



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

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# NEWSLETTER

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Volume 48, Number 40

October 3, 2014

## **FDA Reports on Antibiotics Used for Food-Producing Animals**

The FDA has published its fourth annual report summarizing the sales and distribution data of antimicrobial drugs approved for use in food-producing animals, a report that tells only a small part of the story about the public health impact of antibiotics used to keep food animals healthy.

The Animal Health Institute (AHI) issued a statement saying national sales information is limited in its use and does not necessarily correlate to national resistance trends. AHI noted several recent reports that help complete the picture of the impact of agricultural use of antibiotics.

A December 2013 report on antibiotic resistance threats from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention listed 18 specific pathogenic threats with only two having potential sources in agriculture. Also, AHI pointed out that data released by the FDA's National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) in August showed 85 percent of non-typhoidal Salmonella collected from humans had no resistance to any of the antibiotics tested. Over the life of the NARMS program, this measurement of resistance in people has steadily declined.

Additionally, AHI brought up a recent review by researchers at Harvard who noted, "From the proportion of antibiotics by weight used in agriculture, as opposed to human medicine, it does not follow that the majority of selective pressure on human pathogens, let alone the majority of human health impact of antibiotic resistance, results from agricultural uses."

Trends from 2009 through 2012 reflected in FDA's summary report include:

- The total quantity of medically important antimicrobials sold or distributed for use in food-producing animals increased by 16 percent over the period 2009-2012. The reason for the increase is unclear, but many factors (such as disease outbreaks and fluctuations in animal populations) could lead to transient increases or decreases of sales of certain drugs in given years.
- The percentage of domestic sales and distribution of medically important antimicrobials that are approved for production use decreased from 72 percent to 68 percent. This number does not represent sales and distribution of drugs solely used for production because most of these products are approved for therapeutic (disease treatment, control or prevention) uses as well.
- The percentage of domestic sales and distribution of medically important antimicrobials approved for use in food-producing animals that are sold over-the-counter (OTC) did not change appreciably, decreasing from 98 percent to 97 percent.

Find more information at <http://tinyurl.com/cvm-update>.

## **CME Group Announces New Trading Hours**

The CME Group announced today that it will reduce electronic trading hours of CME Livestock futures and options products. Pending CFTC review, trading in CME Livestock markets will be amended on the CME Globex electronic trading platform with a beginning trade date of Monday, Oct. 27 for Lean Hogs, Live Cattle and Feeder Cattle futures, and options will be:

- Monday – 9:05 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST
- Tuesday to Thursday – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST
- Friday – 8:00 a.m. to 1:55 p.m. CST

For more information, please follow this link: <http://tinyurl.com/cme-time-change>.

## **Diverse Coalition Demands EPA Pull WOTUS**

The Waters Advocacy Coalition, a group comprised of 63 business groups, including major agricultural groups like NCBA, American Farm Bureau, Dairy Farmers of America and National Pork Producers Council, as well as non-agriculture groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Professional Golfers' Association, jointly sent

a letter to federal regulators on Monday again asking them to withdraw the proposed Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule.

The groups note several reasons for EPA and the Army Corps to ditch the rule, including:

- The Agencies continue to issue new materials explaining the proposed rule throughout the comment period, creating a moving target for public comment.
- Without public notice or opportunity for comment, the Agencies are developing policies on key components of the proposed rule, such as ordinary high water mark.
- The Science Advisory Board has raised concerns with significant components of the proposed rule.
- EPA has not released a final Connectivity Report.
- The Agencies have failed to conduct meaningful outreach with states and small businesses.

**The last day to submit comments is Oct. 20.** 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](http://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 full letter can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/waters-advocacy-coalition-lett>.

### **Representatives Ask GAO to Review Brazil, Argentina Import Rules**

Members of Congress recently sent two separate bi-partisan letters to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) requesting an audit of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) proposed rules to allow the importation of fresh and frozen beef from regions in Brazil and Argentina, as well as live cattle from Argentina. Both letters emphasized the importance of trade, but not at the risk of domestic animal health, the food supply or the economy and urge the GAO to review the methodology and controls used in the site visit review process, which formed the foundation for these proposed rules.

"While we are staunch advocates for open markets and free trade, we will not ignore the fact that unfettered access of these products has the potential to cause significant harm to our domestic food supply," stated the letter organized by Rep. Pete Sessions (R-Texas) and signed by 26 other members of the Texas Delegation. "Until a timely and independent study can be conducted concerning the overall process, documentation, and risk assessments utilized to formulate these rules, we cannot support their implementation."

In April, the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service released an audit that found substantial flaws related to Brazil's food safety regulation requirement. An independent third-party review also identified significant weaknesses in the methodology of the risk analysis for the Argentina proposals, specifically the APHIS hazard analysis and the exposure assessment, as well as an overly subjective qualitative format.

