

Angus Productions Inc.'s coverage of the



Farm Bill Briefing

by **Meghan Soderstrom**

Cattlemen's input needed on Farm Bill.

DENVER, CO (Feb. 3, 2006) — Developers of the 2007 Farm Bill need input from livestock producers, AgriLogic President Joe Davis told members of the Agriculture Policy Committee Feb. 3 at the 2006 Cattle Industry Convention in Denver.

“There is a lack of understanding of what livestock producers want and need from the next Farm Bill. They (policy makers) need to know if you as cattlemen are happy with the bill just how it is,” Davis said.

Davis said the Farm Bill's subcommittee on livestock projects is substantially smaller than the subcommittee for crop projects. He said it's commonly understood that livestock producers benefit from conservation payments, but “if there's anything else that you want besides conservation dollars, we need to know.”

The price of livestock production inputs can be influenced by changes in program crop support levels. Davis said that if cuts are evenly applied to the commodity crops, then there is historically very little effect on the livestock industry. However, if “you move around the support money to make one crop more attractive to a producer than

another ... then you will see some effects on livestock input prices,” especially feed prices.

After encouraging livestock producers and cattlemen in particular to become an active voice in the Farm Bill discussions, Davis launched into a series of policy predictions for the 2007 bill:

- There will be very little change from the current bill in terms of dollars spent.
- The next bill probably won't be written in compliance with the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- There will be continued efforts for conservation.
- A strong lobby from the commodity crops will be able to sustain a status quo in support levels with just a few minor modifications in response to the WTO.
- Natural disasters have typically been a driving factor in previous Farm Bill talks, but they won't play as large of a role for the next bill.
- To enforce payment limitations, there's going to need to be a lot more support than there is now.
- Farmland prices will not be affected.
- There will not be any significant cuts in ag research.



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