



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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House Passes COOL Repeal Legislation

Late Wednesday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) Amendments Act of 2015 (H.R. 2393) with a strong bi-partisan vote of 300 to 131. The bill was introduced by House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas) and was supported by all but four of the TCFA-area Representatives.

“This is a major victory and an impressive vote count,” said TCFA Chairman Tom McDonald. “TCFA greatly appreciates the leadership of Chairman Conaway and the support of TCFA-area Representatives to repeal this ill-conceived, protectionist law before it further damages our industry and our economy. We can’t let up now. There is still a lot of work to do before this bill is signed into law, and we know there is significant opposition in the Senate.”

The Canadian and Mexican governments have made it clear that they will retaliate to the fullest extent allowed by the WTO and intend to seek authorization for almost \$4 billion in retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods, including beef.

“COOL is a failed, government-mandated marketing experiment that has already cost cattle producers hundreds of millions of dollars with no measurable return,” said McDonald. “The Senate must act quickly and pass this bill before COOL retaliation ends up costing us billions more.”

The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration. Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), who will manage the bill, praised the House action, but said he is still taking suggestions for a bill that can pass the Senate.

“I applaud the House for its swift action to prevent retaliation from Canada and Mexico,” said Roberts. “I am continuing to take suggestions from my colleagues in the Senate for alternatives that meet our trade obligations,” he continued. “However, almost a month has passed since the WTO ruling was announced, and repeal remains the surest way to protect the American economy from retaliatory tariffs.” Roberts concluded, “We can sit here and let this happen. Or we can move. Let’s get a move on.”

Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) disagrees. Stabenow downplayed the urgent need for the bill and said on Thursday that she opposes full repeal, a position that could make it difficult to garner the 60 votes needed to end debate and vote on the measure.

Read the full press release by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/COOL-06-12-15>. Also, see the TCFA-area Representatives’ highlighted votes on COOL by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/2015TCFA-Rep-RollCall>.

House Fails to Pass Trade Package, Will Try Again Next Week

Under the procedure adopted for consideration of Trade Promotion Authority (Fast Track), the U.S. House of Representatives on Friday voted on two separate measures contained within the Senate passed bill. Failure to adopt either of the measures would doom the entire package, and that is exactly what happened – at least temporarily.

Despite intense lobbying by the President and members of his Administration, House Democrats rallied and overwhelmingly opposed Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), which provides aid to workers who lost their jobs as a result of trade agreements. The bill, which Democrats traditionally support, was defeated 126-302. A majority of Republicans also opposed the bill.

Despite TAA’s failure, the House then took up and narrowly passed the fast track portion of the trade package 219-211.

Speaker of the House John Boehner then made a motion to reconsider the vote by which the TAA bill was defeated. That vote will likely take place early next week, and if successful, would save the total trade package. However, it will take at least 91 members to switch their votes from no to yes to reach the 217 votes necessary for passage.

TCFA has been communicating with Congress throughout all stages of this bill, including its passage in the Senate in May. To view TCFA’s most recent letter to the House, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2015-TPA-HillLetter>.

Senate Environment Committee Votes to Stop EPA's "WOTUS" Rule

Two weeks after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the "Waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) rule, the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee approved the Federal Water Quality Protection Act (S.1140), which requires the EPA to withdraw and re-write the WOTUS rule with the consideration of the stakeholders and small businesses.

EPW Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe (R. Okla.) notes that the final rule, issued May 27, was finalized with problematic terms and little regard for stakeholders.

"The WOTUS rule is a significant overreach of the federal government on private landowners and burden on rural economies," said McDonald. "The Federal Water Quality Protection Act would put decision-making back in the hands of landowners who have been good stewards of the land for years without the interference of the EPA. We support this legislation to make the EPA take into account the impact on all stakeholders and get private property rights back into the hands of the owners."

Also in mid-May, the House passed H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act. Without legislative action, the rule will go in effect by the end of summer, making it imperative the Senate pass this legislation without delay.

House Passes Three Agricultural Measures

Tuesday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Mandatory Price Reporting Act (H.R. 2051), the United States Grain Standards Reauthorizing Act (H.R. 2394) and the National Forest Foundation Reauthorization Act (H.R. 2394).

