

# Iowa FFA Ag Broadcasting Career Development Event Sub-District Script – 2012

## **DOL to re-propose 'parental exemption'**

February 2, 2012 By Dave Russell

Public comments and concerns from members of Congress with the proposed revision to the child labor in agriculture rule published on September 2, 2011 has prompted the Department of Labor (DOL) to take a closer look at a portion of the rule.

In a conference call with reporters on Wednesday, February 1, officials with the Department of Labor explained their decision to re-propose the 'parental exemption' portion of the child labor in agriculture rule which has been in existence for 40 years.

"Corporate structures of farms and ownership of farms and how farms are operated has changed," said a DOL official. "So consequently we are wanting to take advantage of all of these really amazing and important comments that we've received to ensure that what we do put out as final, is now informed by this really important comment process."

The Department of Labor's re-propose portion of the rule is expected to be published sometime this summer at which time public comments will be accepted. In the meantime the DOL will continue to review public comments already received on the remaining portions of the proposed rule. The agency official, in the statement read to reporters, said that until the revised exemption is final, the DOL will revert to its earlier enforcement practice.

"The parental exemption to situations in which the parent or person standing in the place of a parent is a part owner of the farm, a partner in a partnership or an officer of a corporation that owns the farm if the ownership interest in the partnership or corporation is substantial. This approach is consistent with guidance the Wage and Hour Division has provided to the public on its website for the past several years."

## **Fighting food insecurity here at home**

February 2, 2012 By Meghan Grebner

Howard G. Buffett, president of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation will keynote this weekend's Purdue Ag Fish Fry. Buffett tells Brownfield while one of the goals of the foundation is to address global food insecurity; he says, we also need to address food insecurity here. "In a country that exports more corn, soybeans and wheat than anybody else in the world, one sixth of our population (50 million people) is at risk for food insecurity," Buffett says. "It's disgusting."

He says the one thing about hunger in this country that differs from others is that every single person that has any resources can do something about it. Buffett says it's not as daunting as saying, "How do I help someone that is 12,000 miles away in a culture that I don't understand?" "It's down the

street." Buffett thinks being proactive about fighting food security is important for the population to grasp. "It's something we can all add to it, in terms of the solution," he says.

### **Opportunity to buy bulls with known genetics**

February 2, 2012 By [Dave Russell](#)

Cattlemen looking for bulls with known genetics, a completed vaccination program and breeding soundness exam will have a couple of opportunities in Ohio.

"We have a date scheduled for Friday, March 30 at Zanesville and then Saturday, April 14 at the Union Stockyards at Hillsboro," said John Grimes sale manager and Extension Beef Coordinator at the Ohio State University. "Basically we will be selling serviceable age bulls, March 1, 2010 and older and they have to meet certain requirements in terms of registration, EPDs, pass a fertility test and things like that and then we'll offer those for sale to commercial producers around the state on those two days."

### **Ohio counties eligible for disaster assistance**

February 2, 2012 By [Dave Russell](#)

Eight Ohio counties, including Butler, Darke, Defiance, Hamilton, Mercer, Paulding, Preble and Van Wert, qualify for natural disaster assistance because they are contiguous to counties in Indiana designated primary natural disaster areas.

Farm operators in those counties, who meet eligibility requirements have eight months from the date of the declaration (Jan. 27, 2012) to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. Information is available at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices.

### **Ethanol, livestock, tax issues key for Mo Corn**

February 1, 2012 By [Julie Harker](#)

Missouri Corn Growers Association members have gathered in Jefferson City for their annual meeting and lobby day Tuesday. Their CEO Gary Marshall outlined Missouri Corn's three main legislative priorities this session.

Ethanol incentives are one, says Marshall, "We want to make sure that the government here in Missouri follows through with the last of the incentives for our ethanol industry. We still have two plants that are vulnerable, we think, particularly with the federal subsidies going away now. So, we want to make sure and protect those.

