



*Women Involved in Farm Economics*

*Educate, Elevate and Advocate for Agriculture!*

## Join us for the 46th Annual Convention March 16-18, 2023

### Guest Speakers

**Rural Advocate,  
Rancher Advocate,  
Animal Advocate**



**Mike  
Callicrate**



**Representative  
Stephanie Luck**



**Jillane Hixson  
Farmer and  
Rancher Advocate**

Colorado WIFE is extremely excited to be hosting all WIFE members for the 46th Annual Convention, March 16-18th in Colorado Springs at the Antlers Inn.

There are plans for lots of great information and tours coupled with some outstanding guest speakers.



**Mike Callicrate**, the founder of Ranch Foods Direct, is a rancher, business entrepreneur and family farm advocate. Considered the “go-to expert” on the negative consequences of industrial meat production, he served as an advisor for the films Food Inc. and FRESH and for several best-selling books including Fast Food Nation and The Omnivore’s Dilemma.

A native of Evergreen, Colorado, he earned a bachelor’s degree in animal science from Colorado State University in 1975 and then moved to St. Francis, Kansas, where he began his career in farming and ranching.

In 2000, he formed Ranch Foods Direct to sell high quality naturally raised beef directly to customers. Since then, it has grown into a prominent, well-respected marketing outlet in the community for small farmers and artisanal food producers from throughout the region. Today Mike’s farm follows a multi-species regenerative agricultural model, using the natu-

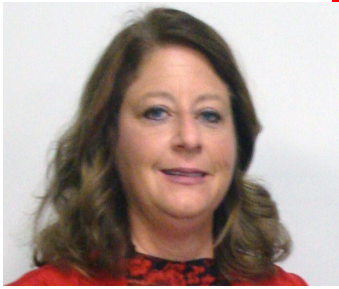
ral synergies between cattle, hogs and chickens to optimize the health of the livestock and the land.



**Representative Stephanie Luck** is a wealth of information and a wonderful speaker. Representative Luck is a WIFE member and we are honored to have her as one of our guest speakers on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at our National Convention. Representative Stephanie Luck was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She studied at Franklin University Switzerland and Syracuse University College of Law. Luck’s career experience includes working as a consultant and law professor.



**Jillane Hixson** is a local Farm Producer with deep roots from Lamar Colorado. She is a valued WIFE Member and advocate for farmers and ranchers in Colorado. Ms. Hixson believes in the rule of law and fairness to all parties. Ms. Hixson has traveled to Denver multiple times to testify on behalf of herself and others regarding agricultural issues. Ms. Hixson has a Bachelor’s degree in Marketing and 25 years in business developments. Ms. Hixson will be addressing farm programs and needed changes.



# Women Involved in Farm Economics

## Cattle Price Discovery And Transparency Act

The ranching business is changing for many family ranchers. The challenges of the high cost of feed, fuel, and operations has caused several of them to downsize their herds. However, ranchers are resilient, hard working, and dedicated to providing their communities with good, reliable beef.

Due to the low market prices for the individual rancher, many of them are looking at different ways to deliver their beef to their communities. Some of the ranchers have converted to not only raising the cattle, but processing them and delivering their top quality

beef to local markets.

Perhaps one of the most concerning things of all is that the cattle producers prices have gone down while the meat in the grocery store has increased significantly. The ones benefiting from the price difference is the packers. There are four major packers in the beef industry who are benefiting from the family ranchers.

Therefore, many independent cattle growers have joined together as R-Calf USA members to hold the packers accountable and ensure the continuing lives for the family ranchers.

R-CALF USA is a national, non-profit organization, dedicated to ensuring the continued

profitability and viability of the U.S. cattle industry. They represent the collective voice of U.S. cattle and sheep producers, in domestic and international trade and marketing issues. They are instrumental in the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act bringing fairness to the cattle growers.

Sens. Deb Fischer (R-IA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), and Jon Tester (D-MT), along with 18 other co-sponsors, reintroduced the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act, a bill that would bring greater fairness to the cattle sector.

Establishing mandatory minimum purchase volumes for packers through "approved pricing mechanisms" based on five to

