



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Environmental Protection Agency Finalizes WOTUS

Wednesday, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the “Waters of the US” (WOTUS) rule, that strips rights from private property owners and expands federal jurisdiction.

Several agricultural entities are undertaking a thorough analysis of the final WOTUS rule, as it is apparent that the EPA failed to consider comments submitted by TCFA, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) and other agriculture groups during the comment period. By law, the EPA must read and consider all comments on the proposed rule, but six months after receiving over one million public comments, the EPA finalized the rule.

“America’s farmers and ranchers deserve a government that will review and address their concerns. Instead, the process by which this rule was established ignored them. Even input from the states was ignored, clearly displaying the arrogant, ‘government knows best’ attitude ever-present in this Administration,” said House Committee of Agriculture Chairman Michael Conaway (TX-11) in a statement after the release of WOTUS. “Through hearings, letters and public forums we have repeatedly asked the Administration to work with stakeholders to achieve the goals rather than act as a schoolyard bully. Our requests were dismissed in favor of the expansion of federal authority despite bipartisan opposition from Congress and the public.”

NCBA President Philip Ellis said, “It is a clear indication there is no intention of considering the concerns of those most impacted by the rule.”

Within the upcoming weeks, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will vote on the Federal Water Quality Protection Act (S.1140), which would require EPA to withdraw and re-write WOTUS rule, with the consideration of the stakeholders and small businesses, limiting the potential reach of the rule. Agriculture and landowner groups are also working on appropriations riders to prevent funding for implementation of the rule.

The final rule will take effect sixty days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

U.S. Senate Approves Trade Promotion Authority

Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) passed the Senate by a vote of 62-37 Friday night, just before the Memorial Day recess. According to Kent Bacus, NCBA associate director of legislative affairs, TPA will help increase demand for U.S. beef by negotiating tariff elimination. He expects TPA to pass the House, though it may be a close vote, shortly after they return from Memorial Day recess.

For more information visit <http://tinyurl.com/TPA-Senate-Approves>.

EPA Proposes Renewable Fuel Standards

EPA announced today proposed Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs) for biofuels under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) for 2014, 2015 and 2016 which would require an increase in the volumetric requirements in blending. The new levels at 13.25, 13.4 and 14.0 billion gallons are above the 2013 level. However, they are below the 2014, 2015 and 2016 statutory levels which are at 14.4, 15.0 and 15.0 billion gallons respectively. EPA will be accepting comments on the proposed rule through July 27 with the goal of finalizing by November 30.

Also today, USDA has announced an investment of \$100 million in fuel pump infrastructure to help market higher blends of renewable fuels such as E15 and E85 through the Biofuels Infrastructure Partnership. They will partner with state groups who are willing to contribute to the funding. Those that provide one-to-one or higher ratio funding will receive higher consideration in their efforts. According to EPA, the Agency can also reduce the applicable volumes of any renewable fuel under the Clean Air Act (CAA) general waiver authority under certain conditions, including where there is “inadequate domestic supply.”

To learn more about EPA’s proposed RFS rules, visit <http://tinyurl.com/EPA-RFS-Rules>. To learn more about USDA’s Biofuels Infrastructure Partnership, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USDA-Biofuels-info>.

Researchers Develop Non-Invasive Scanner to Detect Marbling

Researchers at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology in Japan have developed a machine that can detect marbling ratio in cattle. It is a non-invasive scanner that uses single-sided nuclear

magnetic resonance technology.

The scanner takes 10 seconds to determine the marbling level, but it can only read about 3 centimeters below the skin. However, scientists report that it is only necessary to observe the trapezius muscle to derive enough information about overall marbling. Once the institute finds a partner to build the machine, it is estimated to run at about \$166,000 USD, and could be available in a couple of years.

To read more about this new technology, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Scanner-Detect-Marbling>.

Taco Bell, Pizza Hut to Remove Artificial Ingredients

Taco Bell and Pizza Hut join the list of food companies opting to adjust their menu to growing consumer preferences by removing artificial flavors and colors from most of their food. Taco Bell's timeline involves replacing artificial ingredients with natural ones by the end of this year as well as removing artificial preservatives and additives by the end of 2017. Pizza Hut plans to have artificial colors and flavors phased out of its nationally available products by the end of July. To read more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Remove-Artificial-Ingredients>.

Protein and the Plate Research Webinars

Protein and the Plate is a recent study led by Midan Marketing and Meatingplace and sponsored by Yerecic Label targeted at uncovering consumer preferences in protein to discover insights that could benefit the fresh meat industry. Research findings from this project will be available in two upcoming webinars on June 3 and 8.

To sign up for one or both of these informative webinars, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Protein-Plate-Webinar>.