Preventing property tax increases is another. Marshall tells Brownfield, "(Property taxes) go across the board whether you're making money or whether you haven't. This year, we had some folks who had a really good crop but if you lived along the Missouri River or along Birds Point (Levee) down in New Madrid or if you happened to be in northwest Missouri - or - northeast Missouri where we had droughts, it was a very tough year. So, we think increasing taxes - it's the wrong time to do that."

And, Marshall says, support of the livestock industry in Missouri is equally important. He says the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is continuing to try and go after the industry through ballot initiatives. Marshall says the HSUS "stretches the truth a lot"...and Missouri

"We live here in Missouri, our farmers are in Missouri, we live with this every single day and we're gonna be as truthful as Missouri citizens as we possibly can. We're going to look out for the best interests of livestock because not only is it in our best interests to do it but it's in the best interest of the livestock as well."

Growers met one-one-one with Missouri legislators and held their annual business meeting - NASCAR driver Kenny Wallace was their luncheon keynote speaker - telling growers he will continue to tirelessly promote Missouri corn, corn growers and corn ethanol.

## **U.S. cheese production increased 1.7% last year**

February 1, 2012 By [Bob Meyer](#)

Total cheese production in the United States in December was 929 million pounds up 2.4 percent from December of 2010. Italian-type cheese production increased 3.5 percent from a year ago to 409 million pounds while American-type production was 1.2 percent higher at 371 million pounds in December.

Wisconsin cheese production increased 3.5 percent in December to 230.2 million pounds. The Badger State saw American type cheese production increase 0.9 percent to 68.7 million pounds although cheddar output declined 0.8 percent to 49.4 million pounds. Italian cheese production increased 5.8 percent in Wisconsin in December to 121.6 million pounds. California cheese production increased 2.7 percent to 195.5 million pounds. American cheese production in the Golden State was 1.8 percent lower at 50.13 million pounds including a 0.1 percent decline in cheddar output to 27.78 million pounds. Italian output increase 5.7 percent to 127 million pounds.

Rounding-out the top-five cheese producing states compared to a year ago: Idaho 75.67 million pounds +1.3%; New York 68.6 million pounds +5.9%; New Mexico 64.69 million pounds -2.8%.

Butter production totaled 166 million pounds in December up 8.9 percent from a year ago.

Other product production compared to a year ago:

Nonfat dry milk, 150 million pounds +8%

Skim milk powders, 36.6 million pounds +34.6%

Dry whey, 83 million pounds -7.1%

Lactose, 85.7 million pounds +3.7%

Whey protein concentrate, 39.6 million pounds +5.8%

Regular ice cream 50.3 million gallons, down slightly

Low fat ice cream 24.5 million gallons +16.3%

Sherbet 2.42 million gallons -17.7%

Frozen yogurt 3.27 million gallons +11%

For the year, total cheese production 10.609 billion pounds up 1.7 percent from 2010. Italian type cheese production totaled 4.568 billion pounds up 3.3 percent. Mozzarella output was 2.4 percent higher at 3.573 billion pounds. American type cheese production declined 0.4 percent to 4.259 billion pounds with Cheddar output 2.6 percent lower totaling 3.148 billion pounds.

Butter production for the year increased 15.4 percent to 1.805 billion pounds.

## **CRP general signup announced**

February 1, 2012 By [Bob Meyer](#)

USDA will conduct a four-week Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup, beginning on March 12 and ending on April 6. Currently, about 30 million acres are enrolled in CRP; and contracts on an estimated 6.5 million acres will expire on September 30, 2012.

Producers with expiring contracts and producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP. Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, signup basis.

Offers for CRP contracts are ranked according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). The Index takes into consideration wildlife habitat benefits, water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff and leaching, air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion and if any of those benefits would extend beyond the life of the contract.

## **Clausen reelected to chair Wisconsin DNR**

February 1, 2012 By [Bob Meyer](#)

Amery veterinarian Dr. David Clausen has been re-elected chair of the Wisconsin DNR Board. Clausen owns Apple River Animal Hospital in Amery, he was first appointed to the board in 2006, his current term expires May 1, 2013.

