

Livestock

Livestock News Marketing ■ Credit ■ Commodities

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CLASS ACTION CASE

you may have heard, the Cattle Plaintiffs in the 'In re Cattle and Beef Antitrust Litigation' against JBS, Tyson, Cargill, and National Beef have received preliminary approval of an \$83.5 million settlement with JBS. The litigation against Tyson, Cargill, and National Beef continues.

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Subject to certain exclusions and conditions, you may be entitled to share in this settlement sum if you: a) directly sold fed cattle for slaughter to Tyson, JBS, Cargill, and/or National Beef from June 1, 2015 to February 29, 2020; and/or b) held a long position in live cattle futures traded on the CME



By Mike Sila Senior Vice President, Beef Department **Producers Livestock Marketing Association**

prior to June 1, 2015, and subsequently liquidated that long position through an offsetting market transaction at any point prior to November 1, 2016.

If you sold fed cattle to one or more of Tyson, JBS, Cargill and/or National Beef during this period; you may be eligible to submit a claim.

the Summary Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement included in this newsletter.

For those of you that had Producers Livestock sell fed cattle to one of the major packers during this timeframe, Producers Livestock Marketing Association will be sending an approved summary of the pro-We encourage you to review cess by which you can submit

If you have any questions about the JBS settlement, please contact the Claims Administrator at 1-844-435-8844 or Info@Cattle AntitrustSettlement.com

a claim form for your share of the settlement fund, or you may object to the settlement or opt-out of it.

We will also enclose the claim form that you need to complete and submit should you wish to submit a claim.

More information, including electronic copies of the claim form, can also be found on the settlement website, CattleAntitrustSettlement.com.

If you have any questions about the JBS settlement, including whether you are eligible to participate in the JBS settlement, please contact the Claims Administrator, who can be reached at 1-844-435-8844 or Info@CattleAntitrust-Settlement.com.

We are also happy to assist you by gathering records of the fed cattle you sold through Producers Livestock so that you can support any claim form you choose to submit.

Please reach out to me, Mike Sila, at (531) 242 -6195 for any questions or concerns regarding your involvement in this case.

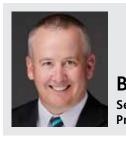
THE BEST POLICY I'VE FOUND SO FAR

was on a phone call with an older gentleman a few weeks back and he was telling me about his late father. He lived a long life from what I was able to gather, and he was a wise man from what I observed by listening to Bruce's 20-minute side of our conversation.

I was all ears when he was talking about how his father stated honesty wasn't always the "Best Policy." I was about to interject that I disagreed, when he then finished his sentence and said his father always said it was the "Only Policy.

Hard to argue with that! The more I have been reflecting on it, the more I wanted to let others hear the same message.

My only regret about our conversation was I wasn't lucky enough to have met Bruce's



for sharing his story.

ing into a failure."

lives.

importance of being truthful,

as it builds trust and respect in

our personal and professional

Lake, Iowa, that used to always

say "Honesty is the fastest way

to prevent a mistake from turn-

In the cattle business it's

often said that our word is our

I knew an old banker in Wall

By Bart Thoreson Senior Vice President, credit department **Producers Livestock Credit Corporation**

father, but I'm quite positive bond, and one bad deal can he would be very proud of him ruin all the good deals that came before it. The proverb "Honesty is the best policy" teaches us the

I've now been working here in the credit department for two years and have noticed a small increase in some deals where we have found out things aren't exactly as they have been being represented. In these circumstances, getting to the truth as soon as possible can really help a mistake not turn into a failure.

In all the circumstances that I have encountered our client has been able to justify to themselves why things happened the way they did.

This was the reason why they didn't let us know about the seriousness of the situation they were in. In those circumstances, I like to remind people, if the roles were reversed would they look at things differently, and in all cases, they agreed they would have.

We try to be very understanding in our business and know that if all our deals were going perfectly, we probably are not doing enough deals in the marketplace.

I've even had one of our board members remind me of that in a few instances in my short time here at PLCC, and as a guy that likes looking for new deals, building new relationships, and taking some measured risk, it makes me

think I'm in the right place working here.

