



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

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# NEWSLETTER

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5501 I-40 W. • AMARILLO, TEXAS • PHONE (806) 358-3681 • [www.tcfa.org](http://www.tcfa.org) • [info@tcfa.org](mailto:info@tcfa.org)

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## **TCFA Leadership Represented Members at NCBA Legislative Conference This Week**

TCFA officers, board members and staff took your priorities to the Hill this week in Washington, D.C. during the 2016 NCBA Legislative Conference. The TCFA group, along with members of the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, met with a number of congressional delegation and federal agency officials to discuss issues like trade, antimicrobial resistance, environmental regulations, taxes, transportation and immigration reform. Find a full list of issues at <http://tinyurl.com/2016-Issues-Update>.

TCFA leaders who attended include Chairman David Baumann, Chairman-Elect Jim Lovell, Vice Chairman Jason Peeler, Immediate Past Chairman Tom McDonald, Past Chairman Jason Hitch and board member William Bransgrove. Tom Portillo, DVM, also attended the conference.

Find a full set of pictures from the NCBA Legislative Conference on TCFA's Facebook page at <http://tinyurl.com/TCFA-DC-Photos>.



TCFA and TSCRA leadership meets with Senator John Cornyn.

## **Food and Agriculture Groups Urge Congress to Pass TPP**

This week 225 food and agriculture companies and associations including TCFA and NCBA submitted a letter to members of Congress calling for a swift vote on the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). The passage of TPP would greatly benefit U.S. beef, particularly in trade with Japan, which is currently the largest export market for U.S. beef.

"We have a major opportunity to further increase beef exports to Japan, which makes the passage of TPP a key issue for U.S. beef producers," said TCFA Chairman David Baumann. "We currently face a tariff 11 percent higher than our leading competitor in the market, Australia, and their tariffs are scheduled to continually decrease in the coming years, creating a real disadvantage for U.S. beef. We need TPP to level the playing field in this crucial export market."

To read the letter submitted to Congress, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TPP-4-15-16>.

## **Senate Ag Committee Passes CFTC Reauthorization**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture held a business meeting this week to vote on Chairman Sen. Pat Roberts' (R-Kan.) proposal to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), which passed

favorably with an 11-9 vote. According to a news release from the Committee, the Chairman's proposal addresses many concerns of end-users, including farmers and ranchers who use derivatives and futures contracts to manage risks. This is the first time in over 10 years that the Committee has held a markup for CFTC reauthorization.

"The proposal ensures proper due diligence is taken and that the final regulation is based on proper evidence," said Roberts in his opening statements. "It is clear that we should not withhold needed regulatory relief for our farmers, ranchers, and risk management service providers any longer. I appreciate the support of those on the Committee who will join me in standing up for American farmers, ranchers, and end-users by voting for this legislation."

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/CFTC-4-15-16>.

### **Investor Group Urges Restaurants to Source Meats Raised Without Certain Antibiotics**

A group of 54 institutional investors has joined forces to ask 10 major restaurant corporations to stop sourcing meat and poultry from animals raised with the use of antibiotics for non-therapeutic uses. With this goal in mind the investor group has specifically targeted Brinker International Restaurants, Darden Restaurants, Domino's Pizza Group, J.C. Wetherspoon, McDonald's Corp., Mitchells & Butlers, Restaurant Brands International, the Restaurant Group, The Wendy's Company and Yum! Brands.

The investor group, which cites the World Health Organization in its request of the food corporations, was organized by the Farm Animal Investment Risk & Return Initiative and the investment charity ShareAction.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FAIRR-4-15-16>.

### **TSCRA Announces New Leadership**

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) announced Richard Thorpe of Winters, Texas, as its new president this week at the conclusion of the Cattle Raisers Convention. Thorpe, along with his family, owns and operates Mesa T Ranch. He also has a medical degree from Texas Tech University.

Thorpe succeeds Pete Bonds of Saginaw, Texas, who has served as president since September 2013. Bobby McKnight of Fort Davis, Texas, will serve as first vice president, and Hughes Abell of Austin, Texas, will serve as second vice president.

### **Oklahoma Senate Passes Cattle Theft Bill**

This week the Oklahoma Senate passed HB 2504, which addresses cattle theft, without any "no" votes. The bill sets the financial penalty at three times the value of the stolen cattle and makes clear that each stolen animal can be a separate felony penalty. According to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, there were 87 investigations related to cattle theft conducted in 2015.

"OCA is very grateful to Representative John Pfeiffer and Senator Ron Justice for the carrying the bill," said Charlie Swanson, President of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association (OCA). "This bill is another step in the right direction to help curb cattle theft in Oklahoma."