Preston Cole was re-elected vice chair of the board, Cole is Director of Operations for the Milwaukee Department of Public Works. He was first appointed to the board in 2007 and his current term expires in 2013 as well.

Christine Thomas, Dean and Professor of resource management at U.W. Stevens Point was re-elected secretary. She has been on the board since 2004; her current term runs to May 1, 2015.

The seven-member DNR board is appointed by the governor with advice and consent of the state senate.

## **Corn, soybeans, wheat supported by weather woes**

February 1, 2012 By [John Perkins](#)

Soybeans were higher on speculative and fund buying, along with spillover from the outside markets. The dollar was lower and the Dow was higher; crude oil did close lower but that really wasn't much of a factor. Ahead of the open, China bought 120,000 tons of 2011/12 U.S. beans and there are continued concerns about weather in South America with southern Brazil hot and dry and recent rain in Argentina falling short of expectations.

Soybean meal and oil were higher on spillover from beans and the fundamental implications of a smaller South American crop. USDA's weekly export sales report is out Thursday at 7:30 AM Central. Soybeans are placed at 450,000 to 750,000 tons, meal is seen at 100,000 to 200,000 tons, and oil is pegged at 0 to 15,000 tons.

Corn was modestly higher on fund and commercial buying, in addition to spillover from wheat, beans, and the outside markets. There was no fresh demand news, which limited gains, but the cash basis is strong and the nearby

supply looks tight. In any event, there's continued support from the expected South America crop loss.

Ethanol was mostly firm. Zambia's Food Reserve Agency via Dow Jones Newswires reports corn exports are up 30% from average due to increased supply and production shortfalls in neighboring countries. Mexico's National Confederation of Corn Producers states corn killed during December was replanted but added production will be dependent on improved rainfall. Weekly corn export sales are expected to be between 500,000 and 700,000 tons.

The wheat complex was higher on speculative and commercial buying, along with the lower dollar. Winterkill is probable in the Black Sea region and Russia may add an export tax as early as the end of this week. Commodity Weather Group, via Dow Jones Newswires, estimates winterkill is at least starting in around a third of Ukraine's winter wheat crop, adding Russia's damage potential is around 15%, and even France and Poland could see "light to moderate damage" in 15% of their winter crops. At the start of the session, unknown destinations bought 120,000 tons of 2011/12 U.S. soft red winter wheat. European wheat was higher on the European weather concerns. Ukraine's Agrarian Federation, also via Dow Jones, says wheat exports for the first seven months of the marketing year are 3.3 million tons, and Russia's Ag Ministry states grain exports from July 1 to February 1 are 19.08 million tons, 80% of the same period from 2010 to 2011. Japan issued a sell-buy-sell tender for 100,000 tons of feed wheat and 200,000 tons of feed barley. Weekly U.S. wheat sales are estimated at 500,000 to 700,000 tons.

### **Corn Refiners find fault with another study**

February 1, 2012 By Julie Harker

The Corn Refiners Association (CRA) finds fault with another recent study that involves high fructose corn syrup.

The CRA takes issue with the study by the Georgia Health Sciences University that says there are cardiovascular risks associated with consuming fructose - which is found in many sweeteners including both table sugar and high fructose corn syrup (HFCS).

In a news release, the CRA says researchers relied on "the memory of adolescents about what they ate" - something the authors have acknowledged as one of the weaknesses in their study. And, the study suggests consumption of HFCS is increasing, while the Corn Refiners say USDA data shows that intake from all added sugars has been declining for more than a decade.

Last week, Audrae Erickson, President of the Corn Refiners Association, debunked a study in the journal *Metabolism* that said high fructose corn syrup was metabolized differently in the body than sugar, pointing out - in a news release - limitations in the study and a conflict of interest disclosed by one of the authors. The American Medical Association and the American Dietetic Association say previous studies have shown that table sugar and high fructose corn syrup are similar in composition and are metabolized in the body the same way.