The comment period on the proposed rules ends Oct. 28, but NCBA and several other stakeholder groups have requested a 120-day extension in order to thoroughly review the rules and all supporting documents and draft well researched, science based comments.

Both of the congressional letters are available at <http://tinyurl.com/gaolet> and <http://tinyurl.com/brazrulelet>. You can also listen to NCBA's commentary on the issues at <http://tinyurl.com/kbfmdaudio>.

### **Review Concludes GE Feed Has No Adverse Effects in Livestock Feed**

Seeking to provide resolve on the debate of safety of genetically engineered (GE) crops, also known as genetically modified (GM) crops, a newly published article in the *Journal of Animal Science* has concluded feeding livestock diets that contain GE crops has no impact on the animals' health or productivity.

Dr. Greg Lewis, editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Animal Science*, commissioned Dr. Alison Van Eenennaam, cooperative extension specialist in animal biotechnology in the Department of Animal Science at the University of California, Davis to do a thorough review of scientific literature and field data sets, representing more than 100 billion animals. According to *Feedstuffs*, the scientist examined feeding data from 1983 (13 years before GE crops were introduced) to 2011 (when GE feed use exceeded 90 percent) and documented evidence that the performance and health of food-producing animals fed GE crops were similar to animals fed non-GE crops.

"The scientific evidence indicates clearly that the health, wellbeing and productivity of animals consuming GE feeds are at least comparable to those of animals consuming conventional feeds," said Lewis. "I believe that information in this peer-reviewed article is essential for open-minded discussions of GE feeds and foods, and we have made this information freely available to the public." Find more information at <http://tinyurl.com/gefeeds>.

### **Crunch Time for Beef Demand**

Beef demand has been a nice surprise this year, as wholesale and retail beef prices have increased fast enough to uphold decent margins for beef packers and allow profitability for feedlots in the first three quarters of the year.

Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist, reports that high prices aren't over yet. He says retail prices do not currently reflect all of the wholesale price increase, and the coming months will be even more important for beef demand as retail adjustments continue. Also, boxed beef prices may have declined in September, but the pressure for higher prices is not over.

Total cattle slaughter has been down over 7 percent since the beginning of August with heifer slaughter down nearly 11 percent and cow slaughter down nearly 17 percent. Each of these continue to push the year-to-date totals lower with heifer slaughter down 8.8 percent and cow slaughter down 14.6 percent so far this year. Beef production in August and September was down 5.5 percent, less of a decrease than the year-to-date total, which is down 6.1 percent. Peel says limited beef supplies will continue to challenge beef demand.

Competing meats may play a bigger role in late 2014 and into 2015. Despite recent production challenges, pork production is expected to increase year over year in 2015, and while higher pork prices have helped support beef prices in 2014, that may be less help in 2015. Beef prices have been less sensitive to poultry prices in 2014 than expected, but abundant poultry supplies will increase the challenge for beef prices to push higher in 2015.

Exports will play a big role in coming months, Peel says, as international trade may be beginning to dampen with high prices. Beef exports in July were down year over year to all major beef importers, except South Korea.

Peel concludes by saying that for packer and feedlot margins, the most likely scenario is that demand will continue to grind higher but perhaps at a slower pace than in the first half of 2014. Packers and feedlots may face more margin squeeze as limited input supplies push input costs up faster than output prices are able to increase. As it has been for many months, and even more so in the coming months, beef demand is the key.

### **2014 TCFA Annual Convention**

The countdown is on! In just a few short weeks, we will be greeting you all in Oklahoma City – the cool city with warm hospitality – for the 2014 TCFA Annual Convention. Be sure that you are registered and ready to go. You won't want to miss all that's in store this year.

You still have a chance to win a \$500 Cabela's gift card if you register prior to Thursday, **Oct. 9!** Those who have already registered are still in the running for this final drawing. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/tcfa-conv-req-2014> to submit your registration today to be entered for a chance to win.

The room blocks at the Renaissance and the Skirvin Hotels have been filled, but additional rooms are now available at the Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown Hotel for \$149/night. To reserve rooms at the Sheraton, call 1-800-325-3535 and request the Texas Cattle Feeders Association block. The cutoff date is Monday, **Oct. 13.**

Great speakers, discussion on important industry topics, networking and fun are not all that's promised at this year's convention. A fantastic opportunity to shop for unique Christmas gifts is also in your future at the BEEF-PAC Auction. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/2014auctionitems> to see what we have to offer and to start making your wish list.

### **Advertise in the 2015 *Cattle Feeders Resource Guide***

TCFA is currently gathering its 2015 advertisers in an effort to publish and distribute the 2015 *Cattle Feeders Resource Guide* earlier in the year. The revamped publication has been developed to better serve TCFA supporting sponsors, while TCFA members also benefit from receiving more timely product and service recommendations from allied industry partners.

