

# Commodities Represented At COOL

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animals to place of birth. Sessions told the apparently disgruntled cattle feeders in February that "I am only the messenger." He was only trying to alert them of the law's provisions.

Four months later, Sessions was back to hear more comments about COOL but in a more controlled setting to hear from most of the commodity groups and businesses, not just cattle feeders, affected by COOL law.

Out of the 45 persons who had signed up to speak, 36 actually offered testimony. The presenters spoke in the order in which they had signed in.

The 30th speaker stole the show. After hearing speaker after speaker offering programmed opposition, Garfield Frieze began to talk straight from his heart.

Frieze said, "I am just a poor farmer and I don't know a lot about this... but they said they are going to take everything away from us. We farmers are the little boys and they will rob us to death."

Frieze said, "I do think we should have some way of going for country of origin labeling, but if it's going to take everything away from us, I say don't do it. Farmers are hurt enough. Two of us came up from Virginia — came 400 miles just to see you people — to tell you we don't make enough. We have nobody to pass (potential costs of the program) on to. But the big packers and all the big boys and all the manufacturers can take it from us and keep it for themselves.... I thank you for hearing from us and think about the poor farmer."

When asked by Sessions to repeat his name, Frieze said, "My

name is Garfield Frieze and I am a poor farmer."

After weeklong showers cleared and weather improved, many area growers and producers were too busy in the fields to attend the listening session. For those who couldn't attend the session, all of the testimony at the 12 listening sessions, both spoken and written, is on the Web at [www.ams.usda.gov/cool](http://www.ams.usda.gov/cool). Click on Transcripts from Informational Sessions.

Fourteen people noted that the COOL legislation should be re-

speakers all opposed.

Two speakers represented farm organizations who stressed the growers, producers, and consumer need for country of origin labeling. One speaker represented a Pennsylvania consumer coalition in favor of labeling.

One agribusiness association representing swine interests was opposed.

A beef specialist from Ohio State University cited problems with the mandatory law and made some recommendations about identifying cattle.

Getting this session off to a good start in support of COOL was Sen. Nancy Lorraine Hoffman who said she was a 10-term senator from New York State, chairman of the agriculture committee for five years, who raises cattle on a small farm South of Syracuse, and is a member of the National Cattlemen's Association and the

American National Cattle Women's Association (ANCWA). Hoffman said she was in favor of clear labeling for consumer choice. She said the groundwork was already in place for the legislation in Section 304, Tariff Act of 1930 and also in the Meat Inspection Act for the consumer's right to know what is in the package. She said there is overwhelming support for this legislation and talked at length about consumer choice and the NCBA's stance in favor of voluntary labeling.

Other notable speakers in favor were Larry Breech, president of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union, and Guy Donaldson, president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

Prior to the afternoon session, The American Meat Institute hosted a media session earlier in the day to explain their position.

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— Garfield Frieze  
Virginia Farmer

pealed. They included supermarket operators, food manufacturers, and food marketers. Five cattle producers also spoke, four in favor and one opposed. Those in favor included a New York State senator who is a chairman of an agriculture committee, a Lancaster County Angus breeder, a Virginia cattleman who also spoke for R-Calf Inc., and a cattleman from Virginia. A cattleman from Ohio, also speaking on behalf of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association, was opposed to mandatory labeling.

A sheep producer, who also represented the American Sheep Industry Association, was in favor of labeling American Lamb. One independent pork producer opposed the legislation. There were three meat packing firms represented by six speakers and all opposed COOL.

Three meat packing/processors associations represented by four

## NFU Supports Proposed Market Access Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. — National Farmers Union President Dave Frederickson publicly commended Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Reps. Dave Camp, R-Mich., and Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., for introducing legislation to address unfair foreign barriers to U.S. agricultural exports.

During a Capitol Hill news conference last week, Frederickson joined Grassley and Camp as they unveiled the U.S. Agricultural Products Market Access Act of 2003, which creates a "Special 301" procedure within U.S. trade laws.

Under this provision, the U.S. Trade Representative would be required to determine if trade practices of other nations deny fair and equitable access to the United States. If the USTR identifies that a country is significantly and negatively impacting U.S. trade, the legislation would require the USTR to initiate corrective actions.