If you find yourself in a situation where maybe there is a tough conversation that needs to be had with your lender, please don't wait!

My grandpa Bud Thoreson used to tell people that "if you wanted to have a short winter, just have a note due at the bank in the spring." We can all relate that time seems to speed up in those types of situations when we just need or want it to slow down.

Remember that time hardly ever helps these types of troubles improve on their own.

Hopefully after reading this, you too can agree with Bruce's father and make honesty, your "Only Policy" just like he did. Wishing you all a safe spring with a prosperous year on the farm and in the feedyard!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: DAVE NICKELSON -**36 YEARS OF DEDICATION, TRUST & EXCELLENCE**

Staff Spotlight

t Producers Livestock, it's not just our promoted to Assistant Treasurer, and in 2002, **L**ple behind them.

Our long-time Corporate Treasurer, Dave Nickelson, embodies our values here at Producers Livestock, and after being a steady presence in our organization for

recipient of the Producers Prime Performer award.

Dave began his career with Producers Livestock in June of 1989 as an Operations Specialist at the Omaha Stockyards.

Initially responsible for accounting functions and managing computer systems across Omaha, Sioux City, and St. Joseph, he was soon

services that set us apart, it's the peo- was appointed Corporate Treasurer, a role he's held ever since with consistency and care.

> Born and raised in Omaha, Dave was raised by parents with agriculture backgrounds, and though removed from agriculture,

almost four decades, Dave is our first-ever his pull toward the agriculture industry was strong. After earning an accounting degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and starting his career at a CPA firm, Dave found his calling when he joined Producers Livestock.

"Although I'm a city boy, Producers just felt



Producers Services Directory

General Office

Delivery address: 4809 S 114th St, Omaha, NE 68137-2308 Mailing address: PO Box 45978, Omaha, NE 68145-0978 Office: (402) 597-9189 Fax (402) 597-9505

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Mike Sila, Senior VP		1106
Dave Nickelson, Treasurer		1104
Deb Engler, Secretary		1100
Support staff:		
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Brittnee Hytrek, Financial Operations Specialist		1114
Mick Jackson, Marketing Settlements		1105
Becky Jensen, Marketing Settl	ements	1109

PLCC Financial Services

Financing for Livestock - Operating Office: (402) 597-9189 Fax: (402) 597-9505

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Tina Fettes		1101
Emily Manthei		1116
Nick Buelt		1118
Mike Sievers, Field Insp.	(712) 260-4239	2200
1		

Commodity Services

Brokerage Services and Consulting on Hedging - Options - Hedge Contract Programs - LRP Producers Commodities LLC Office: (712) 274-0539

Office. (712) 274-0009			
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Wyoming Slim Cook	Cody	(307) 272-2024	
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Premium - Based Marketing - Supply Agreements Office: (712) 274-0536

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BULLS, BEARS AND BREAK-EVENS

Tt's May 2025, and regardless of the crops you are planting, the acres have never been planted faster, the cattle and hogs you are feeding have never gained better, and the information we use to manage our crop and livestock operations has never been more accessible or measured more accurately.

Sounds like a recipe for success, right?

These improvements in efficiency have raised average yields across all grains, improved performance across all livestock species, and elevated management practices for many. But at the end of the day, success is still measured by an operation's financial progress from year to year.

Managing margins and protecting profits can be challenging and hard on one's psyche, to say the least.

Attitude is everything. As we know, anyone involved in production agriculture is inherently bullish. Other words to describe this bullish attitude might be: optimistic, hopeful, confident, faithful, Panglossian.

Wait a minute – Panglossian? I have never heard that word used to describe a farmer or rancher, but after reading the definition, I can think of no better one.

Panglossian is an adjective that is characterized by extreme



By Tim Meyer President, CEO Producers Livestock Marketing Association

optimism, especially in the face of hardship or adversity.

Is there an industry that faces more adversity than crop and livestock production? I'm sure other industries struggle, but year in and year out, one must be downright Panglossian to keep fighting the good fight in agriculture.

Unpredictable weather, volatile markets, ever-changing trade policies and uncertain monetary policies can impact ag production-based businesses more than most. Attitudes can vary depending on how well one manages these external factors.