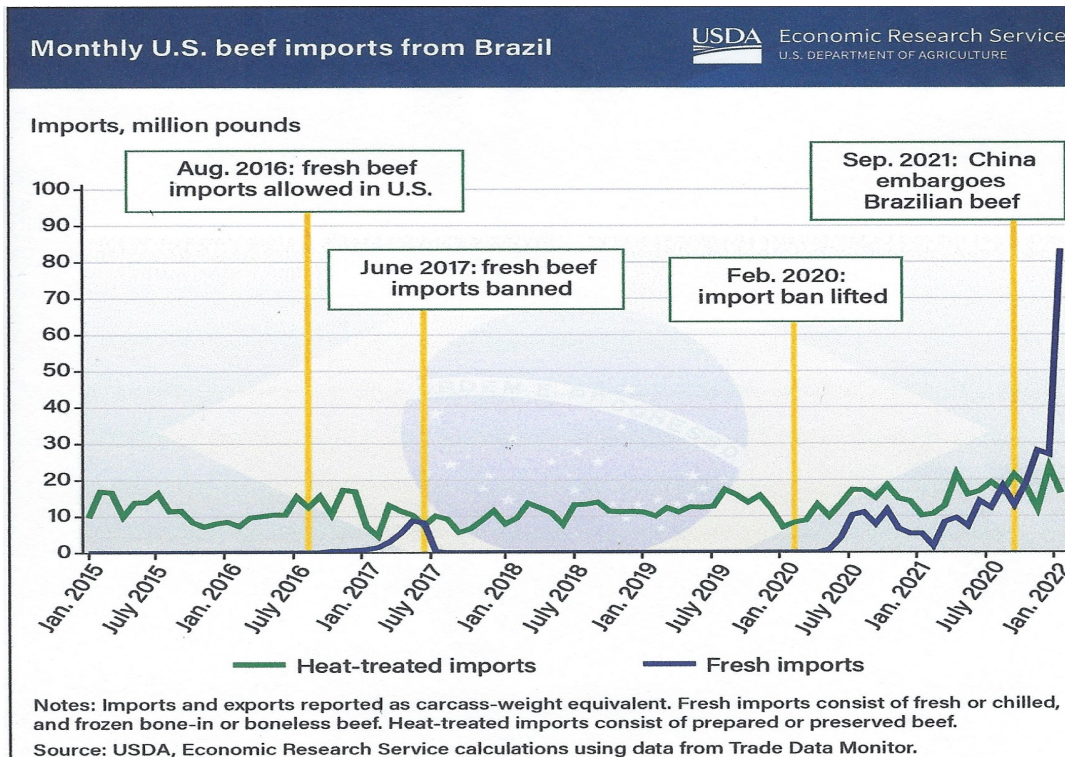
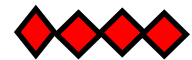
seven geographic regions, to be determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- Bringing more transparency by requiring reporting of cattle weights and slaughter deliveries two weeks in advance.

- Clarifying and implementing a cattle contract library.

- Increasing penalties for violations by packers.

- Requiring livestock mandatory reporting data be made consistently available.



# Women Involved in Farm Economics

### National Weekly Cattle And Beef Summary

Des Moines, Iowa      Mon      Feb 06, 2023  
 For Week Ending:      2/3/2023

This Week    Prior Week    Last Year

LM XB463	NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE BOXED BEEF		
<b>CUTOUT VALUES</b>	267.47	271.19	284.92
Primal Rib	446.68	457.36	421.85
Primal Chuck	212.06	216.49	245.60
Primal Round	208.72	213.25	235.15
Primal Loin	374.45	374.42	371.04

**WEEKLY COMPREHENSIVE ITEM SUMMARY**

Select & Choice Spot Market Loads	459
Comprehensive Loads	3461
CH&SE Percent of the Comprehensive	13%

**LMR Cattle Purchase Type Breakdown**

2022	National	5-Area	TX/OK/NM	KS	NE	IA
<b>Negotiated</b>	20.4	20.0	8.3	13.0	30.3	52.9
<b>Formula</b>	61.5	64.9	83.4	67.9	56.7	22.0
<b>Forward Contract</b>	8.9	5.8	3.0	2.4	6.2	15.1
<b>Negotiated Grid</b>	9.2	9.3	5.3	16.7	6.8	10.0

**National Weekly Fed Cattle Comprehensive Report**  
**National Weekly Fed Cattle Comprehensive CSV Report**

LM CT 169	DIRECT CATTLE PREMIUM AND DISCOUNTS		
Prime	20.41	21.72	24.50
Choice	0.00	0.00	0.00
Select	(16.44)	(18.63)	(8.53)
Standard	(29.27)	(31.10)	(23.37)
CAB	4.45	4.45	5.02

LM CT150	5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE		
Live Steer	158.17	155.25	139.76
Live Heifer	157.96	155.49	139.55
Dressed Steer	249.88	247.72	221.79
Dressed Heifer	249.40	247.37	221.93

NW LS441	USDA BY-PRODUCT DROP VALUE (STEER)		
	13.58	13.66	13.76

SJ LS712	WEEKLY ESTIMATED BEEF PRODUCTION		
<b>2/2/2023</b>	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	641,000	659,000	635,000
Live Weights	1385	1386	1405
Dressed Weights	827	829	846
Beef Production (mil lbs)	529.1	545.2	536.0

**LMR CH & up Grading %, Weights, and Dressing % (Formula, Forward Contract & Grid Net Purchases Based on State of Origin for WE today)**

Beef Type Str/Hfr:	Grading	Carcass Wt	Dressing
TX/OK/NM	75.33%	846.5	64.04%
Kansas	87.44%	877.4	63.69%
Nebraska	87.75%	874.9	62.11%
Colorado	88.05%	857.6	62.10%
IA/MN	88.35%	925.4	62.53%
<b>Dairybred Str/Hfr:</b>			
National	85.84%	830.0	60.04%

