

Cattle workshop set in Fort Collins

Thousands of ranchers from across the country are expected to descend on Fort Collins for a workshop next week that one cattlemen's group is calling "the most important day in the history of our U.S. cattle industry."

Eric Holder, attorney general, and Tom Vilsack, agriculture secretary, will attend the Friday public workshop at Colorado State University's Lory Student Center, which will examine competition in the livestock industry.

"Competition and regulation are some of the most critical issues facing American agriculture, and this workshop will help to shed some light on their potential impacts on farmers and ranchers in our part of the country," said Representative Betsy Markey, D-Fort Collins, who will attend the workshop.

The workshop, which focuses on regulation and competition in the livestock industry, is the fourth in a series of five workshops that the Agriculture and Justice departments have been conducting across the country to look into competitive and antitrust issues in agriculture.

Previous sessions focused on row crops and hogs in Iowa, poultry in Alabama and dairy in Wisconsin. The final event will be in Washington, D.C., and will focus on discrepancies between the prices received by farmers and the prices paid by consumers.

The previous events drew 300 to 600 participants, but attendance at the Fort Collins workshop certainly will dwarf those figures. A Montana-based group - the Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America, known as R-CALF USA - has set a goal of bringing 25,000 people to Fort Collins.

That's why the group said the meeting marks the most important day ever for U.S. cattle growers.

"We are an industry in crisis; and we believe that if we are serious about restoring economic

activity to rural communities, we must focus on that cattle industry that bears the greatest potential to revitalize rural America," said Bill Bullard, the chief executive officer for R-CALF USA.

"And this hearing represents an unprecedented invitation by two cabinet-level officials, the U.S. Attorney General and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, that have invited rural America to show them how serious they are about striking off in a new direction, because the path that we've been following has produced disastrous results."

R-CALF USA and a number of other groups believe the federal government needs to enforce antitrust laws to break up what they believe is a monopolistic meat-packing industry. Groups from as far away as Washington state and Florida are organizing van pools and caravans to come to Fort Collins, part of the goal of getting 25,000 supporters to the workshop.

"And we believe that that will be the critical mass necessary to send a powerful message to Washington that we need to take aggressive steps to restore competition, and they can do that by enforcing our antitrust laws and enforcing the Packers and Stockyards Act to ensure that our industry is not being controlled or manipulated by the highly concentrated meat-packing industry," he said.

A number of Colorado state and federal officials are expected to attend the event.

"Secretary Vilsack and Attorney General Holder are coming to Colorado to meet with farmers, ranchers, processors and others who have a stake in the beef and hog market here in Colorado," said Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo. "This workshop is an opportunity for the federal government to hear Coloradans' voices as well as for farmers, ranchers and processors to discuss this important matter, and I want to encourage Coloradans to attend."



TWO SEMI TRUCKS collided at the Wheeler intersection turn on U.S. 36 last Friday.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Four accidents reported last week

Craig VanAllen, Cheyenne County Sheriff, reported four accidents in the last week.

On Aug. 18 at 9:45 a.m., Tyler Raby, 15, of rural St. Francis, was south bound on Rd. 14, just south of Rd. J, when he hit a cow. He was driving a 2005 Dodge pickup and was wearing a seat belt. No injuries were reported.

On Aug. 20, R.L. Walz, 21, rural St. Francis, was south bound on Rd. 7 when he swerved to miss

a deer. He rolled the 2008 Chevy pickup. He was not wearing a seat belt but no injuries were reported. The accident is still under investigation.

Also on Aug. 20 at 10:12 a.m., two semi trucks were in an accident at the Wheeler corner on U.S. 36. Both trucks were headed east when Rene Guardiola-Menjivar, 46, Greeley, Colo., driving a 2001 Kenworth with a grain trailer, decided he was not to turn on K-27

and was backing up in an effort to get back on the right road. However, he was across the intersection when a 2006 Peterbilt semi pulling a fuel tank, owned by Outback Fuel and Feed, Idalia, (driver's name was not available) hit him. Both trucks were pulling empty loads and both had to be towed away from the site. No injuries were reported.

On Aug. 22, Alan Knodel, 58,

Kanorado, was driving a 2007 Ford pickup going north on Rd.3 south west of St. Francis when he lost control of the vehicle, hit the ditch and rolled. He was not wearing a seat belt and was transported to the Cheyenne County Hospital where he was treated and released. The accident, which happened at 5:30 p.m., is still under investigation.

St. Francis News

Betty Jean Winston enjoyed spending time with her family the week of Aug. 16-22. Special activities included excellent eating, shopping, a Kansas City Royals/Cleveland Indians baseball game (the Royals won) and attending a performance of the Kansas Wes-

leyan University Chamber Orchestra and Kansas Wesleyan Singers in Salina with James Winston as a member of both musical groups. Among those she spent time with were Dan, Jean, James and Cindy Winston, Arica Kern and Shawn, Leigh and Miles Legere.

Haigler Country Cafe

Haigler, Neb.

Will CLOSE

on Monday, Sept. 6

and will reopen

on Wed., Sept. 22nd

Thank You

We would like to thank **Milliken Law Office, Bartlett Grain, Noble Energy and Saintry Super's** for purchasing the premium on our 4-H projects. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Jude and Jake Faulkender

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Jean from France, 17 yrs. Loves camping and playing soccer. Jean's dream has been to spend a school year in the USA.

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Thank You

Thank you to **Gilliland Seed & Consulting** for purchasing the premium on my pig and **MV Equipment** for purchasing the premium on my Poster. I appreciate your support.

Lauren Bandel

Cheylin VB/FB Soap Scrimmage

Friday, Aug. 27

Bird City High School Gym/Cougar Field

Volleyball 6 p.m. Football 7:30 p.m.

Booster Club Serving

Pork Sandwiches

Corn on the Cob

Coleslaw

Ice-cream Sundae

\$6/meal



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Thanks to anyone we may have accidentally forgotten

Thank you for your support of the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life Committee