



USCA 2022 Priority Bills

Marketing & Competition Reform

- Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act (S. 3229/H.R. 5992): This bill would establish minimum levels of cash sales that vary based on cattle marketing region, using each region's previous 18-month average trade as a guide for the level of cash sales that's necessary for price discovery in a particular region.

It would require the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to create and maintain a publicly available library of marketing contracts between packers and producers in a manner that ensures confidentiality.

It would prohibit the USDA from using confidentiality as a justification for not reporting and make clear that USDA must report all LMR information, and they must do so in a manner that ensures confidentiality.

It would require more timely reporting of cattle carcass weights as well as requiring a packer to report the number of cattle scheduled to be delivered for slaughter each day for the next 14 days.

Finally, it would require a cost benefit analysis after 2 years to ensure the program is working as intended and allow USDA to periodically modify regional minimums after a public notice and comment period.

- Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act (S. 2036/H.R. 4103): The bill would create the "Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters" within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Packers and Stockyards Division.

The new USDA special investigator will have a team of investigators, with subpoena power, dedicated to preventing and addressing anticompetitive practices in the meat and poultry industries and enforcing our nation's antitrust laws. They will coordinate and act in consultation with the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission and create a new bridge between the USDA and the Department of Homeland Security to protect the continuation of the food supply and increase our national security.

Building Capacity for Independent Processors

- Strengthening Local Processing Act (S. 370/H.R. 1258): This bill would increase the federal share of costs for state inspection from 50 to 65 percent and for Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) facilities from 60 to 80 percent, thus encouraging more states to operate state inspection programs and participate in CIS. There are currently 27 states that operate a state inspection program and eight states that participate in CIS.

The legislation would also authorize competitive grants to small and very small establishments, state inspected facilities, custom exempt facilities, or new small-scale slaughter facilities for activities related to COVID-19 response and recovery. It would also authorize a new \$10 million grant program for colleges and universities to establish or expand meat processing training program and a new \$10 million grant program for small and very small establishments or nongovernmental organizations to offset the cost of training new meat processors.

- New Markets for State-Inspected Meat and Poultry Act of 2021 (S.107/H.R. 5246): This bill allows meat and meat food products inspected by State Meat and Poultry Inspection programs to be sold in interstate commerce.

Under the current federal inspection program, the Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service allows states that meet certain requirements to inspect meat and meat food products. The state-inspected products are currently limited to intrastate commerce, unless a state opts into a separate Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program.

Labeling

- U.S.A. Beef Act (S. 2623/H.R. 4973): This bill prohibits the label of cattle meat or a meat food product of cattle from bearing the phrase Product of U.S.A. unless such meat or meat food product is exclusively derived from one or more cattle born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States.
- American Beef Labeling Act (S. 2716): This bill would require the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), in consultation with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, to develop a World Trade Organization-compliant means of reinstating MCOOL for beef within one year of enactment. USTR would have six months to develop a reinstatement plan followed by a six-month window to implement it. If USTR fails to reinstate MCOOL for beef within one year of enactment, it would automatically be reinstated for beef only.

Trade

- FOREST Act (S. 2950/H.R. 5508): The Fostering Overseas Rule of Law and Environmentally Sound Trade (FOREST) Act restricts access to U.S. markets for commodities originating from illegally deforested land. The bill specifically calls out a ban on Brazilian beef originating from cattle produced on illegally deforested lands.

Livestock Transportation

- Modernizing Agricultural Transportation Act (S. 1053/H.R. 2737): This bill directs the Department of Transportation to establish a working group to (1) identify obstacles to safe, humane, and market-efficient transport of livestock, insects, and agricultural commodities; and (2) develop guidelines and recommended regulatory or legislative actions to improve the safe, humane, and efficient transport of livestock, insects, and agricultural commodities.

FY 2022 Appropriations

- USCA supports an amendment in the House Appropriations Committee's fiscal year 2022 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill that would prohibit the purchase of agricultural land located in the U.S. by companies owned, in part or full, by China, Russia, Iran, or North Korea. The provision would also prohibit any currently owned land by entities of North Korea, China, Russia, or Iran from being eligible to participate in programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture. The Senate did not include this provision in its fiscal year 2022 funding bill.
- USCA supports the appropriations rider included in the Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2022 and the House Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill that prohibits any funding from being used to enforce to Electronic Logging Devices (ELD) mandate for operators of commercial motor vehicles who are transporting livestock.

Questions?

Please contact USCA's Washington, D.C. representative, Lia Biondo, at (202) 870-1552 or lia@wssdc.com. Thank you for your support of the U.S. cattle industry!