

## COVID-19 AND NATIONAL BEEF: WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic touches every corner of the world and the economy — affecting families in rural communities and urban centers alike. It is a time unlike anything in recent history, and one that will require patience and perseverance as the nation begins to recover.

At U.S. Premium Beef, LLC (USPB) and National Beef Packing Company, LLC (National Beef), we want you to know that we're with you.

During these uncertain times in agriculture and the cattle industry, every step of the supply chain is being tested. But know that you are not alone. We remain committed to serving and working for USPB producers and supplying quality beef for consumers.

“Each of you plays a vital role as National Beef continues to be one of the leading suppliers of quality beef products,” says Tim Klein, National Beef CEO. “We are an integral part of our nation’s critical infrastructure, keeping America’s food supply operating throughout this pandemic, a serious and special responsibility.”

There’s no blueprint for navigating such an uncertain situation. However, National Beef is taking every precaution and being extremely vigilant in its plants, offices and entire operations to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state and local health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO) to keep employees and your families safe and healthy.

National Beef has invited and welcomed leaders from the CDC and state and local health authorities to tour the facilities, meet with team members and review safety procedures. They are pleased with the measures National Beef has taken to ensure employee safety and are committed to helping us operate and take care of employees.

“Our highest order and priority is always ensuring and



protecting the health of our employees, and especially throughout this time,” Klein says. “We have been sharing daily updates with our 9,400 employees and have made significant investments for them.”

To ensure the highest level of safety in the fight against COVID-19, National Beef has made the following enhancements.

### Employee Health

- Temperature screenings of employees and personnel entering facilities to help identify and isolate employees who have a fever, one of the COVID-19 symptoms.
- Daily reminders to employees who are sick to stay home. Special Emergency Response Pay and Benefits provisions require and allow employees who don’t feel well to stay home and include relaxed attendance policies.
- Continual updates to employees on practices to

enhance health and safety, and stop the spread of COVID-19.

## Safety Measures

- Ample supply of disposable face masks for employees; face shields are also readily available.
- Installed stainless steel partitions between workstations on the production floors for increased safety.
- As always, facilities are thoroughly sanitized and disinfected daily, following strict sanitation protocols.
- Increased frequency of sanitation in employee common areas, such as eating areas, locker rooms, handrails, doors and other frequent contact surfaces.
- Increased the number of and ease of access to hand sanitization stations.
- Implemented protocol to keep drivers in their trucks while on property; providing them a non-contact lunch delivery at the security gate.
- Visitors are restricted to only those classified as essential by the General Manager and must complete a health screening before entering the facility.

## Social Distancing

- Installed plexiglass dividers

at cafeteria tables and other locations throughout the facility to provide safety barriers between employees.

- Employee break and lunch schedules have been staggered to reduce congestion in hallways, break areas, locker rooms and other common areas.
- Increased physical space by putting up tents and by moving tables into these areas to allow employees to practice increased social distancing at breaks/lunch.
- Limited the number of individuals/employees in meetings to 10 or less.

In recognition of invaluable contributions during this period, National Beef is offering Special Emergency Response Pay and Benefits for production employees. All hourly production plant employees will receive a \$2 per hour increase in their base wage rate for all hours worked from March 16 – May 31, 2020.

If an employee is prohibited from working and must stay home due to a quarantine required by a government agency or by National Beef, the employee will receive up to two weeks of regularly scheduled hours missed at their base wage rate.

“At National Beef, we are honored to have the industry’s best

employees,” Klein says. “They have my full commitment – that we will do all we can to keep them safe as they help us fulfill our obligation to provide an uninterrupted food supply to families across America during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

As we work through each day, every week and the months to come, USPB and National Beef are choosing to provide hope.

President Trump’s Executive Order that ensures meat and poultry processing operations continue will help maintain production and our ability to keep quality beef on the tables of American families.

To step into the weight of responsibility, we ask for your continued support to carry on our mission during this unprecedented time in our country’s history.

“To our suppliers and American cattle ranchers: thank you for enabling us to continue operations during this challenging time,” Klein says. “On behalf of the National Beef family, we lock arms with you and every family across this great nation. Let your strength rise.” ♦

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*Editor’s note – This article includes communications from recent National Beef press releases on their response to the coronavirus pandemic. For more information, visit [nationalbeef.com](http://nationalbeef.com).*

