



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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U.S. House Of Representatives Passed The Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act on Wednesday by a vote of 239-184. NCBA's Deputy Environmental Counsel Ashley Lyon said the legislation would prevent EPA from overruling state decisions on water quality. Lyon said under the Clean Water Act, states have primary responsibility for protecting waterways after EPA signs off on their plans. Sponsored by Reps. John Mica (R-Fla.) and Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.), H.R. 2018 was a way to restore cooperation between the federal government and the states.

Unfortunately, according to Lyon, EPA currently approves a state's plan for protecting U.S. waters and then reverses its decision by proposing "burdensome and scientifically unfounded regulations."

"EPA is out of control and often acts as activists rather than a taxpayer-funded government agency that is expected to use sound science when imposing regulations. We cannot allow EPA to jeopardize economic growth by placing opinions over science," said Lyon. "We fully support this bipartisan legislation and oppose any effort to veto this commonsense bill."

TCFA and NCBA strongly supported passage of H.R. 2018 and will work for its passage in the Senate.

Obama Ready To Move On South Korea Trade Bill. According to *Reuters*, President Barack Obama will soon send a free trade pact with South Korea to Congress for approval despite Republican threats to vote against it because it includes a retraining program for workers displaced by trade, White House Chief of Staff Bill Daley said on Thursday.

"There is no time to waste fighting politics as usual," Daley said in a speech at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the U.S-Korea Business Council. "If we do not act before the August recess, American business will suffer."

Obama faces a showdown with Republicans over his insistence that an extension of the nearly 50-year-old Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) retraining program be passed along with the Korea pact and two other pending free trade agreements with Colombia and Panama.

Republicans have objected to Obama's plan to insert the TAA program into the implementing bill for the South Korea agreement, insisting that lawmakers be allowed to vote separately on the TAA and the trade pact.

Although the White House believes both could pass separately, Daley said Republicans have yet to offer a "credible" plan that would prevent TAA opponents from blocking a vote on the program, which Democrats see as a vital safety net and many Republicans view as ineffective.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell has said he would vote against the Korea agreement if TAA is included in the implementing legislation for the deal.

EPA Did Not Propose Regulating Ammonia under the secondary nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulfur oxides (SOx) National Ambient Air Quality Standard thanks to significant opposition from cattle producers and other industries. According to NCBA's Chief Environmental Counsel Tamara Thies, EPA finally agreed to recognize the lack of science and related uncertainties at this time for consideration in their policy assessment.

They are, however, still proposing to protect the environment from NOx and SOx. To ensure any updated standard is effective at protecting vulnerable ecosystems, including lakes and streams, EPA is planning to conduct a field pilot program to collect and analyze additional data and information.

EPA will accept comments for 60 days after the proposal rule is published in the Federal Register and will issue a final rule by March 2012.

The July WASDE Report Was Filled With Adjustments To Align With The Recent Stocks And Acreage Reports: Ending Stocks of old crop corn were increased by 150 million bu. to 880 million bu. which was credited with less than expected feed use. New crop production increased by 270 million bu. in reaction to the larger than expected planted acres, making the total supply 14,370 billion bu., up 420 million bu. from the June estimate. Feed Usage for the coming year increased 50 million bu. to 5,050 billion bu.

Food, Seed and Industrial Use was increased to 6,550 billion bu., up 95 million bu. Usage for Ethanol was increased by 100 million bu. to 5,150 billion due to improved ethanol margins. Total Domestic Corn Usage was increased to 11,600 billion bu., up 145 million bu. Export Sales Estimate was increased by 100 million bu. to 1.9 billion bu. and the projected ending stocks estimate for the coming year was increased to 879 million bu., which is up 175 million bu. Given the larger ending stock for this year and larger acres and production for 2011–2012, the projected average price to farmers was reduced by \$0.50 with the new range being from \$5.50 to \$6.50.

"Cattlemen Are Rightfully Concerned With The Recent UEP–HSUS Agreement to seek unprecedented federal legislation to mandate on-farm production standards," says NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Colin Woodall regarding the July 7 agreement between the United Egg Producers (UEP) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to develop federally mandated egg production standards.

"Cattlemen take very seriously the responsibility to care for their animals. Cattlemen support and actively participate in multiple voluntary, industry led initiatives aimed at ensuring the production of healthy cattle and, ultimately, the safest, highest quality and most nutritious beef. The U.S. beef industry is recognized as a worldwide leader for its proactive and responsible health and wellbeing programs.

