



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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House Committee Subpoenas Obama Regulatory Officials on Water Rule

As more than two dozen states and numerous business groups have filed lawsuits challenging the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) final rule, House republicans moved on Tuesday to force the Obama administration to disclose certain documents related to the development of the rule by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). According to a statement, Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, sent a subpoena to the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) for documents and communications related to its review of the final WOTUS rule.

Rep. Chaffetz alleged in his subpoena that OIRA and its chief Howard Shelanski are illegally withholding from Congress documents that lawmakers have requested since a March hearing.

“Congress and the American people have a right to understand how rules are developed,” Rep. Chaffetz said in a statement about the action. “Despite many efforts by this Committee to work with OIRA to obtain relevant documents for the Committee’s oversight efforts, Administrator Shelanski has refused to comply with our requests. Therefore, issuing a subpoena became the necessary next step.”

The subpoena has not yet been released to the public. To read the full story, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WOTUS-7-17-15>.

Senate Committee Votes to Advance Agriculture Spending Bill

The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee advanced their version of the Agriculture Appropriations bill this week. Within the bill, the Senate voted to limit the writing of new dietary guidelines by mandating that scientific evidence only be included if considered “Grade 1: Strong” by the Nutrition Evidence Library’s grading system. The provision states that the new guidelines should be “solely nutritional and dietary in nature; and based only on a preponderance of nutritional and dietary scientific evidence and not extraneous information.”

Similar to the House’s Agriculture Appropriations bill, the Senate’s version also forces the USDA to delay implementation of the recent rule lifting the ban on importation of beef from Brazil and Argentina until USDA completes a more comprehensive risk analysis on foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in these countries.

The Senate voted to allow the Conservation Stewardship program and approved reinstating a ban on funding inspections at horse slaughter facilities. Both chambers’ spending amounts allocated roughly \$2.7 billion towards agricultural research and \$1.5 billion to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for farm, conservation and emergency loan programs.

For more details on the Appropriations bill, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Senate-7-17-15>.

House Agriculture Committee Advances Voluntary GMO Labeling Bill

This week, the House Agriculture Committee voted to advance the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act to the House floor. The legislation provides a voluntary labeling process for non-GMO foods. Many states have started developing their own labeling standards, and this process would create a national standard. It would also require the FDA to define other common labeling terms such as “all natural” or “made with natural ingredients.”

Similar to when USDA adopted the “certified organic” voluntary labeling system, the bill would require USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service to provide verified information about genetic engineering to consumers. The legislation would also set up required federal safety reviews of new biotech crops.

To learn more about the bill, visit <http://tinyurl.com/GMO-7-17-15>.

Great Plains Grazing Project

A new project being conducted in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas is evaluating how forage quality in beef cattle production influences methane emissions. Forty-six research scientists and extension specialists from universities including Oklahoma State University and Tarleton State University are taking on the \$10 million research project to see how climate variability impacts forage as it relates to livestock production.

According to the project's website, a couple of the long-term goals of the program are to better understand vulnerability and enhance resilience of beef-grazing systems in a world of increased climate variability and to safeguard regional production while mitigating the environmental footprint of agriculture.

To learn more about the project, visit www.greatplainsgrazing.org/.

Chipotle Allows Antibiotic Use for Imported Pork

Chipotle has announced that it will start importing pork from United Kingdom-based Karro Food Group for most of its Florida restaurants after firing a U.S. supplier for not allowing its hogs outdoor access. As a part of Chipotle's animal welfare standards, it has a "never ever" policy on antibiotic use for all its meat products. However, Chipotle has lifted that policy for Karro Food Group and is allowing only them to treat illness in hogs with antibiotics under the European standards. The "never ever" policy remains for its existing U.S. meat suppliers.

Meatingplace interviewed the National Pork Board Vice President for Social Responsibility Jarrod Sutton, who knows the U.S. supplier who was fired by Chipotle. About the situation, he says, "In January of this year Chipotle suspended pork from one of its suppliers because the producer refused to cut a hole in the barn to allow the pigs the choice to go outside, into the single digits and snow, and a wind chill reaching 30 below. This particular farmer has been raising pigs for more than 30 years. Based on his experience, he knew what the pigs would choose to do: not go outside into the elements. Chipotle positioned this as a shortage of product, but in reality the farmer did not want to compromise the well-being of his animals by exposing them to harsh outside temperatures."

To read the full article from *Meatingplace*, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Chipotle-7-17-15>.

New Research on Millennial Food Purchase and Preparation Trends

Representatives from IRI Worldwide presented data at the National Chicken Council's Annual Marketing Seminar on millennial shopping habits as they relate to meat purchases. According to their data, 36 percent of millennials research their purchases before shopping and 64 percent are open to making their meat purchasing decisions while at the store. Also, 81 percent of meat and poultry buyers make a list when going to the store, but 90 percent do not list a preferred meat brand. This information shows an opportunity to influence millennial shoppers at the point of sale.

