



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

5501 I-40 W. • AMARILLO, TEXAS • PHONE (806) 358-3681 • www.tcfa.org • info@tcfa.org

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2016 Texas Runoff Elections – Early Voting Starts Monday!

Early voting for the 2016 Texas Runoff Elections begins Monday, May 16, and will extend through Friday, May 20. Election Day is Tuesday, May 24.

Early voting locations will be available through the Texas Secretary of State's Online Voter Central at www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/county.shtml, and polling place hours vary at each early voting location. Registered and eligible voters may vote at any early voting location located in their county of residence.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/2016-TX-Runoff> for a list of BEEF-PAC supported candidates. Please contact Josh Winegarner at (806) 358-3681 or josh@tcfa.org with questions about these candidates or to find out more information about the candidates from your area.

Administration Drops Lesser Prairie Chicken Appeal

This week, the Obama administration has dropped its effort to list the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This decision comes after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided not to appeal the decision of Judge Junell in the U.S District Court for the Western District of Texas, who overturned the administration's 2014 listing of the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species.

To read the full press release, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NCBA-5-13-16>.

Grassley Introduces Packer Ban Bill

This week, Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and member of the Agriculture Committee, introduced a bill (S. 2911) to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 to prevent packers from owning, feeding or controlling livestock intended for slaughter. Sen. Grassley has introduced similar versions of his packer ban bill in previous sessions of Congress.

The bill has been referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee. It is unclear when, or if, the bill will be considered by the committee. There are less than 80 session days left on the Senate calendar for the 114th Congress.

To read the bill, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Packer-Ban-Bill>.

FDA Finalizes Antimicrobial Reporting Rule for Food-Producing Animals

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) finalized a rule this week that revises its annual reporting requirements for drug sponsors of all antimicrobials sold or distributed for use in animals intended for human consumption. Companies are now required to provide estimates of sales broken down by major food-producing species (cattle, swine, chickens and turkeys) in addition to the overall estimates they already submit on the amount of antimicrobial drugs they sell or distribute for use in food-producing animals.

According to a news release from FDA, the new sales data will improve the agency's understanding of how antimicrobials are sold and distributed for use in major food-producing species and help further target efforts to ensure judicious use of medically important antimicrobials.

To view the final rule, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FDA-5-13-16>.

USDA Announces \$2.4 Million in Available Funding to Relieve Veterinary Shortages

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced this week \$2.4 million in available funding to relieve veterinarian shortage situations through education, extension and training as well as support for veterinary practices in designated shortage areas. This funding was authorized by the Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP) in the 2014 Farm Bill.

"These funds support activities for veterinarians and veterinary technicians, helping them gain the specialized skills to address shortages in parts of the country," said NIFA Director Sonny Ramaswamy. "Funds are also available for establishing or expanding veterinary practices in underserved rural areas."

According to a press release from USDA, The competitive VSGP grants support activities to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services through education, training, recruitment, and retention of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and students of veterinary medicine and veterinary technology. Grants will also be made to establish or expand veterinary practices in rural areas.

Applications are due June 17. View the request for applications at <http://tinyurl.com/NIFA-5-13-16>.

Animal Agriculture Alliance Addresses Consumer Communication Gap

The Animal Agriculture Alliance held its 2016 Stakeholders Summit last week, and a main discussion point was helping producers understand how to engage with consumers. Speakers, including Yvette D'Entremont, blogger and science advocate; Phil Keiser, president and CEO of Culver's; Leah McGrath, corporate dietician at Ingles Markets; Jenny Schweigert, executive director of the AgChat Foundation, addressed why it is important for agriculture to maintain a connection with the consumer. They emphasized building trust, increasing transparency and providing information.

Scientists from various sectors of the industry discussed hot topics facing animal agriculture and gave producers their perspectives as well as advice on how to communicate those.

To learn more about the consumer engagement portion of the Summit, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AAA-5-13-16>.

