



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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TCFA Representatives Attend NCBA's Young Cattlemen's Conference

This week, TCFA Leadership Program participants Blaine Rotramel, Tyrel Templar and Walton Carter attended NCBA's Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC) along with several other cattle men and women from across the country to learn more about different segments of the beef industry and government policy. The tour began at NCBA's office in Denver, Colo.; then the group traveled to tour a JBS Five Rivers Feedyard, the JBS Greeley packing and processing facility, Safeway and McDonald's. The group then traveled to Washington, D.C., where they received a policy update on current issues important to the cattle industry and had the opportunity to meet with several members of Congress from their states. The group finished their trip in Virginia at Whitestone Farms.



TAHC Announces Fever Tick Vaccine

The Texas Animal Health Commission announced this week that a new fever tick vaccine will be available to reduce the risk of new fever tick infestations in quarantine areas such as the tick eradication quarantine area, or permanent quarantine zone, and in temporary preventative or control quarantine areas. Plans are underway to hold producer meetings in the counties along the permanent quarantine zone to provide information on the effectiveness and use of the vaccine and provide producers the opportunity to ask questions. The dates of these meetings will be set in the coming weeks. The vaccine will be administered by state or federal regulatory personnel at no cost to the producer.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TAHC-6-10-16>.

USRSB General Assembly Meeting

The U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (USRSB) General Assembly Meeting will be held July 12-13 at the Hyatt Regency & Convention Center in Denver, Colo. As a multi-stakeholder initiative developed to advance, support and communicate continuous improvement in the sustainability of the U.S. beef value chain, TCFA encourages its members to attend this event and join in the discussion as we continue to shape the dialogue of beef sustainability. TCFA Member Feedyards as well as allied industry companies were instrumental in the founding of the USRSB and continue to be leaders in the development of the organization going forward.

For a copy of the meeting agenda, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USRSB-Agenda-2016>. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/USRSB-Reg-2016> to register for the event and <http://tinyurl.com/USRSB-Hotel-2016> to reserve your hotel room. For more information on USRSB, visit www.usrsb.org.

Texas Issues Disaster Proclamation, Assistance Available

Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster proclamation due to the severe flooding that began on May 26 in several parts of Texas. Disaster assistance is available to the following counties included in the proclamation: Austin, Bandera, Bastrop, Brazoria, Brazos, Brown, Burleson, Caldwell, Callahan, Clay, Coleman, Colorado, Comanche, Eastland, Erath, Falls, Fayette, Fort Bend, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Hidalgo, Hood, Houston, Jasper, Kleberg, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Lubbock, Madison, Montgomery, Palo Pinto, Parker, Polk, Robertson, San Jacinto, Somervell, Stephens, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Waller, Washington and Wharton.

Additionally, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller has directed the Texas Department of Agriculture to work with the State Emergency Operations Center and Texas Animal Health Commission to closely monitor the rapidly changing weather situation and provide assistance to farmers and ranchers affected by the floods. Miller encourages those affected by the floods to apply for assistance through the State of Texas Agriculture Relief Fund. Those who wish to donate to this fund to help their neighbors may also do so. To apply or donate, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2016-STAR-Fund>.

Additionally, producers who are missing livestock because of flooding are encouraged to provide the information to the local sheriff's department in both the county where the animals were initially located and in the county where they may possibly be found. Producers can also notify the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) at (800) 242-7820 or MissingCattle@TSCRA.org.

Oklahoma Legislature Concludes 55th Session

The Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association (OCA) released a summary of the 55th Oklahoma State Legislature. OCA says that while budget was the main topic of the session, there were many other issues pertinent to cattle producers that were addressed. Those successes included preserving the agriculture sales tax exemption, passing the cattle theft penalty, protecting waters of the state to be a compelling state interest, allowing more freedom for landowners to use prescribed fire burnings and passing an Executive Order addressing the feral swine issue.

Further information on these and other successes is available at <http://tinyurl.com/OCA-6-10-16>.