### USDA Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News

**Weekly Comprehensive Cutout Value**

**5 Area Weekly Wtd Avg Steer Price**

**Weekly Beef Production**

**Weekly Steer Drop Value**

**USDA Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News**  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
 Phone: 515-284-4460  
 Email: [desm.lgmn@usda.gov](mailto:desm.lgmn@usda.gov)  
[www.ams.usda.gov/LSMarketNews](http://www.ams.usda.gov/LSMarketNews)

## Legislation-R-Calf Files Suit



First, a bit of history on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) efforts to force upon the U.S. cattle industry mandatory radio frequency identification (RFID) - the most expensive and potentially intrusive form of animal identification in use today. In 2017, the USDA implemented a strategy to lay a foundation for mandating the exclusive use of RFID ear tags whenever a cattle producer chooses to ship adult cattle across state lines. This strategy entailed the establishment and use of a private committee to develop a more detailed plan for an RFID mandate.

USDA documents reveal the supporters of the RFID mandate created a catchy marketing slogan to describe its long-range plan: "RFID by 2023," they wrote. So there . . . your hard-earned tax dollars at work. But two years into this plan, little progress had been made.

This apparently frustrated the USDA so it took the bull by the horns and announced in early 2019 that it would mandate RFID by January 2023. There was no lawful rulemaking, no referendum of producers, no change to

existing law, just a bold and unlawful mandate made under the tyrannical perception that the USDA's power is whatever the USDA says it is. This is a classic example of government overreach with a tyrannical bend.

Well, somebody had to do something, R-Calf did. They filed a lawsuit alleging the Secretary of Agriculture and his USDA agencies broke the law. In light speed, meaning much faster than the government usually takes to change its course, the USDA folded and withdrew its mandate. This, of course, removed the very purpose behind the filing of our lawsuit for we won the issue hands down - RFID mandate was no more.

So, the USDA asked the court to dismiss our lawsuit and the court agreed. Then we said wait a minute, our lawsuit also alleged that the private committee the USDA convened to help it implement the RFID mandate was unlawful as well, so that part of our case was kept alive.

Meanwhile, R-Calf got the government memo stating the government never quits in its effort to force its will over the rights and liberties of independent cattle producers. That memo was a formal notice stating the government would still mandate RFID in 2023. Well, we objected strenuously and ultimately the USDA withdrew that new mandate as well. The government never quits when it's single-minded about implementing liberty infringing policy.

In March of 2022, the USDA sent a proposed rule to mandate RFID to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for final approval. Meaning to get the go-ahead to start the formal rule-making process that will lead to a change in the law. You see, the USDA wants to change the law so it will have the authority to mandate RFID. It can only do this through rulemaking.

So that was 9 months ago, and the USDA was hoping to receive the go-ahead to issue its proposed rule in July of 2022 and set a deadline of September 2022 for receiving public comments on the proposed rule.

R-Calf and other organizations held a meeting with the OMB urging it not to give the USDA the go-ahead for its wrongheaded effort to mandate RFID. Obviously, nothing happened last July or last September, meaning the USDA's initial goal to propose its RFID rule in 2022 was thwarted. We don't know for sure, but our meeting with OMB may have contributed to the delay.

But three days after Christmas, R-Calf received a chunk of coal in our stocking. We received notice that the OMB had completed its review of the proposed RFID rule and the USDA now has the go-ahead to propose its rule with this caveat: The OMB said it completed its action consistent with change. That may mean the OMB required changes to the USDA's original proposal. But no one can know for certain right now.



Here's what is certain: All cattle producers should brace ourselves for a brand new proposal to mandate RFID ear tags upon all U.S. cattle producers who wish to ship adult cattle across state lines. And producers must prepare to fight back to stop this mandate from ever being implemented.

Here's what producers should do right now: Contact each of our members of Congress to urge them to swiftly enact legislation to effectively rein-in the USDA - to stop the USDA from mandating RFID. Don't underestimate the importance of your calls.

If just one Senator or Representative believes the infringement by the USDA of the rights and liberties of independent cattle producers is intolerable, then we can use that congressional champion to build a congressional opposition coalition against the impending mandatory RFID proposed rule.



# Women Involved in Farm Economics

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## Dairy Report by Chair Chris Anken

### MILK and COOKIES for SANTA

There are many Christmas traditions that make this Holiday season a very special time of year. The different sights, sounds & lights during this Holiday time are a source of joy to so many people. Children are probably among the happiest people during these holiday festivities. They take part in various activities and traditions that have been passed down from generations over the years, and share them with their families.

One of the most popular Christmas traditions of all times is leaving milk and cookies out for Santa when Christmas Eve comes around. This is a ritual that started many years ago and has become common place in the US and around the globe.

Before going to bed, the children prepare a plate of cookies and leave the snack together along with a glass of milk. There may be just a few crumbs left on the plate and an empty glass in the morning; this is a sign that Santa had stopped in and enjoyed the cookies and a cold fresh glass of milk as a treat.

While leaving out the refreshments for Santa has become a well-established

Christmas routine, many people do not really know how it all got started, but what a wonderful tradition to give Santa, Milk and Cookies at Christmas Time.