FDA Seeks to Amend "Healthy" Labeling Standards

In light of the recent Dietary Guidelines and scientific evidence, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is looking into updating the standards for food labeled or marketed as "healthy" by the food company. Based on the current standards, food can only be marketed as healthy if it meets specific criteria within five categories, including fat, saturated fat, sodium, cholesterol and beneficial nutrients. There are varying levels of these criteria depending on the category of food. Under the current standards, fat-free pudding cups can be marketed as healthy, but avocados cannot be marketed as healthy due to their fat content. An article in the *Wall Street Journal* also notes that although Kellogg's doesn't generally market its Frosted Flakes or Pop-Tarts as healthy, it could under the current guidelines.

With the idea of "healthy fat" becoming more common in dietary recommendations, the FDA is working to reflect a more accurate description of the word. To read the full article, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WSJ-5-13-16>.

USDA Announces Risk Management Education Funding

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced the availability of \$8.7 million in cooperative agreements for risk management education and training programs. The funding would give organizations needed resources to develop training and education tools to help farmers and ranchers, especially those traditionally underserved or with limited resources, learn how to effectively manage long-term risks and challenges.

Through these partnerships, producers will receive assistance in understanding and using crop insurance programs and other tools, so they can make the best risk management decisions for their agricultural operations. Past award recipients have included universities, county cooperative extension offices and nonprofit organizations.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/RMA-5-13-16>.

Cattlemen's Beef Board Nominees Sought

TCFA is a certified nominating organization and is in the process of identifying potential nominees for appointment to the Cattlemen's Beef Board. Please email names and bios of qualified and interested individuals to Shannon Standley at shannon@tcfa.org.

Please see the USDA letter to nominating organizations outlining required considerations for diversity of nominees at <http://tinyurl.com/2016-CBB-Nominations>.

BQA Facebook Photo Contest

The National Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) is hosting a weekly Facebook photo contest through June 5. The contest, "BQA is my story, what's yours?" will feature a specific theme each week for submissions that reflect the BQA program. Winners will be selected each week including one grand prize winner to be selected at the end of the weekly contests. Entries will be judged based on originality, relevance to theme and sentimentality.

Entries can be made by uploading a photo into the comments section of the current week's contest post on the National BQA Facebook page. To learn more, visit <http://bqa.org/home/bqa-facebook-contest-rules/>.

Farm Bureau Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge

The Farm Bureau Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge focuses exclusively on rural entrepreneurs working in food and agriculture businesses. Rural entrepreneurs pitch innovative business ideas to a team of judges with expertise in business development and agribusiness and compete for \$145,000 of startup funds.

Applicants must submit their entries online, and judges will determine the top 10 teams, including six semi-finalists and four finalists. The four finalists will compete in a live competition in front of judges and audience at the Farm Bureau's Annual Convention. To learn more, visit www.strongruralamerica.com/challenge/.

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>.

Corpus Christi Grain Grading Workshop

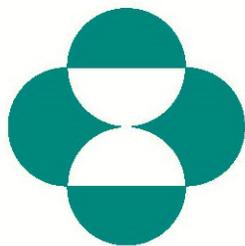
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will hold a one-day workshop at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Corpus Christi that will focus on grain grading, grain grading standards, proper sampling techniques and how to identify different types of damage. The workshop will be held June 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and can count toward the TCFA Beef Quality Assurance 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-CC>.

Sponsor Spotlight

TCFA is proud to recognize its top sponsors whose efforts help deliver top-notch service.

This week's spotlight shines on



MERCK
Animal Health

Merck Animal Health has been a faithful supporter of TCFA, with sponsorships of the TCFA Annual Convention and Summer Meeting, Fed Beef Challenge, Junior Fed Beef Challenge and TCFA Best Safety Practices Awards. They will continue the strong commitment to the success of TCFA members, delivering innovative animal health products such as REVALOR[®] (trenbolone acetate and estradiol) implants, Zuprevo[®] (tildipirosin), Resflor Gold[®] (florfenicol and flunixin meglumine), NUFLOR[®] (florfenicol), Vista[®] vaccines, Vision[®] vaccines, SAFE-GUARD[®] (fenbendazole) dewormer and ULTRA SABERTM (lambdacyhalothrin/piperonyl butoxide) pour-on, all supported by the industry's top technical service and sales teams. For more information, please go to www.merck-animal-health-usa.com.

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Texas Cattle Feeders Association

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