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MCA Pushes for Ag Priorities in Missouri State Legislature

(Columbia, MO) – Missouri Cattlemen's Association (MCA) has been very active in the state legislature during the 95th General Assembly. Kicking off the legislative session, MCA outlined a number of critical issues important to animal agriculture in Missouri before the Special Interim Committee on Emerging Agricultural Issues.

"Realizing the economic pressures livestock producers have been under, it is critical for Missouri to create an economic climate where animal agriculture can flourish," says MCA President, Steve Willard of Willow Springs, Missouri.

MCA called for the legislature to fully fund the Missouri Department of Agriculture in order to provide the critical services needed for beef producers and the citizens of the state. Missouri is the number three state in the nation for cow/calf production. While the state budget is under considerable pressure, it is animal agriculture that has always been a major economic driver for the state. It's time to recognize and promote agriculture to help relieve the state's economic woes.

During testimony, Jeff Windett, Executive Vice President of MCA called for the legislature to recognize that animal agriculture is under considerable economic pressure and to "unleash animal agriculture" for producers to do what they do best, raise and sell high quality beef. "We do not need any more regulations and rules to hinder our ability to make a profit," added Windett.

Other priorities for MCA are to increase the penalties for Cattle Theft, reduce input costs to producers thru incentives to keep land in haying and grazing acres, and to extinguish any efforts to pass any animal rights legislation.

"It is very important the public realizes the importance of animal agriculture to Missouri as we provide the highest quality food in the world and play a vital part in the economy of the state of Missouri," said Willard.

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The Missouri Cattlemen's Association was initiated in 1911 and is dedicated to improving profitability of Missouri's cattle industry. MCA will work tirelessly to promote, preserve and protect the future of our great cattle industry and the people who depend on us. To join, contact MCA at 573-499-9162 or at www.mocattle.com.