

NCA sponsors tour for young cattlemen

DENVER, Col. — The first annual Young Cattlemen's Traveling Leadership Conference, sponsored by the National Cattlemen's Association and its affiliated state and national breed organizations, was held recently. The program was designed to assist in the development of future leaders of the beef cattle industry.

The 32 young cattlemen, selected by their sponsoring state and breed organizations, traveled across the nation, from Denver to Washington, D.C., and were exposed to timely problems and issues facing the cattle industry.

Members of the group, all under age 40, began their tour in Denver, where they received an overview of the role of their national association from NCA President Merlyn Carlson and chairmen of various NCA committees. Carlson told the group that the number one challenge in the 80's is to strengthen the demand for beef.

To become acquainted with the meat side of the cattle industry, the group next visited the Dakota City, Ne., slaughter-processing plant and corporate headquarters of Iowa Beef Processors, Inc. The young cattlemen toured the largest boxed meat processing facility in the world—the plant processes 230 cattle per hour.

For a look at the marketing and financial side of the cattle industry, the group next traveled to Chicago, where they visited the National Live Stock & Meat Board, Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and the First National Bank of Chicago.

At the CME, Exchange President Clayton Yeutter suggested that a selective hedging program on the live cattle futures contract was one of the best ways to transfer risk in the marketing of cattle.

The final two days of the week-long tour were spent in the nation's capitol. Following a special tour through the Capitol building, the cattlemen attended Congressional briefing,

where they heard from top Congressional leaders, including: Tom Foley, chairman of the House of Ag Committee; Minority Leader John Rhodes; Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Joint Economic Committee chairman; House Interior Committee Chairman Morris Udall; Cong. Mark Andrews, ranking member of the House Appropriations Agriculture subcommittee; Congressman Tom Coelho, member of the House Agriculture Committee; and Senator Tom Eagleton, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Agriculture sub-committee.

A White House briefing highlighted the final day of the tour. Lynn Daft and

other members of the White House Domestic Policy Staff described how agricultural policy is developed. Inflation fighter Alfred Kahn described the Administration's fight against inflation, and Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ernest Johnson told of concern for worldwide agriculture production.

During a visit to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the group heard from Assistant Secretary Carol Foreman; Howard Hjort, director of economics, policy analysis and budget; Neill Schaller, assistant secretary for consumer affairs; Don Wilkinson, governor of the Farm Credit System; and Dawson Ahalt, chairman of the World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation Board.


The cattlemen's visit to USDA also included lunch with Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland, who later told the group his department will continue to be the "people's department," and that efforts in the area of consumer affairs will continue, with emphasis on resolving the controversy over the alleged relationship between diet and health.

NCA 1st Vice President J. W. (Bill) Swan, who traveled

with the group, ended the tour with a challenge to the young cattlemen to prepare for significant changes in the beef industry over the next 10 years.

"With your leadership,"

he said, "NCA can continue to improve the economic climate for the industry and will be able to do many things for cattlemen that they cannot do for themselves."



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