I have long been a fan of the "word of the day", so next time you are talking shop with family or friends, try Panglossian out on them and see who knows what it means.

Whether you are a bull or bear, you dive into every production cycle with optimism and hope for a positive outcome.

Know your expenses, be realistic about your production capabilities and manage your finances to the best of your ability. That alone gives you a running head start on another successful year.

We want you to succeed, and it is our mission here at Producers Livestock to support you in every way we can.

Please call the professionals on our marketing, commodity, and credit teams today and let us help you on your path to success. Stay safe out there!

Panglossian

[pan-glos-ee-uhn, -glaw-see-, pang-] 4)

adjective

characterized by or given to extreme optimism, especially in the face of unrelieved hardship or adversity.

NICKELSON

FROM PAGE 1

like the perfect fit," he says. And nearly 36 years later, that has proven to hold true.

President and CEO Tim Meyer nominated Dave for the first ever Producers Prime Performer award, praising his unmatched dedication, especially during audit season.

"Dave is dedicated to excellent performance of his duties year-round, but especially throughout audit season, which runs December through March, logging extended hours and making himself available to our audit team from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. His work ethic is the gold standard. "Whatever it takes' is the phrase he uses when discussing his duties. A constant steward of the company's financial well-being, Dave exemplifies the definition of a prime performer – dedicated, loyal, and trustworthy day in and day out, providing stability and strength to our management team," Tim says.

Dave finds genuine satisfaction in his work, especially when it all comes together. "It's like solving a puzzle every month," he says. "Reconciling the books and presenting a clear picture of our financial strength is my way of supporting our producers and this company."

He adds, "After 35 years of handling the books, I know without a doubt that Producers Livestock is a financially strong and reliable company that will be here for decades to come."

Outside of work, Dave is just as dedicated to his family. Married to his college sweetheart, Kris, for 34 years, they're the proud parents of two daughters, Lesley and Ashley, two sonsin-law, and most recently, one very special grandson, 6-month-old Luka. Dave says, "I'm learning how to be a grandpa, and I'm definitely in grandparent bliss."

As we celebrate Dave's leadership and loyalty



Dave Nickelson

through this Producers Prime Performer award, we're reminded of what truly sets Producers Livestock apart: people who care, who show up, and who make a difference, every single day.

We will highlight one Producers Livestock employee who goes above and beyond each quarter, so stay tuned to see who else is out there exemplifying excellence, either at the forefront or behind the scenes for our valued customers.

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WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THESE HOG MARKETS?

The threat and eventual implementation of tariffs on many of our trading partners has been the major driver of the direction for many of our markets recently

Lean Hog Futures have not been immune to this as they have shown significant volatility, being heavily influenced by the uncertainty of the impact tariffs could have on pork sales to our export customers.

We saw most of our current Lean Hog contract highs set during the middle of February when our summer months traded over \$106. This was also the time frame when we had the pork carcass cutout value exceeding \$100, driven in large part by the procuring of product ahead of potential tariff implementation.

When tariffs were put into place during the first part of April, we saw (as displayed in the chart) the June Lean Hogs quickly trade down to the \$88 range. After putting this low in we have since had some encouraging news regarding



tariff negotiations and have seen a steady increase in the future's prices to back over \$100 for the June and July contracts at the time this article is being written.

The Cash hog market as reflected by the Lean Hog Index has been remarkably steady since its late winter rally that corresponded with the strength in the pork carcass cutout. Since then, the LHI range has spent most of its time between \$85-\$90.

Ready market hog supply and packer needs have been at a nice balance for quite a while now contributing to the mostly steady cash hog prices that we have seen lately.

The last Hogs and Pigs report released at the end of March suggested that current inventory and future projections are very similar to last year's numbers.

We are still of the opinion that we will see some periods later this spring and summer



of shorter butcher hog numbers due to significant PRRS on many of our sow farms last fall and winter. In addition, cold storage is at historically low levels leaving us with little cushion if we see butcher hog supplies tighten.

If this develops, we will likely see the futures markets respond as well. With the volatile and uncertain environment that we are operating in these days, be ready to put some price protection on during price rallies, especially for your late summer and fall marketings when we typically see our prices erode.

