



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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

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2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Support Lean Beef in Healthy Diet

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released this week the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The 2015 Guidelines recommend nutrient-dense foods such as lean beef be included in a healthy eating pattern. They recommend 26 ounces per week from the subgroup containing lean meats, which is at the same amount recommended in the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

“My family takes pride in growing one of the most nutritious and great-tasting foods available,” said TCFA Chairman David Baumann. “We produce beef, because we want every family to always have access to the same nutritious and affordable option to feed their families that we are privileged to feed ours.”

Early this year, the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) sent a report to the Secretaries of USDA and HHS recommending the removal of lean meats from the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. They cited using sustainability as part of their reasoning for doing so. TCFA and NCBA strongly advised the Secretaries to only use sound science within the realm of nutrition and wellness in developing the Guidelines, as sustainability was outside the scope of expertise of the DGAC.

TCFA, NCBA and others were also successful in placing language in the Omnibus Budget bill requiring continued congressional oversight of the Dietary Guidelines process. The Omnibus restricted funds from being used to implement the final 2015 Guidelines unless based on the latest science and within the scope of nutrition and health.

In addition, in May, the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), introduced by House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-Texas), which included language that directs the Secretary of Defense to include in military nutrition programs only those DGAC recommendations that fall within the scope of health and wellness.

To view the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, visit <http://tinyurl.com/DGA-Final>, and to view the full press release from TCFA, visit <http://tinyurl.com/DGA-TCFA>.

Winter Storm Follow-up and Available Resources

As follow-up to the winter storm that impacted the Texas Panhandle and Eastern New Mexico on Dec. 26-27, listed below are updates on several items that TCFA staff have been working on.

The impact to the region has been significant, with current estimates of death loss exceeding 15,000 head for the dairy industry; 4,000 to 5,000 head for cattle feeders; and 6,000 to 8,000 head for pasture cattle. Of course, lost cattle performance will be an on-going impact from the storm for weeks ahead.

Many producers are still in the process of gathering, identifying and sorting stray cattle. For stray cattle found on your property, you have 5 days to notify the county sheriff to be eligible for reimbursement of the costs associated with feeding and caring for the stray cattle. The TSCRA special rangers can also assist with contacting the county sheriff, help with verifying brands/other cattle identification, and help with sorting cattle and resolving disputes, if needed. Contact the TCFA office at 806-358-3681 for more information.

Disaster assistance programs available to cattle producers from the USDA-Farm Service Agency include the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Emergency Assistance for Livestock Program (ELAP). To start the process and apply for assistance, cattle producers must file a “notice of loss” with their local FSA office within 30 days of becoming aware of the loss. Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitations of \$900,000 apply to all 2014 Farm Bill Programs, and the maximum combined disaster payment to an individual is \$125,000 per calendar year. There are many nuances to these programs. Contact your local FSA office for details.

In addition, Texas Gov. Gregg Abbott and Agriculture Commission Sid Miller on Friday sent a letter to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack requesting a USDA disaster declaration for the counties impacted by the storm. The letter is available at <http://tinyurl.com/USDA-1-8-16>. TCFA and other livestock groups intend to send a similar letter next week.

Beef Industry Prevails in 2015

Though 2015 saw its challenges for the beef industry, there is still much to show for the hard work that has been done by producers and industry representatives to ensure that our message is heard by lawmakers and consumers.

Congress repeals mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL). Before adjourning December 2015, both the U.S. Senate and House adopted an Omnibus Budget bill to fund the government. The bill also contained language repealing the COOL law for beef and pork, while maintaining requirements for all other covered commodities. USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA will no longer enforce COOL provisions related to beef or pork. Congressional action was ultimately spurred by a fourth and final World Trade Organization ruling that affirmed the COOL law was discriminatory, violated international trade laws and allowed both Canada and Mexico to implement retaliatory tariffs totaling over \$1 billion.

2015 Dietary Guidelines include lean red meats as part of a healthy diet. *See opening article.*

IARC report causes minimal impact. Earlier this fall, the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) went through the classification process for red and processed meats on its carcinogenicity scale. While the story was sensationalized for a few days, meat industry representatives provided balance to the story by being quoted in approximately 70 percent of all national media reports. We saw relatively high skepticism towards the interpretation of the classification system by consumers through social media. Ultimately, NPD Group predicts that the report will have little to no impact on consumer behavior.

Tax extenders package will benefit cattle feeders and other agriculturalists. As part of the Omnibus Budget bill, Congress approved a tax extenders package which contains several important provisions to cattle producers and farmers, including a provision that permanently extends the Section 179 small business expensing limitation and phase-out amounts in effect at \$500,000 and \$2 million, respectively and indexed to inflation. The bill also contains a provision that extends bonus depreciation for property acquired and placed in service during 2015 through 2019 (with an additional year for certain property with a longer production period). A provision to permanently extend the charitable deduction for contributions of real property for conservation purposes was also included in the bill. The provision also permanently extends the enhanced deduction for certain individual and corporate farmers and ranchers. A detailed summary of the other tax provisions included in the Omnibus is available at <http://tinyurl.com/Omnibus-1-6-16>.

Canada Expands Beef Trade with Argentina and South Korea

Canada is expanding beef trade with Argentina and South Korea in two separate agreements. Argentinian beef has been banned in Canada since 2001 due to a foot and mouth disease outbreak. They will now be accepting nearly 12,000 tons of beef from Argentina without imposing tariffs.

South Korea has lifted a ban on Canadian beef that was imposed in February. South Korea spent \$25.8 million on Canadian beef in 2014, and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association hopes to bring that number to over \$50 million with the resumed trade.

Wendy's Transitioning to Cage-Free Eggs

Wendy's Co. announced this week that it plans to transition to 100% cage-free eggs in its U.S. and Canadian restaurants by 2020. The company also plans to eliminate the use of gestation stalls in its pork suppliers by 2022. Wendy's has had an Animal Welfare Council overseeing an animal welfare program over all meat suppliers since 2001.

To view the full press release from Wendy's, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Wendys-1-8-16>.

FSIS to Raise Rates on Plant Inspections and Services

USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) will be increasing certain inspection and lab service rates beginning Feb. 7 for meat and poultry facilities, egg products plants and for importers and exporters. It will be increasing its basetime, overtime, holiday and laboratory service rates. Basetime service hourly rates will start at \$54.56 up to a high of \$83.84 for holiday work. Laboratory services will start at \$69.96 per hour.

For more information on the new rates, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FSIS-1-8-16>.

Oklahoma Excellence in Agriculture Awards Accepting Nominations

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry is now accepting nominations for the Oklahoma Excellence in Agriculture Awards through Feb. 12. Four award recipients will be announced on March 30 at the state capitol as part of the state's annual Oklahoma Ag Day celebration.

Eligible nominees include individuals involved in livestock and crop production, agribusiness, forestry, horticulture and nursery management. In addition to considering the nominee's production agriculture involvement, the application also recognizes leadership in agricultural and state organizations as well as additional awards and honors. The winner will be someone with at least 25 years in agriculture who derives the bulk of his or her income from agriculture or has retired from an agricultural enterprise.

To nominate someone for this award, visit www.oda.state.ok.us/odaff-halloffame.htm.

NCBA Cattle Industry Convention Right Around the Corner

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.

This year's Cattlemen's College will be held Jan. 26-27. Attendees must register in advance and purchase a full-day registration to the Convention for Wednesday. Tickets to Cattlemen's College are \$195.

Visit www.beefusa.org/convregistration.aspx to register.

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, cattle producers, 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>.

2016 Cattle Feeders Resource Guide – Advertise Today!

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.

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