



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

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# NEWSLETTER

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## **House Committee Approves Measures to Prevent Federal Overreach in Water Regulations**

On Wednesday, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure approved several bills related to the regulation of the Nation's waters – legislation to provide greater regulatory certainty, protect and maintain the balanced federal-state regulatory partnership, and prevent overreach by the federal government.

**The Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act of 2014 (H.R. 5078)**, introduced by U.S. Rep. Steve Southerland (R-Fla.), is bipartisan legislation to uphold the federal-state partnership in regulating the Nation's waters and prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) from implementing a rule that broadens the scope of the Clean Water Act and expands the federal government's regulatory power. For more information about H.R. 5078, visit <http://tinyurl.com/hr-5078>.

TCFA, along with a coalition of 116 other groups, today signed and submitted a letter to Congressmen Reid Ribble (R-Wis.) and Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) expressing strong support of their legislation, the Agricultural Conservation Flexibility Act, which would invalidate the Interpretive Rule and make it clear that conservation activities are "normal" farming activities and exempt from Section 404 permitting.

Read the full letter at <http://tinyurl.com/ag-cons-flex-act>.

**The Regulatory Certainty Act (H.R. 4854)**, introduced by Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairman Bob Gibbs (R-Ohio), defines the exact period of time the EPA is allowed to restrict or deny a Clean Water Act dredge and fill (wetlands) permit under Section 404(c), and clarifies that the EPA does not have the authority to disapprove or revoke such a permit before the Corps has completed its review of a permit application or after the Corps has issued the permit. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/reg-certainty-act-2014> for more information about H.R. 4854.

**The Coal Jobs Protection Act of 2014 (H.R. 5077)**, which was introduced by U.S. Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W. Va.), preserves the authority of each state to make determinations relating to the state's water quality management program and restricts the EPA's ability to second-guess or delay a state's permitting and water quality standards decisions. Find more information about H.R. 5077 at <http://tinyurl.com/hr-5077>.

More information from Wednesday's markup, including additional background, legislative text and video, are available at <http://tinyurl.com/full-committee-markup>.

## **Roberts, Heitkamp Introduce Bill to Help Farmers in Futures Market**

Senators Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) introduced S. 2601 on Wednesday, a bill that would strike down a Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) regulation they say is overly burdensome on farmers and ranchers who rely on the futures market to hedge their risks, *AgriPulse* reports.

The bill, called the Risk Hedging Protection Act of 2014, would give futures customers an additional day to provide payments to brokers to meet their margin call, which fixes an issue Roberts and Heitkamp, both members of the Senate Ag Committee, say is limiting available agricultural funds.

Under the current law, the residual interest rule from the CFTC will eventually require futures customers to fully cover the margin of their contracts by the morning of the day following a trade. To comply, brokers would be more likely to demand a drastically increased initial payment, which has the potential to drive some farmers out of the futures markets or restrict available funds that could otherwise be used to hire new employees or make capital improvements.

Roberts and Heitkamp say the bill is similar to provisions in H.R. 4413, a bill reauthorizing the CFTC, which was passed by the House on June 24. At the time, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) said she could see some agreement between House and Senate policies, but that there was still a lot of work to do. Find the bill at <http://tinyurl.com/risk-hedging-protection-act>.

## **USDA Reinstates Chihuahua, Mexico's Cattle Import Certificate**

USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) recently reinstated Chihuahua, Mexico's import health certificate for live cattle. Fifty-six municipalities in Chihuahua will be provisionally re-classified to Modified Accredited (MA) status from their current designation as Accredited Preparatory (AP) status, which they obtained in August 2011 when USDA diagnosed five imported calves from Chihuahua with bovine tuberculosis (TB).

The provisional action will be in force until July 1, 2015, unless superseded by a subsequent Import Alert. Steers and spayed heifers from provisional MA zones may be imported to the U.S. with a valid TB whole-herd test (WHT) of the herd of origin, and an individual animal TB test conducted within 60 days of entry. Sexually intact cattle from provisional MA zones must have a valid WHT and two individual animal TB tests conducted at least 60 days apart, with the second occurring at the border. Dairy cattle and dairy crosses from Chihuahua remain ineligible to be imported to the U.S.

While the 56 municipalities are under provisional MA status, VS will extend the period of validity for any WHT conducted on or after Jan. 1, 2013 for cattle being exported from those municipalities to the U.S. Any WHT conducted in provisional MA zones in Chihuahua after Jan. 1, 2013, will expire on the 24-month anniversary of the test.

## **Rising Food Output to Meet Global Needs Over Next 10 Years**

Following a decade of supply concerns, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and U.N. food agency (FAO) report the world food output is on track to meet the demands of a growing global population – one that is becoming wealthier and thus eating more protein.

According to Reuters, while presenting the OECD-FAO 2014-2023 agriculture outlook in Rome, OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría said, "We are recovering from a period of marked turbulence in the agricultural markets, but there is no room for complacency. The world can grow enough food over the next 10 years, and it can respond to the broader challenge of feeding 9 billion people by 2050."

The article states that strong demand for meat from an expanding middle class in the Middle East and Asia will keep meat prices from falling as much as feed grain prices, and meat prices in real terms will average higher than the previous decade after general price inflation.

