



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

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**The Humane Society Of The United States (HSUS) Is Being Sued** in a RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) lawsuit filed by Feld Entertainment and the Ringling Brothers Circus, according to federal court records obtained by Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF). The lawsuit is available online on the new website CCF launched recently to monitor HSUS activities: [HumaneWatch.org](http://HumaneWatch.org).

In its February 16 lawsuit, Feld leveled bribery, fraud, obstruction of justice, and money laundering charges against HSUS, three other animal rights groups, and a number of attorneys that work for those groups. CCF reports that the lawsuit follows a Dec. 30, 2009 ruling by Federal Judge Emmitt Sullivan that the defendants had collaborated to pay more than \$190,000 to Tom Rider, a former Feld employee who was an elephant "barn helper" for two years in the late 1990s, in exchange for his impeached testimony against Feld in an earlier lawsuit. Judge Sullivan declared Rider's testimony "not credible," disregarded in its entirety and the earlier lawsuit was dismissed.

For more information, go to <http://humanewatch.org/>.

**Meanwhile Yellow Tail Wine Is Making Amends For Its \$100,000 Donation To HSUS.** In a letter to the Animal Agriculture Alliance, Yellow Tail said the "spirit and intention of our donation" to HSUS "was for the celebration of animals." But Yellow Tail understands that "animal welfare groups work in different ways to advance their cause."

"We are interested in the welfare of animals, and in financially supporting animal welfare causes that provide direct care services to help animals, not on taking positions on any animal lobbying issues. We pledge to you that any future support for animal welfare will go to organizations specifically devoted to hands-on care, such as rescue, sterilization, feeding, or disaster assistance," the letter stated.

The Alliance's Executive Vice President Kay Johnson Smith said Yellow Tail appears to be making "a genuine effort to repair ill feelings caused by the sponsorship of HSUS. We are satisfied the controversy and anxiety it caused was unintentional."

An Alliance news release saluted the agriculture community's use of social media to provide feedback to Yellow Tail about its donation to HSUS.

**Texas Primary Elections:** TCFA urges all members to vote in the 2010 Texas primary elections on Tuesday, March 2. Early voting ends today (Feb. 26). A complete list of the candidates that Beef-PAC of TCFA is supporting can be found at [http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/candidates\\_supported-2010\\_primary.pdf](http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/candidates_supported-2010_primary.pdf).

**Climategate: A Report Titled, "'Consensus' Exposed: The CRU Controversy,"** was released this week by the minority staff of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW). The report covers the controversy surrounding e-mails and documents released from the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit (CRU). It examines the extent to which those e-mails and documents affect the scientific work of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and how revelations of the IPCC's flawed science impact the EPA's endangerment finding for greenhouse gases.

According to a statement on the EPW minority website, the report finds that some of the scientists involved in the CRU controversy violated ethical principles governing taxpayer-funded research and possibly federal laws. In addition, the EPW minority staff believes the e-mails and accompanying documents seriously compromise the IPCC-based "consensus" and its central conclusion that anthropogenic emissions are inexorably leading to environmental catastrophes. Staff also found that the scientists obstructed release of damaging data and information, manipulated data to reach preconceived conclusions, colluded to pressure journal editors who published work questioning the climate science "consensus" and assumed activist roles to influence the political process.

"This EPW Minority Report shows that the CRU controversy is about far more than just scientists who lack interpersonal skills or a little e-mail squabble," said Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), Ranking Member of the

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. "It's about unethical and potentially illegal behavior by some of the world's leading climate scientists.

"The report also shows the world's leading climate scientists acting like political scientists, with an agenda disconnected from the principles of good science. And it shows that there is no consensus – except that there are significant gaps in what scientists know about the climate system. It's time for the Obama Administration to recognize this. Its endangerment finding for greenhouse gases rests on bad science. It should throw out that finding and abandon greenhouse gas regulation under the Clean Air Act – a policy that will mean fewer jobs, higher taxes and economic decline."

Click on the following link to access the full report and supporting information:

[http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue\\_id=0f038c02-802a-23ad-4fec-b8bc71f1a6f8](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=0f038c02-802a-23ad-4fec-b8bc71f1a6f8).

You can also read the transcript and view Senator Inhofe's questioning of EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson regarding the CRU controversy and the agency's GHG Endangerment Finding at

[http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.Blogs&ContentRecord\\_id=fd1dbffc-802a-23ad-469f-fdf1f2353094&Region\\_id=&Issue\\_id](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.Blogs&ContentRecord_id=fd1dbffc-802a-23ad-469f-fdf1f2353094&Region_id=&Issue_id) (Part 1) and at

[http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.Blogs&ContentRecord\\_id=fd264d19-802a-23ad-4e4a-e4c3a050311c&Region\\_id=&Issue\\_id](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.Blogs&ContentRecord_id=fd264d19-802a-23ad-4e4a-e4c3a050311c&Region_id=&Issue_id) (Part 2).

