



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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House and Senate Committees Advance Funding Bills for Interior and EPA Programs

This week, the U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees passed different versions of the FY 2016 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. Both versions contain language that restricts funding for implementation of the EPA-Corps of Engineers Waters of the United States (WOTUS) final rule. It is unclear when the full House and Senate will consider the bills.

TCFA will continue to work with Members of Congress from the TCFA area to retain the WOTUS defunding language in the final version of the bill.

House Passes Trade Promotion Authority TPA

Thursday, the U.S. House of Representatives again passed Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), this time as an amendment to another bill. But, because the House version of the bill does not include Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), the Senate must also reconsider the bill. This could happen as early as next week.

While President Obama is strongly advocating for TPA, he has stated that he would veto the bill if TAA does not also pass. Senate Democrats have also expressed concern that TPA and TAA have been decoupled.

House and Senate leaders have promised to pass TAA and it may be added to the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a popular piece of legislation that is expected to easily pass.

Senate Ag Committee Holds COOL Meeting Next Week

Following the U.S. House passage of the COOL repeal bill last week, the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing next week entitled, "Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) and Trade Retaliation: What is at Stake for America's Farmers, Ranchers, Businesses and Consumers." The hearing is scheduled for Thursday, June 25.

In related news, Canada and Mexico met with WTO officials on Wednesday to officially request authorization for almost \$4 billion in retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods, including beef. The U.S. has requested a WTO arbitration panel to determine the amount of retaliation that should be authorized, a process that could take several months to finalize.

Scientists Identify Research Flaws in DGAC Recommendations

Three researchers, including an obesity theorist and cardiovascular health researchers, published a scientific journal article in the *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*. Their concern lies with the underlying data that were primarily informed by memory-based dietary assessment methods such as interviews and surveys. According to a press release from *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, the data under scrutiny come from, "What We Eat in America" and the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (WWEIA/NHANES), a five-decade study of American diet and exercise habits gathered primarily by questionnaires and question and answer sessions with participants.

The authors of the journal article conclude that there are five major flaws in the research gathered by the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. They are, as outlined in the press release from *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*:

- The vast majority of the WWEIA/NHANES data are physiologically implausible (i.e., incompatible with life) and therefore are not valid estimates of food and beverage consumption.
- Human memory and recall are too inaccurate and imprecise to be used as tools to collect scientific data.
- The protocols used in WWEIA/NHANES mimic protocols known to induce false memory and recall.
- Mental phenomena such as memories of food and beverage consumption are inadmissible as scientific evidence because they cannot be independently observed, measured, or falsified.
- Physical activity, cardio-respiratory fitness and exercise are major determinants of health and are largely ignored or improperly measured by federally funded nutrition researchers.

“Our work indicates there is no scientific foundation to past or present U.S. Dietary Guidelines,” said lead author, Edward Archer, Ph.D. “This finding may explain why nutrition recommendations are continually changing and the average consumer is confused as to what constitutes a healthy diet.”

For more information, view the full press release at <http://tinyurl.com/DGL-MayoClinic-2015>.

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 and Craig Lewis, DVM MPH, Veterinary Medical Officer, Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine.

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

FDA to Phase Out Trans Fat

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced Tuesday that food manufacturers must phase partially hydrogenated oils out of their products over the next three years. Partially hydrogenated oils are the largest source of trans fat, which has been linked to heart disease. Trans fat is most commonly found in deep fried foods and baked goods.

Because of labeling rules, food manufacturers are not required to quantify trans fat if it does not exceed 0.5 grams per serving. Therefore, people could still be consuming trans fat while eating foods where it is labeled as having none. By phasing partially hydrogenated oils out of foods, that risk will be decreased.

Read more about the trans fat ban at <http://tinyurl.com/FDA-TransFat-2015>.

Agriculture Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage Programs Open for Enrollment

Enrollment for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2014 and 2015 under the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) opened Wednesday, June 17. These are new programs that were established by the 2014 Farm Bill that are designed to help protect producers from unexpected market occurrences that can cause significant drops in crop prices.

Enrollment for these programs ends September 30, 2015. To learn more about ARC and PLC under the 2014 Farm Bill, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

Study Finds Farm Size Doesn’t Affect Animal Welfare

According to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), animal welfare issues impacting dairy cattle on large and small operations are virtually the same. This information was discovered while doing research for small farms because of the increased consumer preference in buying local food.

According to EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare abstract, “The distribution of risk factors and animal-based measures varied across the full range in study farms and showed similar patterns in farms with different grazing systems (from no time to full year on pasture). The animal-based measures identified for intensive farming are well suited for application in small-scale dairy farms. Production disease impact on the individual animal’s welfare state does not depend on herd size or farming system.”

To view the full EFSA article, visit <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/4137.pdf>.

Russia Extends U.S. Food Embargo

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev announced that Russia will be extending its embargo on food from the U.S., Canada and the European Union past the previously established August 2015 date. It is estimated that the embargo may carry on to 2020.

According to Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich, the embargo will not be cancelled if sanctions against Russia are not lifted. Dvorkovich adds, “We, of course, have no reason to cancel it. Some adjustment is possible, but they took place last year as well when we were allowing or banning particular products. Such things can be changed, but no radical solutions are planned here.”

To read more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FoodEmbargo-2015>.

USDA Funds STEC Research

The USDA is funding a project to study Shiga toxin-producing E.coli (STEC) to increase food safety and human health. The \$25 million, multi-year project will focus on eight different strains of E.coli including O157:H7. Researchers will study the conditions in which STEC thrive and find out why it occurs and where it occurs. One of the goals of the project is to reduce E.coli in live cattle. Fifteen universities are joining in on this

project including Texas A&M University and New Mexico State University.

For more information on the STEC research, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USDA-STEC-2015>.

Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame Registration Deadline Extended

Registration for the 2015 Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame Induction Banquet has been extended to Friday, June 26. The banquet will be held on July 14 in Westminster, Colo. The event recognizes outstanding members of the cattle feeding community and announces inductees into the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame. In the seventh year of nominations, this group of nominees showcases five unique pioneers and visionaries for the cattle feeding industry, including TCFA Past Chairmen James Herring of Friona Industries and Robert “Bob” Josserand of AzTx Cattle Co. Of the five nominees, two will be inducted into the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame.

In addition to the 2015 Hall of Fame inductees, the winner of the 2015 Industry Leadership Award will also be announced. The nominees for the Industry Leadership Award have contributed to the cattle feeding industry through outstanding advocacy and leadership. TCFA member Dr. Kenneth Eng, a pioneering consulting nutritionist, is featured as one of the nominees in this category.

Follow the link to register for the banquet at <http://tinyurl.com/2015-Cattle-Feeders-HOF>.

Riojas Serves New Role at TCFA

Cynthia Riojas has been promoted to the position of “Feedyard Services and Regulatory Programs Coordinator.” “Cynthia has served on the TCFA staff in a number of different roles over the past 20 years and continues to be a tremendous asset to our staff and our members,” said Ross Wilson, president & CEO. “Her loyalty, dependability and willingness to learn and grow in her responsibilities are respected and greatly appreciated.”

In recent years, Cynthia has served as a governmental assistant, and prior to that worked as an assistant to the market department. “As our programs and services have continued to evolve and expand at TCFA, additional support and coordination from Cynthia for our TCFA feedyard services and regulatory programs staff will help to further improve the quality and efficiency of services delivered to our feedyard members,” said Ben Weinheimer, vice president. “I’ve had the opportunity to work with Cynthia over the past 20 years as well. She is a great member of our team and is always focused on doing top-notch work for our members.”

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Texas Cattle Feeders Association

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