



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

5501 I-40 W. • AMARILLO, TEXAS • PHONE (806) 358-3681 • www.tcfa.org • info@tcfa.org

Volume 48, Number 34

August 22, 2014

2014 TCFA Annual Convention Registration Open

The 2014 TCFA Annual Convention revisits Oklahoma City, a metropolis that has it all – from the historic Old West in Stockyards City to the vibrant energy of Bricktown. The powerful slate of speakers and topics planned for Convention are sure to match the excitement of the city.

Monday morning, hear from Former Commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command, Four-Star Admiral, and Navy SEAL Eric Olson on the topic of building, training and leading highly effective teams; national security; and geopolitics. Also, receive firsthand insights from CattleFax CEO Randy Blach regarding cattle and grain markets, and later that afternoon, embark on one of several tours: Lopez Foods and Express Ranches; the historic Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial and the Overholser Mansion; or the Oklahoma City National High Performance Center on the Oklahoma River, an official U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Site, along with the Devon Boathouse and Bricktown.

On Tuesday, witness Nina Teicholz speak about her book, “Big Fat Surprise – Why Butter, Meat and Cheese Belong in a Healthy Diet.” NCBA’s Shalene McNeill will follow with a presentation on “Beef’s Bad Rap and What We Can Do About It.” Also, don’t miss out on an informative panel dialogue on sustainable beef production where leaders in beef retailing, economics, environmental groups, grain supply chain and others will discuss and debate one of today’s hottest topics that will likely remain for several years to come.

Conclude your time at Convention by enjoying a round of golf, sporting clays or exploring historic Oklahoma City. You won’t want to miss this year’s TCFA Annual Convention!

Register before Sept. 18 at <http://tinyurl.com/tcfa-conv-reg> for a chance to win a \$500 Cabela’s gift card! Make your hotel reservations today at the Renaissance Hotel using this direct link or phone number and request the Texas Cattle Feeders Convention block: <http://tinyurl.com/renaissance-hotel-convention> or 1-800-468-3571. TCFA also has a block of rooms at the Skirvin Hotel. If you would rather reserve a room at the Skirvin, use this direct link or phone number: <http://tinyurl.com/skirvin-hotel-convention> or 1-888-490-6546.

Nestlé Implements New Animal Welfare Standards for Suppliers

Earlier this week, Nestlé issued an appendix to its supplier code titled *Nestlé Commitment on Animal Welfare* in which the company states that it “is committed to improving farm animal welfare across our global supply chains” and will require the hundreds of thousands of farms that supply its dairy, meat, poultry and eggs to comply with new standards.

Under the new policy, Nestlé expresses support for the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and emphasizes the organization’s Five Freedoms: 1) Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition; 2) Freedom from fear and distress; 3) Freedom from physical and thermal discomfort; 4) Freedom from pain, injury and disease; and 5) Freedom to express normal patterns of behavior.

The policy also states that the initial focus will be to “eliminate practices which contravene the “Five Freedoms,” and tackle the root causes of those practices.” The policy specifically mentions the following practices in cattle production: dehorning, tail docking, disbudding and castration without anesthetic and analgesia. In regard to animal production systems in general, the policy states that the first focus is the responsible use of antibiotics, in line with OIE’s guidance, and the phasing out of the use of growth promoters.

The new policy goes on to say, “We are committed to engaging with suppliers, farmers, industry associations, governments, international organisations (such as OIE, ISO working group), NGOs (such as World Animal Protection) [an international animal activist group with ties to the Humane Society of the United States and Mercy for Animals that has recently opened offices in New York City], scientists and other relevant stakeholders to:

- Improve our understanding of farm animal issues, adapt our commitments and practices to achieve our goal of improving farm animal welfare in our supply chains.

- Develop awareness of farm animal health and welfare in the food supply chain and implement collective actions to address gaps wherever they are identified.

“TCFA members take great pride in their animals and work hard to ensure that they are healthy and cared for properly,” says TCFA Vice President Ben Weinheimer. “TCFA member feedyards utilize consulting veterinarians, animal scientists, animal nutritionists and personal experience and professional judgement as the basis for day-to-day animal husbandry decisions to ensure the highest level of animal care.”

The TCFA and NCBA Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) programs utilize the combined knowledge of the cattle industry, veterinarians, nutritionists and other animal scientists to train producers on proper care and handling procedures. In addition, feedyards participating in the BQA program are subject to an annual cattle care, cattle handling and facilities audit. Nestlé’s new policy is available at <http://tinyurl.com/nestle-policy>.

Final RFS Volume Rule Submitted to OMB for Review

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that the final rule establishing the 2014 Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) volume has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of interagency review, the final step in the process before the final rule is published.

In November of last year, EPA proposed a rule that set the total biofuels volume for 2014 at 15.21 billion gallons, of which 13.1 billion gallons would be derived from grain-based ethanol production. This is a reduction of 1.3 billion gallons from the statutory requirement of 14.4 billion gallons of grain-based ethanol production.

According to EPA, the agency received 340,000 comments on the proposed rule, one of which was submitted by TCFA in support of the reductions in the proposed rule. However, many of the comments opposed the reduction, and there is a great deal of speculation that EPA may require a smaller reduction in the final rule.

The OMB review could take up to 90-days, and most political observers believe that the rule’s contents will not be revealed until after the November 4 midterm elections.