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TARIFFS, VOLATILITY, AND RESILIENCE IN APRIL MARKETS

pril took livestock markets on a wild ride, with ongoing tariff headlines continuing to cause reactions in the marketplace. It seems like we could not go a day without seeing or hearing the word "tariff," and traders responded accordingly.

April Live Cattle futures opened the month trading at \$210, but within 7 days the market had dropped to \$197.50, the lowest level seen since March 7.

Interestingly, this decline came despite no significant change in cattle fundamentals. Packers have remained active buyers in the cash market, with live cattle bringing \$215-\$218 in the North and \$212-\$213 in the South during the final full week of April.

The need for quality beef and a tight supply chain continues to support strong cash bids.

Feeder Cattle were not immune to the tariff news as we started the May board at \$287.15 on the first of April,



only to see it fall to \$271.275 by April 7, and then rallied to a new contract high of \$290.95 on April 25

Volatility was further fueled by trade tensions with Mexico, as USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins sent a letter warning of potential restrictions on imports of animal commodities if they do not increase their efforts to contain the New World Screwworm pest.

The New World Screwworm is a deadly parasitic fly whose infestation threatens significant losses to livestock industries.

The Lean Hog complex has told the same story as the cattle. July hogs traded over \$100 early in the month, before closing below \$90 on April 8. Much of the pressure came from export uncertainty, as we saw China cancel 12,000 tons of pork to end the month of April, which appears to be tariff related.

The positive note is that The Cold Storage report showed total pork supplies were down 9% from a year ago, and managed money responded accordingly.

The Commitment of Traders report on April 25 revealed the managed money adding 18,000 contracts of long positions which now puts them owning a net long position of 58,000 contracts.

By month-end, we saw futures rebound, putting the summer months over \$100 again, as well as the cash hog prices remaining strong with a national average above \$90.

While market reactions to global trade and policy developments have created instability, underlying supply-and-demand fundamentals remain supportive in many areas. Producers should continue monitoring both technical and fundamental signals and prepare for more headline-driven shifts in the weeks ahead.

Park & Commodity Div 4280 Sergeant Rd, Suite 240 Skoux City, 1A 51106 712-274-0536

As always, reach out to our commodity brokers with any questions you may have.

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SUMMARY NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

If you (i) directly sold to a Defendant one or more fed cattle for slaughter from June 1, 2015 to February 29, 2020 other than pursuant to a Cost-Plus Agreement and/or a Profit Sharing Agreement; and/or (ii) held a long position in Live Cattle Futures traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange prior to June 1, 2015, and subsequently liquidated the long position through an offsetting market transaction at any point prior to November 1, 2016, your rights may be affected by a pending class action settlement and you may be entitled to a portion of the settlement fund.

This notice is to alert you to a proposed settlement reached between Cattle Plaintiffs and defendants JBS USA Food Company, Swift Beef Company, JBS Packerland, Inc., and JBS S.A. (collectively, "JBS," and together with Cattle Plaintiffs, the "Parties") in *In re Cattle and Beef Antitrust Litigation*, Case No. 22-3031 (D. Minn.) and the creation of a settlement fund totaling \$83,500,000. The settlement with JBS will resolve the claims against it in the action. JBS denies any liability, fault, or wrongdoing in connection with the allegations in the action. Litigation remains ongoing against the non-settling defendants, Tyson Foods Inc., Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc., Cargill, Inc., Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation and National Beef Packing Company, LLC.

The United States District Court for the District of Minnesota (the "Court") authorized this notice. The Court appointed the lawyers listed below to represent the Settlement Classes:

Patrick McGahan Scott+Scott Attorneys at Law LLP 156 S. Main St. PO Box 192 Colchester, CT 06415 pmcgahan@scott-scott.com Daniel O. Herrera Cafferty Clobes Meriwether & Sprengel LLP 135 S. LaSalle St. Suite 3210 Chicago, IL 60603 dherrera@caffertyclobes.com

Who Is a Member of the Settlement Classes?