In addition to their buying habits, millennial cooking trends are also inspiring research. According to a study by mcgarrybowen and Kraft Foods, millennials are asking their cooking questions in the kitchen, and they're using their smartphones and tablets to do it. The study found that 59 percent of people between the ages of 25 and 34 use their smartphones or tablets to help them cook. They enjoy the cooking process as much as the finished dish and list deciding what to cook as the least enjoyable part of the process.

To learn more about millennials in the kitchen, visit <http://tinyurl.com/millennials-7-17-15>.

Study Analyzes Differences in Urban/Rural Agricultural Perceptions

A recent study by the Purdue Extension division of Purdue University assessed the behavioral and perception differences between rural and urban residents as they relate to food production and consumption. The study found that there were not many differences on the consumption side between the two communities. However, perspectives on production showed broad differences. The study found that rural residents were more open to the ideas of livestock production growth and expansion in the areas where they live than their urban counterparts, and they saw the industry as important to their communities. The researchers concluded that this was likely because they had a more direct link to food production.

To read the full report from Purdue, visit <https://extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/EC/EC-799-W.pdf>.

USDA Certifies Record Number Under 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance

USDA announced that over 98.2 percent of farmers and ranchers have met the 2014 Farm Bill requirement to certify conservation compliance to qualify for crop insurance premium support payments. According to a press release from USDA, this is expected to extend conservation provisions for an additional 1.5 million acres of highly erodible lands and 1.1 million acres of wetlands.

Later this week, USDA announced a new conservation incentive program for working grass, range and pasture lands. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that beginning Sept. 1, farmers and ranchers can apply for financial assistance to help conserve the aforementioned types of land while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands. This initiative is part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

"A record 400 million acres and 600,000 producers and landowners are currently enrolled in USDA's conservation programs. The Conservation Reserve Program has been one of the most successful conservation programs in the history of the country, and we are pleased to begin these grasslands incentives

as we celebrate the program's 30th year," said Vilsack. "This is another great example of how agricultural production can work hand in hand with efforts to improve the environment and increase wildlife habitat."

To read more about record conservation compliance under the 2014 Farm Bill, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FSA-7-17-15>. To learn more about the new conservation incentive program, visit <http://tinyurl.com/CRP-7-17-15>.

Workshops Available Regarding FDA Guidance and Veterinary Feed Directive

The Farm Foundation, NFP, is hosting 12 workshops across the country to help educate producers, feed suppliers and veterinarians on FDA's new Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). According to Farm Foundation, the workshops are designed for attendees to gain a comprehensive understanding of two Guidance for Industry (GFIs) issued by the FDA regarding the use of medically-important antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals. There will also be opportunity for government agencies, universities and extension personnel to learn about the new requirements.

The workshops are free of charge and run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A workshop is available in Amarillo on Sept. 11, 2015. To learn more about the workshops, visit <http://tinyurl.com/VFD-7-17-15>.

National Cattlemen's Foundation Accepting Applications for W.D. Farr Scholarships

The National Cattlemen's Foundation is accepting applications for the W.D. Farr Scholarships for the 2015-16 school year. According to the Foundation, the annual W.D. Farr Scholarship awards were established in 2007 to recognize outstanding students who plan to pursue careers in meat science and animal agriculture. Each scholarship recipient will be awarded \$12,000 to further their studies that will benefit the future of the cattle and beef industries.

To learn more about the scholarship or to apply, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NCBA-7-17-15>.

Texas Environmental Excellence Awards

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is accepting applications for the 2016 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards. This is the highest environmental honor in the state, which recognizes inspiring efforts of businesses, local governments, schools, students, individuals and other entities. The awards recognize projects from nine areas, including categories such as agriculture, pollution prevention and water conservation.

Applications may be submitted through Sept. 25, 2015. To apply, visit www.teea.org/apply/.

Oklahoma's Statewide Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference

USDA's Risk Management Agency and Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service along with other sponsors are hosting the 2015 Statewide Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference. The conference will be held August 6 and 7 at the Moore Norman Tech Center in Oklahoma City, Okla. Registration fees are \$50 per person prior to August 1. After August 1, fees will go up to \$60 per person.

For more information or to register for the event, visit <http://okwomeninagandsmallbusiness.com/>.

Feeders and Feedyards in the News

Robert Josserand, owner of **AzTx Cattle Co.** and past president of TCFA and NCBA, was inducted into the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame this week.

Born in Pratt, Kan., at the beginning of the Dust Bowl, Josserand seemed destined to make his mark on the livestock business. He learned the fundamentals of the livestock business from his father, a farmer and cattle order buyer. By the time he graduated from high school, the young Josserand was managing his own cattle herd. He graduated from Colorado State University in 1953 with a degree in animal science, after which he joined the United States Air Force. After his tour of duty, he returned to agriculture as an extension agent, then an ag banker, then manager of a farm, ranch and cattle feeding operation in southwest Kansas. He purchased Arizona Colorado Land Company (AZL) in 1983 after managing it for some time. He named the new company AZTX Cattle Company. Josserand served as TCFA president in 1985 and NCBA president in 1989. In 1998, he was awarded the National Golden Spur Award. He recently retired in May after serving 22 years as the mayor of Hereford, Texas.

Please join us in congratulating Robert Josserand on this outstanding honor of being inducted into the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame!