

FAX TRANSMITTAL



**TEXAS
CATTLE FEEDERS
ASSOCIATION**

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February 18, 2008

TO: TCFA Members
FROM: Ross Wilson and James Hunt
SUBJECT: Hallmark/Westland Recall

Texas Cattle Feeders Association is working closely with National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Texas Beef Council as our industry responds to matters pertaining to the USDA investigation of Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Company and the ground meat recall announced yesterday.

Below is the official statement put out by NCBA. Please contact TCFA if you have any questions.

NCBA Statement on USDA Investigation of Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Co.

James O. Reagan, Ph.D.
Chairman, Beef Industry Food Safety Council
Vice President, Research and Knowledge Management,
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
February 17, 2008

"Today, the United States Department of Agriculture announced a Class II recall involving beef from Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Co. This recall is happening, out of an abundance of caution, because the company did not follow regulations for handling non-ambulatory cattle.

We support USDA's recall as a precautionary measure. At the same time, we can say with confidence that the beef supply is safe. We have multiple interlocking safeguards in place in every beef processing plant in America so that if one is bypassed, the other systems continue to ensure the product we serve our families remains safe.

The ban on non-ambulatory or 'downer' cattle is one of many steps in a robust system to produce safe beef, but it is not the only step taken to ensure the safety of the beef supply. The beef we eat is safe because there are multiple safety hurdles before it arrives at our grocery stores or restaurants.

As an organization representing beef producers, we have two expectations when our cattle leave our farms and ranches: that our animals are treated humanely and that every step is taken to produce safe beef. We support USDA's actions today to enforce the laws that ensure our cattle are handled with care and that our beef is produced safely."

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This information provided by The Beef Checkoff.