sherman (D) Y
28 Berman (D) Y
29 Schiff (D) Y
30 Waxman (D) Y
31 Becerra (D) Y
32 Solis (D) Y
33 Watson (D) Y

Vote

Name Party

Alabama

34 Roybal-Allard (D) Y
35 Waters (D) Y
36 Harman (D) Y
37 Millender-McDonald (R) Y
38 Napolitano (D) Y
39 Sánchez, Linda (D) Y
40 Royce (R) n
41 Lewis (R) n
42 Miller, Gary (R) n
43 Baca (D) Y
44 Calvert (R) n
45 Bono (R) Y
46 Rohrabacher (R) n
47 Sanchez, Loretta (D) Y
48 Cox (R) n
49 Issa (R) Y
50 Cunningham (R) n
51 Filner (D) Y
52 Hunter (R) n
53 Davis (D) Y

Alaska

AL Young (R) n

Arizona

46 Rohrabacher (R) n
47 Sanchez, Loretta (D) Y
48 Cox (R) n
49 Issa (R) Y
50 Cunningham (R) n
51 Filner (D) Y
52 Hunter (R) n
53 Davis (D) Y

Arkansas

1 Berry (D) Y
2 Snyder (D) Y
3 Boozman (R) Y
4 Ross (D) Y

California

7 Beauprez (R) n

Connecticut

1 Larson (D) Y
2 Simmons (R) n
3 Delauro (D) Y
4 Shays (R) Y
5 Johnson (R) Y

Delaware

AL Castle (R) Y

Florida

1 Miller (R) n
2 Boyd (D) Y
3 Brown (D) n
4 Crenshaw (R) n
5 Brown-Waite (R) n
6 Stearns (R) n
7 Mica (R) n
8 Keller (R) ?
9 Bilirakis (R) n
10 Young (R) n
11 Davis (D) n
12 Putnam (R) n
13 Harris (R) n
14 Goss (R) n
15 Weldon (R) n
16 Foley (R) n
17 Meek (D) n
18 Ros-Lehtinen (R) n
19 Wexler (D) n
20 Deutsch (D) n
21 Diaz-Balart, L. (R) n

Vote

Name Party

Alabama

22 Shaw (R) n
23 Hastings (D) n
24 Feeney (R) n
25 Diaz-Balart, M. (R) n

Georgia

1 Kingston (R) n
2 Bishop (D) Y
3 Marshall (D) Y
4 Majette (D) Y
5 Lewis (D) Y
6 Isakson (R) n
7 Linder (R) n
8 Collins (R) n
9 Norwood (R) n
10 Deal (R) n
11 Gingrey (R) n
12 Burns (R) n
13 Scott (D) Y

Hawaii

1 Abercrombie (D) Y
2 Case (D) n

Idaho

1 Otter (R) Y
2 Simpson (R) n

Illinois

1 Rush (D) Y
2 Jackson (D) Y
3 Lipinski (D) n
4 Gutierrez (D) Y
5 Emanuel (D) Y
6 Hyde (R) n
7 Davis (D) Y
8 Crane (R) n
9 Schakowsky (D) Y
10 Kirk (R) n
11 Weller (R) n
12 Costello (D) Y
13 Biggert (R) Y
14 Hastert (R) S
15 Johnson (R) Y
16 Manzullo (R) Y
17 Evans (D) Y
18 Lahood (R) Y
19 Shimkus (R) Y

Indiana

1 Visclosky (D) Y
2 Chocoma (R) n
3 Souder (R) n
4 Buyer (R) n
5 Burton (R) n
6 Pence (R) n
7 Carson (D) Y
8 Hostettler (R) Y
9 Hill (D) Y

Iowa

1 Nussle (R) Y
2 Leach (R) Y

Vote

Name Party

Alabama

22 Shaw (R) n
23 Hastings (D) n
24 Feeney (R) n
25 Diaz-Balart, M. (R) n

Georgia

1 Kingston (R) n
2 Bishop (D) Y
3 Marshall (D) Y
4 Majette (D) Y
5 Lewis (D) Y
6 Isakson (R) n
7 Linder (R) n
8 Collins (R) n
9 Norwood (R) n
10 Deal (R) n
11 Gingrey (R) n
12 Burns (R) n
13 Scott (D) Y

