



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Court Agrees to WOTUS Injunction Hearing

The Federal District Court in Fargo, N.D., held a preliminary injunction hearing today on the WOTUS rule per the request of 13 states. Despite the court being involved in a complex trial expected to run through Aug. 28 (the date the new WOTUS rule is set to go into effect), it made time for the hearing due to the time sensitivity of the matter. The states are seeking an injunction to maintain the status quo of the current law until courts are able to thoroughly address the legal failings within the WOTUS rule.

“The rule is perhaps the most controversial and widely objectionable rule that would usurp state and local control over vast reaches of water in North Dakota and across the nation,” said North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “It is an unnecessary and unlawful power grab by the federal government that will do nothing to increase water quality in North Dakota. It will only burden landowners, ranchers and farmers.”

To read more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WOTUS-8-21-15>.

Canada Gaining Ground in China’s Beef Market

As China’s middle class continues to grow, its potential as a beef export market grows as well. According to agricultural economists, the average beef consumption in China is estimated to be 12 pounds per year by 2023, up from about 10 pounds in 2013. Canada and the U.S. have both been banned from exporting beef to China for over 12 years. However, Canada has recently succeeded in having its ban partially lifted, while the U.S. hasn’t had negotiations about beef exports with China since November.

China demands a national traceability system for cattle, which Canada has implemented, but the U.S. is yet to accomplish. “No question that Canada’s national ID program was an advantage to them in their negotiations with the Chinese,” said USMEF President and CEO Philip Seng. “The key point is that it’s a mandatory program backed up by the Canadian government. We obviously don’t have anything like that, so our government has been in the position of trying to make the case that we can trace animals when necessary.”

According to *Politico*, Canada began exporting beef to China in 2012 when it sent \$4.7 million worth of product, followed by \$26.5 million in 2013.

Despite the current lack of successful negotiations with China, Seng expresses that there is still reason for optimism. “While our competitors are certainly gaining a foothold in China’s growing market for imported beef, U.S. beef still maintains a key advantage: We have the largest supply of grain-fed product and thus can export large volumes of specific cuts demanded by the Chinese consumer,” Seng said.

Animal Care and Handling Conference for the Food Industry

The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) will host its annual Animal Care and Handling Conference for the Food Industry Oct. 15-16 in Kansas City, Mo. Among the conference speakers are Temple Grandin, Ph.D., of Colorado State University; Carlos Saviani, vice president of sustainable food at the World Wildlife Fund; Patty Bennett, DVM, humane handling and enforcement coordinator at the USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service; and Brad Jones, DVM, with the University of Nebraska.

The conference is an animal welfare educational opportunity for meat companies, their customers and those involved in the production and management of livestock and meat products. To learn more about or register for the conference, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NAMI-8-21-15>.

FDA Seeks Public Comments on Approval Process for Combination Drug Medicated Feeds

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is seeking public comments as it explores possible changes with the approval of combination drug medicated feeds. New animal drug applications (NADA) are currently required when using multiple new animal drugs in the same medicated feed. NADAs are required both for the combination as a whole and each individual drug.

To learn more or to submit comments, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FDA-8-21-15>.

China's Currency Devaluation Raises Concern for U.S.

The recent devaluation of China's currency could be of concern for the future of the U.S. meat industry. Since U.S. beef and pork have extremely limited access to Chinese markets, the effects are predicted to be mainly in our competitive position in other key export markets where purchasing power was further diminished, according to the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). Some of those countries include South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Mexico and Columbia. The value of the U.S. dollar has continued to increase while other meat-exporting countries' currencies have retreated or stabilized.

To read more from USMEF, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USMEF-8-21-15>.

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>.

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/.

Tyson Foods Reduces Beef Production Capacity

The Tyson Fresh Meats beef fabricating facility in Denison, Iowa, closed last week due to low cattle supply. The closing will affect 400 employees; however, the by-product rendering department consisting of about 20 jobs will continue to operate.

"The realities of the beef business have changed and we must continue to change with it to remain successful," said Steve Stouffer, president of Tyson Fresh Meats. "The cattle supply is tight and there's an excess of beef production capacity in the region. We believe the move to cease beef operations at Denison will put the rest of our beef business in a better position for future success."

Quality Food Processors, also located in Denison, may be able to alleviate some of the job loss with a projected \$20 million expansion in its ready-to-eat meat processing plant. This expansion is estimated to create 200 jobs starting in 2016.

To read the press release from Tyson Foods, Inc., visit <http://tinyurl.com/Tyson-8-21-15>.

College Aggies Online Scholarship Program

The Animal Agriculture Alliance is launching its annual College Aggies Online Scholarship Program (CAO) for its seventh year to help students with a passion for agriculture become confident, positive and proactive communicators. This is a nine-week competitive program that develops lifelong skills in students to advocate for agriculture. Students can enter individually or with a school organization. There are weekly assignments and competitions such as blogging, creating infographics and promoting agriculture on social media.

The top three individuals will earn \$2,500, \$1,000 and \$500 respectively in scholarships, and the top three clubs will earn \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,000 in prizes. The top three individuals and one representative each from the top three clubs will also receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the Animal Agriculture Alliance's annual Stakeholder's Summit.

To learn more about the scholarship program or how to apply, visit <http://tinyurl.com/CAO-8-14-15>.

Beef Industry Internship Available in Washington D.C.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and the Public Lands Council's (PLC) government affairs office in Washington, D.C., is now accepting applications for the spring 2016 public policy internship. The internship is open to college juniors, seniors and graduate students and runs from Jan. 11, 2016 through May 13, 2016.

“The internship gives college students the opportunity to work alongside staff on a range of issues that impact U.S. cattlemen and women,” said NCBA Executive Director of Legislative Affairs Kristina Butts. “The internship is designed to work closely with the lobbying team on Capitol Hill; to assist with NCBA and PLC’s regulatory efforts; and to work closely with the communications team.”

Applications are due by Oct. 1, 2015. To learn more about the internship and how to apply, visit <http://www.beefusa.org/newsreleases1.aspx?NewsID=5086>.

TCFA Feedyard Technician Program

The Feedyard Technician Program is a joint effort between TCFA, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) with the purpose of preparing youth through knowledge and skills to help build the future workforce of the fed beef industry.

The program offers two distinct career paths: Machinery Operation, Maintenance and Repair in the fall and Cattle Handling and Care in the spring.

The first part of the upcoming Machinery Operation, Maintenance and Repair training will be Sept. 29 and 30 at Warren Cat in Amarillo. Skills covered in this training include skid loader and wheel loader operation, inspection and maintenance.

The second phase of the training will be Oct. 12 and 13, learning about mill and machinery safety on-site at a local feedyard. This portion of the training is the latest addition to the program.

The third and last phase of this training will be Oct. 20 at WTAMU, where the students will take a written exam and participate in an interview. They will also be required to complete a skills test in welding and cutting procedures in compliance with their school curriculum before receiving their certificate of completion, which is meant to be presented to feedyards when seeking employment.

For more information about this program, contact Jason Slane at jason@tcfa.org or (806) 358-3681.

Sponsor Spotlight

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

This week’s spotlight shines on



Texas Feed Fat Co. Inc. has been providing quality feed fat products to the cattle feeding industry for over 40 years. Dedicated to supplying high quality tallow, grease and vegetable oil for this long makes them extremely qualified to help with any customer’s feed program. Using their own fleet of trucks guarantees promptness of product delivery. They would like to say “thank you” to all of their customers for the continued business. Texas Feed Fat is proud to be involved in and a supporter of TCFA.

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