

## **(Neb.)-Nebraska Farmers Union State Convention This Weekend**

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 12/06/2012 10:17 AM

(LINCOLN)-Nebraska Farmers Union (NeFU) will highlight livestock issues at their 99th annual state convention to be held in Grand Island this weekend. Livestock producers and the public are invited to attend the event, taking place at the Midtown Holiday Inn. Registration for the two-day event begins at 8:00 a.m. Friday morning. The convention begins at 9:00 a.m. Friday, and resumes at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

Nationally recognized livestock market expert and retired USDA GIPSA Chief Administrator J. Dudley Butler will report on the particulars of the recent Congressional efforts to strengthen and update USDA's anti-trust regulations and agricultural marketing definitions and standards. Butler will also speak on the future of the livestock industry. Butler will make his presentation at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Later in the morning, Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska President and Cattlemen's Beef Promotion Board member Dave Wright will report on beef checkoff activities and issues.

NeFU President John Hansen says, "Since 1980, meat packer consolidation, non-competitive marketing practices, and vertical integration have squeezed thousands of livestock producers in Nebraska out of business. Nationally, according to the latest USDA data, there are 42% fewer beef producers, 91% fewer swine producers, 82% fewer dairy producers, and 33% fewer sheep producers. Unfortunately, while livestock producers have done an outstanding job of producing high quality livestock and milk, they failed to produce the necessary profit to pay their bills and stay in business. It is high time we address the root cause for the loss of livestock producers."

The agenda for the entire NeFU Convention can be found at [http://nebraskafarmersunion.org/ai1ec\\_event/killagenda/?instance\\_id=12](http://nebraskafarmersunion.org/ai1ec_event/killagenda/?instance_id=12). For more information, call the NeFU State Office at 402-476-8815.

--Nebraska Farmers Union