**Note:** The cookies are probably made with butter, eggs, and milk.

In America, some people say that the tradition of leaving milk and cookies for Santa started in the 1920s and 30's. The children thought it was a nice way to thank him for the hard work he does on Christmas Eve. Parents also encouraged their children to share with others by leaving snacks for Santa Claus as well as treats for his reindeer, like carrots for example.

There are many folk tales that have tried to explain how this tradition of sharing Milk & Cookies with Santa got started. How it is not actually possible to know just how the Milk and Cookies became a part of Santa's Christmas Eve visit, it is important to keep the tradition going.

This tradition helps to bring the Christmas Cheer and allows children & their families to create many wonderful memories that they will treasure for the rest of their lives.

Although there are some differences & similarities, countries and regions around the world have developed and adopted their own versions of the Milk-and-Cookies tradition. The version is determined by the stories and rituals passed down by parents. It is based on the creativity of children taking part in the tradition.

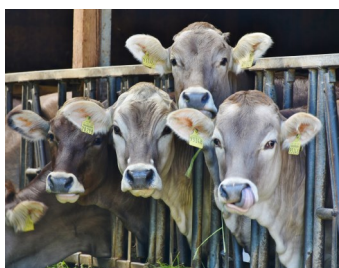
No matter what treats children leave for Santa, Santa appreciates that the children want to show their Christmas spirit by giving. So make those special cookies, get real whole milk for Santa & get ready for the Christmas traditions.

"In 2021, beverage of milk accounted for 10.6% compared to 18% in 2000. While CHEESE and BUTTER absorbed the most of the Dairy Fat. In 2021 cheese accounted for 42.1% of all fat used, 18.3%; frozen dairy products, 7%; and sour cream, 3.2%. Another 15.6% falls into a category called residual as end-use product



data is hard to find. In 2021, cheese challenged the 2018 record that used 42.8% of the dairy fat supply." "The record butterfat price run is done. As \$3.37 per pound, the five-month span that saw the federal order butterfat price set new monthly records from June to October ended in the November 2023 milk check. However, the November figure was higher than both June and July," according to Washington Dairy grams in Hoard's Dairyman.

So when you have a special Holiday Year Round; ENJOY a Refreshing and Healthy Dairy Product with your Loved Ones.





## Women Involved in Farm Economics

### Energy Commodity Report by Chair Marlene Kouba

A North Texas wind turbine was hit by lightning on July 22. The Crowell Fire Department said there was little anyone could do but let it burn. They said there were about 800 gallons of oil in the gearbox and about 1,300 gallons of mineral oil in the ground-level transformer, which caused the dark smoke. The 31,000 acre complex has about 139 GE turbines.

Using satellites, researchers found that air is cleaner in North America and Europe as aerosols declined from 2000 to 2019. They say this is good for public health but bad for global warming or climate change. HmMMM.

The Dept. of Energy found that, for every dollar of government subsidy per BTU unit of energy produced from fossil fuels, the wind and solar get at least \$10. Subsidies are high for them compared to fossil fuels. Green energy can't be changed to match demand. The wind doesn't blow harder and the sun doesn't shine brighter just because you need energy. Massive banks of batteries are hardly environmental. Wind tower and solar panels take up much space and are four times as expensive as natural gas, while off shore wind farms are six times as expensive. Electric cars use coal power to recharge. The cost of aluminum to make solar panels is a third of the cost of electricity. Watch for more blackouts in the nation.

In January 2021, the U.S. was producing more oil than Russia and the Arabs, and more than we were consuming. We no longer needed to

import oil, but a year later we were importing again. What a difference a year can make. This president shut off our oil wells, has gone to OPEC to ask for oil and sent 950,000 barrels of our Strategic Reserve to Unipet America, which is owned by China Petrochemical Corp, also known as Sinopec, plus five million barrels were sent to Europe and Asia in June.

This administration wants to retire coal plants and erect solar panels but panels on top of buildings is not enough. In the 1870s the U.S. government gave land to railroad companies to connect California to the east. State land was given to Arizona in 1912. Now the government wants some of that land back for solar panels. They don't care about ranchers or anyone else. To build a solar farm, it is not green energy at all. The land is graded and chemically sterilized. Solar panels are packed in as tightly as possible. Every living creature in the area will be killed or displaced. Deer, antelope, and prairie dogs will suffer. Prehistoric Native American burial sites and artifacts will be destroyed. Tens of thousands of acres in wild country 10 miles north of Petrified National Park will be turned into bare dirt and glass. (Range Magazine, Summer 2022).

A Chinese province plans to ban the sale of gasoline cars, give electronic vehicle sales tax breaks and expand their charging network. They aim to have nearly half of their vehicles be electric by 2030. Some cities have zero emission zones that ban gas vehicles. In 2021, China already had over half the world's electric car sales. Yet

they are the world's largest polluter with their reliance on coal for energy. Their electric cars will be charged by coal.

Diesel fuel inventories in the East Coast are at their lowest level ever, heading into the winter. It has about 25 days of diesel fuel—the lowest since 2008. Carriers have to visit multiple terminals to find supply. Prices are 30 to 80 cents higher than the market average. The shortage has also spread to Europe but we will be getting some from them in November. Heating oil inventory is about 20 percent below averages.

