



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Scientists Refute Findings of Overreaching Cancer Report

Headlines early in the week highlighted processed meats as a cancer risk alongside tobacco and alcohol following a report released by the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Once again, the media has grossly misconstrued a story for the sake of sensationalism and ratings. After reviewing existing research, IARC came to a majority (not unanimous) vote to classify processed meats as carcinogenic to humans and red meats as probably carcinogenic to humans.

Dr. Nathan Bryan with the Baylor School of Medicine was surprised by the findings of the IARC panel. Dr. Bryan served last year with more than 200 experts in the field who reviewed much of the same research data and concluded that there is "not sufficient evidence to be making policy change or dietary recommendations based on the preponderance of evidence from these studies."

"The bulk of the data that they gleaned from this workshop was on epidemiological studies, and these are designed only to show association, not to show causation – big difference," Bryan said.

It was noted in the report that eating a 50 gram portion of processed meat daily increases the risk of colorectal cancer by 18 percent. However, according to Bryan, smoking (classified in the same category as processed meats) increases your risk of lung cancer by 1,000 percent.

In response to these relative risks, Bryan noted, "The National Cancer Institute put out policy several years ago indicating that a relative risk of less than 20 percent really wasn't strong enough of an association to be making public policy changes or changes in dietary guidelines."

"We have to be very careful on taking recommendations literally from these experts," Bryan said. "Years ago we went through this horrible experiment where we were told to reduce saturated fats and eat more carbohydrates, and we see the result of that... We have this epidemic of obesity and diabetes, so that was a horrible experiment gone wrong. We have to be very careful and put the recommendations of these expert panels in perspective."

To view a full length interview of Dr. Bryan on this issue, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Nathan-Bryan> and enter password: clip.

According to Neva Cochran, M.S., R.D.N., L.D., it is unrealistic to single out one food that can cause or cure cancer. She continues, "The nature of the studies available to the IARC committee represented an overall diet and lifestyle pattern, i.e. combined diet and lifestyle factors such as smoking, obesity, low fruit and vegetable consumption and insufficient physical activity. These types of studies cannot address isolated red meat consumption. Therefore, no direct cause and effect relationship can be established."

Nutritional Toxicologist James Coughlin, Ph.D., C.F.S., said, "Given the weak associations in human studies and lack of evidence in animal studies it is hard to reconcile the committee's vote. Of more than 900 items IARC has reviewed, including coffee, sunlight and night shift work, they have found only one 'probably' does not cause cancer according to their classification system."

Later this week, the WHO spoke out about the misinterpretation of their assessment by the media, dispelling claims made comparing meat to tobacco and arsenic. WHO said that this was a shortcoming of the classification system that these are categorized together despite the fact that their risk levels aren't related in the slightest.

"Balance and variety may not make the headlines because the concept has been around forever," said Cochran. "Let's focus efforts on simple, proven truths instead of fearmongering headlines linked to one overreaching report."

NCBA has engaged TCFA, other state affiliates and beef councils in responding to this report, and we will continue to be actively involved with this issue moving forward.

To view the press release from IARC, visit <http://tinyurl.com/IARC-10-31-15>. And to view the press release from NCBA, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NCBA-10-30-15>.

Convention! Convention! Convention!

The TCFA office is buzzing as the final preparations for the 2015 TCFA Annual Convention are made. Have you checked everything off your list?

- _____ **Register** – Your packet will be available at the Registration Desk at Convention.
- _____ **Check out the outstanding line-up of speakers and events** – www.tcfa.org/news-events/convention.html.
- _____ **Prepare for your tour** – There are limited spots available remaining on each tour. See the registration desk when you arrive to attend Beef Case of the Future, the museum tour of Institute of Texan Cultures and The Alamo, or help volunteer at Snack Pak 4 Kids San Antonio.
- _____ **Shine your golf clubs** – Golf Tournament, Tuesday, Nov. 3, The Quarry Golf Club.
- _____ **Polish your shotgun** – Sporting Clays Tournament, Tuesday, Nov. 3, National Shooting Complex.

