



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

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# NEWSLETTER

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**TCFA Filed Comments In Opposition To A Proposed EPA Rule** that would require a laundry list of information from all CAFOs, including latitude and longitude (or street address) of the production area, acres available for land application of manure, type and number of head, and contact information of the owner or authorized representative, among other information. EPA proposed the rule in October 2011 as part of a settlement agreement that EPA entered into with the Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club and Waterkeeper Alliance, which stemmed from a lawsuit filed by those groups regarding EPA's 2008 CAFO rule.

As outlined in the proposed rule, EPA intends to make the database of information on CAFOs publicly available on EPA's website for all activists or terrorists to easily access. Comments filed by TCFA, and several other livestock organizations, argue that EPA lacks authority to make this broad request. And, as evidenced recently by the extremists' attacks on Harris Ranch, livestock operators are very concerned with the biosecurity and privacy risks associated with allowing this information to be made public. If finalized, any non-compliance with the request is a violation of the Clean Water Act, subject to fines of up to \$37,500 per day. To view the comments filed this week, visit [http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/2012\\_links/cafo\\_reporting\\_rule\\_comments.pdf](http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/2012_links/cafo_reporting_rule_comments.pdf).

**TCFA And NCBA Support House Bill Adding Natural Gas And Coal As Renewable Fuel Source** which would compete with corn-based ethanol for a share of the U.S. motor fuel market in the federal mandate for use of renewable fuels.

The Domestic Alternative Fuels Act of 2012, introduced this week by Pete Olson (R-Texas), would increase competition under the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). The RFS mandates the use of 13.2 billion gallons of alternative fuels this year, most of it made from corn.

"NCBA supports Congressman Olson's efforts to allow the market to drive our nation's renewable fuels policies by allowing more competition in the RFS. From marketing to renewable fuels—cattlemen support market-based principles that minimize the federal government's direct involvement in the cattle industry," NCBA President Bill Donald said. "Unfortunately, the RFS has allowed the federal government to mandate corn-based ethanol production volumes, which has put cattlemen at a competitive disadvantage. Congressman Olson's bill is a step in the right direction."

Rep. Olson said it's long past time for Congress to address the failed RFS. "The RFS focus on corn ethanol has translated into higher feed costs for livestock producers. While Congress considers eliminating the RFS altogether, we should in the meantime allow greater participation and competition under the program. That will benefit farmers, businesses and consumers."

**Trade Agencies Consolidation Cause Concern For TCFA.** President Barack Obama this week proposed merging six business-oriented agencies, folding together the Department of Commerce's core business and trade functions, the Small Business Administration, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), the Export-Import Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency.

"NCBA has strong concerns about President Obama's proposal to merge USTR with other trade agencies. NCBA maintains that USTR should remain an independent agency within the Executive Office of the President, focusing on trade negotiations, trade agreements and trade enforcement," said NCBA President Bill Donald.

"USTR is vital to ensuring successful trade negotiations concerning U.S. beef and other agricultural commodities with our global trade partners. USTR must be in a position to have direct access to the White House."

USTR serves an important role in reducing trade barriers and advocating for free and fair trade for all sectors of the U.S. economy. USTR has played a crucial role in expanding exports of U.S. beef by ensuring the passage of free trade agreements and working to achieve science-based trade protocols. TCFA, along with NCBA, supports the administration's recognition of the need to improve government efficiency and eliminate

wasteful spending. However, precautions must be in place to avoid unintended consequences. Both associations will continue to monitor the consolidations very closely.

**Administrator Of USDA's GIPSA, Dudley Butler, Has Resigned** effective January 26, according to *Agri-Pulse*. Butler oversaw the development of a controversial proposal to reform livestock and poultry marketing practices that became known as the GIPSA rule.

As head of GIPSA, Butler was in charge of drafting rules on livestock and poultry marketing in response to a requirement in the Farm Bill passed in 2008. When the proposed rules were unveiled in June 2010, meat and poultry processors and major livestock interests immediately cried foul, saying the proposals went far beyond the intent of Congress. The proposed rules would have created a raft of new criteria by which the Secretary of Agriculture could judge whether companies engaged in unfair treatment of cattle or hog producers and poultry farmers. The proposals would have cost producers millions in lost income and eliminated value-added marketing opportunities that have benefited beef producers and consumers alike.

The final GIPSA rule was published in the *Federal Register* on Dec. 9, 2011 stating... "The only section of the final rule that applies to the beef industry is the section related to arbitration (§ 201.218) and this only applies to a small segment (< 5%) of the industry that utilizes production contracts."

**TCFA's Board Of Directors Met Thursday, Jan. 19 In Amarillo** and took the following actions:

- Approved revisions and rollout of the new BQA Program
- Adopted a resolution on improvements needed in USDA's Mandatory Price Program, which will be taken to the NCBA Annual Convention in Nashville
- Heard reports and updates from the American Humane Association, United States Trade Representative's office and U.S. Livestock Producers about their Risk Management warranty program
- Accepted the annual audit report
- Heard reports from 2011 TCFA Leadership Program participants Levi Berry and Trevor Davis
- Accepted reports from TCFA standing committees

**Farm, Ranch, And Rural Communities Committee (FRRCC) Submitted Its Report** to Administrator Lisa Jackson. The FRRCC, the EPA's federal advisory committee on agriculture issues, completed the report offering recommendations on the most effective approaches for dealing with water quality issues related to agricultural production and improving water quality across the U.S. It also provides suggestions for increasing support for certainty programs, increasing stewardship and coordinating resources with USDA, land grant universities and the farm community to support a strong partnership effort.

