



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

---

# NEWSLETTER

---

5501 I-40 W. • AMARILLO, TEXAS • PHONE (806) 358-3681 • [www.tcfa.org](http://www.tcfa.org) • [info@tcfa.org](mailto:info@tcfa.org)

Volume 49, Number 26

June 26, 2015

## **TPA and TAA Pass and Headed to President's Desk**

The latest battle over trade legislation looks to have come to an end this week, as the U.S. Senate passed Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) by a vote of 60-38. It will now proceed to President Obama for his signature.

Additionally, Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) was added to the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a popular piece of legislation that passed the Senate alongside TPA. From there, TAA easily passed through the U.S. House of Representatives Thursday.

President Obama has strongly advocated for the trade package, and he's expected to sign the bills into law.

## **Canada and Mexico Say Repealing COOL is the Only Option**

This week, Mexican and Canadian officials sent separate letters to Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, and Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, stating that full repeal of country-of-origin labeling (COOL) is the only option to ensure that retaliatory tariffs aren't imposed on U.S. goods.

"For Canada, legislative repeal of COOL is the only approach that will achieve this end," wrote Canadian Minister of Agriculture Gary Ritz.

"Retaliation is imminent and inevitable unless and until the U.S. takes action to repeal the underlying COOL statute," wrote Mexican Secretary of Economy Ildefonso Villarreal.

The Senate Agriculture Committee held a hearing on Thursday over COOL and the impending retaliation.

In his opening statement, Chairman Roberts acknowledged the ongoing controversy over COOL. "I want to emphasize I understand completely the concerns of some members of this committee. I have encouraged alternatives to be brought forth," Roberts said. "But as chairman of this committee I must emphasize to my colleagues and all of agriculture that retaliation is fast approaching and the responsibility sits squarely on our shoulders."

Following the hearing, Roberts told reporters that he does not have the votes in the Senate to pass the House repeal bill, but hopes that his Committee will develop and approve a bill in July that the full Senate will pass before the August recess.

In her opening statement, Ranking Member Stabenow continued to support COOL calling it "a landmark law" but also recognized that the U.S. is "facing a very significant trade compliance issue that demands our full attention."

Earlier this week, Stabenow introduced a bill to make the labeling of beef and pork muscle cuts voluntary, but still run by the government, put in place a "Product of the U.S." label and maintain mandatory COOL for ground product and chicken.

Responding to the introduction of Stabenow's bill, House Agriculture Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas) issued a press release stating, "Any conversation about a voluntary program must be preceded by a full repeal of COOL, as we have an obligation to our trading partners to come into compliance. Earlier this month, an overwhelming majority of 300 House members supported H.R. 2393, a bill that not only brings us into compliance with our trade commitments and avoids harmful retaliation; it also ensures stability in the marketplace and offers relief from burdensome compliance costs through the repeal of mandatory labeling requirements for beef, pork, and chicken. These labeling requirements are costly for producers, burdensome for the entire supply chain, and provide no quantifiable benefits for consumers. By leaving in place a host of federally mandated requirements, Sen. Stabenow's bill still creates unnecessary compliance costs and prolongs this failed experiment. After four World Trade Organization rulings against the U.S. for mandatory COOL, it is time to abandon this program and ensure certainty in the marketplace."

### **TCFA Summer Meeting and Education Foundation Fundraiser**

TCFA Board of Directors and committee members met last week near Albuquerque, N.M., to evaluate progress on committee goals, discuss industry issues and hear a progress report from the TCFA Millennial Task Force. Featured speakers included Dr. Sam Ives and Dr. Morgan Scott on the future of antimicrobials and James Garriss on climatological issues facing agriculture. The annual golf fundraiser for the TCFA Education Foundation raised a total of \$2,799. TCFA thanks all members who took time to attend the meetings and congratulates the winning team of David Baumann, Sid Howard and Brad Stout.

To learn more about the TCFA Education Foundation or how to donate, contact Shannon Standley at (806) 358-3681 or [shannon@tcfa.org](mailto:shannon@tcfa.org).