Since January 2021, the Strategic Petroleum Reserves has fallen from 638 million barrels to 400 million and is expected to go lower. The release of 15 million barrels was to help bring prices down. The Reserve was established in the 1970s after OPEC refused to sell oil to America. It was meant to protect consumers against emergency supply disruptions or war. It is at its lowest since 1984.

On October 6 the Vice President introduced a plan that would spend \$5 billion over five years using the infrastructure law that would allow schools to receive rebates for purchasing electric school buses. She said it would symbolize a collective investment for the student's future.

For those who believe we should stop all fossil fuels had better look at their own lifestyle. Here is a partial list of over 6,000 products made from one barrel of oil, after creating 19 gallons of gasoline. Some of the things in our everyday lives include, permanent press clothing, eye glasses and contacts, anything plastic in your home, medicines, lotions, cold

cream, shaving cream, golf balls, dishes, heart valves, aspirin, lipstick, rugs, footballs, petroleum, antifreeze, crayons, dentures, parts of your vehicles, trash bags, candles, battery cases, deodorant, insecticides, perfumes, drinking cups, loudspeakers, toothpaste, shampoo, adhesives, rubbing alcohol, water pipes, shower doors, paint, disposable diapers, floor wax, tents, plastic wood, paint brushes, toys, roofing, curtains, nail polish, tennis rackets, toothbrushes, hearing aids, helmets and many more.

Americans consume petroleum products at a rate of three-and-a-half gallons of oil and more than 250 cubic feet of natural gas per day each.



# Women Involved in Farm Economics

## Sugar Commodity Report by Chair Klodette Stroh

**U.S farmers have been blessed by God to produce food and fiber for America**

I pray this year will bring prosperity for everyone, especially the American farmers.

We're blessed with good weather in Wyoming this year and many Wyoming, Montana and Colorado sugar farmers are almost done with their sugar harvest which is great news.

Unfortunately, American farmer's operating margins are being squeezed each year, due to rising labor, fuel, seed, fertilizer, equipment, and interest rate costs that hit our producers. My husband Rick and I grow our crops with flood irrigation and the cost of fuel to irrigate our crops were unbelievable this year. Perhaps, we need to count our blessings because we have the Farm Bill that protects our country's food supply. Agriculture is the foundation of American society.

It is very important to acknowledge the importance of the Farm Bill. Members of the United State Congress who represent all taxpayers in this country revise and evaluate importance of the Farm Bill every few years (five to six years) and proceed to pass the Farm Bill. Unfortunately, there have been groups from both the far left and far right that want to cut holes in farmers' safety net, and they will use every opportunity to do so. As American citizens we should not allow such efforts because it will threaten rural economies and endanger America's ability to feed and clothe our people and it will jeopardize United States independence. We must continue to work together to mount a unified defense for 2023

Farm Bill.

Please keep in mind despite government regulation and financial difficulties, American farmers have provided food and fiber to keep our nation fed. Without the hard work and sacrifices of our farmers we would not have a stable, American produced, food supply.

A prime example is the sugar farmers which comprise roughly 11,000 farmers. America's sugar beet and sugar cane industry provides 142,000 direct and indirect jobs with nearly \$20 billion dollars in economic impact nationwide with no cost of operation to our government. Perhaps we should remember what happened in 1974 when the sugar act expired.

This country learned a good lesson then. After 40 years, in 1974 when the U.S. Sugar Act expired, the world price skyrocketed to 60 cents a pound and the American consumers suffered. Then it dropped to 3 cents a pound and forced many sugar beet and cane farmers out of business, but consumers found no saving in their food prices.

Our young American families need to have reasonable food prices to rear their children. The farm family is the basic unit shaping life in America and for over 200 years, agriculture has changed the countryside while providing rural strength. Farmers are the backbone of this country and as taxpayers we have an obligation to protect our farming

industry.

Currently, there is worldwide economic commotion and now is the time to support American farmers, as they are founders of our nation. Although, the Corona virus changed our world and has had a tremendous impact on the world economy, we must remember that the Creator of the universe is our Father, and He is in charge.

I pray the new members of our congress recognize the importance of our agriculture sector. History is a wise teacher and if we look back and learn from our past mistakes we will prosper from this great teacher.



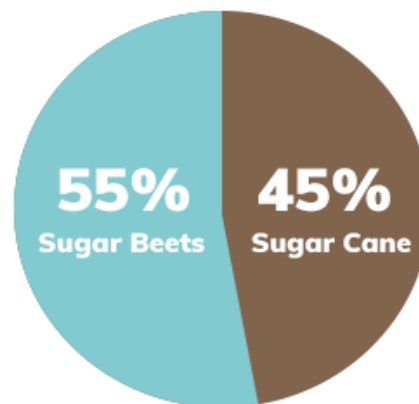
### American Jobs

America's sugar producers support 142,000 U.S. jobs in 22 states.<sup>3</sup>

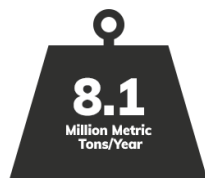


### Acres Planted

11,000 family farmers grow sugar on 2 million acres in 2017/2018.<sup>4</sup>



Sugar beets account for 55% of the total sugar produced in the U.S., and sugar cane accounts for the remaining 45%.<sup>6</sup>



# Women Involved in Farm Economics

## Legislative Commodity Report by Chair Marlene Kouba



Many manufacturers don't want their customers to be able to repair their devices or take them to local shops to get them fixed there. Affecting farmers and ranchers now is the right to repair their farm machinery that is full of micro-computers that run everything from the motor to opening the door.