Hawaii

1 Abercrombie (D) Y
2 Case (D) n

Idaho

1 Otter (R) Y
2 Simpson (R) n

Illinois

1 Rush (D) Y
2 Jackson (D) Y
3 Lipinski (D) n
4 Gutierrez (D) Y
5 Emanuel (D) Y
6 Hyde (R) n
7 Davis (D) Y
8 Crane (R) n
9 Schakowsky (D) Y
10 Kirk (R) n
11 Weller (R) n
12 Costello (D) Y
13 Biggert (R) Y
14 Hastert (R) S
15 Johnson (R) Y
16 Manzullo (R) Y
17 Evans (D) Y
18 Lahood (R) Y
19 Shimkus (R) Y

Indiana

1 Visclosky (D) Y
2 Chocoma (R) n
3 Souder (R) n
4 Buyer (R) n
5 Burton (R) n
6 Pence (R) n
7 Carson (D) Y
8 Hostettler (R) Y
9 Hill (D) Y

Iowa

1 Nussle (R) Y
2 Leach (R) Y

FB NEWSWATCH

FB wants tax fairness for self-employed

The American Farm Bureau Federation has joined with a coalition of small business trade associations to fight a tax code disparity that forces self-employed Americans to pay an extra 15.3 percent in taxes on their health coverage. The coalition is supporting the Self-Employed Health Care Affordability Act (H.R. 1873), which would correct the disparity by letting self-employed taxpayers also deduct healthcare expenses.

Retail milk prices don't reflect farm-level prices

Farm-level milk prices have been in a severe slump for the last two years, but one wouldn't be able to tell that from the price at the grocery store. Retail prices have stayed near where they were two years ago, before the farm-level milk price started to fall.

Farm-level prices finally started to rise again this summer. But the dissociation between farm and retail prices has dairy farmers questioning the fairness of retail pricing strategies and is taking some of the joy out of the farm price recovery.

"Farmers know all too painfully well how low their prices have been since 2001," said Jerry Kozak, president and chief executive officer of the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF). "And since they shop in supermarkets along with typical consumers, they also know that consumers hardly benefited at all from the lowest raw milk costs since the late 1970s."

But dairy producers' biggest source

of frustration is the widening farm-to-retail price spread. When the farm price of milk falls, the cost to processors of milk, butter, cheese and ice cream for their main ingredient goes down. But rather than pass those savings along to consumers, dairy producers say, processors and retailers are leaving the price where it is and pocketing the extra profit.

Retailers are quick to increase their price for milk when farm-level prices go up, but not so eager to lower their prices when farm-level prices go down. The net effect is the gap between the two prices grows larger and farmers get a shrinking share of the retail price.

Farmers received about 30 percent, on average, of the retail price of milk in 2000. The farmer's share dropped to just under 28 percent in 2002 and has averaged just above 26 percent during the first six months of this year.

Now that farm-level prices are rising, processors and retailers are warning

that consumers should expect to see higher costs for dairy products, according to NMPF.

The average farm-level milk price was \$13 per hundredweight (cwt.) in August, up from the low of \$11 in March and April but still far below the \$16.30 per cwt. in the summer of 2001, when the 33 percent slide began.

Meanwhile, average retail prices for whole milk fell a modest 10 percent from the high of \$2.95 a gallon in October 2001 to \$2.66 in March of this year, when the farm-to-retail price spread grew to \$1.73 per gallon.

Farmers and retailers aren't the only ones involved in getting dairy products from the farm to the dining table. Dairy cooperatives and processors also play roles and take a share of the final retail price. According to a General Accounting Office study in June 2001, some milk wholesalers have increased their prices to retailers so they can beef up their marketing and sur-

vive in the increasingly competitive beverage market. Americans are drinking more milk, but the growth in milk demand lags behind that for other beverages.

In New York, where a milk price gouging law limits the retail price of milk to 200 percent of the price paid to farmers, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer is warning some retailers to either reduce their milk prices, justify them as attributable to charges beyond their control or face enforcement actions.

Spitzer's office investigated retail prices across the state in June and found that dozens of stores were charging prices that could be defined as "excessive" under the state law. Spitzer has also proposed to reduce the threshold to 150 percent.