## **Closing Grain and Livestock Futures: February 1, 2012**

February 1, 2012 By John Perkins

Mar. corn closed at \$6.42, up 3 cents  
Mar. soybeans closed at \$12.15 and 1/4, up 16 and 1/4 cents  
Mar. soybean meal closed at \$322.30, up \$3.00  
Mar. soybean oil closed at 51.18, up 31 points  
Mar. wheat closed at \$6.74, up 8 cents  
Feb. live cattle closed at \$125.70, up 85 cents  
Feb. lean hogs closed at \$87.62, up 10 cents  
Mar. crude oil closed at \$97.61, down 87 cents  
Mar. cotton closed at 93.39, up 14 points  
Feb. Class III milk closed at \$16.35, down 17 cents  
Dow Jones Industrial Average: 12,716.46, up 83.55 points

## **Raw milk amendment approved in Indiana State Senate**

February 1, 2012 By Meghan Grebner

Monday afternoon the Indiana State Senate approved an amendment that proposes the direct sale of raw milk to the public. Indiana Professional Dairy Producers President LuAnn Troxel says there are some concerns over the proposed rules of the legal sale of raw milk. She says many of the ag professionals that have been consulted do not believe that this particular amendment properly deals with the issue.

"For example," she says, "Our state veterinarian needs to be involved in this decision." In addition, Troxel believes the Indiana board of Public Health should be involved in the conversation. She tells Brownfield, "If we're going to truly discuss legalizing the sale of unpasteurized milk, there should be a discussion among the stakeholders involved, the public health officials and scientist."

Todd Janzen, legal adviser to IPDP summarizes the amendment as follows:

- If producers have less than 20 cows they can register to sell raw milk **(Notwithstanding any other law, a milk producer who does not have a permit under this chapter may register with the department for the purposes described in subsection (d) if the milk producer milks fewer than twenty (20) cows.)**
- The milk producer must provide a sanitary container and fill the container in a sanitary manner
- The raw milk producer must display a sign that states **"Raw milk products are sold here. Raw milk products are not pasteurized."**
- The container must contain a label that states: **"This product contains raw milk. Consume at your own risk."**

The bill the amendment is attached to is expected to come up for a vote later today.

## **Counties honored at Young Farmer Conference**

February 1, 2012 By Meghan Grebner

Several Young Farmer programs were recognized this past weekend during the Indiana Farm Bureau Young Farmer Leadership Conference. Three counties were received awards for their outstanding county Young Farmer programs.

Jasper County accumulated the most points for its Young Farmer activities and took the highest honors and honorable mentions were awarded to Marion and LaPorte counties.

Other recognitions from this past weekend: Rush County was named the most improved Young Farmer program and Wells and Jennings counties received the Awakening Award, which recognizes programs that have not entered in the past three years. Counties were also honored for their impact on Feeding America (a nationwide network of food banks). Warren County donated the most pounds; Marion County gave the most volunteer time; and Johnson County raised the most money.

Indiana Farm Bureau Young Farmer program is for IFB members between 18 and 35 years old.

### **Kansas ag secretary has immigrant labor plan**

January 31, 2012 By [Bob Meyer](#)

The Kansas Secretary of Agriculture is seeking a waiver from the federal government which would allow undocumented immigrants to work in Kansas agriculture. Dale Rodman says there is a shortage of agricultural workers in Kansas and he wants to create a legal, straightforward manner of organizing existing immigrant labor. The Secretary tells the Topeka Capital-Journal he has met with the Department of Homeland Security several times about creating a pilot program and they have yet to make a decision.

Rodman's plan is gaining support from a coalition of business interests, it would link sponsor companies with illegal immigrants who have been in Kansas at least five years and have no criminal background. Employers would pay a fee which would be used to support the program. Lawmakers in Topeka are working on legislation to establish an outline for the program.

The idea is offered as an alternative to immigration laws which have driven farm workers out of Arizona, Alabama and Georgia. The Kansas Secretary of State is promising a similar law in Kansas. Rodman says farmers in those states watched their crops rot in the fields because of a lack of workers.