As of right now, 17 states have introduced legislation that would give independent repair shops the same access, that the manufacturers have, to genuine parts, tools, and information that would help aid in the repair process. No laws have officially been passed yet in the consumer electronics sector but the Automotive Right to Repair law was passed in Massachusetts in 2012. It required car-makers to sell their proprietary diagnostic tools and software to third-party repair shops.

My ND Senator Cramer told me the bill has not yet had a hearing and will need to be reintroduced in the

next Congress.

Thanks to the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act of 1975, it's illegal for companies to void your warranty just because you repaired or modified something yourself or even broken the seal. They have to prove that your repair or modification caused something else in the device to malfunction. This means the scary warranty stickers are actually meaningless from a legal standpoint.

The Right to Repair refers to proposed government legislation that would allow consumers the ability to repair and modify their own consumer products (electronic, automotive devices, farm vehicles, tractors, etc.) where otherwise the manufacturer of such products require the consumer to use only their offered services by restricting access to tools and components, or software barriers put in place to hinder independent repair or modification.

Repair is legal under copyright law and patent laws. However, owners and independent

technicians are often unable to make their own repairs because of manufacturer limitation and access to tools, diagnostics, documentation, and firmware.

Right to Repair laws will most likely come down to the state legislature level and your voice is an important part of that. Call or write your elected officials. Make your voice heard and get involved no matter where you live.

Biden's new 725-page and \$739 billion Inflation Reduction Act could raise taxes on middle-class workers earning less than \$200,000 or up to \$16.7 billion in a decade. It would raise another \$14.1 billion from taxpayers earning between \$200,000 and \$400,000 which includes about 98 percent of all tax returns. It includes \$369 billion on various climate change initiatives to reduce carbon emissions by about 40 percent by 2030 through renewable energy practices. It imposes a 16.4 cent tax per barrel on imported oil which adds billions of dollars of increases to gasoline production. It

includes billions for the IRS to hire 87,000 armed agents to audit middle class Americans (even though there is already a shortage of auditors), expands broadband, reduces cost of medicines for some, subsidies for the wealthy, and higher costs for domestic energy production. It gives \$10 billion in tax credits to build electric vehicles, solar panels and wind turbines and \$20 billion for loans to promote electric vehicle manufacturing for climate change. Some say it is a version of his "Build Back Better". It will have little effect on inflation. Biden signed it August 16.





## Legislative Commodity Report Continued...

Other bills in Congress in August: H. J. Res. 15 would repeal the 22nd Amendment that limits the number of terms a president may serve. H.R. 25 would abolish the IRS and enact a national sales tax administered by the states. H.R. 74 would provide for the collection of data on traffic stops. H.R. 75 would end membership in the United Nations. H.R. 124 would combine the Navy and the

Marine Corps. H.R. 194 would apply the Buy American Act to products purchased for the use of Congress. H. R 213 would ensure that consumers be notified if their food from crops, livestock or poultry were raised on land that contained sewage sludge. H.R. 214 would lift the trade embargo on Cuba.

The House passed the Promoting Agriculture Safeguards and Security Act (PASS) to limit foreign ownership of our land. The Senate has introduced S.4786 to amend the 1950 Defense Protection Act to allow for the review of agricultural transactions.



## The Importance of your Legislative Voice

As WIFE members, your legislative voice is very important. In today's world everyone is so busy it seems they have little time to be legislatively active.

When I talked with legislators, they shared with me just how few letters and comments they get on important legislation. Your voice can and will make a dif-

ference.

Legislator suggestions included the following:

1. Be Respectful
2. Have clear points regarding the bill.
3. Be persuasive, not abrasive.
4. State your concerns in one page if possible.
5. Close by thanking them and share your personal story.

6. Provide your name, address, email, and phone.

7. Send your information by email and regular mail.

8. Follow up with a call.

It is often difficult to condense your feelings regarding a topic that you are passionate about, however, it is important to be clear

and concise with your facts while stating your position.

Remember, it only takes a few people to make a difference.

Thank you Ladies for all you do and your help with Legislative issues.

Belinda Sturges

WIFE National Pres.



## Women Involved in Farm Economics

### Trade Commodity Report by Chair Judy Trent

There are Major discussions and talks with Mexico over the uncertainty of the unnecessary ban on biotech corn in Mexico trade. This ban would take effect next year starting January 31, 2024 and cost 32,000 U.S. jobs annually and worsen food insecurity in Mexico. The ban will also make a major disruption in the market for US corn.