"An additional 30 or 40 cents a gallon of milk may not seem like a lot of money," Spitzer said, "but it quickly adds up for working families."

Legislators reach agreement on tobacco buyout bill

House tobacco-state lawmakers are prepared to introduce, as early as this week, legislation that would do away with the 65-year-old tobacco quota program and provide a buyout for tobacco quota holders and producers.

The tobacco buyout bill, written by Reps. Ernie Fletcher (R-Ky.), Bob Etheridge (D-N.C.), Virgil Goode Jr. (R-Va.) and Mike McIntyre (D-N.C.), would pay tobacco quota owners \$8 per pound to relinquish their quota and pay growers who forfeit their production rights \$4 per pound. The lawmakers previously had sponsored separate bills.

Flue-cured and burley tobacco make up 93 percent of the 890-million-pound U.S. tobacco crop, which was valued at more than \$1.5 billion in

2002, according to the Agriculture Department's Economic Research Service. Flue-cured tobacco is grown in North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, and burley tobacco is grown in Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Virginia and West Virginia.

Implemented in 1938, the federal tobacco quota program was intended to control the production of tobacco and stabilize the price while preventing any one company from monopolizing the market. But over the last decade, changes in market forces and public opinion have caused tobacco consumption to weaken. Domestic tobacco production has decreased by 46 percent over the last 50 years, with tobacco acreage declining by 73 percent, according to USDA data.

"While American agriculture has faced lean times over the past few years, tobacco farmers have also struggled with massive industry changes. Billion dollar lawsuits, a decline in tobacco consumption and a surge in the use of imported tobacco have significantly strained the federal tobacco program," said Bob Stallman, American Farm Bureau Federation president, in a letter to House members who wrote the legislation.

U.S. exports of tobacco leaf have declined and U.S.-manufactured cigarettes now contain nearly 50 percent foreign tobacco, according to ERS. With cheaper, high-quality tobacco available on the world market, U.S. tobacco is losing its global and domestic market share, ERS reported.

Stallman said tobacco growers are working to diversify their operations to stay profitable, but they need fed-

eral interaction to remove the equity they have accrued via the federal tobacco program. He also pointed to the need for an adequate safety net to be implemented following a buyout. "The bill equitably compensates tobacco quota owners and growers while protecting them in the future with a strong safety net," Stallman said.

Dana Brooks, AFBF director of congressional relations, said the bill would create a privately funded price insurance system, meaning if the domestic price of tobacco falls below a market-determined, insured price, producers get a payment for the difference. "It's a private insurance system, paid for by a transaction fee assessed to both the producers and the manufacturers at the point of sale," she said.

The Congressional Budget Office has

not yet completed a cost assessment for the House bill, Brooks said, but preliminary indications suggest the bill would cost about \$15.7 billion. It would be funded through an assessment on tobacco manufacturers, based on market share, "so it will not cost the American taxpayer or increase the budget deficit," she said.

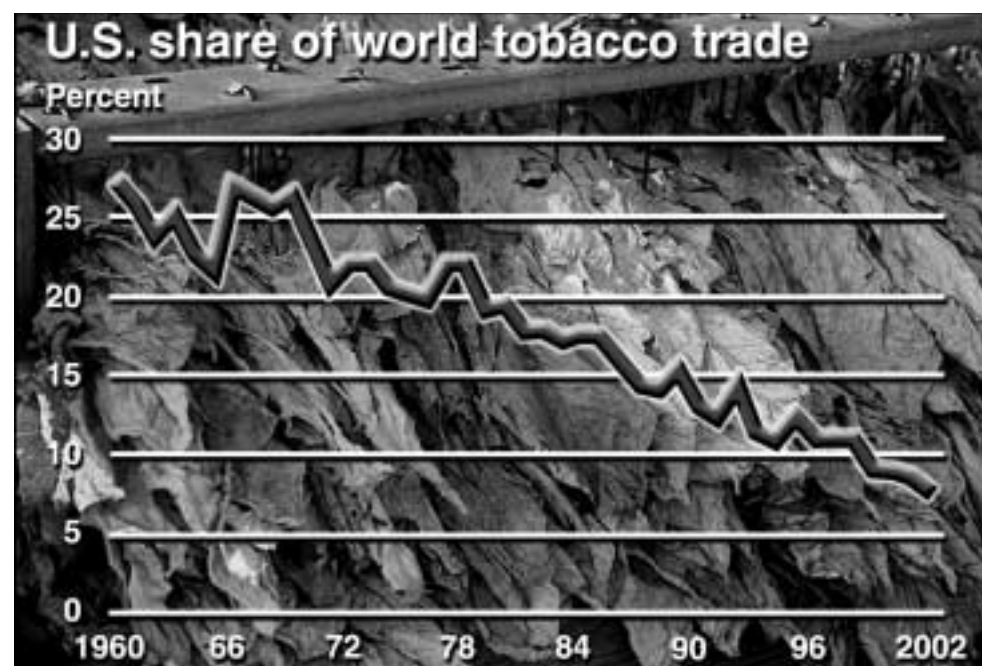
Brooks added that the bill does not provide the Food and Drug Administration with regulatory control over the manufacture, sale, distribution and labeling of tobacco products. A Senate tobacco buyout bill, introduced in late July by Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), would restore FDA oversight of tobacco products. The Supreme Court last year ruled that FDA did not have the legal authority to regulate tobacco.

