



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

5501 I-40 W. • AMARILLO, TEXAS • PHONE (806) 358-3681 • www.tcfa.org • info@tcfa.org

Volume 49, Number 48

December 4, 2015

EPA Releases Annual RFS Requirements

On Monday, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its long-awaited Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) final rule setting the total volume of renewable fuels that must be blended into gasoline in 2014 (16.28 billion gallons), 2015 (16.93 billion gallons) and 2016 (18.11 billion gallons). These volumes are above those EPA proposed last June but significantly lower than the volumes mandated by statute (18.5 billion gallons, 20.5 billion gallons and 22.25 billion gallons respectively).

Likewise, the corn-based ethanol portion of the total RFS in 2015 (14.05 billion gallons) and 2016 (14.5 billion gallons) is less than the 15 billion gallons required by law for both years.

The RFS law contains a provision that allows EPA to adjust volumes based on multiple factors, including what the agency described as market constraints and a lack of infrastructure to blend biofuels into gasoline. Based on the numbers, it also appears that the corn-based ethanol requirement is closely aligned with gasoline consumption and the artificial need for ethanol to meet the 10 percent federal oxygenate requirement, since no other approved option exists.

House Passes Bill to Address Abuse of EAJA

This week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 3279 to require oversight and transparency of funds awarded under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA). The EAJA was passed in 1980 to allow plaintiffs to recover legal fees when they prevail against the government in federal court. However, the EAJA repeatedly has been exploited by environmental activist groups which target federal-lands agencies, and ultimately agriculturalists who use the lands, at the expense of the taxpayer. When originally passed, EAJA required the Department of Justice to report to Congress how the funds were being spent, but that requirement was removed in 1995. H.R. 3279 will restore accountability to EAJA by requiring an accounting of all attorney fees spent under the Act.

To view the full press release from NCBA, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NCBA-12-4-15>.

WHO Survey Finds General Public Misinformed on Antibiotic Resistance

The World Health Organization recently conducted a survey of approximately 10,000 people across 12 countries over the issue of antibiotic resistance to find out what people understand about it. The study overwhelmingly found that people are highly misinformed on antibiotic resistance in general and how it affects them. The survey's findings include the following responses and more. Three-fourths of respondents think that antibiotic resistance happens when the body becomes resistant to antibiotics as opposed to the actual bacteria becoming resistant to the antibiotics. Two thirds of respondents believe that individuals are not at risk of a drug-resistant infection if they personally take their antibiotics as prescribed. Nearly half of people surveyed think antibiotic resistance is only a problem for people who take antibiotics regularly.

To read the full report from WHO, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WHO-12-4-15>.

NAMI Releases Latest "Meat MythCrushers"

The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) released another "Meat MythCrushers" as a part of its ongoing series in efforts to set the record straight when it comes to meat misconceptions. This latest installment focuses on the meat industry's environmental footprint.

"A close look at the data shows that the environmental impact of the meat industry has declined considerably over the last 40 years," said Eric Mittenthal, NAMI vice president of public affairs. "Specific to beef, the industry has produced 13 percent more total beef from 30 percent fewer animals, using 19 percent less feed; 33 percent less land; 12 percent less water; and nine percent less fossil fuel energy with an overall carbon footprint reduction of 16 percent."

To view the new MythCrusher, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NAMI-12-4-15>.

SmartLabel™ Provides Consumers Detailed Food Information

The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) announced this week its new SmartLabel™ initiative. Over 30 major food and consumer goods manufacturers have already announced that they will utilize this technology to enhance transparency in the products they sell. Products under the SmartLabel™ will have detailed information about them regarding nutrition, ingredients, allergens, third-party certifications, social compliance programs, usage instructions, safe handling instructions and other facts. This information will be accessible by an online search or by scanning the product directly in the store with a smart phone.

