



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

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# NEWSLETTER

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## **TAMU System Regents Approve Funding for WTAMU Agricultural Science Complex**

Earlier this week, the Texas A&M University (TAMU) System Board of Regents approved over \$48 million for construction services and related costs for a new Agricultural Science Complex on the West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) campus. Of that amount, a little over \$38 million of the funding will come from a tuition revenue bond authorized by the Texas Legislature last session. The new WTAMU Agricultural Science Complex will include a new meats lab, animal handling demonstration area, labs, classrooms and offices.

The Regents also approved funding for 10 other campus construction projects at System schools. To read the press release, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/TAMU-4-29-16>.

## **Beef Industry is Losing Money Every Day Until TPP is Ratified**

This week in an Oklahoma Farm Report interview, NCBA Vice President of Governmental Affairs Colin Woodall stressed the cost of inaction on the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP).

"We just need to make sure Congress understands that every day they fail to act, it's money out of our pocket as an industry," Woodall said. "We are one of the commodities that can go in and talk about the money that we are losing today. It's not about a 'what if' scenario for us, it's what we're losing now."

In 2014 the U.S. exported almost \$4 billion of beef to the TPP region. If TPP is enacted, the U.S. beef exports would increase by 444 million pounds, resulting in increased cash receipts totaling \$1.14 billion.

To listen to the complete interview, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TPP-4-29-16>.

## **FAS Report Shows U.S. Beef Trade Gap Narrowing**

According to a report published by the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) this week, the gap between U.S. beef exports and imports is expected to narrow in 2016 as higher U.S. beef supplies support increased exports and decreased imports.

The U.S. is the world's largest producer of beef, but it also imports more beef than any other country. From 2011-2013, the U.S. was a net exporter of beef on a volume basis. However, imports surpassed exports in 2014 when domestic production declined nearly six percent as a result of the severe drought and associated herd liquidation in the Southern Plains.

In 2015, U.S. beef exports totaled \$5.2 billion (716,000 tons) while imports totaled \$6.2 billion (1.1 million tons), accounting for nearly 14 percent of total U.S. beef supplies.

To read the full FAS report, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FAS-4-29-16>.

## **FDA Reopens Comment on New Animal Drug Applications**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has reopened the public comment period for consideration of possible modifications to the procedures and requirements for the approval of combination drug medicated feeds. According to FDA, the use of multiple new animal drugs in the same medicated feed currently requires an approved new animal drug application (NADA) for each new animal drug in the combination, and a separate approved NADA for the combination new animal drug itself. FDA's intent of this exploration is to "consider changes intended to allow combination drug medicated feeds to be made available to the end user in the most efficient manner possible while protecting and promoting the public health."

Comments are being accepted through June 29, 2016. For more information and how to submit comments, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FDA-4-29-16>.

## **USDA Announces New Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conservation Strategy**

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced this week a three-year strategy that will guide the voluntary restoration and conservation of 500,000 acres of habitat for the lesser prairie-chicken. The strategy will focus on restoring grasslands and prairie ecosystems while enhancing grazing lands in five states.

“Across the country, we’re seeing firsthand how farmers, ranchers and forest landowners are voluntarily stepping forward to aid wildlife species,” NRCS Chief Jason Weller said. “By adopting conservation systems, agricultural producers in the southern Great Plains can restore top-notch lesser prairie-chicken habitat while also making working lands more productive and resilient to wildfire and climatic extremes.”

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NRCS-4-29-16>.

### 2016 Fed Beef Challenge Results

The 2016 TCFA Fed Beef Challenge brought 24 separate feedyards from Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico to Amarillo for the opportunity to show off their best cattle and win prizes. A total of 44 pens were entered this year and were scored on an index using a base of 100 points that is adjusted for industry markers such as ribeye area, fat thickness, quality grade and yield grade. Here are the results from this year’s competition:

Grand Champion Carcass: Wrangler Feedyard, tag 100 – Score: 112.56

First Place Steers: F-Troop Feeders	Score: 290.38
Second Place Steers: Southwest Feedyard	Score: 289.13
Third Place Steer: Randall County Feedyard	Score: 266.49
Fourth Place Steer: JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding - Coronado	Score: 259.25

First Place Heifers: Friona Feedyard	Score: 283.32
Second Place Heifers: Wrangler Feedyard	Score: 266.46
Third Place Heifers: JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding - Hartley	Score: 260.82
Fourth Place Heifers: Bovina Feeders, Inc.	Score: 255.55

First Place Holstein: Dean Cluck Feedyard	Score: 228.19
Second Place Holstein: Quality Beef Producers	Score: 218.42
Third Place Holstein: Quality Beef Producers	Score: 209.91
Fourth Place Holstein: Dawn Custom Cattle Feeders	Score: 178.68

Ben Fort won a custom handmade saddle in the always popular Fed Beef Challenge Live Evaluation Contest, sponsored by Wells Fargo. The trophy saddle will be presented to Ben at the 2016 TCFA Convention in Fort Worth. Robby Kirkland is the 2016 winner of the Managers “Judge Your Own” Contest for which he will receive a Kenneth Wyatt artwork piece.

Over 40 college students competed in this year’s Collegiate Evaluation Contest, competing for scholarships. Trenton Jones from WTAMU won first place, followed by Ty Largent from Clarendon College, and Quent Roach from WTAMU finished third.