### **Federal grazing rates unchanged for 2012**

January 31, 2012 By [Bob Meyer](#)

The U.S. Forest Service Bureau of Land Management has announced the grazing fee on federal lands for 2012 will be \$1.35 per head per month on Forest Service land and \$1.35 per animal unit per month on BLM land. The fees are unchanged from 2011.

The units are one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month. The new rates are effective on March 1, applies to more than 8,000 permits administered by the U.S. Forest Service and nearly 18,000 grazing permits and leases administered by the BLM in 16 western states. The states are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Permit holders and lessees may contact their local U.S. Forest Service or BLM office for additional information.

### **"A tough quarter" for ADM**

January 31, 2012 By Bob Meyer

ADM reported earnings of \$80 million or 12-cents per share for the quarter ending December 31, 2011. Both numbers are down 89 percent from the same period last year. Adjusted Earnings per Share (EPS) was 51 cents down 58 percent from a year ago. Segment profit for the quarter was \$648 million down 52 percent from the record quarter a year ago.

ADM Chairman and CEO Patricia Woertz says ongoing weakness in global oilseeds margins, lower results in corn and poor international merchandising resulted in "a tough quarter". Among the factors, oilseeds processing profit declined \$72 million, agricultural services profit decreased \$268 million due in part to lower U.S. export volumes and corn processing decreased \$532 million thanks in part to asset impairment charges related to the PHA renewable plastic production facility at Clinton, Iowa. Minus that charge, corn processing profit was down \$193 million from the second quarter of 2010.

ADM returned \$304 million to shareholders in the quarter including buying back 6.5 million shares and increasing the quarterly dividend a penny-and-a-half to 17.5 cents.

### **A little more profitable on the farm in January**

January 31, 2012 By Bob Meyer

The Preliminary Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January increased 3.9 percent from December. The Crop Index increased 5.1 percent, the average corn price increased 4 cents to \$5.90 per bushel, soybeans increased 20 cents to average \$11.70, and all wheat was 33 cents lower at an average \$6.86 per bushel while the all-hay price dropped \$5 to average \$172 per ton.

Livestock Index declined 0.6 percent in January. Beef were \$4 higher at \$124 per hundredweight while pigs were \$1.10 lower at \$62.40 per cwt. Broilers were up 2 cents to average 49 cents per pound, turkeys were 5.4 cents lower at 66 cents per pound and eggs dropped 43.3 cents to average 66.7 cents per dozen.

The Dairy Products Index is down 3.3 percent for the month, the January all milk price comes in at \$19.20 per cwt down 60 cents from December. As a result, dairy profitability narrowed again in January, while the all milk price was \$19.20, the cost of feed to produce a hundred pounds of milk totaled \$10.85 putting income over feed cost at \$8.35 down 51 cents from December and below the ten-year average income-over-feed-cost of \$8.98.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers in January is up 1 percent from December. Higher prices for feeder cattle, interest, taxes and land rent outpaced lower prices for complete feeds, concentrates, LP gas and diesel.

Compared to a year ago, the Prices Received by Farmers Index is up 12 percent while the Prices Paid Index is 6.2 percent higher.

## **Group calls for changes to Nebraska's zoning process**

January 31, 2012 By Ken Anderson

A group that was instrumental in getting Initiative 300, Nebraska's anti-corporate farming law, overturned, is calling for changes to Nebraska's zoning process—a move it says is necessary for the state to grow its livestock industry.

Omaha investment banker Mark Lakers heads up the Nebraska Agriculture and Livestock Foundation. Lakers says Nebraska has fallen behind neighboring states in attracting outside investment in new livestock production and meat processing facilities.

"Agriculture, food and wind power have gone elsewhere because the process for zoning in Nebraska is so cumbersome," Lakers says, "and, frankly, it's so divisive that most investors will no longer even look at Nebraska as an option."

Lakers says the "local rule" zoning and permitting process in Nebraska is too time-consuming and lacks consistency.

