



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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House Passes Resolution to Withdraw WOTUS Rule

On Wednesday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act regarding the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule. TCFA and NCBA, along with 41 state affiliate organizations, sent a letter to the House of Representatives urging support of House Joint Resolution 22. (View the letter at <http://tinyurl.com/WOTUS-1-14-16>) Additionally, TCFA sent a separate letter of support to Representatives from Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. The joint resolution passed by a vote of 253 – 168.

The joint resolution would require the EPA and the Corps of Engineers to withdraw the WOTUS rule and prevent them from engaging in similar rulemaking. The Senate has already passed the resolution, but President Obama has already promised to veto the measure.

To read TCFA's letter of support, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WOTUS-1-15-16>.

Ag Groups Sue EPA Over Fuel Standards

Late last week, seven trade associations filed a federal lawsuit in the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals seeking a review of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Renewable Fuel Standard requirements that were finalized in November. The lawsuit challenges EPA's authority to waive biofuel volume mandates set by a 2007 law.

The lawsuit was filed by the Biotechnology Innovation Organization, Americans for Clean Energy, American Coalition for Ethanol, Growth Energy, National Corn Growers Association, National Sorghum Producers and the Renewable Fuels Association.

To read the full story, visit <http://tinyurl.com/EPA-1-15-16>.

NCBA Testifies to the Importance of TPP

NCBA Policy Division chair, Kevin Kester, testified before the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) on the importance of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) to the cattle industry during a hearing hosted by ITC entitled *Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement: Likely Impact on the U.S. Economy and on Specific Industry Sectors*.

"This agreement grants the greatest market access for U.S. beef ever negotiated into Japan," said Kester "Since Australia implemented their own bilateral trade agreement with Japan last year, the U.S. has lost five percent of the market share, about \$100 million in sales, in Japan. We cannot afford to wait on TPP or we will continue to lose market share."

To view the full press release from NCBA, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TPP-1-15-16>.

NAMI Launches Millennial-Focused Shopping Website

The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) launched a new website this week targeted at consumers, more specifically millennials, which is meant to expand transparency and provide easily accessible information about cooking, nutrition, production practices and recipes.

"The MeatUp site is the first-of-its-kind resource that will equip the new generation of young adults and families with the knowledge and skills to make meat and poultry part of a healthy, balanced diet," NAMI president and chief executive officer Barry Carpenter said. "The website appeals to consumers' appetite for transparency, debunks common meat myths and provides useful food safety, preparation, cooking and recipe tips."

Visit the website at www.mymeatup.org.

Colombia Grants Full Access for U.S. Beef

Colombia has lifted export verification requirements on U.S. beef products for the first time since 2003, granting full access to U.S. beef. The U.S. passed the Colombia Free-Trade Agreement in 2012, which eliminated the 80 percent tariff on U.S. beef that was previously in place.

"I'm pleased Colombia recognizes the strong protocols we have in place and has granted us full access once again," said Kent Bacus, NCBA associate director of legislative affairs. "This will allow us greater access to their consumers who demand the high-quality product we produce."

Ireland Looking to Boost Meat Exports to China

Chinese food officials may be visiting Ireland this year to conduct inspections of its meat processing facilities. Brendan Gleeson, assistant secretary general with the Department of Agriculture in Ireland referred to China as Ireland's "biggest individual country market." In 2014, Ireland's agriculture exports to China were worth approximately \$750 million.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Ireland-1-15-16>.

AMS Withdraws Certain Meat Marketing Standards Claims

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) published a notice in the Federal Register this week to withdraw the U.S. Standards for Livestock and Meat Marketing Claims. This notice specifically withdrew the Grass (Forage) Fed Claim for Ruminant Livestock and the Meat Products Derived from Such Livestock and the Naturally Raised Claim for Livestock and the Meat and Meat Products Derived from Such Livestock. AMS says that these grass fed marketing claim services do not fit within the agency's statutory authorities.

"Without express authority from Congress, it is not AMS' role to define standards; that responsibility lies with FSIS. Because AMS does not have express authority to define grass-fed or naturally raised, it is inappropriate for the agency to offer it as an AMS-defined marketing claim. Instead, companies can use voluntary USDA-Certified or USDA Verified programs to verify compliance with standards that they develop," AMS explained.

A conference call will be held for stakeholders on Thursday, Jan. 14 at 11 a.m. EST. The conference call number is 888-844-9904 and the passcode is 2887241.

To learn more from AMS, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AMS-1-15-16>.

Campbell Soup Expresses Support for GMO Labeling

Campbell Soup Company announced this week its support for federal legislation mandating labeling for foods containing ingredients derived from genetically modified organisms (GMOs), making them the first packaged food company to do so. The company has prepared labels for its own products that comply with pending state GMO labeling legislation in Vermont and is calling on Congress to establish mandatory national labeling standards. The company says it recognizes that GMOs are safe and that "technology will play a crucial role in feeding the world."

To view the full press release from Campbell's, visit <http://tinyurl.com/GMO-1-15-16>.

Activists Groups Sue to Overturn North Carolina "Ag-Gag" Law

A group of animal and consumer activist groups filed a lawsuit in federal court this week calling North Carolina's "ag-gag" law unconstitutional seeking for it to be overturned. The complaint argues that the law "blatantly violates our rights to free speech, to a free press, and to petition our government, and violates the Equal Protection Clause. It places the safety of our families, our food supply, and animals at risk."

To view the lawsuit, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NC-1-15-16>.

Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases Develops Mobile App

The Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases released a mobile app this week for their Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. The app allows veterinary practitioners to easily submit electronic animal health certificates, store information within the app for access when they are not connected to the internet, and print paper-based forms directly from the app.

To learn more or to download the app, visit <http://tinyurl.com/IIAD-1-15-16>.

AFBF Elects New President

Zippy Duvall of Greensboro, Ga., was elected Tuesday as the new president of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). Duvall succeeds Bob Stallman after 16 years of service. Scott VanderWal, president of the South Dakota Farm Bureau, was elected vice president.

To learn more about Duvall and other candidates, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AFBF-1-15-16>.

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 BEEF-PAC Sweepstakes

The 2015-2016 BEEF-PAC Sweepstakes ended on Thursday, Jan. 14, and Paul Engler of Amarillo is the lucky winner of the 2015 Polaris Ranger Crew[®]. The official prize drawing took place during the TCFA Board of Directors meeting.

"The Sweepstakes was a great success, raising over \$40,000 for the PAC," said BEEF-PAC Chairman Tom McDonald. "I want to congratulate Paul Engler on winning the Sweepstakes drawing, and thank Angie and Snuffy Boyles of BJM Sales & Service for donating the Polaris Ranger. I also want to say thank you to all of the TCFA members who participated in the Sweepstakes and helped us surpass our goal and strengthen our PAC."

BEEF-PAC is the political arm of TCFA and financially supports candidates and elected officials who support agriculture and specifically cattle feeding. For more information on BEEF-PAC, contact Josh Winegarner at josh@tcfa.org.



Pictured: BEEF-PAC Chairman Tom McDonald and TCFA Chairman David Baumann draw to select the Sweepstakes winner.

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Texas Cattle Feeders Association

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