Taking first place bragging rights in the Public Evaluation Contest was Johnny Treichel from Clarendon, followed by Curtis Wertmen, also from Clarendon.

To view the 2016 Fed Beef Challenge contest winners, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2016-FBC-Contest-Winners>. For pen results, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2016-FBC-Pen-Results>.

Thank you to all who were able to participate in the 2016 Fed Beef Challenge, and congratulations to all our winners. For more on contest results, please contact Brady Miller at (806) 358-3681 or [brady@tcfa.org](mailto:brady@tcfa.org).

### Area Students Complete TCFA Feedyard Technician Program

This week, area high school students completed the Cattle Care & Handling portion of the TCFA Feedyard Technician Program on Wednesday at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU).

The program, presented by TCFA, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and WTAMU, is designed to prepare students for gaining employment in a feedyard and to be an asset to the operation.

WTAMU students who are obtaining a degree in Agriculture Education tested the Feedyard Technician program participants on important cattle care skills, such as pharmaceutical knowledge and proper administration and implanting technique and accuracy. The students were trained on Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) cattle handling skills in a seminar at either Bartlett I Feedyard on April 19, Dawn Custom Cattle Feeders on April 20 or Cactus Feedyard on April 21, depending on the location of each school.

To complete the certification process, the students were tested over their skills in cattle handling and BQA with written exams. They were also interviewed by feedyard industry officials on topics covered in the training.

Completion of this certification program enables students to be better prepared to obtain employment within a feedyard with a basic understanding of the knowledge and skills necessary to be an asset to the operation.

Students in the program are identified by their Agricultural Science Teacher, feedyard managers or have expressed interest to be accepted into the program. They should be enrolled in at least one high school agricultural class each semester, participate in extra-curricular activities such as FFA and have a supervised agricultural experience project.

If you are interested in potentially hiring students who have participated in the program, please contact Brady Miller at [brady@tcfa.org](mailto:brady@tcfa.org) or Christie Culp at [christie@tcfa.org](mailto:christie@tcfa.org), or you may call (806) 358-3681.



*Back: Carlos Prieto, Friona; Kaden Bennett, Groom; Mason Miller, Groom; Cody Kling, Groom; Owen Creason, Balko, Okla.; Brandon Dones, Dimmitt. Front: Luis Trejo, Friona; Edwin Garcia, Friona; Charisse Blasingame, Adrian; Jesus Lopez, Adrian; Vanessa Ramos, Adrian; Daisy Contreras, Adrian; Joshio Rodriguez, Dimmitt; Mark Marquez, Dimmitt.*



*Back: Drestyn Bell, White Deer; Delynne Freelove, Booker; Stephen Sell, Booker; Donovan Ramirez, Booker; Deidra Pinkerton, Olton; Adrian Gomez, Olton; Ashton Bartley, Sudan; Braden Clay, White Deer. Front: Robert Quilimaco, White Deer; Ivan Gardea, Springlake-Earth; Victorino Silva, Booker; Madi Merydith, Booker; Tyler Giner, Boise City, Okla.; Cesar Armas, Boise City, Okla.*

### **NAMI Criticizes Osteopath Study**

The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association published an article this week promoting vegetarian diets based on a series of studies evaluating the effects of meat and vegetarian diets on mortality. The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) is criticizing the article, saying it's "taking weak correlation data from a few studies and trying to make a broader conclusion from it."

The study noted that a 3.6 year increase in life expectancy was found in individuals who maintained a vegetarian diet for more than 17 years compared to those on short-term vegetarian diets. NAMI says that the authors provided no reasoning for using these particular studies and excluded a recent study that contradicted their findings. Betsy Booren, NAMI vice president of scientific affairs, goes on to say, "It is also unfortunate that the authors chose not to include extensive research on the nutrition and health benefits of meat as well as potential health deficiencies from vegetarian diets, which the same authors documented in another paper last month. Primary care physicians and their patients are best served by following the advice of both the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans and World Health Organization which have each recently affirmed that red and processed meats can be part of a balanced diet."

Additional information on the study is available at <http://jaoa.org/article.aspx?articleid=2517494>.

### **TCFA Honored in Healthy Beef Challenge**

Thanks to participating TCFA members, TCFA was awarded as the winning team in the Healthy Beef Challenge, sponsored by Zoetis. The prize of \$3,600 will be used to fund TCFA youth educational programs such as Feedyard Camp and the Feedyard Technician Certification Program. Thanks again to all who helped make this possible. TCFA programs continue to improve because of our great members!

### **Family Land Heritage Program Accepting Applications**

The Family Land Heritage Program is a recognition program that honors families who have owned and operated a continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more. Every year Texas Department of Agriculture hosts a ceremony at the Texas State Capitol to celebrate and commemorate the families who have passed down their proud Texas legacy from generation to generation. The deadline to apply is May 31, 2016.

To learn more or apply, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2016-FamilyLandHeritage>.

### **Grain Grading Workshops Available in Amarillo and Corpus Christi**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will hold two one-day workshops at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Amarillo and another one-day workshop in Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Corpus Christi 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 Amarillo workshop on either May 3 or 4 or the Corpus Christi workshop on June 7. The workshops 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. The Amarillo event is co-sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, TCFA, USDA and Panhandle Grain & Feed Association. The Corpus Christi event is co-sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, USDA and Texas Farm Credit.

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

### **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 15, 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.

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**Texas Cattle Feeders Association**

**April 29, 2016**