



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

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# NEWSLETTER

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## Register Today for 2015 TCFA Annual Convention

The time is NOW to register for TCFA's 2015 Annual Convention in San Antonio, Nov 1-3! **Room reservations must be made by Oct. 8.** Visit [www.tcfa.org](http://www.tcfa.org) and click on the Convention banner at the top of the page for full details on registration and reserving your hotel room. **TCFA cannot guarantee available rooms after the Oct. 8 deadline.**

The first early registration prize drawing for the Oct. 1 deadline has been held. The lucky winner of the \$500 Cabela's gift card is Brad Lubbers. Congratulations Brad, we look forward to seeing you at Convention. It's still not too late to get in on some other great prize drawings. The **EARLIER** you register, the **MORE** opportunities you have to **WIN!** Register by the following dates to be eligible for several drawings:

- ~~Oct. 1 – a \$500 Cabela's gift card~~
- Oct. 5 – a YETI® Roadie Cooler (\$250 value)
- Oct. 7 – a \$100 beef gift certificate
- Oct. 8 – Free TCFA Convention registration fees for 2015 and 2016 (\$500 value)

The Grand Hyatt San Antonio will be our meeting and lodging venue this year. Situated on the famous Riverwalk, the Grand Hyatt is a prime location to stay while enjoying all that San Antonio has to offer. Arrive early Sunday afternoon in time to catch the Dallas Cowboys game with your friends. It will be showing at the Convention Welcome Party and Sports Lounge beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Monday morning speakers include Cornerstone Church Executive Pastor [Matthew Hagee](#), [Jason Dorsey](#), also known as The Gen Y Guy®, Farmland Reserve Inc. Past President [Paul Genho](#), TCFA Chairman [Tom McDonald](#) and NCBA President [Philip Ellis](#).

The awards luncheon will honor individuals and their achievements in TCFA programs throughout the year and feature [Miss Texas, Shannon Sanderford](#). Following the luncheon are some incredible tour opportunities from which to choose. Molly McAdams will present "Beef Case of the Future" as you tour local meat markets. Enjoy local art and history by touring [The Alamo](#) and [Institute of Texan Cultures](#). Be part of a rewarding experience new this year by volunteering at the San Antonio branch of Snack Pak 4 Kids. TCFA and its members partner with [Snack Pak 4 Kids](#) in the Beef 4 Kids initiative, ensuring that children across the Panhandle and San Antonio have nutritious beef in their weekend diets. End the evening with a toe-tapping good time at the Cattle Feeders Get Together and BEEF-PAC Auction featuring [Mario Flores and The Soda Creek Band](#).

Tuesday morning's speakers include CattleFax CEO [Randy Blach](#), The Center for Food Integrity CEO [Charlie Arnot](#) and NCBA's Executive Director of Human Nutrition Research [Shalene McNeill](#). Conclude your time at Convention by enjoying a round of golf, sporting clays or exploring historic San Antonio! Visit [www.tcfa.org](http://www.tcfa.org) to register **TODAY!**

## Convention Speaker Spotlight: Shalene McNeill, Ph.D., R.D.

Shalene McNeill is a registered and licensed dietitian and nutrition scientist with more than 13 years of experience in food, nutrition and agriculture research and public nutrition education. Dr. McNeill is NCBA's Executive Director of Human Nutrition Research.

Her expertise in dietetics combined with her scientific training, gives her the unique ability to translate published research into consumer-relevant, science-based dietary guidance and communications materials that help people build healthier diets they enjoy.

Dr. McNeill holds a bachelor's degree in biomedical science and a doctorate in human nutrition, both from Texas A&M University. She has been a practicing registered and licensed dietitian since 1996. Read her full bio at <http://tinyurl.com/McNeill-Shalene>.



## **Senate Hearing Reviews Army Corps' Role in WOTUS**

The Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Water held a hearing on Wednesday over the Army Corps of Engineers' participation in the "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) regulation focusing on internal memos showing the Corps' leadership's concerns with the science used to develop the WOTUS rule, according to a press release from NCBA. However, in the hearing, Assistant Secretary of the Army and co-author of the WOTUS rule, Jo Ellen Darcy, insisted that the Corps was in support of the final rule.

"This rule is clearly not based on science, nor does it relate to keeping our waters clean," said NCBA President Philip Ellis. "It is a transparent land grab by the administration and EPA. Cattlemen and women will continue to oppose this rule in Congress and in the courtroom."