"In neighboring states, within 75 to 90 days, if you have a good history and have good science behind an application, you will be given a permit," Lakers says. "In Nebraska, the process will grind you up for 18 to 36 months."

Callaway rancher and businessman Jim Jenkins agrees with Lakers' assessment. "You have to shorten the process for these business people who may be investing tens of millions of dollars in some sort of livestock production facility or further process facility," Jenkins says. "You have to make a decision much sooner than we are right now in Nebraska."

Lakers says streamlining the process does not have to be complicated. "The state would notify all interested parties that some company has applied for a permit to build something," he says, "and you would be told, for example, in a month there will be a hearing in Lincoln and anybody who has a comment is invited and given the opportunity to talk."

"It may last for 30 minutes—it may last for three days—and a decision will be made by the appropriate people," Lakers says. "We need to allow the people of the Department of Environmental Quality to do their job."

Lakers says of the 85 investment transactions his company has closed on in the past ten years, less than ten percent have been in Nebraska.

## **National Farmers is meeting in Des Moines**

January 31, 2012 By Ken Anderson

The annual convention of the National Farmers Organization is underway in Des Moines.

National Farmers ag policy analyst Gene Paul will lead a discussion on the 2012 Farm Bill. Paul says of one their concerns is expected cuts to the Conservation Reserve Program—the CRP.

"We know there's going to be many acres brought back into production," Paul says, "and we'd like to see dollars allocated to that program which would allow the payment to farmers that want to keep that land in the Conservation Reserve (to be) somewhat compatible with what they can get as far as rent is concerned—or derived from farming the land."

The National Farmers convention runs through Thursday at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines.

### **Nebraska, Iowa bills aimed at activists**

January 31, 2012 By Ken Anderson

Legislation introduced in both the Iowa and Nebraska legislatures would make it more difficult for animal rights activists to conduct hidden-camera investigations.

Iowa's measure would make it illegal to take a job or gain access to an animal facility under false pretenses.

The Nebraska bill would require people who suspect animal abuse or neglect to report their suspicion to authorities within 12 hours. They also would have to surrender all video, photo and audio evidence to investigators, or face a felony charge.

Animal rights groups claim the measures are intended to hide animal abuse from the public.

### **NRCS chief 'stunned' by large CSP sign-up**

January 31, 2012 By Tom Steever

More than 40 percent of the acres signed up to be part of a popular conservation program won't be accepted. The number of acres applied for exceeded what's in the federal budget.

Sign-up for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) that ended Friday is more than what was expected.

"We were stunned with the size of this," said Dave White, Chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"We actually have had a record sign-up," said White, during an interview with Brownfield Ag News. "Over 19 million acres have been offered for sign-up in the Conservation Stewardship Program. We'll be able to take about 10.8 [million acres], so it's going to be way over-subscribed, we're going to have about eight or nine million more acres offered than we can take."

The Conservation Stewardship Program pays land owners to improve their conservation performance by adopting additional conservation practices. Chief White says that contrary to those who fear that programs won't see enough enrollment, the reasons for high sign-up numbers are clear.

"These conservation programs, because of the ethic of our ranchers and farmers and forestland owners, are continually over-subscribed," said White. Because many of the applications were yet to be processed, White said the final number of applications was likely to be higher than the 19 million initially reported.

## **CWT assists in cheese and butter sales**

January 30, 2012 By [Bob Meyer](#)

Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) has accepted 17 requests for export assistance from Bongards, Dairy Farmers of America, Darigold, Land O'Lakes, Upstate Niagara subsidiary O-At-Ka and United Dairymen of Arizona to sell a total of 2.84 million pounds of Cheddar, Monterey Jack and Gouda cheese and 10.955 million pounds of butter to customers in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The product will be delivered January through June 2012.

After reviewing several market fundamentals, CWT determined that it should begin assisting member cooperatives in making sales of butter overseas. CWT's strategic plan, approved by the CWT Committee last year, called for funds to be budgeted in 2012 for that purpose.