Several of the companies will begin using the technology this month and early 2016. It is expected that nearly 30,000 products will be part of the program by the end of 2017. According to the press release, early estimates indicate that within five years, more than 80 percent of the food, beverage, pet care, personal care and household products that consumers buy will be using SmartLabel™.

To view the full press release from GMA, visit <http://tinyurl.com/GMA-12-4-15>.

China Announces Intent to Clone Cattle

According to a press release from BoyaLife, Chinese scientists have signed a deal to establish a commercial animal cloning center in the northern port city of Tianjin in a government sponsored business development park known as the Tianjin Economic and Technological Development Area. Operation of the facility is set to begin in the first half of 2016 in cloning sniffer and pet dogs, beef cattle and racehorses. The center will cost \$31 million and will start by producing 100,000 cattle embryos per year with a plan to increase that number to one million per year, making it the largest cloning facility in the world.

To read the full press release, visit <http://tinyurl.com/China-12-4-15>.

Animal Rights Activists Targeting Law Enforcement, Religious Groups

Hannah Thompson of the Animal Ag Alliance shared her latest knowledge on the activities of animal rights activists on the Oklahoma Farm Report's Beef Buzz. There has been quite a bit of work done by the activist groups in targeting religious organizations over the years by convincing people that it is immoral to eat meat. They have created partnerships with several organizations which have allowed them to distribute "educational materials" for summer camps and other activities to help spread their views on animals. However, another influential group of people is now being targeted by the activists – law enforcement personnel. The activist groups sponsor awards for law enforcement and offer "trainings" on identifying animal cruelty.

In the wake of these events, the Animal Ag Alliance is encouraging producers to build relationships with local law enforcement. By inviting them to a farming or ranching operation for a visit, they can see firsthand how animal welfare is properly practiced. This could also be beneficial if a crisis ever does occur for those law enforcement officials to be familiar with the location and practices of the operation.

Listen to the entire interview by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/AAA-12-4-15>.

NCBA Hosts End of Year Policy and Tax Update Webinar

Join in on Dec. 10 at 7:00 p.m. CST for the latest in NCBA's Cattlemen's Webinar Series with an end of year policy and tax update. NCBA policy experts, Colin Woodall and Kent Bacus will discuss the latest congressional activity in Washington D.C., and explain how these issues affect beef producers. Larry Kopsa, CPA, will also share end of year tax tips. All panelists will be available for Q&A at the end of the presentation.

To register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NCBA-12-3-15>.

Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment Open

The general enrollment period for the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began this week on Dec. 1 and ends Feb. 26, 2016. December 2015 marked the 30th anniversary of the program, which assists agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. As of September 2015, 24.2 million acres were enrolled in the program.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/CRP-12-4-15>.

NCBA Cattle Industry Convention Registration Open

The 2016 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show will be held Jan. 27-29 in San Diego, Calif. Convention participants will hear from industry leaders, gather insight on industry trends, enjoy an evening of stars and stripes on the USS Midway, and this year's Cowboy Concert Series will feature Martina McBride. NCBA President Philip Ellis said this convention is a must for everyone involved in the cattle industry.

Early registration is open through Jan. 4. Visit <http://www.beefusa.org/convregistration.aspx> to register.

USDA Announces 2016 Agricultural Outlook Forum

The USDA will host the 92nd Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum in Arlington, Va. on Feb. 25-26, 2016. The theme for this year's forum is "Transforming Agriculture: Blending Technology and Tradition."

The Forum's keynote address will be delivered by Howard Buffett, CEO of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. Mitch E. Daniels, Jr., President of Purdue University and former Governor of Indiana will be the dinner speaker. USDA Chief Economist Robert Johansson will present "The 2016 Economic Outlook for Agriculture." The Plenary panel, "Providing Leadership for Present and Future Generations in the Transformation of Agriculture," will feature remarks from Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden. Deputy Secretary Harden will also host a session on opportunities in agriculture for new and beginning farmers ranchers, and she will and host a Women's Agriculture Networking event.