OCA is encouraging members to call on Governor Mary Fallin to sign the bill without delay. To learn more about the bill, visit <https://legiscan.com/OK/bill/HB2504/2016>.

### **USDA Proposes New Standards for Certified Organic Meats**

USDA has proposed a rule to add details primarily related to animal welfare to its Certified Organic label standards. The new rule sets maximum and minimum living space requirements for animals, requires unencumbered access to the outdoors at all times except in the case of protection from predators, and sets euthanization and treatment requirements for sick and injured animals.

USDA estimates that the rule will cost organic farmers \$9.5 million to \$24.1 million per year over the next 13 years with the public benefit estimated at \$14.7 million to \$62.6 million per year.

Public comments will be accepted for 60 days following the proposal being published in the *Federal Register*. To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USDA-4-15-16>.

### **2016 Fed Beef Challenge Brief Recap**

The 2016 Fed Beef Challenge was a huge success, with 44 pens of cattle represented by 23 TCFA member feedyards at the Amarillo Livestock Auction. Individuals traveled from all over to view the best fed cattle around and to participate in the live evaluation contest and TCFA Education Foundation Calcutta. With generous support of member feedyards, Allied Industry representatives and TCFA supporters, \$2,580 was raised in the Calcutta to go towards the TCFA Education Foundation, which is used to award scholarships to graduate students with a future in the fed beef industry.

Everyone celebrated another Fed Beef Challenge with the traditional steak dinner, sponsored by the TCFA Allied Industries Committee. Watch future *Newsletters* and the TCFA website to see which feedyards fed the best pens of cattle. Until then, catch a glimpse of some of the action through pictures on TCFA's Facebook page at <http://tinyurl.com/FBC-Photos>.

### **USDA Seeks Input on NAHMS Survey Development for Cow-Calf Producers**

The USDA National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) will be conducting a beef industry cow-calf study in 2017. In order to craft the most informative survey possible, and to derive data that will be most beneficial to the cattle industry, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/NAHMS-Survey> and answer a short 10-question survey which should take five minutes or less to complete.

USDA initiated the NAHMS in 1983 to collect, analyze and disseminate information on animal health, management and productivity across the United States. The NAHMS team conducts national studies on the health and health management of United States domestic livestock and poultry populations. These studies are designed to meet the information needs of the industries associated with these commodities, as identified by people within those industries.

The beef industry cow-calf study will initiate data collection in late 2017. This will be the fourth time NAHMS will study the cow-calf segment of the beef industry. The cow-calf study will involve producers in 20+ states representing more than 70 percent of the beef cows and beef cow operations in the U.S. The data from the study are only reported in summary form, individual responses are confidential.

Additional information about NAHMS including reports from prior beef studies (cow-calf and feedlot) can be found at [www.aphis.usda.gov/naahms](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/naahms).

### **Grain Grading Workshop**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will hold two one-day workshops at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Amarillo that will focus on grain grading, grain grading standards, proper sampling techniques and how to identify different types of damage. Participants may choose to attend the workshop on either May 3 or 4, as they are identical programs. The workshops, which are co-sponsored by TCFA, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Panhandle Grain and Feed Association, will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and can count toward the TCFA BQA training for feedmill/feed department employees. The cost of the workshop is \$75 per participant. Pre-registration is required.

View the brochure at <http://tinyurl.com/2016-Grain-Grading>.

### **2016 TCFA Feedyard Camp**

TCFA, in conjunction with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and West Texas A&M University, will host the 2016 Junior Fed Beef Career & Leadership Program, also known as "Feedyard Camp." The program is open to incoming high school juniors or seniors who are interested in a career in the fed beef industry.

Participants will receive hands-on instruction about feedyard operations, as well as career opportunities in the fed beef industry. The registration fee for camp is \$100, which covers all costs excluding travel to and from Canyon. Students may obtain an application, which must be returned to TCFA by May 1, online at <http://tinyurl.com/fy-camp>. Contact Brady Miller at [brady@tcfa.org](mailto:brady@tcfa.org) or Rachel Hernandez at [rachel@tcfa.org](mailto:rachel@tcfa.org) with any questions.

### **101<sup>st</sup> Panhandle Grain and Feed Association Convention**

The annual Panhandle Grain and Feed Convention is scheduled for May 5-6 in Amarillo. For more information or to register, visit [www.panhandlegrainandfeed.org](http://www.panhandlegrainandfeed.org).

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**Texas Cattle Feeders Association**

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