



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Voting “Yes” in the Texas Beef Checkoff Referendum

Many beef producers believe we face more adversity than ever before, and while the federal beef checkoff has been successful in combatting misinformation about beef, expanding research efforts, developing additional new products and increasing beef demand, more resources are needed to more aggressively confront important issues and industry critics.

TCFA board members urge you to join them June 2-6 in voting “Yes” for a \$1-per-head Texas beef checkoff, a program that is vital to the future of the beef industry. Make sure you encourage all eligible individuals you know to get out and vote as well.

- **Vote in person** at any Texas A&M AgriLife Extension county office June 2-6 during regular business hours. Find a full list of county Extension office locations at <http://counties.agrilife.org>.
- **Mail-in ballots** must be requested by June 2 from Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) by calling (512) 463-3285. The ballots must be mailed back directly to TDA by June 6 to be valid.
- **An eligible voter** is any producer, regardless of age, who has owned cattle in Texas any time between June 6, 2013 and June 6, 2014. A producer may be either an individual or a legal business entity. Youth younger than 16 years of age must have a parent or guardian co-sign the ballot. A non-producer (i.e. dealer, order buyer, etc.) is not eligible to vote in the referendum.

The Texas beef checkoff program is different and separate from the current U.S. beef checkoff. Unlike the federal program, which requires that 50 cents of every dollar be sent to the Cattlemen’s Beef Promotion and Research Board for programs, the entire Texas beef checkoff assessment will be managed by Texas cattlemen and women. Another difference is that the Texas beef checkoff assessment is refundable.

Join fellow cattle feeders in voting “Yes” for a Texas beef checkoff June 2-6. Find more information about the Texas beef checkoff at <http://tinyurl.com/texas-checkoff-vote-yes> or www.texasbeefcheckoff.com.

High Plains Water District Solicits Comments on Proposed Rule

The High Plains Water District (HPWD) has released a draft of proposed Rule 5 for public comment. According to the district’s press release, the proposed rule is “An effort to promote conservation of underground water resources without intruding on private property rights, the proposed Rule 5 accommodates a wide variety of approaches in crop and livestock production.”

The press release went on to say, “The Board believes the proposed Rule 5 will further the management goals for all the aquifers in the District. The rule includes an allowable production rate for wells, groundwater reserve provisions, and recording and reporting options.”

TCFA has had several discussions with HPWD board members and staff regarding the rule. TCFA will thoroughly review the proposed rule and work with members to develop comments.

A draft of proposed Rule 5 is available at <http://tinyurl.com/hpwdrule5>.

Appropriations Committee Approves Agriculture Funding Bill

On Thursday, the House Appropriations Committee approved its version of the FY 2015 Agriculture Appropriations bill by a vote of 31 to 18. During the markup, the committee rejected two separate amendments that would have deleted or altered a provision in the underlying bill that prohibits USDA from using federal funds to implement and enforce the Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) rule on livestock competition. However, the committee accepted an amendment that prohibits USDA from using federal funds to inspect horses at slaughter.

The bill is expected to be considered by the House later in June. The Senate Appropriations Committee passed their version of the FY 2015 Agriculture Appropriations bill on May 22. It is unclear when the full Senate will consider the bill.

Summaries of both bills are available at <http://tinyurl.com/h-approp> and <http://tinyurl.com/s-approp>.

2014 Safety Award Contest Deadline

Don't miss out on your chance to win the 2014 TCFA Best Safety Practices contest and \$1,000. The entry deadline is Monday, June 9. Submit your safety idea today. The employee(s) with the winning suggestion will win \$1,000, a jacket and a recognition luncheon for all employees held at the feedyard in their honor. The submitting feedyard will also receive a plaque. Second place will receive \$500, a jacket, a recognition luncheon and a plaque. Third place will be awarded \$250, a jacket and a plaque.

The idea does not have to be originally created by the employee; it just has to be discovered and implemented by the feedyard. All ideas will be shared with TCFA member feedyards. There is no limit to the number of applications a feedyard may submit, and ideas not chosen in previous years may be resubmitted. In the case of duplicate entries by separate feedyards, the first one to submit the idea will receive the credit in the contest. TCFA's Best Safety Practices program encourages employees to develop safety ideas and help share safety habits among feedyards.

View the English version of the Safety Award flyer at <http://tinyurl.com/sa-flyer> and the Spanish version at <http://tinyurl.com/sa-flyer-spanish>. Make sure you submit your Best Safety Practices application, which can be found at tinyurl.com/saf-aw-app, by Monday, June 9. Submit your applications via fax (806) 352-6026, by emailing brady@tcfa.org or by mailing your applications to Brady Miller, Texas Cattle Feeders Association, 5501 I-40 W., Amarillo, TX 79106.

USDA is Sued Over Delay on Antibiotic-Resistant Salmonella Controls

The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) filed a lawsuit Wednesday in district court in Washington, D.C. against USDA, because the agency has not acted on a three-year-old petition to declare antibiotic-resistant salmonella as adulterants under federal meat inspection rules, according to court documents.

According to a *Meatingplace* article, the lawsuit is designed to compel USDA to act on a petition filed in May 2011 urging the agency to deem antibiotic-resistant salmonella as adulterants in ground beef and poultry, a move that would widen its powers in prompting recalls and preventing contaminated product from entering the marketplace. Find more information at <http://tinyurl.com/usda-sued-sal>.

