

Full length version of articles abbreviated in TCFA Newsletter print edition.

From Newsletter Page 1 – 1/11/08

Horses Hurt By Activists' Agenda

The *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* (JAVMA) reported this week that since all three U.S. horse processing operations were ordered closed last year, the number of horses exported to Mexico has jumped dramatically. As of Dec. 20, 2007, 44,475 horses had been shipped to Mexico for processing for human consumption – a more than threefold increase from the 10,783 shipped at the same time in 2006.

What this means is that horse processing hasn't stopped. Instead unwanted horses are being shipped across the border where various critics allege processing practices are less humane than had been the case in regulated U.S. facilities.

Similarly, the *Wall Street Journal* reports that the shuttering of U.S. horse processing facilities is contributing to the rising number of horse neglect cases. *Range* magazine publisher C.J. Hadley told the *Journal*, "Animal lovers with big hearts and no idea what's required to take care of a horse have shut down slaughterhouses that were needed... Ranchers love their horses enough to put them down when the time comes."

From Newsletter Page 2 – 1/11/08

China's First-Ever Food Safety Law is being developed by that nation's government as it continues to respond to the recent rash of problems found in its exports. This week, China's Agriculture Vice Minister Gao Hongbin told reporters that a four-month old campaign to improve the quality of China's food products has made progress, but challenges remain. Gao said China plans to strengthen its inspection and testing of products and promote the standardization of agricultural practices, according to the *Associated Press*.

Texas A&M University's New President is **Elsa Murano**, who becomes the first woman ever to serve in that capacity. Murano was selected as the sole finalist for the position by the A&M System regents last month. Murano previously served as A&M's vice chancellor and dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Also on the A&M System news front: The Texas Cooperative Extension Service is now known as the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station has become Texas AgriLife Research. Those name changes were proposed by Murano when she headed the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.