



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

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# NEWSLETTER

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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 43

October 23, 2015

## **WTO COOL Announcement Delayed**

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has been expected to release the final report outlining allowances for Canada and Mexico's retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods on Nov. 27. However, WTO has announced that it will be postponing the date to allow more time to translate the report into other languages.

Together, Canada and Mexico have requested authorization to impose retaliatory tariffs of \$3.2 billion. Once the panel releases its determination on the level of damages, Canada and Mexico will be free to impose retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports.

## **Subway Announces Antibiotic-Free Policy**

Subway Restaurants announced this week its timeline for transitioning to sourcing all meat products served in its restaurants from animals raised without the use of antibiotics. The process will begin in January 2016 with plans to have chicken fully transitioned by the end of 2016, turkey transitioned within two to three years and both beef and pork transitioned by 2025.

Subway has over 44,000 locations in 111 countries. To read the full press release from the company, visit [http://www.subway.com/subwayroot/about\\_us/PR\\_Docs/AntibioticFreeRelease10.20.15.pdf](http://www.subway.com/subwayroot/about_us/PR_Docs/AntibioticFreeRelease10.20.15.pdf).

## **Let Your Voice be Heard – Early Voting Has Begun!**

Monday marked the first day of early voting for seven constitutional amendments approved by the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature. A summary of the proposed amendments is below:

- **Proposition 1, Residence Homestead Exemption**  
Changes the homestead exemption amount for school district property taxes from \$15,000 to \$25,000.
- **Proposition 2, Property Tax Repeal**  
Exempts property from taxation for surviving spouses of totally disabled veterans.
- **Proposition 3, State Executive Residence**  
Repeals the requirement for statewide elected officials to reside in Austin.
- **Proposition 4, Charitable Raffles**  
Allows professional sports teams to conduct raffles for charitable foundations.
- **Proposition 5, Transportation Authorization**  
Allows counties with 7,500 people or less to perform private road construction and maintenance.
- **Proposition 6, Hunting & Fishing Rights**  
Adds to the Texas Constitution the right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife.
- **Proposition 7, Highway Funding**  
Allocates a portion of revenues from the state sales and use tax, and the tax imposed on the sale, use or rental of a motor vehicle to the state highway fund through 2032.

TCFA urges members to vote. Early voting ends Oct. 30. Election day is Nov. 3. For additional information on the seven proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/TX-10-9-15>.

## **Researchers Identify Natural Antioxidants for Meat Preservation**

Due to the rise in consumer demand for more "all natural" products, food manufacturers have developed interest in naturally occurring antioxidants such as plant extracts and herbs in place of synthetic options for use in meat preservation. A new article published by the Institute of Food Technologists in *Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety* identified 27 natural ingredients that may be used as antioxidants in meat products. A few well known ingredients that were found effective for raw and cooked beef are curry, sage essential oils and oregano essential oils.

To view the study's abstract, visit <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1541-4337.12156/abstract>.

## Area Students Complete TCFA Feedyard Technician Program



TCFA, in collaboration with West Texas A&M University and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, presented 33 area high school students representing 10 school districts with certification and a commemorative jacket for successfully completing the Machinery Operation, Safety and Repair portion of the Feedyard Technician Program on Oct. 20-21 at West Texas A&M University's Stanley Schaeffer Agriculture Education Learning Lab.

Students who graduated from the program are Charisse Blasingame, Adrian; Daisy Contreras, Adrian; Vanessa Ramos, Adrian; Katy Richardson, Adrian; Cesar Armas, Boise City, Okla.; William DePrince, Booker; Weston Hollowell, Booker; Dylan Hoover, Booker; Madi Merydith, Booker; Donovan Ramirez, Booker; Brandon Dones, Dimmitt; Mark Marquez, Dimmitt; Joshio Rodriguez, Dimmitt; Alfred Swilley, Dimmitt; Cristian Alvarez, Friona; Edwin Garcia, Friona; Salvador Santiago, Friona; Luis Trejo, Friona; Joel Rodriguez, Friona; Diego Benavides, Muleshoe; Francisco Regalado, Muleshoe; Adrian Gomez, Olton; Jacob Jalomo, Olton; Justin Been, Springlake-Earth; Ivan Gardea, Springlake-Earth; Cecil Richards, Springlake-Earth; Ashton Bartley, Sudan; Brady Fields, Sudan; James Steadman, Sudan; Drestyn Bell, White Deer; Mikayle Bolton, White Deer; Carter Estes, White Deer; and Shad Seipel, White Deer.

WTAMU students who are obtaining a degree in Agriculture Education tested the Feedyard Technician Program participants on metal-working skills such as welding and cutting on which they have been working to master in their agriculture classes at their individual schools. The students had the opportunity to train on large equipment handling at Warren CAT in Amarillo. They also received a thorough feedyard and mill safety training which a portion of the students attended at Dimmitt Feedyard and others at Wheeler Land and Livestock.