Subject to certain exceptions, the Settlement Classes consist of: (i) the "Producer Class" of all persons or entities within the United States that directly sold to a Defendant one or more fed cattle for slaughter from June 1, 2015 to February 29, 2020 other than pursuant to a Cost-Plus Agreement and/or a Profit Sharing Agreement; and (ii) the "Exchange Class" of all persons or entities who held a long position in Live Cattle Futures traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange prior to June 1, 2015, and subsequently liquidated the long position through an offsetting market transaction at any point prior to November 1, 2016.

A "Cost Plus Agreement" means an agreement to purchase fed cattle at a price determined, in all or in part, by applying an agreed mark-up to an accounting of costs incurred by the fed cattle seller in providing finished fed cattle.

A "Profit Sharing Agreement" means an agreement to supply fed cattle to a Defendant pursuant to which the Defendant: (a) financed all or part of the costs incurred by the seller in connection with the seller's purchase of unfinished cattle and/or the seller's efforts to finish unfinished cattle to slaughter weight (e.g., feed); and/or (b) agreed to share certain profits or losses of either the seller and/or the Defendant in relation to the cattle to be supplied.

If you are not sure if you are included in the Settlement Classes, you can get more information, by visiting <u>www.CattleAntitrustSettlement.com</u> or by calling toll-free at (844) 435-8844.

What Is This Lawsuit About?

Cattle Plaintiffs allege that JBS, Tyson, Cargill, and National Beef — the four largest meat packers (the companies that buy fed cattle, slaughter them, and fabricate them into beef) — conspired to eliminate or reduce competition among them for the purchase of fed cattle (cattle finished on a high energy ration), thereby artificially reducing the price cattle feeders received for their fed cattle.

Cattle Plaintiffs bring a separate, but related, claim under the Commodity Exchange Act, alleging Defendants manipulated the price of exchange-traded Live Cattle Futures contracts through their conduct in the physical market and through their trading on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

What Does the Cattle-JBS Settlement Provide?

To settle the claims in this lawsuit, JBS agreed to pay a total of \$83,500,000. If the settlement is approved, the settlement amount, plus interest earned and less any taxes, notice, and administration costs, Court-awarded attorneys' fees and litigation expenses, any service awards for Cattle Plaintiffs, and any other expenses approved by the Court will be divided among all Settlement Class Members who submit valid claim forms. The settlement also requires JBS to provide Cattle Plaintiffs with certain assistance, which Cattle Plaintiffs can use in their efforts to distribute the Net Settlement Amount and prosecute their claims against the remaining Defendants.

Will I Get a Payment?

If you are a member of the Settlement Classes and do not opt out, you will be eligible for a payment under the Cattle-JBS Settlement if you file a valid claim form. Claim forms must be submitted online at <u>www.CattleAntitrustSettlement.com</u> on or before 11:59 p.m. Central time on **September 15, 2025, OR** mailed so that they are **postmarked by September 15, 2025**, at Cattle Antitrust Settlement, 1650 Arch Street, Suite 2210, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

What Are My Rights?

If you are a member of the Settlement Classes and do not opt out, you will release certain legal rights against JBS and the other Released Defendants, as explained in the Court's detailed notice and the settlement agreement, which are available at <u>www.CattleAntitrustSettlement.com</u>. If you do not want to be a member of the Settlement Classes with respect to the Cattle-JBS Settlement, you must opt out by **July 7**, **2025**. If you are a member of the Settlement Classes and do not opt out, you may object to the settlement, the plan of allocation, application for an award of attorneys' fees and litigation expenses, and/or service awards for Plaintiffs by **July 7**, **2025**. Information on how to opt out or object is contained in the Court's detailed notice, which is available at <u>www.CattleAntitrustSettlement.com</u>.

When Is the Fairness Hearing?

The Court will hold a fairness hearing at the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, 300 South Fourth Street, Courtroom 14E, Minneapolis, MN 55415, on **August 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** to consider whether to finally approve the settlement, plan of distribution, application for an award of attorneys' fees and litigation expenses, and any service awards for Plaintiffs. You or your lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own expense, but you do not have to.

For more information, call toll-free 1-844-435-8844 or visit www.CattleAntitrustSettlement.com.

**** Please do not call the Court or the Clerk of the Court for information about the settlement. ****