



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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U.S. Cattle Report

The U.S. *Cattle* inventory report shows all cattle and calves reported at 92.0 million head, up 3 percent from last year. The following is a breakdown of the report:

- Cattle and calves, 92.0 million up 3 percent.
- Cows and heifers that have calved, 39.6 million up 3 percent.
- Beef cows, 30.3 million up 4 percent.
- Dairy cows, 9.3 million unchanged.
- Heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.8 million up 3 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 6.3 million up 3 percent.
- Dairy replacement heifers, 4.8 million up 2 percent.
- Other heifers, 8.7 million up 3 percent.
- Steers 500 pounds and over, 16.3 million up 4 percent.
- Bulls 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million up 2 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 14.1 million up 4 percent.
- 2015 calf crop, 34.3 million up 2 percent from 2014.
- Cattle on small grains pasture in KS, OK and TX, 1.90 million down 2 percent.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the U.S. for all feedlots totaled 13.2 million head on Jan. 1, 2016. The inventory is up 1 percent from the Jan. 1, 2015 total of 13.0 million head. Cattle on feed, in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head, accounted for 80.2 percent of the total cattle on feed on Jan. 1, 2016. This is down 1 percent from the previous year. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds (outside of feedlots) is 25.9 million head. This is 5 percent above one year ago.

Cattlemen's Beef Board and Beef Checkoff Release Annual Reports

The 2015 Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) Annual Report and 2015 Beef Checkoff Evaluation Report were released this week at the 2016 Cattle Industry Convention in San Diego.

The CBB Annual Report now is available at <http://2015annualreport.beefboard.org/>, and the 2015 Evaluation of Beef Checkoff Programs from the checkoff's Joint Evaluation Advisory Committee is available at www.2015evalreport.beefboard.org/.

USDA Renews Air Quality Task Force

USDA announced this week the renewal of the USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force and the selection of its 2016-2018 members.

According to USDA, the task force promotes USDA research efforts and identifies cost-effective ways the agriculture industry can improve air quality. It also helps better coordinate activities and resources among USDA agencies and other federal partners such as the Environmental Protection Agency. The task force advises the Secretary of Agriculture on air quality and its relationship to agriculture based on sound scientific findings; reviews research on agricultural air quality supported by federal agencies; promotes intergovernmental (federal, state, local and tribal) coordination in establishing agricultural air quality policy to avoid duplication of efforts; and ensures that air quality conservation practices supported by USDA are based on peer reviewed research and are economically feasible for agricultural producers.

This term's task force members representing Texas include TCFA Vice President Ben Weinheimer, Brock Faulkner with Texas A&M University, Kelley Green with Texas Cotton Ginners' Association, Anissa Purswell with Enviro-Ag Engineering and Bryan Shaw with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

To view all members of the task force, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USDA-1-29-16>.

Food e-Vangelists Grow in Size, Influence

Food e-Vangelists are a consumer group known for making critiques and recommendations in regards to food, food companies and agricultural practices used to produce food. According to a new report from *Food Navigator*, this group is growing in size and influence. The number of consumers who refer to themselves as Food e-Vangelists more than doubled over the last few years, growing from 10 percent to 24 percent of consumers. Within this group, 69 percent of people say fresh food is better than packaged, 54 percent say local farmers produce the best food and 49 percent trust local retailers more than supermarkets.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/food-evangelists>.

Survey Shows Increased Feed Production

Alltech's 2016 Global Feed Survey estimates that the international feed tonnage is now at 995.5 million metric tons. This is a 1.5 percent increase over 2014 and a 14 percent increase since they began publishing the report in 2011. The analysis shows growth primarily in swine, poultry and aqua sectors in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Europe. The top 10 feed producers in the world are China, U.S., Brazil, Mexico, India, Spain, Russia, Germany, Japan and France.

"The feed industry is an excellent barometer of economic health and, based on our five years of data, predicts economic growth more accurately than many other indices," said Alltech's chief innovation officer Aidan Connolly.

To learn more about the survey, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2016-FeedSurvey>.

USDA Announces Grant Money for Higher Education

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will have \$18.9 million in competitive grants to administer in 2016 for fellowships and other higher education training projects in food, nutrition, natural resources and agricultural fields.

Applications for pre- and post-doctoral fellowships are due Feb. 11, applications for professional development grants are due March 18, and applications for undergraduate fellowships are due March 24.

For more information on all of these areas, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NIFA-1-29-16>.

Monsanto Sues California Over Proposed Glyphosate Classification

California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment issued a notice of intent in September that it would seek to place glyphosate on the Proposition 65 list of carcinogens. Proposition 65 requires California to publish a list of chemicals that can cause cancer or reproductive toxicity. This classification can affect their ability to be utilized in some municipalities.

Monsanto submitted public comment in response to the proposal stating the peer-reviewed science would not support the decision to make this classification. Monsanto is asking the Fresno County Superior Court to prohibit the state from listing glyphosate as a known carcinogen.

To learn more about this case, visit <http://tinyurl.com/glyphosate-1-29-16>.

USDA Expands Microloans

USDA announced that it will begin offering farm ownership microloans to be used to purchase and improve property. According to a press release from USDA, these microloans will be especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations. Throughout the three years that the microloan program has been in place, it has allowed USDA to provide over 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$372 million to agricultural producers.

To learn more about the microloan program, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans.

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Announces Departure

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden has announced that she will be departing USDA at the end of February. Under Secretary of Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services (FFAS) Michael Scuse will fill Harden's office upon her departure. FFAS Deputy Under Secretary Alexis Taylor will fill Scuse's office upon his move.

"Her tenure at USDA first as Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, then as my Chief of Staff, and finally as Deputy Secretary, underscore her unique talents as a leader and a champion for rural America," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack about Harden's departure. "I speak for thousands of colleagues across the USDA, the federal family, and our nation's food and agriculture sector, when I say she will be missed. I appreciate her service and wish her well in her future endeavors."

To read the full press release from USDA, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USDA-1-28-16>.

TCFA Dues Rebate Criteria and Forms Available

If you fed 10,000 head or more in 2015, you may apply for a dues rebate. The rebate applies to the cumulative number of cattle fed by a single feeding entity. Rebate applications must be completed and returned to the TCFA office by April 15.

For information or to request an application, contact Brady Miller at (806) 358-3681 or brady@tcfa.org.

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.

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 or call (405) 235-4391. For more details, visit <http://tinyurl.com/OCF-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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