MS Beef-a-Thon

The Panhandle Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society will hold its 44th annual MS Beef-a-Thon Sunday, June 8 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on television station KCIT Fox 14. The Panhandle chapter is the only one in the nation to conduct an event of this kind that features beef. All proceeds go towards the Panhandle Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Area cattle producers donate beef that will be sold in custom-cut quarters and ground beef packages. Melvin Edes of Edes Custom Meats processes the cattle and packages the beef quarters according to the custom orders. Last year, Beef-a-Thon raised \$32,000.

Thank you to all TCFA member feedyards who graciously donated a steer to be auctioned off at the 2014 Beef-a-Thon. This year's beef donors are: Beef Tech Cattle Feeders, Cimarron Feeders, Circle Three Feedyard, Dean Cluck Feedyard, Dimmitt Feedyard, Dumas Feedyard, Friona Industries: Randall County Feedyard & Swisher County Cattle Co., Great Plains Cattle Feeders, Hansford County Feeders, JBS Five Rivers – Hartley Feeders, Keeling Cattle Feeders, Kirkland Feedyard, Owl Feedyard, Paco Feed Yard, Quien Sabe Feeders, Rafter 3 Feedyard, Rogers & Sons and Walter Lasley & Sons, Inc.

U.S. Producer Groups Seek to Exclude Japan from Pacific Trade Talks

U.S. producer groups said on Wednesday that Japan should be suspended from Pacific trade talks if the nation insists on keeping tariffs on sensitive agricultural sectors, *Drovers CattleNetwork* reports. Japanese Economics Minister Akira Amari told Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trading partners at talks in Singapore last week that Japan will not agree to abolish all tariffs on wheat, rice, dairy, sugar, beef and pork. U.S. and Japanese negotiators will hold two more days of meetings in Washington on farm exports.

"Failing that, the alternative is suspending negotiations with Japan for now and concluding a truly comprehensive agreement with those TPP partners that are willing to meet the originally contemplated level of ambition," the National Association of Wheat Growers, U.S. Wheat Associates, USA Rice Federation, the National Pork Producers Council and the International Dairy Foods Association said in a statement.

"It is a big step but one that will be justified if Japan continues to refuse to open its agricultural sector to meaningful competition."

Beef producers from the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia have already demanded that the TPP eliminate all tariffs on beef, following media reports that Japan might offer the United States a tariff reduction to around 9 percent. Find more information at <http://tinyurl.com/tpp-japan-talks>.

Cattlemen Tells Congress EPA Waters of U.S. Rule Will Kill Conservation Participation

Jack Field, a rancher and Washington Cattlemen's Association executive vice president, testified before the House Small Business Committee at a hearing on Thursday to discuss overregulation and impeding impacts that the EPA/Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Waters of the United States (WOTUS) proposed rule will have on rural America.

The WOTUS rule expands the federal jurisdiction to include essentially all waters across the country, subjecting landowners to increased regulation and fines of up to \$37,500 per day. Likewise, the increase in liability will chill landowner participation in conservation activities by making the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) a regulatory compliance agency. Field testified that the EPA/Corps' interpretive rule would make NRCS standards mandatory for all conservation activities, regardless of whether they are voluntary or cost-shared.

"This didn't have to be the result," says Field. "All the agencies had to do was engage stakeholders early on in the process, incorporate our suggestions, and we would be much farther along in crafting a rule that actually clarifies the scope of Clean Water Act jurisdiction. There was zero outreach to the agriculture community before the rule was proposed and before the interpretive rule went into effect. We are now left with a proposal that doesn't work for small businesses, doesn't work for cattle ranchers and doesn't work for the environment."

FAO, OIE Boost Collaboration on Animal Health

The U.N. Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) pledged May 25 to step up their existing collaboration to control animal disease, ensure the safety of food from animal origin and promote safe trade, according to *Feedstuffs*.

The two organizations said they would reinforce their partnership in priority areas that include joint response to animal health crises and programs to prevent and control foot and mouth disease, peste des petits ruminants, African swine fever, rabies, zoonotic influenza and antimicrobial resistance. In cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), FAO and OIE said they plan to focus on monitoring the responsible use of antimicrobial and pharmaceutical products. They will also work to strengthen national veterinary systems.

FAO and OIE already have a number of joint initiatives including the FAO/OIE Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health, which provides rapid response during animal disease emergencies, and OFFLU, the network of expertise on animal influenza. The organizations have worked together on issues such as the prevention, detection and control of H5N1 avian influenza, and notched up a major success in 2011 with the global eradication of the deadly rinderpest cattle virus.

"OIE and FAO's longstanding collaboration has proved its efficiency in the prevention and control of numerous animal diseases worldwide," said OIE Director General Bernard Vallat. "Our common actions play a key role in the reduction of poverty and hunger. Convinced of the need to pursue this great collaboration, and to constantly reinforce its efficiency, OIE and FAO have agreed to reinforce their cooperation arrangement."

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/fao-oie-animal-health>.

Drought Relief: Cities in TCFA Area Doubled Annual Rainfall in One Week

A slow-moving storm system drenched parts of the TCFA area during the week of May 21-27, bringing relief from the extreme to exceptional drought that has gripped much of the region. *The Weather Channel* reported 10 cities that saw at least as much rain during this one-week period than they had in the first 20 weeks of 2014, and eight of those are in the three-state region of Cattle Feeding Country.

Among the cities in the TCFA area to double their annual rainfall in a one-week period are Amarillo with 3.55 inches; Clayton, N.M. with 1.22 inches; Hobart, Okla. with 4.74 inches; Lubbock with 5.23 inches; Midland with 1.84 inches; Roswell, N.M. with a total of 4.45 inches; and San Angelo with 7.42 inches. Find the *The Weather Channel's* report at <http://tinyurl.com/rainfall-weatherchannel>.

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