The event, which attracted 1,600 attendees last year, will be hosted at the Crystal Gateway Marriot Hotel in Arlington, Va. To learn more or to register, visit www.usda.gov/oce/forum/.

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>.

Snack Pak 4 Kids Donations

The Tuesday following the Thanksgiving holiday is nicknamed "Giving Tuesday" in the spirit of giving back to local communities as a part of the holiday season. This week, Cactus Feeders and Cargill took the opportunity to give to the Snack Pak 4 Kids program. TCFA members partner with Snack Pak 4 Kids in the Beef 4 Kids program by helping to provide nutritious beef in weekend snacks for students at risk for hunger.

Cactus Feeders provided the seed funds needed in order to launch a new Snack Pak 4 Kids location in Abernathy. Learn more about Cactus' donation at <http://tinyurl.com/Cactus-12-4>. Also this week, Cargill employees from Amarillo, Hereford, Bovina and Dalhart joined together to donate to the Beef 4 Kids fund. Learn more about Cargill's donation at <http://tinyurl.com/Cargill-12-4-15>.

Learn more about how you can get involved with Beef 4 Kids by visiting <http://www.tcfa.org/news-events/giving-back.html> or contacting jayce@tcfa.org.

High Plains Food Bank Beef Donations

The High Plains Food Bank alleviates hunger in the Texas Panhandle by delivering millions of pounds of food to area families who need help getting back on their feet. TCFA member feedyards in the Texas Panhandle are asked to remember that the Food Bank needs and appreciates your animal donations all throughout the year.

Thank you to the members who have made donations so far this year: Arcadia Asset Management (two), Beef Tech Cattle Feeders, Cargill Cattle Feeders – Dalhart, Champion Feeders, Dawn Custom Cattle Feeders, Great Plains Cattle Feeders, Kirkland Feedyard (three) and Littlefield Feedyard.

Participating feedyards are asked to transport their donated animal to one of the 10 state-inspected processors that have agreed to participate in the program. Specifications require that each animal pass all USDA and FDA requirements for food animals and provide a hot yield of 60 percent or better. Find a list of participating processors at <http://tinyurl.com/hpfb-processors>. If you have donated a beef to the Food Bank this year, and your name is not listed above, please contact Jayce Winters at jayce@tcfa.org or (806) 358-3681.

2016 Cattle Feeders Resource Guide – Advertising Deadline Extended

The deadline for advertising in TCFA's 2016 *Cattle Feeders Resource Guide* has been extended to Friday, **Jan. 15**. The revamped publication better serves TCFA supporting sponsors, while TCFA members also benefit from receiving timelier product and service recommendations from allied industry partners.

Advertisers who purchase a full-page, four-color ad in the *Cattle Feeders Resource Guide* receive a free bonus web ad on TCFA's website, www.tcfa.org, a great opportunity to target potential buyers.

View the rate card at <http://tinyurl.com/2016-TCFA-RateCard>, or contact Scena Snider for more details at (806) 358-3681 or scena@tcfa.org.

Sponsor Spotlight

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

This week's spotlight shines on



Boehringer Ingelheim

Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. is the U.S. animal health division of Boehringer Ingelheim Corporation, a family-owned company founded in 1885 in Ingelheim, Germany. Dedicated to improving the lives and well-being of animals, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. continues to invest in research to develop optimal solutions for the unique needs of today's livestock producers.

For more information, contact your local Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica cattle representative or visit <http://www.bi-vetmedica.com/>.

This copyrighted material is the property of TCFA and is intended for the use of TCFA members only. It may not be redistributed, transmitted, stored or reproduced, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of TCFA. The information contained in this material is believed to be reliable and correct, and the views expressed reflect judgments at this time and are subject to change without notice. TCFA does not warrant or guarantee that the information is complete, comprehensive or accurate and it should not be relied upon as such.

Texas Cattle Feeders Association

December 4, 2015