In 2012, CWT has assisted member cooperatives in making export sales of Cheddar, Monterey Jack and Gouda cheese totaling 13.2 million pounds and butter totaling just less than 11 million pounds to 12 countries on four continents.

## **EU may increase non-hormone beef quota**

January 30, 2012 By [Bob Meyer](#)

It looks like the European Union is going to increase its import quota on beef from animals not treated with hormones. Last Friday the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade gave its blessing to raise the quota from 24,000 metric tons to 49,200 metric tons of beef per year effective in August. In exchange, the U.S. and Canada will suspend import duties on nearly \$130 million of European agricultural products.

This is all part of the on-going dispute dating back to January 1, 1990 when the EU banned hormone treated beef. The U.S. and Canada filed a complaint with the WTO and won the suit in 1998. That is when retaliatory tariffs were put in place on the European products. The EU announced in 2009 they were preparing to present new evidence to the WTO which would justify the ban and the U.S. announced they were going to amend the list of retaliatory duties threatening to increase tariffs. That prompted the two sides to start negotiations resulting in the U.S. not raising tariffs in return for the EU raising the amount of non-hormone treated beef imports they will allow.

The European Parliament is scheduled to vote on the deal on March 13th.

## **Weather in Argentina, dollar pressure soybeans**

January 30, 2012 By [John Perkins](#)

Soybeans were sharply lower on speculative and fund selling, in addition to spillover from the outside markets. The dollar was higher with the Dow, gold, and crude oil lower. There are rain showers over the weekend in Argentina with more later on this week but southern Brazil is expected to stay hot and dry. Also, while the rain in Argentina may help in the short term, the region will need to see a substantial shift in pattern. Soybean meal and oil were lower on spillover from beans and the fundamental implications of Argentina's crop possibly improving. According to Dow Jones Newswires, Libya's state grain agency is tendering for 15,000 tons of soybean meal.

Corn was lower on fund selling and profit taking, along spillover from beans and the outside markets. There was no fresh supportive news with weekly export inspections bearish. That expected rainfall in Argentina may help out soybeans but the impact on their corn crop at this point is debatable.

Argentina is the second largest exporter of corn behind the United States.

Ethanol futures were lower. Rabobank, via Dow Jones Newswires, cautioned against expecting a big U.S. corn crop and projects 2011/12 ending stocks at 608 million tons for a record stocks to usage ratio of 4.7%. USDA's next supply and demand report is out February 9 and the 2011/12 marketing year for corn ends August 31. Dow Jones adds Libya is tendering for 25,000 tons of corn.

The wheat complex was modestly lower on fund and technical selling, in addition to spillover from corn, beans, and the outsides. The global supply remains large but commercial demand has improved recently. Also, there are some weather concerns for the U.S. and especially Eastern European winter crops which have seen very cold conditions with little or no snow in the Black Sea region. European wheat was flat with little direction, keeping an eye on both the large global supply and weather concerns. According to Dow Jones Newswires, Libya's state grain buying group is in the market for 25,000 tons of wheat.

### **NCBA opposed to COOL appeal**

January 30, 2012 By Dave Russell

Not all groups support the position calling for the U.S. Trade Representative to defend the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) law. Colin Woodall, V.P. of Government Affairs for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association in Washington, D.C says NCBA doesn't understand that way of thinking.

"And right now trade as a whole is worth about \$220 per marketed head, that's money in producer's pockets, so to threaten that we think is really shortsighted and foolish," said Woodall. "We need to work on a program that will make sure we're not retaliated against, but also a program that truly gives consumers the information they want and right now we have a program that does neither of those."

### **Dead dolphin tally reaches 81 on Cape Cod**

By **Kendall Green**

updated 9:46 AM EST, Thu February 2, 2012

At least 81 dolphins have been found dead or died shortly after being discovered on Cape Cod in a series of largely unexplained strandings that began early last month, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

More than 100 dolphins, of the common species, have been found stranded along the rocky Massachusetts shoreline since January, said NOAA spokeswoman Teri Rowles and scientists involved in the rescue effort.