Read the full story at <http://tinyurl.com/rising-food-output-global-need>.

## **UNL Study Shows No Ill Effects From Cattle Feed Additive Zilmax**

Research by scientists from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) shows the cattle feed additive Zilmax has no noticeable detrimental effect on cattle health or well-being. The study was undertaken after Zilmax's maker, Merck Animal Health, suspended sales of the additive last year when fears arose that it might cause lameness in cattle and some packers quit accepting animals treated with the additive.

During the 26-day study, scientists collected blood, measured body temperature and recorded video images from 20 heifers, which were divided into two groups, half receiving Zilmax at the recommended dose and half not receiving it, according to a news release from UNL and the scientists. Four days after Zilmax supplementation was discontinued, heifers were exposed to stress to mimic what would be expected in cattle being shipped from the feedlot to packing plant. At the conclusion of the trial, the heifers were harvested at UNL and their hearts, liver, lungs, kidneys and adrenal glands were studied.

"Overall, the results of this trial indicate that while there are variations in the body temperature, endocrine and metabolic parameters and histopathology of major organs of Zilmax-supplemented heifers, these differences are minor and show no indication that supplementation of Zilmax is detrimental to the health or well-being of cattle," said Ty Schmidt, UNL animal scientist, in the release.

Read the full story at <http://tinyurl.com/unl-study-zilmax>.

## **Cattle Genetics Decoded**

Australian researchers are leading a new study that is helping to increase productivity in the dairy and beef industries by accelerating the pace of genetic gain in cattle herds, reports *Feedstuffs*.

Victoria Department of Environment & Primary Industries (DEPI) scientists Dr. Hans Daetwyler and Dr. Ben Hayes have led an international consortium that has sequenced the genomes of 234 cattle with the goal of building a large database that captures the majority of the genetic variation for all cattle breeds.

According to Hayes, they have sequenced the entire genomes of 234 cattle and identified a total of 28.3 million genetic variants that can now be used to aid genomic prediction and help producers predict which

animals are the most productive. Analysis of the genome sequences had also exposed genetic defects which could now be removed to improve the health and welfare of future herds.

By creating a global database, which scientists explain will become the standard reference within bovine genetics, the international consortium increased the detailed knowledge of the variation in the cattle genome by several orders of magnitude. The first generation of the new data resource, which will be open access, forms an essential tool for scientists working with cattle genetics and livestock history.

Find the full story at <http://tinyurl.com/bovine-genetics-decoded>.

### **Farm Bill Education Meeting**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will provide extensive farm bill education during a meeting to be held Aug. 12 in Amarillo, according to Nathan Carr, AgriLife Extension agriculture and natural resources agent for Potter County. It will be from 6-8 p.m. at the Potter County AgriLife Extension office, 3301 E. 10th Ave., Amarillo. Included will be a meal sponsored by Panhandle Plains Land Bank.

The meeting will explain general farm program provisions and provide a decision-aid demonstration. The presenters will be DeDe Jones, AgriLife Extension risk management program specialist in Amarillo, and Carr.

The meeting is free, but those planning to attend are requested to RSVP by Aug. 5 for planning purposes. For more information or to RSVP, contact Carr at (806) 373-0713 or [ncarr@aq.tamu.edu](mailto:ncarr@aq.tamu.edu). View the meeting flyer at <http://tinyurl.com/farm-bill-ed>.

These meetings will be held in several counties. For the list of all meeting dates and locations on the schedule, visit <http://tinyurl.com/farm-bill-education-meet-sched>.

### **James Herring to Receive 2014 National Golden Spur Award**

James E. Herring, of Amarillo, has been selected to receive the prestigious National Golden Spur Award for 2014. He will receive the award on Sept. 20 at the National Ranching Heritage Center on the Texas Tech University campus.

Herring, CEO of Friona Industries, is the 37<sup>th</sup> recipient of the National Golden Spur Award, which is bestowed to an individual who has provided outstanding contributions to the nation's ranching and livestock industry. Tremendous benefits and opportunities for cattle and beef producers throughout the U.S. have been established through Herring's leadership in the development of a unique, vertically aligned, value based production system that rewards cattle producers while supplying consumers with a consistently safe, nutritious and flavorful beef product.

The National Golden Spur Award is a joint recognition of some of the industry's leading organizations: American Quarter Horse Association; National Cattlemen's Foundation; Ranching Heritage Association; Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association; Texas Cattle Feeders Association; and Texas Farm Bureau.

Find more information about past recipients at <http://tinyurl.com/national-golden-spur-award>.

### **Feedyard Announcements**

**Cactus Feeders, Inc.** in Amarillo, Texas, announced this week that Brad Hastings has been promoted to president of the company. Additionally, Heath Wilson, formerly with Great Plains Ag Credit, has joined the company as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

**Friona Industries** announced this week that Dell Volmer has been promoted to Feedyard Operations Manager, overseeing operations at all four feedyards. Jerrid Vincent will assume duties as Manager of Randall County Feedyard. Barry Chew will be promoted to the position of Assistant Manager at Randall County Feedyard.