



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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TCFA Beef-PAC Trustees Voted To Support Governor Rick Perry's Re-Election last week during their meeting in Amarillo. "Senator Hutchison and Governor Perry are both friends and have both done good things for our state and our industry. We wish we didn't have to choose a side in this race, but we do and Rick is our Governor and the person we need in Austin to continue leading our state," said Beef-PAC Chairman Walter Lasley. "Governor Perry understands production agriculture and is a strong supporter of the Texas cattle feeding industry. The policies that he has put in place through the years have worked to ensure that our state remains a leader in food and fiber production." Most recently, the Governor took up the cause of Texas consumers and livestock producers, petitioning the federal government to significantly reduce unfair subsidies for feedgrain-based ethanol.



DEADLINES EXTENDED! Need a little more time to get your Convention registration filled out and returned to TCFA? You got it. The early registration deadline for the 2009 TCFA Convention has been extended until Oct. 15. Register now and save \$50! Go to <http://www.tcfa.org/convention> and register today!

Jerry Sublett acted at just the right time to make himself the 200th TCFA member to register for Convention. Jerry will receive a free Convention registration. Will you be the next lucky TCFA member? Free registrations are going to every hundredth member who registers, but you can't win if you don't send in your information!

Get ready to party TCFA style! The Cattle Feeder Get Together offers a little something for everyone. With great food and drink, an exciting auction, lots of good friends and some of the best dancing music in Texas provided by

Jake Hooker and the Outsiders, a good time is all but guaranteed.

With all there is to do at the 2009 TCFA Convention, you'll be plum worn out by the end of the day. No need to drive home. Make a reservation at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo and make your TCFA Convention that much better. A limited number of rooms are still available at the Ambassador Hotel, so act quickly and make your reservation today. Call the Ambassador at (806) 358-6161 and mention the TCFA Convention or log on to <http://www.ambassadoramarillo.com> and use the group name TEXASCAT.

For more information about the 2009 TCFA Convention and to register log on to <http://www.tcfa.org>, or call the TCFA office at (806) 358-3681, and we'll be glad to help. We've got a great Convention planned and hope you all will be a part of it. See you in Amarillo!

Dairy Producers Are Receiving More Help as Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) is conducting another herd buyout.

The CWT herd retirement announced Thursday is the third in calendar year 2009 and the fourth in the past 12 months. A total of 226,000 cows were removed from the nation's dairy herds in the three previous retirement rounds, according to CWT. In the new round, farm audits are expected to begin the first week of November and be completed by early December.

Go to http://www.cwt.coop/sites/default/files/news_releases/Herd-retirement-announcement-100109.pdf for the CWT news release.

Meanwhile House and Senate negotiators working on the FY 2010 agriculture appropriations conference report have reportedly agreed to \$350 million in aid for dairies. The *Burlington (Vt.) Free Press* said \$290 million would go for direct support of dairy farmers under a program to be devised by USDA. An additional \$60 million would cover purchases of surplus cheese and other dairy products that would go to food banks and other nutrition programs. (For more information on action by the ag appropriations conference committee, see the article below.)

The Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Bill Conference Report also included compromise language that would allow the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to perform a science-based risk-assessment to determine whether Chinese poultry products are safe for importation to the U.S. The agreement will allow USDA to do its job of protecting Americans from unsafe foods, while giving China the same treatment as all other nations who seek to ship their meat and poultry products to the U.S.

NCBA and The Ad Hoc Coalition for Sound Science and Trade issued the following statement on the Chinese poultry:

"The U.S. meat and poultry industry has always been committed to the highest standards of food safety. We are pleased that this issue has been resolved and are hopeful that it lays the groundwork for resumption of trade in these and other products that have been hindered by Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) issues. We appreciate the efforts of the Administration and Congress to come to agreement on a path forward for these critical issues."

In addition, TCFA and NCBA worked hard to secure funding in the conference report for several important projects, including:

- \$1.09 million for the ongoing feedyard air quality research being conducted by West Texas A&M University, Texas AgriLife Research, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Kansas State University and USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS);
- \$16.764 million for the bovine TB program (\$2 million of which has been earmarked for depopulation indemnity payments);
- \$13.157 million for cattle fever tick control;
- \$200 million for the Market Access Program; and
- \$34.5 million for the Foreign Market Development Program.

A list of the projects contained in the conference report is available at

http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/2010_AG_Conf_Disclosure.pdf and the full text is available at

http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/Ag_Conf_Rpt_FY2010.pdf.

The conference report is expected to be considered and approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate next week.

Senate Democrats Begin Climate Change Campaign: Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee Chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) unveiled their 800-plus page climate change bill at a rally outside of the Capitol on Wednesday, while senators in both parties expressed concern over the midterm emission reduction goal and the bill's impact on taxpayers. The goal of the bill is to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions 20% below 2005 levels by 2020, compared to 17% reduction target in the House-passed bill. However, like the House-passed bill, the Senate bill contains language exempting agriculture from regulation under the cap, establishes a list of eligible agriculture offsets and gives USDA jurisdiction over agriculture offsets. A copy of the bill is available at http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/climate_change_kerry-boxer_bill_2009.pdf.