### **NCBA Hosts Antibiotic Regulations Webinar**

National Cattlemen's Beef Association hosted a webinar on Preparing Cattlemen for Changing Antibiotic Use Regulations featuring Kansas State University Professor of Production Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology Mike Apley, Ph.D., DVM and Craig Lewis, DVM MPH, veterinary medical officer, Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine, over the Veterinary Feed Directive and how cattle producers and veterinarians can comply with the new regulations.

The webinar is now available on NCBA's website at [www.beefusa.org/cattlemenswebinarsseries.aspx](http://www.beefusa.org/cattlemenswebinarsseries.aspx).

### **USMEF Officials Work to Regain Export Market in South Africa**

Trade officials from the United States and South Africa recently announced that they would work to resolve issues currently blocking U.S. pork and beef from the South African market, according to the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). South Africa has been closed to U.S. beef since December 2003, and Australia is currently South Africa's largest supplier followed by Namibia, Botswana and New Zealand. USMEF has been seeking opportunities in other nations in western and central Africa and notes that regaining the South African market could aid in these efforts.

"South Africa does kind of set the standard for Africa, and I think Africans look at South Africa as the model," said USMEF President and CEO Philip Seng. "So I think the more we can do in South Africa, not only will we reap as far as benefits dealing directly with South Africa, but because it is a leader, we can bring teams from other parts of Africa to South Africa to take a look at some of the things that are going on. We see South Africa as being very important to us."

To listen to Seng speak on regaining the South African market, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USMEF-6-26-15>.

### **Texas Agriculture Commissioner Joins SASDA Leadership**

According to the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture (SASDA) has elected Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller as its treasurer. Miller joins leaders from across the country to discuss important issues facing U.S. agriculture.

"I am honored to have been selected by my colleagues to serve in a leadership role for this important organization," Commissioner Miller said. "We are facing critical issues in agriculture today. I will work hard to protect our farmers and ranchers, as well as the industry as a whole and the people who depend upon it. Agriculture has been my life's work since I was a kid growing up in De Leon, Texas. I am truly blessed to be where I am today, and I'm excited to see what we can accomplish for agriculture across our nation."

### **NRCS Launches Conservation Client Gateway**

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has launched a public website called the Conservation Client Gateway, designed to allow landowners and other users to request technical or financial assistance or advice for their conservation needs. They will also be able to view, sign and submit documents as well as tracking the status of their conservation program payments.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/cgate/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/cgate/).

### **National Beef to Create 200 Jobs**

National Beef Packing Co. has announced that it will nearly double its workforce in its Moultrie, Ga., processing plant by employing over 200 new workers. Georgia Governor Nathan Deal announced the expansion at a ceremony comprised of local officials and plant employees. This is a positive turn for the company and the region following massive layoffs in 2012 after National Beef lost its largest contract with Wal-Mart. According to Darrell Moore, president of the Moultrie-Colquitt County Development Authority, total company employment should be near 445 once National finishes making final hires.

To read more about the expansion, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NationalBeef-6-26-15>.

## **NCBA Cattle Industry Summer Conference Registration Deadline**

Advance registration for NCBA's Cattle Industry Summer Conference closes Monday, June 29. This year's conference will take place July 15-18 in Denver, Colo., and will feature meetings of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board, American National CattleWomen, Inc. and National Cattlemen's Foundation. If you miss the advance registration deadline, on-site registration will be available at the conference for a higher rate.

For more information on registration, visit [www.beefusa.org/summerconferenceregistration.aspx](http://www.beefusa.org/summerconferenceregistration.aspx).

## **Survey Addresses Consumer Preferences in Foods**

According to a recent report from Technomic Inc. on consumer perception and preference when it comes to food, a growing number of people are wanting additive-free, organic and GMO-free foods, and food suppliers are responding by modifying their menus to make those products available. According to Technomic's survey, 30 percent of consumers say GMO-free foods taste better and 21 percent say the same of additive-free foods.

To view Technomic's video "Consumer Connect 2015: Attitudes Toward Additives," visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=M\\_AM1zC3qcQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_AM1zC3qcQ).