The rule went into effect on Aug. 28, in all but the 13 states which had been previously granted a temporary injunction on implementation after taking their case to court. To read the full press release from NCBA, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WOTUS-10-02-15>.

## **President Reauthorizes Mandatory Price Reporting**

H.R. 2051 was signed into law by President Obama on Wednesday, reauthorizing the Mandatory Price Reporting Act, the United States Grain Standards Act and the National Forest Foundation Act. The House passed the bill on Monday.

"H.R. 2051 represents a bipartisan package and the collaborative work of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and I am proud to support this legislation," said House Agriculture Committee chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas). "These bipartisan bills will provide certainty for farmers and ranchers and prevent devastating impacts on our nation's meat industries and grain exporters."

TCFA and NCBA have been working with members of Congress and the Obama Administration throughout the reauthorization process.

## **TPP Meetings Held in Atlanta**

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas), along with 16 other members of the committee who supported Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), sent a letter to Ambassador Froman, U.S. Trade Representative, addressing concerns about negotiations in Atlanta on the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP).

NCBA has expressed its disappointment in the lack of success in reaching an agreement thus far in the negotiations. "Just like past TPP negotiations, hopes had been high this week for conclusion of TPP, only to see talks undermined by threats of political repercussion by industries who care more about protecting their domestic interests instead of ensuring long-term sustainable economic growth through global competition," said NCBA President Philip Ellis. "Their actions have a direct impact on industries like the U.S. beef industry, which has embraced competition and the need for a level playing field and expanded market access."

View the full statement from NCBA, at <http://tinyurl.com/TPP-10-02-15>.

## **NCBA Chief Veterinarian Addresses Joint Public Meeting Regarding Antimicrobial Data Collection**

NCBA Chief Veterinarian Kathy Simmons, DVM, delivered comments this week before a joint public meeting of the Food and Drug Administration, USDA and Center for Disease Control addressing antimicrobial use and resistance data collection, according to a press release from NCBA. TCFA also had a representative at the meeting.

"NCBA believes that a clear strategy for data collection, analysis and reporting must first be established before moving forward with the data collection process in order to provide information that correctly represents actual antimicrobial drug use in food-producing animals," said Dr. Simmons. "We agree that the antimicrobial drug sales and distribution data currently collected by FDA under the Animal Drug User Fee Act does not equate to antimicrobial drug use in food-producing animals."

To read the full press release from NCBA, visit <http://tinyurl.com/CARB-10-02-15>.

Also this week, the new Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria held its first meeting this week in Washington, D.C. Mike Apley, DVM, Ph.D., a professor at Kansas State University, is one of four food animal veterinarians on the council's 10-member core group.

## **Court Rules Against Environmental Groups in Farm Data Collection Case**

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled in favor of U.S. EPA's decision to withdraw a 2012 rule allowing pollution data collection from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO), against environmental groups that have been promoting increased oversight and environmental regulation for CAFOs. The lawsuit was brought to court in 2013 by several environmental groups.

“No statute mandates that the EPA require that all CAFOs self-report,” said Judge Randolph Moss. He went on to say that a court opinion against EPA would “unduly encroach on the discretion of the agency to decide how best to allocate its resources and to perform its assigned functions.”

Had this lawsuit ruled in favor of the environmental groups, it would have been easier for them to access information on livestock operations and their owners.

### **EPA Issues Revised Worker Protection Standard**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced this week revised rules to its Agricultural Worker Protection Standard in order to reduce potential risks associated with job tasks. Revisions to the Standard are heavily focused on exposure to pesticides, including establishing a minimum age for handling pesticides, expanded training to reduce take-home pesticide exposure, new no-entry application-exclusion zones, mandatory record-keeping to enforce compliance and changes in personal protective equipment.

The Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) and the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) have both expressed concerns with the new rule. ARA believes that EPA’s justifications are based largely on unfounded assumptions. Information addressing technical problems with the proposed rule has been submitted to EPA, according to ARA, much of which has been disregarded in the final rule. AFBF is reviewing the rule to identify if a science-based approach was taken in developing it.

The final rule will be published in the Federal Register within the next 60 days and will go into effect approximately 14 months after that point. To view a summary of the new Standard from EPA, visit <http://tinyurl.com/EPA-10-02-15>.

