

# R-CALF urges investigation into feedlot concentration

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS  
Capital Press

R-CALF USA, which has voiced its concerns about concentration in the meatpacking industry for two decades, is now urging federal agencies to investigate the cattle-feeding sector.

In a letter to the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice, the ranchers' group said feedlots are the marketing outlet for hundreds of thousands of cattle producers and they are rapidly consolidating.

"While beef packer concentration has plateaued since 2009 at the four-firm level of between 83% and 86%, it is now evident that major concentration and vertical integration efforts are underway in the feedlot sector of the live cattle industry," the letter stated.

Bill Bullard, CEO of R-CALF, told Capital Press there's been an evolution in the cattle industry. In the early to mid-2000s, meat-packers owned large feed-

lots, he said.

JBS owned Five Rivers Cattle Feeding, the largest feedlot company in the world. Cargill had three or four large feedlots, he said.

"However, they soon discovered they could maintain the same degree of control over cattle through contracts as they could through direct ownership. So JBS and Cargill divested their feedlots," he said.

Vertical integration shifted from direct ownership and control to contractual control through alternative marketing arrangements and so-called feeding agreements. This freed up a lot of capital for the largest beef packers, he said.

"The oligopolistic structure of the beef packing industry is now being pushed upstream into the live cattle supply chain," R-CALF said.

R-CALF filed its comments in response to the agencies' request for information on modernizing enforcement of antitrust



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press File

**Cattle at a feedlot near Pasco, Wash. R-CALF USA is calling on the federal government to investigate the control large meat processors have over the nation's feedlots.**

laws regarding mergers. Citing USDA data, R-CALF said nearly 85,000 feedlots in operation in 1996 have exited the industry, representing a loss of over 75%. The largest feedlots increased in number from 45 in 1996 to 77 in 2021. Of particular concern is those large feedlots fed nearly 35% of all fed cattle marketed in 2021, according to R-CALF.

The data also show

there were 27,125 feedlots remaining in the U.S. in 2021, of which 25,000 are smaller independent feedlots that fed only 13% of cattle marketed by all feedlots. This means there were 2,125 remaining feedlots that fed 87% of all cattle marketed in 2021.

"R-CALF USA recommends the agencies investigate to determine the degree of buyer power the concentrated beef packers exer-

## R-CALF RECOMMENDATIONS

New merger guidelines should require an evaluation of the pre-existing competitiveness of the marketplace and identify the various sources of market power that might be facilitated by a particular merger.

The guidelines should include measures to address the ongoing consolidation and vertical integration occurring in the cattle feeding industry, and reforms must be made to protect cattle producers from antitrust activities.

cise over those feedlots — in particular, the 77 largest feedlots," R-CALF said.

Unfortunately, the current guidelines are ill-suited to evaluate and analyze the anticompetitive effects of mergers within the U.S. beef supply chain, R-CALF said.

"During much of the period in which the current guidelines were in effect, the manufacturing segments reached unprecedented levels of concentration and literally hundreds of thousands of livestock production businesses exited the industry," R-CALF said.

From 1980 to 2004, the

four-firm concentration ratio for steer and heifer slaughter increased from 35.7% to 81.1%, and over 600,000 U.S. cattle operations exited the industry.

"These data provide no support for the assertion that the current guidelines helped, in any way, to protect U.S. livestock producers from antitrust activities and anticompetitive practices in the market," R-CALF said.

"Thus, fundamental reforms to the current guidelines are needed to restore a competitive livestock market for independent livestock producers," R-CALF said.

# WSDA proposes to lower fee to report some cattle sales

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Department of Agriculture plans to lower the per-head fee for electronically reporting cattle sales, a move the agency hopes will encourage more producers to use the online system.

The fee will be 80 cents a head rather than \$1.30 if the department follows through on its proposal.

"It's quite a price drop. It's the only one that's going down. We can use all the help we can get," Washington Cattlemen's Association lobbyist Mark Streuli said Friday.

The department set up electronic reporting several years ago as an alternative to a state brand inspector going out to check the transaction.

The department hoped to save money and improve its ability to trace the movements of livestock in the event of a disease outbreak. To report sales electronically, livestock owners must individually identify each animal with an electronic 840 RFID tag.