**Taxes And Fees Should Be Used To Reduce The Livestock Industry's Impact On Climate Change**, according to a new report by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In its annual report on the "The State of Food and Agriculture," FAO suggests that the livestock sector is a significant contributor to climate change but "also can play a key role" in mitigating the problem. The report says the "adoption of improved technologies, encouraged by appropriate economic incentives, can lead to reduced emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) by livestock."

The FAO offers up the idea of public and private source payments to help achieve progress in carbon sequestration and conservation of soil, wildlife and landscapes. But the report also argues that negative incentives could help stimulate better environmental performance in the livestock sector: "Market-based policies, such as taxes and fees for natural resource use, should cause producers to internalize the costs of environmental damages caused by livestock production."

It is likely that the FAO report will be widely read by policymakers and legislators. TCFA and NCBA continue to fight against enactment of unwise environmental regulations and standards. The FAO report joins the growing list of reasons for TCFA and NCBA to continue aggressive efforts to protect beef producers from excessive costs and bureaucracy that result from unsound science.

View the full FAO report at [http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/fao\\_annual\\_report.pdf](http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/fao_annual_report.pdf).

**Walmart Plans To Eliminate 20 Million Metric Tons Of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions** from its global supply chain by the end of 2015. Walmart says this goal represents one-and-a-half times the company's estimated global carbon footprint growth over the next five years and is the equivalent of taking more than 3.8 million cars off the road for a year.

"Energy efficiency and carbon reduction are central issues in the world today," said Mike Duke, Walmart president and CEO. "We've been working to make a difference in these areas, both in our own footprint and our supply chain. We know that we have an opportunity to do more and the capacity to do more."

Walmart collaborated with Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) to develop an approach that looks at the supply chain on a global scale. Other external advisers include PricewaterhouseCoopers, ClearCarbon Inc., the Carbon Disclosure Project and the Applied Sustainability Center (ASC) at the University of Arkansas.

The program has three main components:

- Selection – Walmart will focus on the product categories with the highest embedded carbon. This is defined as the amount of life cycle GHG emissions per unit multiplied by the amount the company sells.
- Action – For a project to be included as part of this goal, it must reduce GHGs from a product in either the sourcing of raw materials, manufacturing, transportation, customer use or end-of-life disposal. Walmart must demonstrate it had direct influence on the reduction and show how that reduction would not have occurred without Walmart's participation.
- Assessment – Suppliers and Walmart will jointly account for the reductions. ClearCarbon will perform a quality assurance review of those claims to ensure methodology, completeness and calculations are correct. When the claims meet the quality assurance check, PricewaterhouseCoopers will assess under

consulting standards whether the defined procedures were followed consistently to quantify the reduction claim.

For more information, go to <http://walmartstores.com/FactsNews/NewsRoom/9668.aspx>.

**NCBA And Other Groups Educated Congress Members About Antibiotics** and other tools important to raising health food animals this week. The Capitol Hill briefings were funded in part by the Beef Checkoff. Joining NCBA as co-hosts were the National Chicken Council, National Pork Producers Council, National Milk Producers Federation, National Turkey Federation, American Meat Institute and National Meat Association. The sessions were held in cooperation with U.S. Reps. Randy Neugebauer (R-Texas), David Scott (D-Ga.), Zack Space (D-Ohio), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) and Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa). Top livestock and poultry health experts from across the country presented information to attendees.

"Prompt and judicious use of efficacious antibiotics is critical for the successful treatment and, at times, control of specific bacterial diseases in cattle. Certain FDA-approved antibiotics also enable us to significantly improve the efficiency of beef production," said Dr. Guy Loneragan, an epidemiologist and associate professor at West Texas A&M University, and presenter at the briefings. "Maintaining access to FDA-approved safe and effective technologies, including animal health products, helps ensure both the health and resource efficiency of U.S. herds and flocks."

In addition to stringent federal regulations, responsible-use programs have been developed that are specific to feed, livestock and poultry organizations. Those regulations and programs give feed companies and producers specific guidelines and assistance on the safe and proper use of antibiotics in health management systems.

Despite the unsubstantiated allegations by activist groups, there is no conclusive scientific evidence that shows the use of antibiotics in beef production contributes to an increase in antibiotic resistance in humans. In fact, a growing body of evidence shows just the opposite: The responsible, professional use of these products keeps animals healthy and enhances animal welfare while not contributing to resistance.

#### ***...Feeders And Feedyards In The News...***

**Elmo "Tuff" Hall**, 83, who retired in 2007 after a lifelong career as a cattleman that included ownership of Circle Three Feedyard, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 23. His son, Scott Hall, is a former TCFA Board member and is co-owner of and manager of Circle Three Feedyard. Services for Elmo Hall were held Thursday at the Church of the Nazarene in Hereford. Survivors include his wife, Kay; two sons; two daughters; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**David Link** is the new manager at Friona Feedyard.