EPA, Corps Hijack Clean Water Act to Expand Regulatory Authority

States could be facing upwards of 100,000 added regulated stream miles as a result of the “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) rule proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

“Logic and commonsense tells us that the surrounding land will also be regulated more than ever before. This rule just continues this administration’s regulatory rampage and enough is enough,” says Ashley McDonald, NCBA environmental counsel. “Farmers and ranchers are not confused and are well aware of this administration’s blatant attempt to control every drop of water and every piece of private land in this country.”

The proposal goes so far as to include ditches in the definition of a tributary. McDonald says any activity near a jurisdictional ditch will now require a federal permit and as a result, many farmers and ranchers will need to acquire permits for routine land use activities.

“Instead of providing the clarity that so many people have asked for, the agencies have instead proposed a rule that muddies the water even further through their clever use of ambiguous and vague terminology,” says McDonald. “Their actions have only created more questions for farmers and ranchers. The agency’s proposed rule adds more layers of government bureaucracy and red tape and amounts to nothing more than a pervasive invasion of private property rights.”

TCFA urges you to help “Ditch the Rule” by submitting comments to EPA and the Corps opposing the proposal. Simply go to www.tcfa.org and click on the WOTUS banner at the top of the page. Fill in your contact information and click submit to pull up pre-populated comments that can be personalized with your thoughts or sent as is. The last day to submit comments is Oct. 20, 2014.

Noble Foundation Releases Mobile Beef Recordkeeping App

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation has released a mobile recordkeeping app for beef production that provides the ability to capture key pieces of information from the field. App uses include creating multiple steer profiles; recording steer identifiers; logging body weight measurements; logging steer health conditions and medical treatments; logging feeding information; writing journal entries; recording overall performance summaries; and viewing a complete, detailed report of all steer recordkeeping activity for use in competitive programs that have recordkeeping requirements.

The app is called “Noble Jr. Beef Journal” and is available for free download on iTunes and Google Play for androids. The app can also be used on a computer, not just a smartphone.

To download the app, visit <http://tinyurl.com/noble-beef-app>.

Researchers Find Antimicrobial Use for Cinnamon

Seeking ways to prevent some of the most serious foodborne illnesses caused by pathogenic bacteria, two Washington State University scientists have found promise in an ancient but common cooking spice: cinnamon. Their findings show that cinnamon's essential oil killed several strains of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* and that *Cinnamomum cassia* oil works effectively as a natural antibacterial agent in the food industry.

"The oil can be incorporated into films and coatings for packaging both meat and fresh produce," co-author Lina Sheng, a graduate student in the School of Food Science, said in a news release. "It can also be added into the washing step of meat, fruits or vegetables to eliminate microorganisms."

Find more information at <http://tinyurl.com/cinnamon-antimicrobial-use>.

Eureka Genomics Receives USDA Grant for Bovine Genotyping Project

Eureka Genomics, a leader in Next Generation Genotyping (NGG), announced on Monday that it has been awarded a \$450,000 USDA grant to commercialize a second generation NGG assay focused on bovine genotyping known as the Sparse Genome Scan (SGS).

The SGS is a technology platform that produces commercially relevant data, currently generated from micro arrays, at less than half the cost. More broadly, management also announced that it will work to provide new targeted assays for clinical, animal health and crops markets.

NGG technology offers a low-cost solution for genetic testing of production and research animals. The technology can be used for determining parentage, genetic defects, quantitative traits and marker-assisted management of feedlots. Eureka Genomics envisions a number of additional applications of its low-density and medium-density assays in the \$1 billion global, animal health market focused on genetics traits and early detection of infections. Find more information at <http://tinyurl.com/eureka-genomics>.

Former Rancho Feeding Corp. Owners, Employees Indicted

The co-owners and two employees of the Northern California packing plant involved in a massive beef recall earlier this year were indicted by a federal grand jury on Monday for knowingly distributing cattle with eye cancer and processing condemned carcasses.

The four are charged with conspiring to distribute adulterated, misbranded and uninspected meat as well as mail fraud for distributing the meat through the U.S. Postal Service. They face up to 20 years in prison and several hundred thousand dollars in fines. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service suspended operations at the Petaluma-based Rancho Feeding Corp. in January, sparking a recall that would include 8.7 million pounds of beef. Find more information at <http://tinyurl.com/four-indicted-recall>.

Sponsor Spotlight

TCFA is proud to recognize its top sponsors whose efforts help deliver top-notch service.



Merck Animal Health has been a faithful supporter of TCFA, with sponsorships of the TCFA Annual Convention and Summer Meeting, Fed Beef Challenge, Junior Fed Beef Challenge and TCFA Best Safety Practices Awards. They will continue the strong commitment to the success of TCFA members, delivering innovative animal health products such as ZILMAX[®] (zilpaterol hydrochloride) feed supplement, REVALOR[®] (trenbolone acetate and estradiol) implants, Zuprevo[®] (tildipirosin), Resflor Gold[®] (florfenicol and flunixin meglumine), NUFLO[®] (florfenicol), Vista[®] vaccines, Vision[®] vaccines, SAFE-GUARD[®] (fenbendazole) dewormer and ULTRA SABER[™] (lambdacyhalothrin/piperonyl butoxide) pour-on, all supported by the industry's top technical service and sales teams. Find more information at www.merck-animal-health-usa.com.

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