

2007 Cattle Industry Annual Convention & Trade Show

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South Dakota Ambassador Going to D.C.

Student mentored through checkoff-funded program tapped for first USDA internship.

CENTENNIAL, COLO. (Feb. 16, 2007) — A South Dakota State University ag student and former participant in the checkoff-funded National Beef Ambassador Program received the first national internship sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the American National CattleWomen Inc. (ANCW), during the recent Cattle Industry Annual Convention in Nashville, Tenn.

Amanda Nolz, a freshman majoring in agricultural communications/political science, will spend the summer interning in various departments of the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service Livestock and Seed Program in Washington, D.C.

While the USDA has welcomed Beef Ambassadors as interns on an informal basis in previous years, the agency made the internship "official" last summer because of the "exceptionally qualified" students they

met coming from the ambassador program. The public speaking/leadership program, which began in 1988 and serves students ages 17-20, is managed by the ANCW Inc. on behalf of the Cattlemen's Beef Board. The program manager is Carol Abrahamzon, a cow-calf producer from Minnesota.

"Our agency needs to be ready for the future," said Kenny Payne, chief of the USDA's Marketing Program Branch, which oversees the beef checkoff. "Part of meeting tomorrow's challenges is going to be having the right people on board. The best place to start, we believe, is with our country's youth," he said.

"I'm so honored and pleased," Nolz said. "I know the hard work it takes to succeed in agriculture — I know that it's like a puzzle. I hope to one day be a piece of that puzzle and help to make a difference."

Nolz was selected from four other top

National Beef Ambassadors, who were considered based on written essays and personal references. The annual internship competition is open to the top five ambassadors.

"Amanda is a superb example of the talented youth that are involved in the National Beef Ambassador Program. She has always represented our organization and the beef industry well and we are proud that she has been chosen for this valuable internship," added Wendy Pettz, the new ANCW president.

Nolz has been involved in her family's Limousin ranch for years and has won numerous honors, from 4-H and the National FFA Organization to the National Honor Society.



Editor's Note: This release is adapted from a news release distributed by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association on behalf of the American National CattleWomen Inc. For the original release, go to www.beefusa.org/newsncba_policynews.aspx. For more information about the CattleWomen's organization, go to www.ancw.org.