Labor reform

continued from page 1

OSHA Small Employer Access to Justice Act (H.R. 2731), which would provide compensation for attorney's fees and related costs to farmers and other small business owners who prevail in litigation brought on by Occupational Safety and Health Administration citations.

Lynn Robson, a nursery owner from Belleville, Mich., shared his OSHA citation story with members of the House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Workforce Protections during a Sept. 17 hearing on H.R. 2731. Robson said that there currently are "few consequences for [safety] inspectors when they make mistakes" and the bill would help ensure that farmers and small business owners could "get their day in court."



Source: USDA, ERS

GRASSROOTS

Grass-fed beef could help producers increase profits

By Jennifer Whittaker

Some cattle producers are improving their bottom line by raising beef that is completely grass-fed, not finished on grain. These producers could meet the demand of consumers who want to buy their food from a local farmer they know and trust rather than from a supermarket chain.

Bill Hodge, Carroll County, Ga., Extension director and a cattle producer, has raised his Angus herd using intensive grazing with no feed or hay supplements for the past three years. For the past 18 months he has worked with University of Georgia researchers to determine how cattle producers can best manage cattle strictly on grass, develop marketing strategies for selling the grass-fed beef and manage pastures grazed intensively.

"Producers have the chance to direct market to consumers. These producers can sell their beef for about \$6 a pound," said John Andrae, a forage specialist with the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES).

Producers like Hodge are looking to capture the value of their cattle typically lost to stockers and processors from the time the cattle leave the farm until they reach the consumer. The



Georgia rancher Bill Hodge's cattle feed on the fescue, rye, oats and white clover in his pastures instead of grain. His local customers are willing to pay premium prices for his high-quality, locally produced beef products.

average retail price for grade A beef cuts, like steaks and roasts, has been running about \$3.61 per pound this summer, about 30 cents higher than this time last year, according to Curt Lacy, a livestock economist with CAES. Finished cattle have been bringing about 75 cents a pound.

Despite the large profit potential in raising grass-fed beef, Andrae and

Hodge warn cattle producers against jumping on the bandwagon before thinking it through.

"It's not easy. You can't just dive into it. It's not for everyone," Andrae cautioned. "You need to be a businessman, and you need to be willing to market your product and be a good manager."

Raising grass-fed beef means producers have to put as much energy into raising high-quality forages as raising high-quality cattle.

"You have to be a grass farmer first and a beef farmer second," Hodge said. "You have to look at your soils, and you have to have a wide range of forages available throughout the year."

Hodge runs about 40 head of cattle depending on demand for the beef. He owns 17 acres of pastureland and rents another 30 acres. During winter months Hodge grazes his cattle on fescue overseeded with rye and oats. The pastures have also been planted with white clover.

Hodge grazed cattle in drought conditions the past two summers relying only on crabgrass and red clover. An abundance of rain this summer has provided his cattle with plenty of Bermuda grass.

He uses poly electric fencing to divide his pastures into one-acre paddocks. Cattle graze the paddock between four to seven days before being moved to another paddock.

