



MCA COVID-19 Response Update for March 30

- 1. MCA is continuing to work with USDA, our congressional delegation, other state cattlemen's organizations, NCBA, as well as MS Farm Bureau Federation on how the CARES Act stimulus assistance to cattle producers will be allocated and disbursed. These type payments have never happened before and there is currently not a structure in place to disburse the assistance. MCA is strongly advocating for the inclusion of livestock which have been sold during this time as well as those that may not have been marketed due to COVID19 concerns. No packer owned cattle will receive the CARES Act stimulus assistance.**
- 2. MCA sent a letter to Governor Tate Reeves asking that livestock markets, livestock transporters, feed stores, agriculture retail providers, veterinary services, and other agriculture support business are pre-empted from local restrictions and included as essential business operations. These were included in his recent Executive Order.**
- 3. MCA, along with NCBA and 45 other state cattlemen's associations sent a letter to USDA Secretary Perdue asking for equitable payments be made to cattle producers across all sections of the cattle industry.**
- 4. MCA remains in contact with our Congressional delegation regarding needs of the Mississippi cattle industry. MCA sent letters to our U.S Congressional delegation asking for short- and long-term solutions to the COVID-19 event for cattle producers.**
- 5. US-Department of Transportation issued an emergency declaration last week waiving Hours of Service regulations. MCA is engaged with NCBA to request a waiver for truck weights as well.**
- 6. MCA staff is assisting the Mississippi Beef Council staff in promoting recipes and cooking videos through various platforms. With most household eating exclusively at home, now is an excellent time to reinforce the BEEF message.**
- 7. MCA office will remain open during the COVID-19 event to ensure members maintain representation during the crisis. Highlighting concerns of rising boxed beef prices with plummeting live, feeder, and calf prices.**