

Attention Cattle Producers!

HB 1487 will make North Dakota's state beef checkoff voluntary. Why should cattle producers support HB 1487?

Fact: The state beef checkoff was enacted by legislators in 2015. That year, the North Dakota Beef Commission submitted \$142,906 to NCBA, slightly more than the commission sent to NCBA the year prior.

Fact: In 2016, the commission sent \$217,445 - a 52% increase in contributions to NCBA over 2015.

Fact: In 2017, commissioners sent \$385,266 — a 44% increase in North Dakota checkoff money sent to NCBA.

Fact: In 2018, the beef commission delivered \$334,315 to NCBA. (A 13% reduction.)

Fact: In 2019, the North Dakota Beef Commission delivered \$501,703 to NCBA — a 50% increase over the prior year.

Fact: In 2020, the North Dakota sent a staggering \$738,648 to NCBA — representing a **416% increase** in North Dakota checkoff funding being sent to NCBA over 2015, when the state checkoff was enacted.

(Data collected from NCBA annual reports available online at

www.ncba.org/federationannualreport.aspx. You can check the figures yourself.)

Fact: The state checkoff money state beef councils send directly to NCBA circumvents the Cattlemen's Beef Board and the Beef Promotion Operating Committee, established under the Beef Research and Promotion Act. This means NCBA alone is free to determine how the money will be used to research and promote beef.

Fact: NCBA has a long history of fighting country of origin labeling (COOL). In 2013, NCBA joined eight other groups — Canadian, Mexican, and the packing industry — suing USDA over its implementation of the COOL rule for beef and pork declaring before the U.S. District Court in D.C. that **“beef is beef, whether the steer or heifer was born in Montana, Manitoba, or Mazatlan.”** (Reference: ecf.dcd.uscourts.gov Civ Action No 13-CV-1033 KBJ)

Fact: The beef checkoff foots the bill for 70% of NCBA's overhead expenses.

Question: Are North Dakota cattle producers better off today than you were five years ago when the North Dakota Legislature implemented the \$1 per head state checkoff?

That's why ranchers need to make contact with Ag Committee members immediately and tell them you want to be able to choose whether to contribute rather than being forced by state lawmakers to do so. There's no time to waste.

With about 5 minutes of work you can go to ND Legislature.gov and track down phone # and an email for you legislators. These guys assume we are all represented by NDSA because they have told them that. Last year calves were worth about 40 or 50 dollars or more less than the year before this year subtract another 50 or 60 dollars. The obvious is that this system is not working and we need to change what we do and who we have represent us SCOTT SHIVELY

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