



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

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# NEWSLETTER

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## **President Vetoes WOTUS Resolution of Disapproval**

After bi-partisan passage in both chambers of Congress, President Obama vetoed Senate Joint Resolution 22, disapproval of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule. The Senate voted 53-44 on Nov. 4, 2015 and the House voted 253-166 on Jan. 6, 2016 in support of the Resolution.

"We are extremely disappointed the President chose to side with the EPA, which has pulled out all the stops and shown an appalling disregard for the law throughout this rulemaking process," said NCBA President Philip Ellis. "In siding with the EPA, the President has ignored the will of Congress, including members of his own party. Moreover, he has taken side against the 32 states, and countless stakeholders who have challenged the WOTUS rule. With Congress clearly showing their disapproval of this rule, the consequences of WOTUS implementation now rest solely with President Obama."

According to *The Hill*, Senate Republicans attempted to override President Obama's veto on Thursday. However, the vote fell short gaining only 52 of the 60 necessary to move forward with the override process.

The temporary, nationwide stay, imposed by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, remains in effect on the implementation of the WOTUS rule. To view the full press release from NCBA, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WOTUS-1-22-16>.

## **New Analysis Addresses Beef Demand**

J. Daryl Tatum, Ph. D., professor of meat safety and quality at Colorado State University, recently released an analysis of how the beef industry is meeting the demands of American consumers. His research showed that consumers have continued to pay higher prices for beef over the last five years in order to continue getting their desired eating experience with taste as their number one attribute in making purchasing decisions. Based on the March 2015 Consumer Beef Index survey, 73 percent of American consumers believe steaks offered at retail are "priced just about right" or "expensive but worth it."

According to Tatum, "Today's quality driven consumers seem willing to pay more for beef as long as the eating experience justifies the price."

View Tatum's full analysis at <http://tinyurl.com/CSU-1-22-16>.

## **USDA to Lead Trade Mission to Chile, Peru**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will lead a trade mission March 14-18, 2016, to expand export opportunities for U.S. agriculture in Peru and Chile. According to USDA, "The U.S. enjoys strong trading relationships with both Peru and Chile thanks to existing free trade agreements. In addition, both nations are part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Implementation of the TPP will provide an additional boost to the Peruvian and Chilean economies and tighten integration with the U.S. economy, helping further expand demand for U.S. agricultural products."

Applications to attend the trip must be received by Feb. 5. To apply, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FAS-1-22-16>.

## **APHIS Announces Veterinary Services Leadership Transition**

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Chief Veterinary Officer and Deputy Administrator for Veterinary Services Dr. John Clifford will be transitioning to a new role within APHIS after serving the past

12 years in his current position. He will start in his new role as the Chief Trade Advisor for Veterinary Services National Import Export Services staff beginning March 1. A successor for Dr. Clifford will be announced nearer to his transition date.

To read more from APHIS, visit <http://tinyurl.com/APHIS-1-22-16>.

### **Vilsack Encourages Senate Reauthorization of Child Nutrition Legislation**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack released a statement this week in anticipation of Senate reauthorization of child nutrition programs. Sodium levels are a main factor in the new legislation. Current sodium levels allowed in school lunches must average less than 1,230 mg per week in elementary schools, 1,360 mg in middle schools and 1,420 mg in high schools. The legislation would lower those averages to 935 mg, 1,035 mg and 1,080 mg respectively by 2019. The bill would also lower the requirement for the portion of grain-based products that must be 51 percent whole grain from 100 percent to 80 percent.

Vilsack is urging Congress to reauthorize these programs as soon as possible. To read the full statement from Vilsack, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USDA-1-22-16>.

### **Texas Beef Council Announces 2016 Leadership**

Texas Beef Council (TBC) has announced its newly elected board of directors, which consists entirely of beef producers providing representation of the state through organization affiliation. The TBC board establishes the budget and ultimately decides which demand building programs receive checkoff funding collected under the national Beef Checkoff Program.

TCFA has three representatives on the board. Katsy Cluck of Boerne, Brad Hastings of Amarillo and Ryan Moorhouse of Hartley have been named to the TBC and the Beef Promotion Research Council of Texas board of directors.