**Junior Cattle Feeders Shine In San Antonio!** The San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo held its Junior Commercial Steer Contest last week in San Antonio. Five of the top 15 contestants in that event have also participated in TCFA's Junior Fed Beef programs. Khaki Scrivner of Valley FFA and former Overall Champion of the Junior Fed Beef Challenge was Grand Champion of the San Antonio contest. Wesley Haverlah of Llano County 4-H placed fourth and Walker Carson of Valley FFA placed fifth. Cole Perkins, also of Llano County 4-H placed seventh, and Brian Kallina of Rice Consolidated FFA, a participant in the 2009 Junior Fed Beef Career and Leadership Program placed fourteenth. Several other top 15 finishers are members of TCFA through their FFA chapters. The San Antonio contest is similar to TCFA's Junior Fed Beef Challenge in which students compete by feeding a pen of commercial steers, keeping a record book and giving an oral presentation. For more information about TCFA's Junior Fed Beef programs contact Trent Tyson at (806) 358-3681 or [trent@tcfa.org](mailto:trent@tcfa.org).

**Masters Of Beef Advocacy (MBA) Student Count Surges Past 2,000.** Since the Cattle Industry Convention in January, more than 300 new students have enrolled in the Beef Checkoff-funded MBA program, bringing the total number of current students to more than 1,300. More than 100 students graduated in the first three weeks of February (788 total since March 2009), and it is anticipated that more than 150 will complete the courses by the end of the month. The number of graduates should exceed 1,000 by the end of March, the one-year anniversary of the program's launch.

TCFA's Industry Relations Committee has made MBA an official TCFA project. All TCFA members are encouraged to go through the MBA program.

The MBA program is a free, self-directed online training program designed to equip producers and industry allies with information they need to be everyday advocates and effective spokespersons for the beef industry.

After completing six courses, graduates will be invited to attend a commencement advocacy training and graduation ceremony focusing on sharing the positive story of beef one-on-one with friends and neighbors and interacting with consumers across the country using social media tools like Facebook and Twitter.

After completing the program, participants will be ready to get out and meet consumers where they live. This may be as simple as talking to friends, family and neighbors, or going out to broader audiences, such as schools, businesses and civic groups to tell the beef story.

For more information about MBA, visit <http://www.MyBeefCheckoff.com>. To enroll, send an e-mail to [MBA@beef.org](mailto:MBA@beef.org).

**The Generosity Of Cattle Feeders Will Be On Display Sunday, March 7** when the Panhandle Office of the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society presents its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Beef-A-Thon from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Amarillo television station KAMR. Viewers can call in and bid on quarters of beef and other items. A total of 27 feedyards in the Texas Panhandle area have donated animals to supply beef for the fundraiser. TCFA has also made a monetary donation. All proceeds benefit the MS Society's Panhandle office.

For more information, go to <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/chapters/TXP/index.aspx>.

**Squabble Over Mexican Trucks Continues To Put American Agricultural Products And Jobs At Risk:** A group of about 40 members of Congress, led by Reps. Dennis Cardoza (D-Calif.) and Rick Larsen (D-Wash.), are circulating a Dear Colleague letter urging their House colleagues to sign on to a letter to Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk expressing concern about inaction on reinitiating the U.S.-Mexico cross-border trucking pilot program and ending retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agriculture and manufacturing goods.

The tariffs were imposed by Mexico after the U.S. Congress terminated funding for the U.S.-Mexico cross-border trucking pilot program in the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. Although Congress has since addressed the issue by removing the prohibition within the FY 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Bill, the Administration has yet to make progress on developing a plan to remove the burdensome tariffs – which continue to put American agricultural products and jobs at risk.

TCFA and NCBA encourage members of Congress to sign on to the letter. Mexico is one of our top trading partners (especially for beef), and the removal of these retaliatory tariffs is vital to preserving our domestic industry and thwarting additional economic disaster.

**USDA-FSIS Will Expedite Review Of A Petition By Food Safety Lawyer Bill Marler** that asks the agency to issue an interpretive rule declaring six non-O157:H7 serotypes of *E. coli* adulterants, *Meatingplace.com* reports. In his request, Marler sought expedited review because he said the requested action would prompt better monitoring of all enterohemorrhagic *E. coli*, thus decreasing foodborne contamination.

**Kansas State University Will Receive A \$12 Million Grant** for research into zoonotic and animal disease defense. The *Kansas City Business Journal* reported that the Department of Homeland Security funding will be spread out over six years and be devoted to such work as development of vaccines and rapid diagnostic methods and education programs.

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