

Evangeline Parish Cattleman's Association Board Meeting  
Evangeline Beef Advisory Council  
Wednesday April 14, 2010

The Evangeline Parish Cattleman's Board and Beef Advisory Council met on Wednesday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the LSU AgCenter office.

Members present were: Michael Fontenot, Wayne Vidrine, Dale Reed, Vince Deshotel, Randy Deshotel, Tom Ardoin, Todd Fontenot, Craig Fontenot, Ike Morein, David Miller, Felix Morein, Jake Guillory, and Keith Fontenot. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 by Keith Fontenot as President Mike Fontenot was going to be arriving later.

First order of business by Keith F. was to call board members attention to the fact that one of their own, Tom Ardoin, was elected as the District 8 Vice President on the State Louisiana Cattlemen's Association (LCA) Board. With that, Tom gave an update on several state and regional LCA activities coming soon which included the following.

LCA –NCBA Southeast Livestock Network; which included a description of a Kentucky Program which certifies their calves age and source, pre-conditioned, and sell as a group. These are only co-mingled with similar calves to elicit a premium on sale price. Members voiced concerns from recent pre-vacc sales hosted in Kinder and Mansura with problems of calves being co-mingled and also problems with calves going to feedlots not having received and pre-conditioning or vaccines etc. This was noted by all. However, the importance of pre-conditioning and age and source verifying was pointed out, especially comments made by the feedyard operators on the calf to carcass tour, pointed out by Jake G, and Tom A. It was felt by the group that if the local auction markets did not get a better handle on calves coming in and not meeting pre-vacc requirements, this would eventually come back to bite us down the line.

Tom also brought up the State Board meeting to be held on May 14-15 at Chicot State Park and asked if our local board would serve as hosts to prepare a Friday night meal for the board. This was unanimously approved with several members volunteering to assist in food preparation. Tom stated the state board would cover costs of food and refreshments.

The next item was the LCA Emergency Preparedness meeting to be held on Saturday, June 12 at the Acadia Parish Extension office. This is a preparatory meeting of first responders and state agencies prior to the hurricane season. This meeting will attempt to simplify the "Chain of Command" if and when we have such an emergency, so we do not have any duplication of efforts, or lack of response due to not knowing who to contact or report a situation to. Tom also pointed out that the old North East University Farm is now being utilized for production and storage of hay for an emergency situation, to have stored hay supplies available.

Tom also touched on the importance of joining the National Cattleman's Beef Association (NCBA). He noted that their incentive program with Cydectin is still in effect and that dues will increase after the May 1st deadline. Tom then turned the meeting back over to Mike and Keith for further discussion of events.

Keith then started a picture powerpoint program detailing the recent "Calf to Carcass" trip taken by seven Evangeline Parish board and association members along with several other members from around the state. Tom Ardoin and Jake Guillory offered comments along with Keith on the tour pictures giving their personal explanations of the tour, stops on the tour, and how much they enjoyed it. They also encouraged all board members present to try to go on a Calf to Carcass trip. They emphasized the value of retained ownership, age and source verifying, and the pre-conditioning of cattle prior to sending a load to the yards. Several board members committed to put a load of cattle together for the next "Calf to Carcass" program consisting entirely of Evangeline Parish cattle. With the numbers discussed that night, with several cattlemen committed to 5 or 6 cattle each, putting together a load should not be a problem. Dr. Page will be contacted to present and discuss the program to all parish association members, possibly at our field day meeting or another meeting prior to Calf to Carcass deadlines.

Discussion then centered on contacting and finalizing dates with Dominiques Livestock Auction and Kinder Livestock Auction for the annual Cattleman's Association benefit sales. The 2009 Dominiques sale was on June 23, and keeping with their tradition this sale would be on June 22 for 2010. Kinder livestock sale last year was on October 12. Vince Deshotel will contact Giles for dates for this year, possibly utilizing the Mansura facility for an early September sale so as not to conflict with any scheduled pre-vacc sales.

Other incidental discussion on activities included:  
McNeese University Field Day will be held Thursday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fuller Farms near Kinder. Topics will include, giant soybean forage systems, heifer development, reproductive management, and veterinary issues.

Rosepine Research Station Field Day will be held Thursday, May 6. Registration at 9:00 a.m. and tours at 10:00 a.m. Topics will include ryegrass baleage, forage finished beef, ryegrass utilization, warm season grasses, non traditional forages followed by lunch and a baling demonstration.

Evangeline Parish Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ville Platte Wal Mart parking lot. Burgers will be served. This is going along with our State Association executive secretary stating his goal for this year was 440 pints of blood for our state total.

Parish field day discussion was next with Keith and Vince stating that we would again have several herbicide demonstration plots along with a speaking program back at the barn after the field tours of the demonstrations along with a meal. Dates will probably follow along last year, around the end of June.

After incidental discussion the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m. with the members enjoying a delicious meal of grilled beef shoulder, cooked by Vince, rice dressing prepared by Jake Guillory, bread, and a delicious dessert prepared by Mrs. Cathy Guillory.