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Chuck Kiker Appointed to Cattlemen's Beef Board; Makes Canadian Trade Trip



Chuck Kiker

Chuck Kiker of Beaumont, former president of the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA), is one of 40 persons recently appointed by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack to fill three-year terms on the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board (CBB). The 106-member Board, authorized by the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 and monitored by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, is comprised of members selected from certified organizations in the U.S. that represent the beef, veal, dairy and importing industries.

The CBB oversees the collection of the \$1-per-head on all cattle sold in the U.S., and the \$1-per-head equivalent on imported cattle, beef and beef products. The Board also contracts with established national, non-profit, industry-governed organizations to implement programs of promotion, research, consumer information, industry information, foreign marketing and producer communications.

Kiker, owner of Circle K Cattle Company near Beaumont, is an ICA director and serves on the association's Resolutions Committee and the Legislative and Regulatory Committee.

Recently, Kiker, who also is vice president of the U.S. Cattlemen's Association (USCA), was the only Texan invited by the Canadian Embassy to join in bi-national roundtable discussions on cattle trade issues in Regina, Saskatchewan. The USCA is a national organization, representing predominately cow-calf producers, and has policies closely aligned to those of the ICA. The U.S. delegation also had representatives from the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, North Dakota Stockmen, the Young Producers' Council of South Dakota, and the Montana Department of Agriculture.

"We discussed the implications of the proposed regulations for the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) and dispelled rumors with our Canadian cattle association and trade counterparts," said Kiker. "We covered a broad range of other topics from animal identification to mutual disease concerns, such as BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) before we headed out to tour a 25,000-head feedlot and visit a ranch. Before heading home from the three-day event, we were joined by Russian and Asian guests at Canada's Agribition, a cattle show that featured more than 4,000 head of cattle."

Maintaining strong ties with Canada is good for business on both sides of the border, Kiker said. U.S. agricultural exports to the country were valued at more than \$15 billion in 2009.