"NFU is a long-time supporter of maintaining and improving our domestic trade laws as a viable mechanism to ensure fair and competitive markets," Frederick-

son said. "We believe the legislation sponsored by Senator Grassley and Congressmen Camp and Pomeroy represents a positive step forward in ensuring greater fairness in international agricultural trade."

Frederickson explained that under current law, the USTR has discretion to take action and industry groups must devote significant time and resources to file petitions with the trade representative to initiate an investigation.



## Allentown Fair Completes Bill Of Big Name Shows

ALLENTOWN (Lehigh Co.) — The Great Allentown Fair has announced the concert that completes the bill of big name shows coming to the fair this year running August 26-September 1.

Pop/rock performers Michelle Branch and Sugar Ray will co-headline a concert at the fair's main stage at the Grandstand venue on Friday, August 29. Tickets for this show will not go on sale until Saturday, July 12.

The addition of Michelle Branch and Sugar Ray rounds out the fair's offerings that include country music icons Alan Jackson and Brooks & Dunn, classic rock legends Crosby, Stills & Nash, and the two shows that went on sale June 28 — Def Lep-

pard and New Found Glory.

Leppard tickets are \$37 for reserved seats in the grandstand as well as the general admission standing room on the track. New Found Glory tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 day of show for reserved seats in the grandstand and general admission standing on the track. Show tickets include admission into the fair when purchased in advance of the show dates.

Reserved seats are still available in the grandstand for Alan Jackson, Brooks & Dunn, and Crosby, Stills & Nash. Details about purchasing tickets are available on the fair's web site at [www.allentownfairpa.org](http://www.allentownfairpa.org) and its show line at (610) 435-SHOW.

## Gene Mapping To Pave Way For Crop Improvements

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — National Science Foundation Director Dr. Rita Colwell said recently that international cooperation in emerging genomics research will play a central role in ending hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture during a keynote address at the Ministerial Conference and Expo on Agricultural Science and Technology.

"If we are serious about making hunger and famine a thing of the past, we must use every tool we can develop," said Colwell. "Plant genomics is a tool that holds fantastic potential to contribute to the well-being of humanity and to the planet we call home."

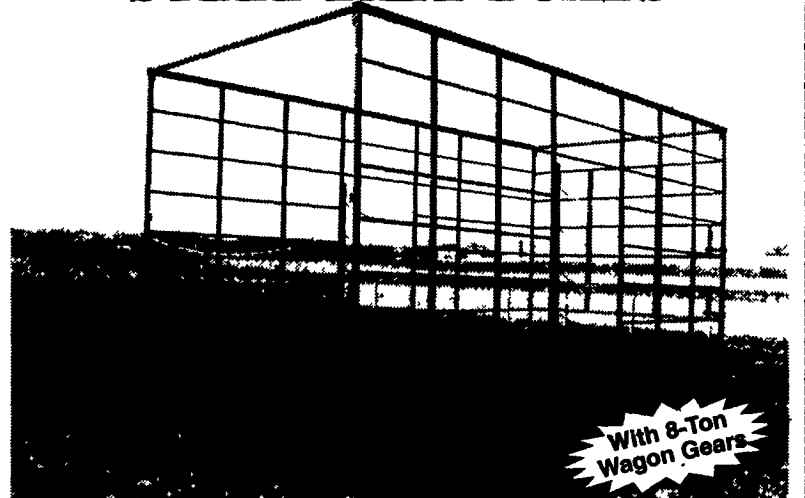
Genomics research into plant genetics has enabled scientists to engineer crops that are salt tolerant or drought resistant, while current research is examining how to develop foods that are nutritionally advanced. Colwell highlighted the significant developments over the past two dec-

ades that have opened new doors of exploration to scientists seeking methods to improve the nutrition and health of the world's population and the sustainability of the environment. These developments include:

- The first ever completely sequenced plant genome of the mustard weed Arabidopsis in December 2000, whose genetic information now serves as the guide for mapping 125,000 other plant species;
- the completion of a deep draft (99 percent complete) sequence of the rice genome by an international consortium of scientists including USDA in December 2002;
- the discovery of new methods to sequence the complex maize genome; and
- the identification and isolation of resistance genes for the potato late blight disease.

To learn more about the National Science Foundation, visit: <http://www.nsf.gov>.

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