According to the news release from EPA, the report emphasizes the importance of trust and the value of state programs, flexibility and voluntary conservation practices in achieving water quality goals. It notes the willingness that the agency has shown in maintaining and advancing an open dialogue with key stakeholders on how to address agricultural nonpoint source pollution as a critical first step.

To view the FRRCC report, visit

[http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/2012\\_links/2011\\_final\\_report\\_administrator\\_jackson.pdf](http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/2012_links/2011_final_report_administrator_jackson.pdf).

**2012 TCFA Leadership Program Participants** met at the Amarillo office for their first session on Wednesday, Jan. 18. Blake Deyhle and Dave Venhaus received an overview of TCFA, including a visit with each TCFA department head to learn about the specifics of each department within the Association. They also attended the Board of Directors meeting on Thursday.

In June they will attend the NCBA Young Cattlemen's Conference where they will learn about the different facets of the industry while traveling between Denver, Chicago and Washington, D.C.

The third session of the Leadership Program will include a four day trip in Texas with the TALL Session to further their knowledge of agriculture.

**Please Help Those In Need!** TCFA's Industry Relations Committee has challenged the Board of Directors to donate a steer or heifer to the High Plains Food Bank (HPFB) and they are asking TCFA member feedyards to consider making a donation as well. All animals donated will be used for producing hamburger meat to be distributed by the HPFB. Under program guidelines, any donated animal must pass all USDA and FDA requirements for food animals and provide a hot yield of 60% or better. If a feedyard prefers to donate money instead of an animal, any amount up to \$1,000 is acceptable.

Because the Food Bank's service area is confined to the Texas Panhandle, TCFA is specifically asking only member feedyards in the Panhandle to contribute. However, contributions from yards outside the Panhandle are certainly appreciated.

Feedyards are asked to take an animal they wish to donate to one of the 12 processors in the Panhandle that are assisting the HPFB program. There is no charge to donor feedyards for processing. For a list of participating processors visit [http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/2011\\_links/2011-07-01\\_food\\_bank\\_list.pdf](http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/2011_links/2011-07-01_food_bank_list.pdf). For more information, contact TCFA Communications Manager Kristen Brown at [kristen@tcfa.org](mailto:kristen@tcfa.org) or (806) 358-3681. For more about the Food Bank, visit <http://www.hpfb.org/about.htm>.

**Not Going To The Game? Tailgate At Home!** Make beef the MVP at your Super Bowl party! The Beef Checkoff has partnered up again with Wholly Guacamole® to help promote the use of beef during the NFL playoff season. "Homegating" is a great way to bring the tailgate party from the gridiron to your own living room or man-cave!

The Beef Checkoff will provide beef "swag-bags" and prize packages complete with "I Heart Beef" tees, aprons and caps that will be given to bloggers in a contest to help promote homegating and the use of beef in the blogosphere. To learn more about winning a beef "swag-bag" or to view other contests, visit <http://www.eatwholly.com/homegatinghq/>.

**The List Of 50 Most Powerful People In Food** was released this week by *DailyMeal.com*. The list includes politicians, chefs, activists, retailers and other figures who have an impact on what and how America eats. Chairman and CEO of Cargill Gregory Page made the list at number 11 and President and CEO of Tyson Donnie Smith came in at number 12. Others included U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack, President and CEO of Walmart Mike Duke, Vice Chairman and CEO of McDonald's Jim Skinner and author Michael Pollan.

To view the entire list, visit <http://www.thedailymeal.com/50-most-powerful-food-folk-america>.

**LED Lights Extend Meat Shelf Life** says new research conducted by Kansas State University. The study concluded that LED lights in refrigeration units saves energy and extends the shelf life of some beef products. Extending color shelf life affords retailers the opportunity to sell product at full price, said Kyle Steele, recent master's graduate in animal sciences and industry, in a news release.

According to *Meatingplace.com*, the study compared LED lights and fluorescent lights, the latter of which is widely used by retailers. Steele and his team looked at five different meat products—pork loin chops, beef loin steaks, ground beef, ground turkey and beef inside round steaks—in refrigeration units with both types of lighting and studied discoloration, rancidity and operating efficiency.

"Most meat products displayed under LED lighting had colder internal product temperatures, which helps extend product shelf life," Steele said. "Beef loin steaks and inside round steaks that were stored under LED lights can have up to one day longer shelf life."

In terms of operational costs, LED lights had fewer cycles per running hour, making them a more efficient and cost-saving light source than fluorescent lights.

**Beef Checkoff—Fit For A Princess** is a nutrition and physical activity educational program developed by experts in nutrition education to award Junior Girl Scouts with a Princess Zip patch. The program's goal is to teach tween girls the keys to a healthier future, and the approach is fun—learning by doing. All *Fit For a Princess* materials on the Beef Store online are free, including the Leader Guide, participant booklet, tiara and patch. To view the information or share with a local troop, visit <https://store.beef.org/>.

**Looking For A Way To Promote Your Feedyard Or Company?** Look no further than the TCFA *Cattle Feeders Annual*. The *Annual* is distributed to around 10,000 professional cattlemen throughout Cattle Feeding Country of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, as well as nationwide. Not only does every TCFA member receive an *Annual*, large cow-calf producers in selected states receive one as well. For more information, or to advertise in the 2012 edition, visit [http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/2011\\_links/2012ratecard.pdf](http://www.tcfa.org/Newsletter/2011_links/2012ratecard.pdf) or contact Scena Snider at (806) 358-3681 or [scena@tcfa.org](mailto:scena@tcfa.org).

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