The mammals have at times washed up in groups of as many as 10, added Katie Moore, a manager for the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Scientists say they are transporting the living dolphins by trailers, after they are tagged, to an outer Cape Cod coast where they are being released.

While dolphin strandings are not uncommon on Cape Cod, the animal welfare group's program director called the recent number of dead dolphins "disturbing."

"Cape Cod sees an average of 120 dolphin strandings per year," said A.J. Cady.

It's not clear what's prompted the mass deaths, but recent changes in water temperature could be a contributing factor that has disoriented the mammals, said Wellfleet harbormaster Michael Flanagan.

Once beached, they are vulnerable to predators and susceptible to organ damage and sunburn.

"Usually in the winter, the harbor ices over and inhibits the animals from coming close to the shore," Flanagan said. "But now that the water is warmer, we're seeing lots more dolphins washing up than ever before."

Still, the strandings and causes of death are not clear, said Rowles, who added that the region has not experienced this kind of phenomenon in over a decade.

In a similar incident last year, dozens of dead seals were found along the Maine and northern Massachusetts coastlines.

Futures prices as of February 2nd, 2012 - 12:15 CST

<b>Contract</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Change</b>
Wheat	Mar 12	674-2	674-2	662-0	666-6	-7-4
Corn	Mar 12	641-6	647-0	634-2	642-6	+0-6
Soybeans	Mar 12	1213-4	1224-6	1206-2	1218-4	+3-2
Soybean Meal	Mar 12	322.1	327.2	319.8	323.8	+1.5
Soybean Oil	Mar 12	51.18	51.34	50.86	51.11	-0.07
Oats	Mar 12	307-4	313-4	303-0	308-2	+3-2
Live Cattle	Feb 12	125.525	125.550	124.950	125.450	-0.250
Feeder Cattle	Mar 12	155.725	155.725	154.975	155.650	-0.200
Lean Hogs	Feb 12	87.500	87.725	87.200	87.725	+0.100
Class III Milk	Feb 12	16.35	16.35	16.12	16.15	-0.20
Live Cattle (P)	Feb 12	125.150	125.225	125.025	125.200	-0.500
Feeder Cattle (P)	Mar 12	155.325	155.450	155.250	155.350	-0.500
Lean Hogs (P)	Feb 12	87.400	87.700	87.250	87.700	+0.075
Class III Milk (P)	Feb 12	0.00	16.35	16.35	16.35s	-0.17

## Current Conditions [Move Down]

<b>Fair</b>	<b>Humidity:</b> 44 %
	<b>Wind Speed:</b> SE 3 MPH
<b>54 °F</b>	<b>Barometer:</b> 30.25"
<b>(12 °C)</b>	<b>Dewpoint:</b> 32 °F (0 °C)
	<b>Visibility:</b> 10.00 mi.

## Forecast at a Glance

This Afternoon	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
								
Patchy Fog	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Rain	Rain/Snow	Snow Likely	Chance Snow	Slight Chc Snow	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
Hi 57 °F	Lo 33 °F	Hi 45 °F	Lo 28 °F	Hi 33 °F	Lo 26 °F	Hi 35 °F	Lo 20 °F	Hi 36 °F

## Detailed 7-day Forecast

Hazardous weather condition(s) :

### Winter Storm Watch

**This Afternoon:** Patchy fog before 2pm. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 57. East wind between 5 and 7 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33. East wind between 7 and 9 mph.

**Friday:** A 40 percent chance of rain after noon. Cloudy, with a high near 45. Breezy, with a east wind between 10 and 17 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible.

**Friday Night:** Rain likely before midnight, then rain and snow between midnight and 3am, then snow after 3am. Low around 28. Blustery, with a east northeast wind between 17 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

**Saturday:** Snow likely. Cloudy, with a high near 33. Breezy, with a northeast wind between 17 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 29 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

**Saturday Night:** A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy and blustery, with a low around 26.

**Sunday:** A 20 percent chance of snow. Partly sunny, with a high near 35.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 20.

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 36.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 20.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 32.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 18.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 33