

TCFA August Recess Talking Points and Background Information **07/31/2009**

Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (H.R. 1549)

- TCFA and NCBA are actively opposing this legislation.
- This bill would phase-out the use of non-therapeutic antibiotics in animals.
- Cattle producers care a great deal about their animals and the judicious use of antibiotics is a necessary and important tool to prevent, control and treat disease in cattle.
- Prohibiting all low-level applications of antibiotics used in livestock will reduce our ability to address disease in cattle.
- There is no evidence linking the use of antibiotics in cattle production to antibiotic resistant bacteria in humans.
- Procedures are in place to ensure that an animal doctored with antibiotics cannot enter the food supply chain until the drug has left its system.

American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454)

- TCFA and NCBA are actively opposing this legislation.
- This bill would set a strict cap on allowable greenhouse gas emissions from certain regulated entities and allow them to purchase offsets to ease compliance.
- While agriculture is exempt from regulation under the cap, TCFA and NCBA continue to oppose the bill because it would significantly increase producer operating costs and provide EPA with rulemaking authority to establish and enforce performance standards for methane emissions.

Clean Water Restoration Act (S. 787)

- TCFA and NCBA are actively opposing this legislation.
- This bill would remove the word “navigable” from the definition of “waters of the United States” – waters subject to regulation under the federal Clean Water Act – and dramatically expand federal regulatory authority over all wet areas; including playa lakes, ponds, ditches, etc.
- The legislation constitutes a federal taking of private property and usurps state regulatory authority.

Food Safety Enhancement Act (H.R. 2749)

- This bill dramatically increases FDA’s role in food safety by granting the agency more resources and regulatory authority.
- TCFA and NCBA are actively working to ensure that this legislation does not grant FDA the authority to conduct on-farm inspections of livestock operations or the regulatory responsibilities over meat and meat products currently held by USDA.
- The House passed bill does not grant FDA new regulatory authority over livestock.

Please contact Josh Winegarner at josh@tcfa.org or (806) 358-3681 with any questions.