The EPW Committee is tentatively planning to hold hearings on the bill the week of Oct. 19 with a markup the following week. The Finance Committee and Agriculture Committee will also hold hearings and markup certain sections of the bill, but it is unclear when this will happen. TCFA and NCBA will continue to monitor this legislation and provide senators with information regarding the bill's potential impact on cattle producers.

A \$100,000 Increase For National Beef Promotions And Partnership has been approved by the Operating Committee, which is comprised of 10 CBB members and 10 state beef council members.

The CBB says the spending hike is intended, in part, to help protect the market share for beef as white tablecloth restaurants await the return of consumers lost to the recession. The budget decision also reflects the fact that shoppers are looking for beef bargains at the grocery store.

"The checkoff has taken note that consumers are cooking more at home and this provides an excellent opportunity to move more product through retail than in recent years to make sure there's a market for our cattle," said Helen Wiese, Operating Committee member and chair of the industry's retail committee.

For more information, go to <http://www.beefboard.org/news/090930RetailLandscapeRelease.asp>.

Conventional Beef Production Is Helping Grocery Shoppers And Restaurant Patrons in our difficult economic times, according to an article posted by *Drovers.com* this week.

"What most consumers don't know is that conventional production systems and using modern technologies keep beef affordable," says Jan Lyons, a Kansas rancher, who is also a former NCBA President and past CBB

chair. "Conventional grain-fed beef production utilizing safe growth-enhancing technologies that are approved by FDA makes beef production more economical and sustainable for both producers and consumers."

Lyons added that contrary to the recent *TIME* article attacking modern agriculture, "Americans are lucky to have the safest, most affordable food supply in the world. On average, Americans spend only 10% of their income on food compared to 30% or more in less industrialized economies."

This is good news at a time when a recent Food Marketing Institute survey showed 70% of shoppers say the recession is affecting their food purchases.

To see the full article, go to http://www.drovers.com/news_editorial.asp?pgID=675&ed_id=6183.

"How To Feed The World In 2050" is the title of a high-level expert forum to be hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome Oct. 12-13. Discussion will center on how to increase food production by 70% above current capacity in order to adequately nourish a population that FAO projects will grow by 2.3 billion to reach a total of 9.1 billion people.

Approximately 300 experts from academic, nongovernmental and private sector institutions from developing and developed countries are expected to attend the forum. This event is intended to lay the groundwork for the upcoming World Summit on Food Security to be held next month also in Rome.

For more on the forum, go to <http://www.fao.org/wsfs/forum2050/wsfs-forum/en/> and <http://www.fao.org/wsfs/forum2050/wsfs-background-documents/issues-briefs/en/>.

U.S. Beef Gaining In Popularity With Japanese Consumers: USMEF surveys show that consumers in the former No. 1 export market are more ready than at anytime in recent years to chow down on American steaks and beef bowls. That's despite the limitations their government has imposed on market access for U.S. beef.

Over the past three years, the number of consumers who feel "extremely safe" or "somewhat safe" in consuming U.S. beef have more than doubled from 12.1% in 2006 to 30.1% in August 2009, according to surveys commissioned by USMEF and conducted by Macromill. Those consumers who feel "not very safe" or "not safe at all" have declined from 62.5% to 30.8%, while the balance have no firm opinion.

The survey revealed that Japanese consumers look to certain outside information sources to reinforce their confidence in U.S. beef. When asked what would encourage them to buy U.S. beef, the survey participants cited several leading factors:

- 41% said the approval of the safety of U.S. beef by the Government of Japan
- 23.4% said U.S. Government safety guarantees
- 22.1% said safety approvals offered by specialists and celebrities
- 20.5% said safety explanations offered by U.S. producers
- 14.4% said the serving of U.S. beef in well-known restaurants and hotels

For more perspective on the situation with Japan, including data on monthly beef imports of U.S. beef, go to <http://www.usmef.org/viewemail.asp?contentID=16874&password=05A3156332>.

Funds Undergoing Changes: Deutsche Bank AG this week announced it is reducing the amount of corn, wheat, crude oil and sugar in two funds: the \$3.3 billion PowerShares DB Commodity Index Tracking Fund and the \$2.2 billion Power Shares DB Agriculture Fund. The corn and wheat positions are being downscaled to comply with new position limits implemented by the CFTC. Additional commodities will be added to the funds to further diversify the funds' positions. PowerShares DB Commodity Tracking Index Fund will be adding Brent Crude, Copper Grade A, Natural Gas, RBOB Gasoline, Silver, Soybeans, Sugar and Zinc. The PowerShares DB Agriculture Fund will be adding Cocoa, Coffee, Cotton, Feeder Cattle, KC Wheat, Lean Hogs and Live Cattle. The CFTC has given Deutsche Bank until the end of October to reduce the size of the pre-existing positions. Other fund managers are expected to make similar moves in order to comply with the new CFTC position limit requirements.