To complete the certification process, the students were tested over their skills with a written exam. They were also interviewed by TCFA and feedyard industry officials on topics covered in the training. Completion of this certification program enables students to be better prepared to obtain employment within a feedyard with a basic understanding of the knowledge and skills necessary to be an asset to the operation.

Students in the program are identified by their Agricultural Science Teacher, feedyard managers or those who have expressed interest to be accepted into the program. They should be enrolled in at least one high school agricultural class each semester and participate in extracurricular activities such as FFA.

To view more photos from the program, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.927393177343444.1073741838.128731057209664&type=3>.

## **Companies Continue to Make Climate Commitments**

Companies continue to join the White House's American Business Act on Climate Pledge as the United Nations' conference on climate change approaches. By taking this pledge, companies announce ways that they plan to reduce emissions, increase low-carbon investments, use more clean energy and take other steps to combat climate change.

Food companies that have taken the pledge include Cargill, DSM North America, General Mills, Kellogg's, McDonald's and Monsanto. Each individual company sets its own pledge based on what the company is already doing or plans to do. Currently 81 companies have signed the pledge.

To view the pledge details of the aforementioned companies and many more, visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/10/19/fact-sheet-white-house-announces-commitments-american-business-act>.

## **Farm-to-School Programs Growing**

The preliminary Farm-to-School Census data for the 2013-2014 school year was released this week. It showed that schools participating in the program reduced food waste and increased acceptance of healthier foods among students. The data found that 75 percent of schools with Farm-to-School programs saw at least one positive benefit as a result of the program.

Currently 42,000 schools have Farm-to-School programs that purchased nearly \$600 million worth of food locally, a 55 percent increase over the 2011-2012 school year.

To learn more, visit <http://thehill.com/regulation/legislation/257470-usda-farm-to-school-programs-help-schools-serve-healthier-meals>.

## **Task Force to Develop Recreational Drone User Registry**

The U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced a new federal task force this week that will be charged with recommending a registration process for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) that are being used for recreation. This task force will not be developing recommendations for the agricultural sector, however. Farmers and ranchers who want to utilize UAS to scout crops or check livestock will have to wait until FAA issues its final rules for the industry.

"Those rules for using small UAS in agriculture and other enterprises likely won't be announced until sometime in 2016," said Peggy Hall, Ohio State University Extension's agricultural and resource law field specialist. "FAA is working to create a special category that allows for small drone usage, which right now is not permitted unless you have a special exemption from FAA."

To learn more, visit <http://www.agprofessional.com/news/federal-task-force-develop-registry-drone-use>.

## **National Animal Nutrition Program Seeking Members**

The National Animal Nutrition Program (NANP), which was established in 2010, has been renewed to continue for an additional five-year term and is seeking new members for its three committees.

The NANP is a National Research Support Project funded by Hatch funds provided by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and USDA. The three committees seeking members are Coordinating Animal Nutrition, Feed Composition and Modeling and Support Technologies.

For more information on NANP and committee membership, visit <http://feedstuffs.com/story-national-animal-nutrition-program-seeks-members-45-133352>.

## **Free Workshop to Help Veterans Start Agriculture Operations**

Farmers Assisting Returning Military Veterans will be hosting a free workshop in De Soto, Texas, on Nov. 7 for veterans, active duty military, National Guard, reservists and others who are interested in starting their own farm or ranch.

According to a press release from NRCS, the workshop, Battleground to Breaking Ground: A Transitional Journey, is designed to educate veterans, their families, beginning farmers and ranchers, small scale producers, and others about agricultural business start-up, business plan development, possibilities for farming and ranching with a disability, financial funding sources, marketing and resources to support agricultural business operations.

Attendees are requested to RSVP by Oct. 31. To register, visit <http://txagrability.tamu.edu/>.

## Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program Seeking Applicants

The Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) Program is a two-year leadership development program managed by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The program invests 455 hours of intensive training in seminars, speakers and domestic and international study trips over two years. The typical class size is about 26, and tuition is \$3,000.

“Texas agriculture has a need for individuals who can lead our industry as it faces new and unique challenges. These individuals will provide the leadership, insight and direction to ensure agricultural viability for the future,” said Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, AgriLife Extension leadership program director.

Participants include traditional crop producers, ranchers, bankers and attorneys, as well as those who work in lumber, food processing, agricultural corporations and horticultural industries. Applications for the newest class, Class XV, are due March 15, 2016. Application forms are online at <http://tall.tamu.edu>.

## 2015 TCFA Annual Convention Just Around the Corner

The 2015 TCFA Annual Convention is just around the corner in San Antonio, Nov 1-3! Visit [www.tcfa.org](http://www.tcfa.org) and click on the Convention banner at the top of the page for full details about the event. If you haven't yet registered, it's not too late! Contact the TCFA office at (806) 358-3681 for more information. The time period to book your hotel within the discounted TCFA room block has expired; however, additional rooms may still be available at an increased rate.

Monday morning speakers include Cornerstone Church Executive Pastor [Matthew Hagee](#); [Jason Dorsey](#); also known as The Gen Y Guy<sup>®</sup>; 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!**

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