Mexico is the largest destination for U.S. corn exports (followed by China), accounting for 27 percent of all U.S. corn export in marketing year 2021/22 in terms of volume. Mexico has had recent discussions on the genetically modified corn and the herbicide glyphosate. Mexico relies heavily on imported yellow corn from the United States which is used in

livestock production. On the other hand, Mexico grows predominantly white corn that is allocated for human consumption. The largest portion of yellow corn is primarily for livestock production, followed by industrial and seed with human consumption accounting for only a small portion.

The National Corn Growers Association has been active in pushing back with strong support from the Biden administration in Washington. On January 31st Nebraska Corn Growers held a well-attended briefing with a panel of experts:

Congressman Adrian Smith from Nebraska, chair of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade.

Acting Deputy Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Jason Hafemeister

NCGA President Tom Haag

Nebraska Grower Andy Jobman.

And the discussion was moderated by NCGA Vice President of Communications Neil Caskey.

\*\*\* To listen to the full briefing:

<https://ncga.com>



# Women Involved in Farm Economics

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## Publicity by Pam Potthoff

Here in Nebraska we generally think about U.S. agricultural exports as the big three: beef, corn and soybeans. However, the United States also has a robust export business in fruits and vegetables. Unfortunately, 2022 was not an especially good year for U.S. fresh produce exports.

U.S. fresh fruit exports were rated at \$4.1 billion in 2022, down 8% compared with 2021 and down 5% compared with 2020. Fresh fruit export volume was rated at 2.1 million metric tons, down 13% from 2021 and 17% lower than 2020.

The volume of U.S. fresh, dried, and processed fruit exports between 2012/13 and 2021/22 dropped 29 percent to 2.9 million metric tons. However, a 25-percent gain in unit

value during this period softened the decrease in value to just 11 percent lower as trade dropped \$700 million to \$6.0 billion. A contributing factor to lower export volumes was a contraction in production for most of the top export commodities. However, this situation was partially offset by rising exports to Canada and Mexico due to the U.S. advantage as a border country transporting perishable goods as well as differences in growing seasons between the United States and other countries supplying these markets. In 2021/22, the top U.S. fruit markets were Canada, with nearly three times the value as #2 Mexico, then Japan and South Korea.

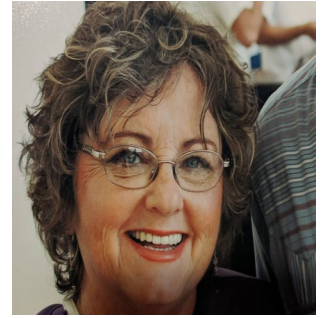
In Nebraska, commercial vegetable production acreages have seen a steady growth over last five to ten years. De-

mand for fresh and locally produced vegetables has spurred growth in farmers markets and direct marketing to local restaurants and wholesale businesses. By value, here are 2022 export numbers for selected U.S. fresh produce commodities according to the USDA.

Number 1 is apples (\$877.8 million, down 3%). Followed by berries (\$804.4 million, down 1%), citrus, excluding oranges and tangerines (\$787.5 million, down 13%), and grapes (\$637.1 million, down 2%).

The largest vegetable export, lettuce, comes in as #5 (\$617.5 million, up 16%).

The top ten then is rounded out by oranges/tangerines (574.1 million, down 17%), cherries (\$339.5 million, down 29%), potatoes



(\$303.2 million, up 10%), onions (\$256.4 million, up 18%) and cauliflower (\$217.6, up 40%). As you can see, Nebraska does not produce abundant enough volume to be an actor in fruit and vegetable exporting.



# Women Involved in Farm Economics

## Homeland Security Report by Marlene Kouba



The Coast Guard has encountered immigrants packed into low-grade vessels all along the Florida and Puerto Rico coastlines. Those coming illegally were 3,400 from Cuba and 6,100 from Haiti. Those who reach landfall or swim ashore are taken into custody by Border Patrol. The Coast Guard has intercepted more than 10,000 people since October. Nearly 8,000 were detained around south Florida and the Florida Keys. Those caught by the Coast Guard were returned back to their countries although Cuba refuses to take any back. None were arrested or detained. More than 170,000 have attempted to cross the Mexican border since last October—ten times more than all of 2020 and the highest ever number of them seeking asylum.

Our southern border is now the world's deadliest land crossing. More than 1,238 lives were lost in 2021—the most since 2014 when documentation started. There were 154 Mexicans, 129 Guatemalans, 94 Venezuelans, and at least 500 unidentified. More than 1.7 million illegals were encountered this year and it could reach 2.1 million, including 900,000 'got-aways'. These are the highest numbers since records began in 1960.

The Biden administration approved a Trump-era project to complete a section of a border wall in California south of San Diego. New fencing will replace and extend existing barriers with new 30 foot walls with no pedestrian gate. Arizona is finishing parts of the wall, too. Nearly 2 million immigrants have been released into the U.S. since January 2021.

Homeland Security hired a nonprofit group to provide beds for illegal immigrants after Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) no longer had room for them. ICE spent \$17 million of an \$87 million contract on unused hotel rooms intended for illegal immigrants.