The Texas Animal Manure Management Issues Conference drew more than 125 producers, regulators, researchers, technical service providers and others for the two-day event this week in Round Rock. The conference included presentations on changes in the livestock and poultry industries and a series of science-based technical sessions on environmental and economic issues relating to poultry, dairy and beef cattle operations. Also covered was emergency response during disasters involving livestock, manure management and water quality, advanced manure conversion/bioenergy and manure management systems.

TCEQ Chairman Bryan Shaw's presentation – "The Changing Environmental Context for Texas' Livestock and Poultry Producers" – addressed issues ranging from animal emissions and odor control to water quality and developing numerical standards for regulating nutrient content in water bodies. It also outlined some of the

challenges and opportunities in converting animal manure into energy. "We in agriculture must constantly be looking for ways to add value to our products and byproducts," said Shaw. Shaw also touched on the issue of global greenhouse gases and the need for a "holistic approach" to dealing with greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

TCFA Vice President Ben Weinheimer also gave a presentation titled, "The Changing Regulatory and Public Relations Context for Livestock and Poultry Feeders in Texas." Weinheimer noted that by 2050 the world population is estimated to grow another 2.3 billion to a total of about 9.1 billion. "To keep up with this dramatic growth, overall food production must grow by 70% and meat production must grow from its current 297 million tons annually to about 517 million tons," he said.

Weinheimer said producers, regulators, industry organizations, technical assistance providers and others must all step up to the challenges and identify solutions in the areas of air and water quality, nutrient management and greenhouse gas emissions.

...Feeders And Feedyards In The News...

Monty Cochran is the new manager at Dimmitt Feedyard. He replaces Bob Tabb, who resigned to pursue personal interests.

Assistance For South Texas Ranchers Fighting Fever Tick will be the subject of presentation by USDA-NRCS State Conservationist Don Gohmert at the San Antonio International Farm and Ranch Show Oct. 9.

NRCS is providing technical and financial assistance to ranchers in a 17-county area to help fight the spread of the cattle fever tick. The conservation assistance will be available through EQIP for the Rio Grande Domestic Animal Stress/Mortality Statewide Resource Concern, since the cattle fever ticks can carry and transmit a tiny blood parasite called, 'babesia,' that can be deadly to cattle. The 17 counties included are Brooks, Cameron, Dimmit, Duval, Frio, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, La Salle, Kinney, Maverick, Starr, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, Zapata and Zavala.

For more information, go to http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/news/releases/ls_track.html.

What Are The Benefits Of Prescribed Burning For Ranchland? You can find out during a field day at the JA Ranch on Oct. 23. The event is sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas AgriLife Research. Deadline for early registration is Oct. 16. Go to <http://agnews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=1431> for more details.

NCBA Has Announced Formation Of The Coalition For Conservation Through Ranching, a multi-stakeholder partnership between national conservation-minded groups that share an interest in promoting open space for ranching and healthy landscapes. The coalition will work on issues including grassland research, specific species conservation efforts, and the role of grassland on carbon sequestration. To learn more, go to <http://www.beefusa.org/NEWSUniquePartnershipPromotesConservationthroughRanching39416.aspx>.

TCFA Sponsor Spotlight. TCFA is proud to recognize its top sponsors whose efforts help deliver top-notch services to members.

This week's spotlight shines on



Fort Dodge Animal Health, a global industry leader, is well recognized for its innovative products, commitment to cutting-edge research and development, and strong partnerships with the veterinary community and producers. A long-time supporter of TCFA, Fort Dodge has been a Prime sponsor of the TCFA Annual Convention and the Summer Meeting, as well as a sponsor of the Fed Beef Challenge and Junior Fed Beef Challenge. Fort Dodge's key livestock products include CYDECTIN® Pour-On and Injectable dewormers, SYNOVEX® implants, PYRAMID® respiratory vaccine lines and PRESPONSE® pasteurella vaccines. For more information about Fort Dodge livestock products, visit <http://www.fortdodgelivestock.com>.

This Week's Newsletter Is Also Being Mailed To TCFA Members whose mailing address we have on file, but for whom we have not yet received an e-mail address. Included with the *Newsletter* will be a 2010 Member decal and a reply card to provide us with an e-mail address and to request a 2010 TCFA pocket calendar. Please return the reply card in the postage-paid envelope.

For members already receiving the *Newsletter* by e-mail, watch your mail next week for a 2010 Member decal and a reply card to request a calendar.

You may also provide an e-mail address to TCFA and request a calendar by going to <http://www.tcfa.org> and clicking on This Week's *Newsletter* links.

Please note: All links are still available at <http://www.tcfa.org> under This Week's Newsletter links.