### **Texas Beef Checkoff Launches New Consumer Website**

The Texas Beef Checkoff (TBC) has a brand new look with Texas-specific content designed to reach new audiences for the beef industry. The website will feature nutrition information, recipes and Texas Stories. TBC describes the new site as user-friendly, easy to navigate and a go-to source for beef information. The Texas Stories portion is particularly unique and gives visitors inside looks at Texas cattle producers, athletes and business owners.

“Sharing stories of Texans connected to the beef community is an honor and privilege,” Austin Brown III, Beeville cattleman and TBC board chairman said. “It’s easy to forget the faces and stories behind our product. Our website is the best opportunity for us to reach millions and share those stories that encourage a strong connection to Beef Loving Texans across our great state.”

Visit the new site at [www.txbeef.org](http://www.txbeef.org).

### **Environmental Concerns Raised with In Vitro Meat**

Researchers at Arizona State and Clemson studying cultured meat processes have found that while they require fewer inputs such as feedstuffs and land usage, they actually have a larger environmental footprint, using more energy and fossil fuels. The main reason given for this conclusion is that living animals use the natural sources around them to feed and fuel their bodies to produce the meat we later consume, but in a laboratory setting, that fuel would have to be derived from an alternative source such as fossil fuels. The scientists note that the overall environmental impacts could be altered based on many factors such as energy sources and methods of cultivation.

To read a summary of the research, visit <http://tinyurl.com/research-10-02-15>.

### **Texas Ag Sales Tax Exemption Registration Expires Dec. 31**

It’s time to renew your agriculture sales tax registration! A valid Agricultural and Timber Registration Number is required under Texas Law to claim a sales tax exemption on products that are used to produce agricultural or timber products for sale. Agricultural and Timber Producers are also required by law to renew their registration number every four years.

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts will be mailing letters for Ag/Timber Registration Number holders starting the first week of October to the address on file for the Registration Number. The letter will include instructions for renewing your registration number either online, by phone or by mail.

The expiration date occurs uniformly across the state for all Ag/Timber Registration Number holders and will next occur Dec. 31, 2015. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/tax-9-25-15> to receive more information on how to renew your registration.

### **National FFA Sets New Membership Record**

The National FFA Organization has experienced record growth and has reached an all-time high in membership. Current membership is 629,367 up from 610,240 in 2014, with Texas being the state with the highest membership. Overall membership has increase by 20 percent since the 2009-2010 school year. Individual membership is not the only area of growth in the organization, naturally the number of chapters is increasing, but also, the alumni membership continues to grow as well.

Read more from National FFA, at <http://tinyurl.com/ffa-10-02-15>.

### **Texas Environmental Excellence Awards Application Deadline Approaching**

The application deadline for Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) 2016 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards is Oct. 9, 2015. 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.

To learn more or to apply, visit [www.teea.org/apply/](http://www.teea.org/apply/).

### **Dr. Steve Lewis Named 2015 Bovine Practitioner of the Year.**

The top honor for the Bovine Practitioner of the Year award from the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) was given to Dr. Steve Lewis of Canyon, Texas, at the 2015 AABP Annual Conference in New Orleans, La., Sept. 17-19. The award honors a veterinarian in active practice who is active in organized veterinary medicine and who has made significant contributions to bovine medicine.

To see a photo of Dr. Lewis receiving his award and to view award winners in other categories, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AABP-10-02-15>.

### **Sponsor Spotlight**

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

This week's spotlight shines on



Merck Animal Health has been a faithful supporter of TCFA, with sponsorships of the TCFA Annual Convention and Summer Meeting, Fed Beef Challenge, Junior Fed Beef Challenge and TCFA Best Safety Practices Awards. They will continue the strong commitment to the success of TCFA members, delivering innovative animal health products such as REVALOR® (trenbolone acetate and estradiol) implants, Zuprevo® (tildipirosin), Resflor Gold® (florfenicol and flunixin meglumine), NUFLOR® (florfenicol), Vista® vaccines, Vision® vaccines, SAFE-GUARD® (fenbendazole) dewormer and ULTRA SABERTM (lambdacyhalothrin/piperonyl butoxide) pour-on, all supported by the industry's top technical service and sales teams. For more information, please go to [www.merck-animal-health-usa.com](http://www.merck-animal-health-usa.com).

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**Texas Cattle Feeders Association**

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