

CCA's Goals and Issues for 2023... (and beyond!)



ADVANCING THE LEGACY

The following topics have been, and continue to be, top priorities for the association this year; however, this is not an exclusive list of CCA's issue management and industry action for the year. Although there seems to be no shortage of interesting challenges presented to our industry, CCA is encouraged by the engagement and influence of our membership poised to strike.

Our association's successes rely on the strength of our membership and as we turn to new priorities for the upcoming year, the same adage rings true: we need you. CCA is armed with resources and strategies for a successful year, but the collective voice of our membership is crucial for advancing the legacy of our industry.

[Get involved with CCA and join here!](#)

- **Wolf Introduction**

- After the release of the draft management plan, the wolf introduction process is reaching its final steps this spring. CCA leadership and members have been actively engaged and shared comments throughout the process to advocate for the needs of producers. Additionally, CCA is exploring all possible legislative and legal actions to impede or change the wolf introduction plan as it has been presented and ensure the best possible outcome for livestock producers.

- **Animal Disease Traceability**

- As we have assessed the impacts of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza on producers and consumers, animal disease preparedness requires urgent action as a top priority for CCA and livestock producers across the country. Animal disease traceability is critical to limiting impacts to the U.S. beef herd if/when a foreign animal disease is introduced. CCA is, and will continue to be, a leader in advocating for a practical program that ensures producers' concerns will be addressed and risk to our industry will be minimized.

- **Water**

- Water is critically important to all, which is why water discussions can be especially contentious. This year is of no exception as water issues are coming to the front of regulatory and legislative agendas. CCA and the CCA AgWater NetWORK are actively tracking key issues including demand management, storage, protecting prior appropriations, and interstate water conflicts.

- **Protection from Regulatory Overreach**

- Burdensome regulatory oversight threatens to complicate production practices within the beef industry. CCA, in partnership with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Public Lands Council, is dedicated to protecting producers from regulatory attacks by working on important exemptions for our industry as well as continuing to provide scientific evidence that solidifies our industry's necessary role in natural resource and species management. This includes but not limited to: Waters of the United States, Endangered Species Act, America the Beautiful, and Climate Regulations.

- **Legislative Engagement**

- We are in the midst of the 2023 Legislative Session with a large number of new legislators and Democratic majorities in both the State House and State Senate. That being said, CCA leadership and staff have built relationships with new, incoming legislators as well as built stronger relationships with those already established. These relationships will be critical in protecting our industry from proposed legislation and gaining bipartisan support for agriculture.

- **Rural Veterinarian Shortage**

- With both current veterinarians beginning to retire and a lack of new interest in rural vet practices, decreasing availability of rural veterinarians is one of the top concerns for many producers in the state. CCA is engaging legislative and state support to determine several options for recruiting and retaining veterinarians to serve large animal producers in rural areas.

- **Member Engagement - Recruitment/Retention**

- As a grassroots organization, a strong membership ensures that CCA has the input and resources necessary to succeed. CCA was more effective in 2022 due to the engagement of members and their networks and our combined efforts did not go unnoticed. Membership drives the association's efforts and it is important to continue our momentum into the future.

- **Education**

- Per the request of members each year, CCA prioritizes providing educational opportunities to beef producers throughout the state. Through the Ranching Legacy Program lectureships, symposium, and gatherings as well as additional topic-based webinars, CCA is committed to enhancing the educational offerings that meet the needs and interests of members.

- **Farm Bill**

- On a federal scale, CCA is engaging members of congress and partners on priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill to ensure functionality, financial stability, and protection for Colorado landowners and cattle producers.

- **Federal Lands Grazing Rights**

- Protecting federal grazing rights is critical to the longevity of Colorado's beef industry. CCA, along with the Public Lands Council, is committed to protecting grazing as a core use of federal lands, enhancing the ability of grazing to be used as a tool to achieve ecological objectives, and improving the ability of the agency to have an efficient administrative process.