Producers were slow to embrace online reporting. In 2020, only 775 head were reported sold through the electronic system. In 2021, the number increased to 12,200, though one producer accounted for 87% of the cattle.

Still, thanks to that one producer, the revenue from the \$1.30 per-head fee now covers the cost of running the online system.

Brennan Kimbel, acting manager of the department's livestock identification pro-



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

**The Washington State Department of Agriculture plans to reduce the fee for electronically reporting cattle sales.**

gram, said she expects revenues who stay ahead of expenses even if the department cuts the fee to 80 cents a head. More producers should be attracted to report sales online, she said. "We're try-

ing to get people to use it," she said.

An advisory committee with representatives from segments of the cattle industry petitioned the department to lower the fee.

"Hopefully, producers will get a little financial relief, as well as an incentive to use the system," Washington Cattle Feeders Association executive director Jack Field said.

The department does not plan to change other inspection-related fees. In-person inspections of branded or electronically tagged cattle will remain \$1.21 a head, plus a \$20 call-out fee.

Registering to report sales online will continue to cost \$33 a year.

Whether the sales are reported online or checked by a brand inspector, the department also collects a \$1.50 per-head fee for the Washington Beef Commission and charges 23 cents a head to support its animal disease traceability program.

The inspection fee for cattle that are not branded or have electronic tags will remain \$4 a head, a price difference the department hopes will reduce the number of so-called "unidentified" cattle.

The department will take public comments on the fee change until May 24 and tentatively plans to adopt it June 1.

At the same time, the department plans to adopt a rule allowing veterinarians and private field inspectors to check sales at public livestock markets, feedlots and slaughterhouses if state inspectors are not available.

The rule change will make permanent an emergency rule the department adopted because the COVID pandemic caused a shortage of state inspectors.

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Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/09/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by  
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2018 NISSAN SEN 4DR  
VIN = 3N1AB7AP0JL655821  
Amount due on lien \$1915.00  
Reputed owner(s) GEORGINA CAMPOS & SERGIO SORIANO REGIONAL ACCEPTANCE CORP

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2015 FORR3 32' RT  
VIN = 4X4TSMH28FT109330  
Amount due on lien \$1555.00  
Reputed owner(s) GARY D ELLSON & WENDY M S CANITES SPOKANE TEACHERS C.U

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
FRV FRV RT  
VIN = 5ZT2CAY87GT008678  
Amount due on lien \$1535.00  
Reputed owner(s) COPART WESTLAKE FINANCIAL SERVICES

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2018 TOYT YARIS 4DR  
VIN = 3MYDLBYXJY328300  
Amount due on lien \$1535.00  
Reputed owner(s) JENNIFER CASTRO WESTLAKE FINANCIAL SERVICES

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2013 TOYT PRIUS 4DR  
VIN = JTDKDB33D1047920  
Amount due on lien \$1535.00  
Reputed owner(s) JUNE E & JOHN J CHLADEK OREGON STATE CREDIT UNION

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2009 GMC SIERRA PU  
VIN = 1GTHK93689F153947  
Amount due on lien \$1555.00  
Reputed owner(s) GREGORY & WENDY KING

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2017 TOYT CAM 4D  
VIN = 4T1BF1FK2HU710815  
Amount due on lien \$1515.00  
Reputed owner(s) JORDAN P DUILIO

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2018 HYUN TUCSON UT  
VIN = KM8J3CA45JU643223  
Amount due on lien \$1515.00  
Reputed owner(s) DONALD LEE JAMES HYUNDAI MOTOR FINANCE

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2018 CHEV TAHOE LL  
VIN = 1GNSKBK9JR202183  
Amount due on lien \$1515.00  
Reputed owner(s) DOUGLAS N LUMBARD ONPOINT COMMUNITY C.U

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2018 FORD MUSTANG 2DR  
VIN = 1FA6P8CF1J5105659  
Amount due on lien \$1915.00  
Reputed owner(s) JUSTIN G & BRANDON J PALMER LEXUS FINANCIAL SERVICES