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas) said in a statement released after the passage of the bills, "I am pleased to have the support of my colleagues on these bills that are essential to the agriculture industry. These bipartisan bills will allow farmers, ranchers and the National Forest Foundation to have the necessary resources to ensure operations carry on successfully. I am hopeful that the Senate will take up these bipartisan bills in a timely fashion so the U.S. agriculture industry is able to continue producing high quality food and fiber for the world."

House Passes CFTC Reauthorization

Tuesday, the house passed legislation to reauthorize funding for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) through 2019. The CFTC Reauthorization will include provisions to reform the CFTC's rulemaking process, such as prohibiting the CFTC from issuing policy statements, guidance or interpretative rules that have the effect of law without providing a public notice and comment period. Additionally, the CFTC will establish policies designed to protect consumers, which includes regulators to electronically confirm customer account balances at depository institutions and firms to file annual reports with regulators.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas) said that the reauthorization "provides relief from unnecessary red tape for the businesses that make things in our country."

President Obama has threatened to issue a veto on the bill as it "offers no solution to address the persistent inadequacy of the agency's funding."

Read the full article by visiting the <http://tinyurl.com/CFTC-06-12-15>.

FSIS Releases New Technology Table

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) released its latest New Technology Table this week. This list includes new technologies received and reviewed by FSIS for which there has been "no objection" for their use in establishments. New technologies must not adversely affect product safety, inspection procedures, or the safety of FSIS inspectors. These new technologies are to be used in various facets of food production.

To view the New Technology Table, <http://tinyurl.com/FSIS-06-12-15>.

NCBA Hosting Antibiotic Regulations Webinar

National Cattlemen's Beef Association is offering a free webinar June 23 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. CDT, featuring Kansas State University Professor of Production Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology Mike Apley, Ph.D., DVM, over the latest on antibiotic use regulations. A representative from the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine will also be part of the webinar.

Registration is free, but space is limited. Visit www.beefusa.org/cattlemenswebinars.aspx to register for this informational webinar.

Hours-of-Service Rule Waiver Available to Livestock Producers

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has granted a two-year waiver on the hours-of-service rule for certain drivers working with hog, cattle and poultry farmers. The standard rule requires drivers to take a

30-minute rest break for every 8 hours of service. The driver would not be permitted to tend to livestock during this rest break. Several agricultural groups that have worked to educate their drivers on animal welfare and handling in transport do not support this rule as it does not promote optimum care for the animals, particularly in the hot summer months. The waiver to be exempt from the hours-of-service rule became effective June 12.

FSA Accepting County Committee Nominations

The USDA is opening nominations for local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees beginning Monday, June 15. To be eligible to serve on a FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an agency-administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area where they are nominated.

For more information or to submit nominations, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FSA-06-12-15>. The deadline to submit nominations is August 3, 2015.

Family Land Heritage Program Application Deadline Approaching

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is accepting applications for the Family Land Heritage (FLH) program through Monday, **June 15**. 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.

To learn more about the program, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TDA-FLH-Program>. To apply, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TDA-FLH-Program-Apply>.

Nomination Deadline for Beef Quality Assurance Awards Approaching

The deadline to submit applications to the National Beef Checkoff program's 10th annual National Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Awards is Saturday, **June 20**. The 2016 National BQA Awards recognize four winners in the areas of beef, dairy, marketing and education.

Nominations will be reviewed and winners will be selected by a committee of representatives from universities, state beef councils and affiliated groups. Nominations can be submitted by any organization, group or individual on behalf of a U.S. beef producer, marketer or educator; however, individuals and families may not nominate themselves.

Find more about BQA Awards by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/Checkoff-Nominations-BQA>.

Sponsor Spotlight

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

This week's spotlight shines on



Bank of America Merrill Lynch has been a long time sponsor of TCFA and the cattle feeding industry. In fact, the bank in Amarillo has been loaning money to the cattle industry for over 100 years. If you want a bank who understands the cattle business and who has a long standing commitment to the industry, Bank of America is the bank for you. B of A has an expedient approval process and a wide range of financial products that allow them to arrange tailored banking solutions at competitive rates. To see how they can add real value to your business, call one of their agri-business specialists at (806) 463-3911.

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Texas Cattle Feeders Association

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