Obstacles for U.S. Beef Exports to European Union

Since 2009, marking the implementation of a duty-free import quota for beef produced from non-hormone treated cattle (NHTC) raised under specific feeding and grading conditions, U.S. beef exports to the European Union (EU) have been steadily increasing. Although the duty-free capacity of 48,200 mt originally came about from a successful U.S. challenge through the World Trade Organization of EU's beef hormone ban, other beef exporting countries are now being included in the total quota, reducing the amount that the U.S. alone will be able to export. Other countries that have been granted access include Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Uruguay with Argentina pending.

"I think that there are a lot of people in the industry who are struggling to understand why we are sharing this quota with other countries," said U.S. Meat Export Federation Senior Vice President Thad Lively. "I think that they are also very concerned that the growth we've seen in the exports of beef to Europe could come to an end if we don't find a way to get things back to the way it should be." Visit <http://tinyurl.com/Export-EU> to listen to Lively's full audio report.

U.S. Working to Regain Chinese Beef Market

NCBA is working with U.S. trade officials to get China back in the export market for U.S. beef. NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Colin Woodall says they are modeling a program similar to the traceability system that initially helped the U.S. export beef to Japan. This would be on a 100% voluntary producer basis for those interested in participating in order to get a premium price for their product.

To listen to the entire podcast, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Chinese-Beef-Market>.

Plans for Western Public Lands Provide for Greater Sage-Grouse Protection

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) released final environmental reviews for proposed land use plans that will help conserve greater sage-grouse habitat and support sustainable economic development on portions of public lands in 10 states across the West.

The plans contain three common approaches: minimizing new or additional surface disturbance; improving habitat condition and reducing threat of rangeland fire. The vast majority of federal lands within the priority sage-grouse habitat have zero to low potential for oil and gas, solar and wind energy development. The plans limit surface occupancy within priority habitat areas for oil and gas; however, technological advances in horizontal drilling make it possible to conserve sensitive habitats while still developing subsurface resources.

To find the full press release visit <http://tinyurl.com/Sage-Grouse-Protection>.

Membership in the U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef

The U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (USRSB) is now accepting membership applications. USRSB is an independent, multi-stakeholder, transparent effort focused on shaping the sustainability framework for the U.S. beef value chain. The first General Assembly meeting of the USRSB will be held from 1:00 p.m., July 14, through noon, July 15, at the Hyatt Regency & Convention Center in Denver. Visit www.usrsb.org to submit a membership application.

New Trade Opportunities Between Texas and Ecuador

U.S. cattle ranchers will now be able to sell cattle to producers in Ecuador following a meeting of agriculture leaders from both nations hosted by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). The sale will be primarily of Brahman cattle, but this agreement should lead to increased exports of beef, sheep and goats. According to Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller, this sets an overall precedence for more successful trade between the U.S. and Ecuador in the future. To read the full report from TDA, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TX-Ecuador-Trade>.

Family Land Heritage Program Application Deadline Extended

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is accepting applications for the Family Land Heritage (FLH) program. This program honors families who have kept their land in continuous agricultural production for at least 100 years. According to TDA, eligible farms and ranches must be owned and operated by the descendants of the founder, either through blood, marriage or adoption. At least 10 acres of the land must have been in continuous agricultural production for the past 100 years or more.

The deadline for FLH applications has been extended to June 15. To learn more about the program, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TDA-FLH-Program>. To apply, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TDA-FLH-Program-Apply>.

Heinrich and Winters Serve New Roles in TCFA

Jayne Winters has been promoted to communications manager for TCFA, transitioning from serving eight months as market & membership coordinator. Winters was raised in Satanta, Kan., where she grew up working with her dad on their stocker cattle operation. She graduated last August with a degree in Agricultural Media & Communications from West Texas A&M University. Her strong background in beef production fuels her passion for serving the TCFA membership.

Lauren Heinrich joined the TCFA team this week as government relations coordinator after serving two years as communications Intern. Heinrich was raised on a cotton farm near Lubbock, where she developed a devotion to agriculture at an early age. She graduated this May with a degree in Agricultural Media & Communications from West Texas A&M University. Heinrich is also a graduate of WTAMU's Dyke Rogers Lead WT Program. Heinrich looks forward to continuing her work serving the TCFA membership, now in the legislative field.

"We are excited to have these two talented team members take on new responsibilities in serving TCFA members," stated TCFA CEO Ross Wilson. "They have demonstrated both passion and energy in tackling issues of importance to TCFA."

Sponsor Spotlight

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

This week's spotlight shines on



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 REVALOR® (trenbolone acetate and estradiol) implants, Zuprevo® (tildipirosin), Resflor Gold® (florfenicol and flunixin meglumine), NUFLOOR® (florfenicol), Vista® vaccines, Vision® vaccines, SAFE-GUARD® (fenbendazole) dewormer and ULTRA SABERTM (lambdacyhalothrin/piperonyl butoxide) pour-on, all supported by the industry's top technical service and sales teams. For more information, please go to www.merck-animal-health-usa.com.

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