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2014 ACURA ILX 4DR  
VIN = 19VDE1F70E014100  
Amount due on lien \$1915.00  
Reputed owner(s) MARK A & MICHELLE L SUBOTNICK ONPOINT COMMUNITY C.U

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2013 BUICK ENC UT  
VIN = KL4CH586DB203292  
Amount due on lien \$1915.00  
Reputed owner(s) KAITLAN RENE PATTERSON FIRST TECH CREDIT UNION

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2020 RYRV HID CT  
VIN = 4YDT22L27LN245298  
Amount due on lien \$1915.00  
Reputed owner(s) TOMMY JOE ALLAN ROSS MID OREGON FED C.U

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2017 KIA SOUL UT  
VIN = KNDJP3A54H7502220  
Amount due on lien \$1555.00  
Reputed owner(s) DENVER & JULIE MORRISSEY C/O PEMCO

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2017 TOYT RAV UT  
VIN = JTMJREVS5HD101286  
Amount due on lien \$1555.00  
Reputed owner(s) JAMES D & COLLEEN M SAUVE TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT CORP

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2015 NISS PTH UT  
VIN = 5N1AR2MM4FC636328  
Amount due on lien \$1555.00  
Reputed owner(s) MOLLY MILES HICKMAN ONPOINT COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2017 LEXS RX UT  
VIN = 2T2BZMC88HC056310  
Amount due on lien \$1555.00  
Reputed owner(s) PAULA P DAWLEY

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2006 TOYT TAC PU  
VIN = 5TENX22N462243440  
Amount due on lien \$1555.00  
Reputed owner(s) MICHAEL & DIANE MARUSA FIRST TECH FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2017 FORD FUSION 4D  
VIN = 3FA6P0LU3HR287825  
Amount due on lien \$1455.00  
Reputed owner(s) BEYA KALALA & GRACE G BEYA

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2013 AUDI Q5 UT  
VIN = WA1LFAFP8DA051990  
Amount due on lien \$1455.00  
Reputed owner(s) KELLY PITTAM & JESSICA HILL ONPOINT COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2018 DODGE CVN VAN  
VIN = 2C4RDGBG4JR222885  
Amount due on lien \$1555.00  
Reputed owner(s) TIZIA LEE ROBBINS ALLY FINANCIAL

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A-1 TRANSMISSION  
3653 SILVERTON RD NE SALEM, OR  
2001 FORD ST  
VIN = 1FDAF56F21ED68207  
Amount due on lien \$9125.00  
Reputed owner(s) RAFAEL RANGEL

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2019 FORD EXP LL  
VIN = 1FM5K8T8KGB54377  
Amount due on lien \$1535.00  
Reputed owner(s) STEVEN WAYNE COOPER SELCO COMMUNITY C.U

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2014 TOYT PRIUS 4DR  
VIN = JTDKN3DU7E1772750  
Amount due on lien \$1535.00  
Reputed owner(s) NATALIE ANN HANKWITZ FIBRE FEDERAL C.U

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2014 KIA OPTIMA 4DR  
VIN = 5XXGM4A7EG343626  
Amount due on lien \$1555.00  
Reputed owner(s) DALANA SUE SEWELL CAPITAL ONE NA

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2020 MAZDA CX3 4D  
VIN = JM1DKF70L1469970  
Amount due on lien \$1555.00  
Reputed owner(s) CHRISTINE DENISON & KAYLA PATTULLO OREGON COMMUNITY C.U

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2013 TOYT PRIUS 4D  
VIN = JTDKN3DU2D5627428  
Amount due on lien \$1555.00  
Reputed owner(s) KIRA MARIE PARAGON BOEING EMPLOYEES C.U

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2008 TOYT TUNDRA PK  
VIN = 5TFB54108X039734  
Amount due on lien \$2135.00  
Reputed owner(s) RYAN MALIN DOUGLASS INROADS FEDERAL C.U

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2019 FORD FUSION 4DR  
VIN = 3FA6P0RU7KR259668  
Amount due on lien \$1435.00  
Reputed owner(s) NICO BEARS WINSOR ALLY BANK

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2017 CHEV COL PU  
VIN = 1GCPTE1X1H1221464  
Amount due on lien \$1435.00  
Reputed owner(s) MICHAEL D BENEDICT