TCFA members will be able to reach TCFA staff at Convention by calling the Registration Desk at (210) 451-6152. Stay connected with Cynthia at the Market Desk by calling (806) 570-6613. Also, for the latest while at Convention, be sure to follow TCFA on Twitter at www.twitter.com/TxCattleFeeders and Facebook at www.facebook.com/texascattlefeedersassociation. Join the conversation by sharing your photos and comments on social media at [#tcfaconv15](https://twitter.com/tcfaconv15).

Let Your Voice be Heard – Last Chance to Vote

Early voting ended today for seven constitutional amendments approved by the 84th Texas Legislature. However, you will have one last chance to make your voice heard on Election Day, Nov. 3. 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. 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>.

EU Parliament Rejects Biotech Opt-Out Proposal

The European Parliament stopped a proposal that would allow individual EU states to opt-out of importing foods containing biotech ingredients if they were choosing to do so for reasons other than those backed by science. This decision will prevent individual states from choosing not to import GMO foods based on societal or political reasons. The vote by Parliament was fairly overwhelming at 619-58. Agriculturalists were largely in favor of the decision as Europe is a top-five market for U.S. soybeans.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/EU-10-30-15>.

Beef Producer Alliance Gains New Members

The Five Nations Beef Alliance, comprised of Australia, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and the U.S., met last week in Mazatlan, Mexico to hold the group's annual conference where members voted unanimously to add producer representatives from Brazil and Paraguay to the Alliance. Due to the new additions, the Alliance will be rebranded as the International Beef Alliance. These additions to the Alliance will increase the group's representation to 46 percent of global beef production and 63 percent of global beef exports.

According to the Alliance, the conference also covered continued commitment to shared market information, engaging on animal health and sustainability issues and continuing to support its young leaders development program. To learn more visit <http://tinyurl.com/IBA-10-30-15>.

U.S., Chile Take Steps Toward Food Safety Agreement

The U.S. and Chile are making progress on setting specific standards regarding food safety between the two nations. Chilean Ministry of Agriculture subsecretary, Claudio Ternicier, has signed a letter of intent with USDA-FSIS deputy director for food safety, Alfred Almanza, to implement an Electronic Certification program for poultry and pork. This initiative has also been presented to representatives from Chile's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

"Chile is an important socio-economic partner to the U.S. and I recognize its importance within the Latin American community," said Almanza. "Chile is also important within the U.S. relationship with South America."

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Chile-10-30-15>.

NMPF Announces Talk Docking Phase-Out

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) Board announced this week that it plans to phase out the routine practice of tail docking by Jan. 1, 2017, for participants in the Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Animal Care Program.

"While tail docking may be contentious for some, our producers have a great story to tell when it comes to animal care," said NMPF president and chief executive officer Jim Mulhern. "It is crucial that we share these stories and discuss animal care in a way that connects our values with those of our customers and consumers."

Along with this announcement, NMPF unveiled a new FARM Program website and improved social media to provide platforms to share stories of the good work being done by the farmers who produce milk. To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NMPF-10-30-15>.

McKnight Scholars Leadership Program Application Deadline Approaching

The McKnight Scholar Leadership Program is an endowment program that includes a waiver of out-of-state tuition for four years as well as a \$5,000 scholarship for the freshman and sophomore years for students attending Oklahoma State University. It begins with the selection of a diverse community of out-of-state students with a passion for rural America and extraordinary potential for influence. Typically 50 students are selected for the program each year based on academic potential, leadership ability, character, service and commitment to OSU and rural America.

Applications are due Nov. 2. To learn more or to apply, visit www.mcknightscholars.com/.

Sponsor Spotlight

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

This week's spotlight shines on



Zoetis (formerly Pfizer Animal Health) is a world leader in the discovery, development and manufacture of vaccines and medicines for companion animals and livestock species. The Zoetis portfolio encompasses a full range of products including: DRAXXIN[®] (tulathromycin) Injectable Solution, Bovi-Shield GOLD[®], INFORCE[™] 3 Respiratory Vaccine, DECTOMAX[®], EXCEDE[®] (ceftiofur crystalline free acid) Sterile Suspension, MGA[®], SYNOVEX[®], E. Coli Bacterial Extract vaccine with SRP[®] technology, and the feed additives Aureomycin[®], Aureo S 700[®], Bovatec[®], Deccox[®], and others. For more information about how Zoetis works to ensure a safe, sustainable global food supply from healthy livestock, visit www.Zoetis.com.

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Texas Cattle Feeders Association

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