"Unlike the UEP–HSUS agreement, our cattle care programs should never be weakened by being misused or misconstrued as the basis of a regulatory or government mandated program."

TCFA Conducts Long Range Planning Meeting. TCFA's Executive Committee was joined by other TCFA leaders this week to review and update the current long range plan. Officers and staff will now compile a draft plan for board review and consideration at their September meeting.

"We appreciate the time and effort of our leaders to consider several scenarios affecting the cattle feeding industry in the next five years and then develop strategic objectives to best serve our members," TCFA's Chairman Elect Jim Peters noted.

2011 Safety Awards–Cargill Cattle Feeders–Bovina's Meredith Jordan and the management team were the first place winners of the 2011 TCFA Best Safety Practices Award with their Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Red Book.

In second place was **Henry C. Hitch Feedlot, Inc.'s Twilla Tracy** with their Radar Backup Systems. In third was **Cactus Feedyard's Patricio Pitti** with the creation of their Auger Safety Guard.

"It is always exciting to see what our member feedyards and their employees are doing to improve safety around the work place," said TCFA's Regulatory Manager, Brady Miller. "Developing and implementing safety ideas to help prevent accidents is a major part of any safety program. The participation in the safety award program is one of the ways that shows the commitment that our members are willing to make to ensure safety of their employees and the cattle they feed."

EU Program Will Promote European Meat In U.S. According to *Meatingplace.com*, a new program to promote the sale of European meat in non-EU nations will be implemented in the U.S., Vietnam and South Korea over the next two years.

The "Tradition, quality and European taste" program, co-financed by the EU and Poland, was announced by the Union of Producers and Employers of Meat Industry. The campaign will address the following subjects:

- Production based on the HACCP system—mandatory in the European Union
- Product certification in international quality systems such as ISO, BRC, IFS, GlobalGAP, as well as food quality systems in Europe
- Animal feeds, welfare and the impact of these factors on the obtained flavor and technological parameters of meat
- Properties of meat obtained through traditional breeding such as intramuscular fat content and the presence of technological defects
- European culinary traditions based on pork and beef

Key targets of the program include distributors, local manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, industry associations and processing establishments.

Radioactive Beef Was Sold And Consumed In Japan. The meat of six cattle that ate radioactive straw at a Fukushima Prefecture farm has been distributed to at least nine prefectures including Tokyo and Osaka.

According to an article by *Cattle Network*, a farm in Fukushima, Japan, ignored government instructions and used straw stored outdoors near the location of the power plant explosion, after Japan's earthquake and tsunami on March 11, as cattle feed.

The straw was contaminated with an average of 75,000 becquerels of radioactive cesium per kilogram, almost 56 times the allowable limit.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will conduct safety inspections on all farms that raise cattle for beef, or about 260 in all, in areas of Fukushima Prefecture's evacuation zone.

"Eating only a portion of the meat will not cause a great deal of damage to one's health," said Goshi Hosono, state minister in charge of food safety.

Youth Program Offered At Beef Cattle Short Course. Youth will have the opportunity to learn more about beef production in a special program offered at the 2011 Beef Cattle Short Course in College Station on August 1-3 for students ages 13 to 18.

The program will feature a variety of educational sessions ranging from beef evaluations and grading to beef advocacy. Participants will learn about beef fabrication, carcass evaluation, beef quality and other topics.

Only the first 50 student participants will be allowed to attend. Registration is \$50, after July 26 the registration is \$75. Registration forms and additional information can be found at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/ansc/BCSC/family.html>.

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

Tri-State Feeder's General Manager, Walt Olson, who is TCFA's vice chairman of the Board of Directors, was featured in the *Oklahoma Cowman* in an article spotlighting the niche he has carved in the industry by feeding cutting bulls or weaning age calves taken straight off the cow and directly to the feedyard.

Tommy Kenworthy is announced as the new manager at Double D Feedyard in Dimmitt, Texas.

W.D. Buske, 85, passed away Monday, July 11. He farmed and ranched in the Friona area and was a charter member of TCFA.

Darrell "Pee Wee" Forester, 68, passed away Thursday, June 30. Forester was co-owner of Forester Brothers Cattle Company, 4-F Cattle Company, Athens Commission Company, Emory Livestock Auction Company and Henderson Livestock Auction Company.

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