Advertisers who purchase a full-page, four-color ad in the *Cattle Feeders Resource Guide* receive a free bonus web ad on TCFA's website, a great value in which advertisers have the opportunity to target potential buyers more precisely with ads that may reflect seasonal or market-focused messages.

The deadline to advertise is **Nov. 3.** View the rate card at <http://tinyurl.com/2015ratecard>, or contact Scena Snider for more details at (806) 358-3681 or [scena@tcfa.org](mailto:scena@tcfa.org).

### **2015 National Beef Ambassadors Selected**

Kalyn McKibben (Okla.), Rachel Purdy (Wyo.), Will Pohlman (Ark.), Alicia Smith (Texas) and Demi Snider (Ohio) were chosen as the 2015 National Beef Ambassador Team at the annual National Beef Ambassador competition, funded in part by the Beef Checkoff and managed by the American National CattleWomen.

Ambassadors are trained to speak to industry issues and misconceptions, as well as educate their peers about beef nutrition, cattle care, safety and more during consumer events, in the classroom and online.

Follow the National Beef Ambassadors on Twitter at @beefambassador and visit [www.nationalbeefambassador.org](http://www.nationalbeefambassador.org) or [www.ancw.org](http://www.ancw.org) for more information.

### **Beef Checkoff Launches New Website**

The beef checkoff launched a totally redesigned [MyBeefCheckoff.com](http://MyBeefCheckoff.com) this week, providing checkoff payers, leaders, staff and media with an easy-to-navigate selection of checkoff resources and information to highlight checkoff programs and results. The website will display, for the first time, photos and profiles of both Beef Board members and members of the Federation of State Beef Councils who serve on checkoff program committees. The home page also features a MyBeefCheckoff Facebook feed, daily news feed and facts for producers to share via social media platforms. For more information about your beef checkoff investment, visit [MyBeefCheckoff.com](http://MyBeefCheckoff.com).

### **“Farmland” Documentary Streams on Hulu for Next Four Weeks**

If you haven't seen Academy Award-winning director James Moll's feature-length documentary, “Farmland,” you can now watch it on the free on Hulu (free with ads) or Hulu Plus (subscription). The platform allows viewers to stream and watch “Farmland” from anywhere. Go to [www.hulu.com/farmland](http://www.hulu.com/farmland) to watch “Farmland” in its entirety.

### **TEEA Application Deadline Extended**

The State of Texas is seeking applications and nominations for the 22nd Annual Texas Environmental Excellence Awards (TEEA). The deadline for submissions is Oct. 10. Submit your application at [www.teea.org/apply](http://www.teea.org/apply). For more information, contact Stephanie Cunningham at [awards@tceq.gov](mailto:awards@tceq.gov) or (512) 239-3143.

### **Nominations Open for Annual Blue Legacy Awards**

The Blue Legacy Award recognizes outstanding water conservation efforts of entities and individuals. Each award category – Municipal, Agricultural and Manufacturing – provides several opportunities for nominees to showcase their efforts. The nomination period for the 2015 Blue Legacy Awards ends Nov. 3. For more information, contact Katherine Thigpen at [Katherine.Thigpen@TWDB.Texas.gov](mailto:Katherine.Thigpen@TWDB.Texas.gov) or (512) 463-1667.

### **Feeders and Feedyards in the News**

Coyote Lake Feedyard announced this week the addition of Barry Morris as the new feedyard manager. Shuck Donnell is now general manager.

### **Sponsor Spotlight**

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

This week's spotlight shines on

The Zoetis logo is displayed in a large, orange, lowercase sans-serif font. The letter 'z' is stylized with a thick, rounded bottom stroke that curves under the 'o'. The letters 'o', 'e', 't', 'i', and 's' are in a standard sans-serif font. A small 'TM' trademark symbol is located to the right of the 's'.

Zoetis (formerly Pfizer Animal Health) is a world leader in the discovery, development and manufacture of vaccines and medicines for companion animals and livestock species. The Zoetis portfolio encompasses a full range of products including: DRAXXIN<sup>®</sup> (*tulathromycin*) Injectable Solution, Bovi-Shield GOLD<sup>®</sup>, INFORCE<sup>™</sup> 3 Respiratory Vaccine, DECTOMAX<sup>®</sup>, EXCEDE<sup>®</sup> (*ceftiofur crystalline free acid*) Sterile Suspension, MGA<sup>®</sup>, SYNOVEX<sup>®</sup>, E. Coli Bacterial Extract vaccine with SRP<sup>®</sup> technology, and the feed additives Aureomycin<sup>®</sup>, Aureo S 700<sup>®</sup>, Bovatec<sup>®</sup>, Deccox<sup>®</sup>, and others. For more information about how Zoetis works to ensure a safe, sustainable global food supply from healthy livestock, visit [www.zoetis.com](http://www.zoetis.com).

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