Cluck is serving her third term and will be the chair of the domestic marketing committee, which evaluates checkoff-funded programs in the areas of retail and foodservice outreach, consumer marketing, media relations, and nutrition and health outreach.

Hastings is serving his first term and will be on the beef resources committee, which approves and evaluates checkoff-funded beef quality assurance programs, producer communications, issues and reputation management, research projects and export programs conducted in partnership with U.S. Meat Export Federation.

Moorhouse is serving his third term and will be a member of the executive committee and vice chairman of the beef resources committee. The executive committee is responsible for overseeing board decisions and speaking on behalf of Texas beef producers when necessary.

View a full listing of board members at [www.texasbeef.org/about/board-of-directors/](http://www.texasbeef.org/about/board-of-directors/).

### **Study Shows Decreased Meat Consumption Not Linked to Lower Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

New research from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland's Rural College, and Brazilian Agricultural Research Corp. has determined that reducing meat consumption may not lower greenhouse gas emissions. The findings, published this week in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, indicate that reducing beef production in Brazil's Cerrado region could actually increase global greenhouse gas emissions.

"Much of Brazil's grassland is in poor condition, leading to low beef productivity and high greenhouse gas emissions from cattle. However, increasing demand for meat provides an incentive for farmers to recover degraded pastures," lead author Rafael Silva of the University of Edinburgh's School of Mathematics explained. "This would boost the amount of carbon stored in the soil and increase cattle productivity. It would require less land for grazing and reduce deforestation, potentially lowering emissions."

The researchers determined that if demand for beef is 30 percent higher by 2030 as compared to current estimates, net emissions would decrease by 10 percent. In contrast, reducing demand by 30 percent would lead to 9 percent higher emissions.

To read more about the study, visit <http://tinyurl.com/GHG-1-22-16>.

### **McKnight Scholars Leadership Program Deadline Approaching**

The deadline to apply for the spring McKnight Scholars Leadership Program at Oklahoma State University is Monday, Feb. 1. The program provides a full out-of-state tuition waiver for four years, provides \$5,000 for each of the student's first two years of school and offers students the opportunity to develop essential leadership skills through exclusive coursework and seminars.

Eligible students will be chosen according to leadership and extracurricular activities. Students must be from out-of-state with preference given to students from rural Texas. Transfer students are also eligible.

For more information or to apply or nominate a student, visit <https://secure.osugiving.com/mcknight>.

### **Oklahoma Excellence in Agriculture Awards Accepting Nominations**

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry is 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](http://www.oda.state.ok.us/odaff-halloffame.htm).

### **NCBA Cattle Industry Convention Begins Next Week**

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](http://www.beefusa.org/convregistration.aspx) to register.

### **Oklahoma Cattlemen's Foundation to Host Succession Seminar**

The Oklahoma Cattlemen's Foundation (OCF) will host a Succession and Estate Planning seminar from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10. The event will be held at the Embassy Suites on South Meridian Avenue in Oklahoma City, Okla. Anyone interested in getting more information about how to pass their farm or ranch operation to the next generation is welcome to attend.

"We have an outstanding group of speakers that will help walk attendees through the process of succession and estate planning," said Jeff Jaronek, OCF Coordinator. "While attendees won't leave with a completed plan, they will have a clear direction and know what options are available. Numerous companies and firms will be present and available to discuss further steps in actually getting a plan in place."

Cost to attend the event is \$20, and attendees must RSVP by Feb. 1 to Jeff Jaronek at [jjaronek@okcattlemen.org](mailto:jjaronek@okcattlemen.org) or call (405) 235-4391. For more details, visit <http://tinyurl.com/OCF-1-22-16>.

### **NAMI Hosts 2016 Annual Meat Conference**

The North American Meat Institute's Annual Meat Conference will be held Feb. 21-23 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, Tenn. The conference provides opportunities for education, networking and exhibit showcasing. Topics will include exploring latest developments in meat retailing, regulatory updates, connecting with consumers using technology, reaching millennials and much more.

To learn more or to register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NAMI-1-22-16>.

### **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, TALL XV, are due March 15, 2016. Application forms are online at <http://tall.tamu.edu>.

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**Texas Cattle Feeders Association**

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