

FEB 05 2024



**FALL RIVER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COURTHOUSE
906 NORTH RIVER ST
HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57747
PHONE: (605) 745-5130 FAX: (605) 745-6835**

February 2, 2024

Nebraska Cattlemen
4611 Cattle Drive
Lincoln, NE 68521

South Dakota Cattlemen
PO Box 1258
Pierre, SD 57501

South Dakota Brand Board
203 W Dakota Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

Rich Robertson, President
Nebraska Livestock Marketing Association
Crawford Livestock Market, Inc.
Beach St.
Crawford, NE 69339

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with deep concern, I noted the USDA wants to implement complete EID tagging by 2026. This tagging would include all cattle from baby calves to weigh-up cows and bulls. Imagine the complications resulting from having to read these tags with the Fall run of calves at our livestock markets. This would result in costs to producers with weight loss, extra handling of cattle, and reading these tags going down a chute. Unmanageable for some markets that handle upwards of 8,000 calves.

Our nation is based on life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We have contended that this violates our liberties. Not only are we REQUIRED to tag these animals, but pay the cost of the tags and, in some cases, mechanisms to read them. It should never be misconstrued that this could replace hot iron branding as a means of identifying ownership. The National Cattlemen's Association is in support of this agenda. I contend this is not something that most cattlemen support and they are only supporting more Government interference in our Ag producers' lives.

We need to let producers be allowed to continue what is best for their individual operations and for the good of our beef industry as a whole. There is a reason the Livestock Marketing Association and others are opposing this burdensome, unneeded, new Government interference in producers' lives. Please reconsider any support by the National Cattlemen's Association and support free and independent livestock production.

Respectfully,

Joe Falkenburg

Joe Falkenburg, Chairman
Fall River County Commission

Deb Russell

Deb Russell, Vice Chairwoman
Fall River County Commission

Joe Allen

Joe Allen
Fall River County Commission

Les Cope

Les Cope
Fall River County Commission

Heath Greenough

Heath Greenough
Fall River County Commission