"You have to read the grass to determine when the cattle need to be moved, depending on the number of cattle, type of grass and weather conditions," Hodge explained.

Hodge estimated that using intensive grazing has lowered his cost of production to about \$200 per head.

On average, Hodge slaughters his cattle at 18 months with a target weight between 1,000 and 1,100 pounds. As part of the University of

Georgia study, the cattle are slaughtered at a processing facility at the CAES. Agriculture Department rules require that meat sold for profit be processed at a federally inspected plant.

Hodge warned that it's crucial for a farmer to identify his consumer base before attempting to sell grass-fed beef. "If you don't have someone to buy your product, you're going to be in a world of trouble," he said. He markets his beef through a local farmers' market, taking orders for 20-, 30- and 40-pound family packs that include varying amounts of ground beef, steaks and roasts.

"There is an educated public that will buy this product. It's people who prefer to buy a locally raised product," Hodge said. "I think we have a tremendous potential for marketing grass-fed beef."

Jennifer Whittaker is editor of Georgia Farm Bureau News.

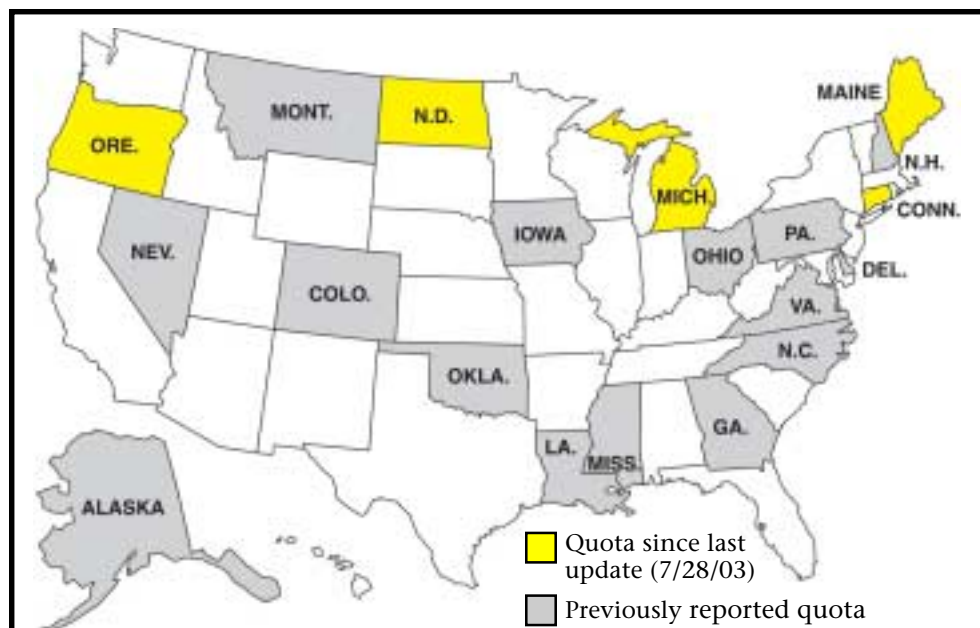


AgrAbility workshop scheduled

The National AgrAbility Project has announced the 2003 National AgrAbility Training Workshop, Nov. 11-14, in Omaha, Neb. The workshop is an opportunity to learn about equipment and programs that help disabled farmers continue in agricultural production.

The AgrAbility program is authorized through a provision in the 1990 farm bill and administered by the U.S. Agriculture Department and state partners. For more information about AgrAbility and the upcoming workshop, visit www.agrability.org or call Carol Maus at 1-800-914-4424.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



Maine: 5,516 member families; 16th state Farm Bureau in the nation and 4th in the Northeast to report membership quota; 27 years of growth and an all-time high.

Michigan: 182,235 member families; 17th state in the nation and 3rd in the Midwest; 3 years of growth and an all-time high.

Connecticut: 5,436 member families; 18th state in the nation and 5th in the Northeast; 22 years of growth and an all-time high.

Oregon: 34,091 member families; 19th state in the nation and 5th in the West; 5 years of growth and an all-time high.

North Dakota: 26,090 member families; 20th state in the nation and 4th in the Midwest; 3 years of growth.