Texas has bused more than 7,400 immigrants to Washington since mid-April. They have also spent more than \$7 million in state funds without slowing the flow of immigrants. The state is now taking donations to help fund the charter buses. Any excess money will be used for a border wall. About 1,500 immigrants were bused to DC plus some were sent to Martha's Vineyard and Biden's home town as well.

New York City has had a sharp increase of 2,800 immigrants recently. Washington & New York City say they are sanctuary cities but are now asking for federal help with the influx. NY

City has a right-to-housing law that requires them to provide shelter for every unhoused person. Neither mayor has been to the southern border.

The Border Patrol stopped 193,000 immigrants in June. The U.S. has been the world's top destination for asylum-seekers since 2017. Approximately 85 percent of them never return for a hearing in court. The ACLU sued the government to allow 250 immigrants a day to cross the border....and they are coming in.

Some immigrants might be eligible for Medicare. If they have a green card, he/she or spouse has worked and paid payroll taxes for at least 10 years, they can get Medicare. If not, they can pay a monthly premium for coverage as long as they have lived in the U.S. legally for five years. For new immigrants, they have to wait until they are legal for five years.

Foreign investors control 37.6 million agricultural acres in America. Canada owns 10.4 million acres, the Netherlands has 4.8 million, and Italy had 2.5 million. Mexico has top spot with 700,000 acres. Two of the world's largest offshore banking hubs (the Cayman Islands and Switzerland) own 600,000 acres each. China has 192,000 acres while, Russia and Iran own 8,000 acres. Some of them are looking for family farms with no successors.

Most states have no restrictions on foreign ownership. Texas and Maine have the laxest regulations so they have the highest percentage with 4.4 million and 3.3 million acres. Six states have restricted foreign ownership—Hawaii, Iowa, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Dakota and Oklahoma.

In the House, HR 5490 would require USDA and the Government Accountability Office to conduct an analysis and report to Congress on foreign influence in U.S. ag. The House FY2022 ag appropriations legislation will require USDA to take action to prohibit the purchase of ag land by companies owned in full or part by China, Russia, Iran and North Korea.

Border patrol seized 763,192 pounds of narcotics and 294,950 illegal drugs in 2020. They seized 2,071 pounds of fentanyl and 12,989 pounds of meth in July. For that month alone it amounts to about 469 million lethal doses of fentanyl. More than \$400,000 worth of liquid meth was hidden inside 136 condoms stuffed inside of pumpkins, valued at \$402,196. In June they found 44 pounds of cocaine-coated corn flakes inside the cushion of an electric wheelchair. In August the Dept. of Homeland Security ended the Trump policy called "Remain in Mexico" so that immigrants will no longer be turned back while waiting for their hearing.



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2946 County Road 53

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## National WIFE Officers

**President** Belinda Sturges

1001 County Road G Lamar, Colorado 81052 belinda.sturges@gmail.com  
719-691-8747

**Vice-President** Kerry Froese

30377 County Road HH, La Junta, Colorado 81050

kerry.froese33@gmail.com 719-469-7749

**Secretary** Pam Potthoff

35807 Drive 714, Trenton, NE 69044

coyotepp@bwtlcom.net 308-737-7840

**Treasurer** Jenifer Felzien

2946 County Road 53, Sterling, Co 80751

gjfelz@kci.net 970-522-1429

**Area 1 Director** Chris Anken

9423 Steuben Valley Road, Holland Patent, NY 13354

cowcafe54@gmail.com 315-794-7321

**Area II Director** Judy Trent Area II Director

P O Box 61, Litchfield, Ne 68852

jutrent@hotmail.com 308-293-1725

### State Presidents

**Alabama** Mary Ann Sheppard 334-727-7737

**Arizona** Sue Krentz krentz.sue@gmail.com 520-558-2252

**Colorado** Kerry Froese kerry.froese33@gmail.com 719-469-7749

**Kansas** Ann Looney Schlereth maschlereth@gmail.com 620-682-5276

**Montana** Phyllis Hoskin 406-662-3518

**Nebraska** Pam Potthoff coyotepp@bwtelcom.net 303-737-7840

**New Mexico** Tammy Pompeo mtpompeo@vct.net 575-548-2644

**New York** Chris Anken cowcafe54@gmail.com 315-794-7321

**North Dakota** Phyllis Howatt howphy@midco.net 701-256-2151

**Oklahoma** Andrea Hutchison bossybovine@yahoo.com 580-886-5139

### South Carolina

Nancy Koehler myfarmilove1@gmail.com 864-578-5372

### Texas

Nicquole Knapp 719-859-5177

niquoleknapp@gmail.com

### Wisconsin

Deborah Esselman debessel@pcpro.net 715-613-5556

### WYOMING

Klodette Stroh 307-754-5864



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Mail to: **Jennifer Felzien**

2946 CR 53, Sterling, CO 80751

970-522-1429 [gjfelz@kci.net](mailto:gjfelz@kci.net)

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Belinda Sturges , Editor  
1001 County Road G  
Lamar, Colorado 81052

719-691-8747  
Belinda.sturges@gmail.com



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