## **Whole Foods Overpricing Investigation**

Whole Foods supermarkets in New York City have been under investigation for repeatedly overcharging customers for packaged products sold in their stores. New York City's Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) conducted an investigation to test the weights of products throughout the stores to see if customers were being correctly charged for the items. They found that all categories tested included products with incorrect weights leading to overcharges ranging from \$0.80 to \$14.84 per package.

Whole Foods is currently denying the allegations and has said that the DCA is "overreaching." To read the full report from USA Today, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WholeFoods-6-26-15>.

## **Companies to Halve Food Waste by 2025**

According to *Reuters*, the Paris-based Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) has pledged to halve their food waste by 2025. CGF is comprised of 400 retailers, manufacturers and others from 70 countries. It will begin monitoring its processes in 2016 to identify where food is lost in production and shipment to minimize waste.

According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, one-third of food produced worldwide is thrown out each year at a value of around \$750 billion. "It is a tragedy that up to 2 billion tons of food produced around the world is lost or wasted, never making it onto a plate," said Paul Polman, chief executive of Unilever, whose products range from ice creams to cosmetics.

To read the full article from *Reuters*, visit <http://tinyurl.com/CGF-6-26-15>.

## **Texas House Approves University Construction Bonds**

A \$3.1 billion package of bonds (HB 100) to support construction projects at state universities was signed by Governor Abbott on June 18 and will go into effect September 1. The bonds are secured with tuition revenue, but the Legislature approves them and has historically used general revenue to pay them off.

The bill, authored by Rep. John Zerwas (R-Richmond) and Sen. Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo), includes \$38.2 million dedicated to West Texas A&M University for an agriculture sciences complex, which will include a new meats lab and animal handling demonstration and education area.

## **Supreme Court Upholds Affordable Care Act Subsidies**

The Supreme Court ruled in a 6-3 decision Thursday to uphold Affordable Care Act subsidies in all states whether or not they set up their own health care exchanges. Some opponents argued that the law does not allow subsidies to be provided to the 34 states that did not set up their own insurance exchanges. The Supreme Court disagreed, and Thursday's ruling means that existing policies will remain in effect and should not be impacted.

## **2015 World Steak Challenge**

The 2015 World Steak Challenge contest is set up to provide a quick and easy way for countries and steak producers to benchmark their steak production on the world stage. The contest seeks to find the world's best beef steak producers. It celebrates beef as part of a healthy, balanced diet and works to highlight the producers who raise beef. The contest is open to beef producers, processors, wholesalers and others involved in the beef supply chain.

Submissions are due by Aug. 14 with a live judging of the contest on Oct. 15. To learn more about the contest, visit [www.worldsteakchallenge.com/](http://www.worldsteakchallenge.com/).

## Independence Day Holiday

The TCFA office will be closed Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day. The *TCFA Newsletter* will go out Thursday, July 2. We wish you a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> with your families.

## Sponsor Spotlight

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

This week's spotlight shines on



# Bayer HealthCare

Bayer would like to thank TCFA members for their support of Bayer products. Bayer has been a long-standing supporter of TCFA and was one of the very first Platinum sponsors. Bayer is proud to be a Prime Sponsor at the Annual Convention and to provide support for the Manager's Roundtable meetings and the Junior Fed Beef Challenge. All of this is made possible from membership support of Bayer products such as: Baytril<sup>®</sup>100 (enrofloxacin), CyLence<sup>®</sup> Pour-On, Tempo<sup>®</sup> premise insecticides, Corathon and Cylence Ultra ear tags and QuickBayt<sup>®</sup> Fly Bait. For more information, visit [www.bayerlivestock.com](http://www.bayerlivestock.com).

This copyrighted material is the property of TCFA and is intended for the use of TCFA members only. It may not be redistributed, transmitted, stored or reproduced, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of TCFA. The information contained in this material is believed to be reliable and correct, and the views expressed reflect judgments at this time and are subject to change without notice. TCFA does not warrant or guarantee that the information is complete, comprehensive or accurate and it should not be relied upon as such.

**Texas Cattle Feeders Association**

**June 26, 2015**