New Deputy Commissioner for FDA Comments on Veterinary Medicine Priorities

In a Q&A document posted on the FDA website on June 3, 2016, FDA's new Deputy Commissioner for Foods and Veterinary Medicine (FVM) Stephen Ostroff, M.D. shared his thoughts about FDA's role in veterinary medicine.

The question posed to Dr. Ostroff was, "What about veterinary medicine? What is the priority there?" In response to the question, he replied, "Antimicrobial resistance is a very important topic for human and veterinary medicine. On the veterinary medicine side, it is important that we continue to address the role and contribution of antibiotic use in food producing animals to antimicrobial resistance. We have initiated a number of steps to reduce and ultimately eliminate non-judicious uses of medically important antimicrobial medications to enhance growth or feed efficiency in food animal production. This includes working collaboratively with stakeholders to secure voluntary removal of production indications from the labels of medically-important antibiotics and bringing use of antibiotics in food animals under the supervision of a veterinarian."

Dr. Ostroff also stated, "In addition to our work with the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS), we are collecting data on the sales of antimicrobial medications. We recently expanded sales data collection to require that sponsors of antimicrobial medications provide estimates of their sales data broken down by species of food-producing animals, in addition to overall sales. We need to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the food animal industry to gather information on actual use patterns on the farm and to make sure that any use is under veterinary oversight for specific animal health purposes.

To read more on Dr. Ostroff's background and the full Q&A document, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FDA-6-10-16>.

Walmart Expanding Fresh Produce Options

USA Today wrote an article this week highlighting Walmart's efforts to serve a larger audience by expanding their fresh produce options. The major grocery chain has begun taking steps to mimic farmers' markets trends and styles such as using faux chalkboard signs, crates for produce and bread baskets. Stores are also offering expanded organics sections, fresh sushi, gourmet cheeses, fresh bakery items and grass-fed and other marketing options for meat products, such as "antibiotic-free" labels.

Walmart is also expanding its online grocery sales and has a store pickup option available in 40 markets where store employees bring the online purchases to the customer's car. The company also announced recently that it would be testing grocery delivery services through companies such as Uber.

To read the full article, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Walmart-6-10-16>.

MS Beef-a-Thon

Thank you to all who participated in the 46th Annual MS Beef-a-Thon hosted by the Panhandle Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. This year's event was a huge success, surpassing last year's fundraising efforts by \$10,000, raising \$42,500! The Panhandle Chapter is the only one in the nation to conduct an event of this kind that features beef.

Thank you to all TCFA Member Feedyards who each graciously donated a steer to be auctioned off at this year's Beef-a-Thon and helped contribute to the great success of this event: Bar-G Feedyard; Bovina Feeders, Inc.; Cimarron Feeders; Circle Three Feedyard; Coronado Feeders; Dean Cluck Feedyard; Dimmitt Feed Yard, LLC; Dumas Feedyard, LLC; Hartley Feeders; Keeling Cattle Feeders, Inc.; Kirkland Feedyard, Inc.; Owl Feedyard, Inc.; Quien Sabe Feeders; Rafter 3 Feedyard, Ltd.; Randall County Feedyard; Western Cattle Feeders, LLC; and XIT Feeders.

Visit www.beefathon.org to learn more about the event.

Perdue Launches Ad Campaign Focused on Antibiotic Use

Perdue Farms has launched a new advertising campaign highlighting its "no antibiotics ever" policy for the chickens it raises for food. Perdue claims using certain herbs and probiotics as part of its production practices causes them to have less need for antibiotics. Perdue ends their latest commercials and ads with the tagline "It's not the easy way, it's the Perdue way."

To view some of the new ad campaign, visit www.perdue.com/perdue-way/no-antibiotics/.

Seminar for Recent Advances in Understanding BRD

Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory is hosting a one-day seminar at Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension in Amarillo addressing the latest veterinary and research advances to understanding Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD). Topics covered will include population genomics and resistance to BRD; innate immunity and BRD – a new perspective; stress and animal susceptibility to the BRD complex; BRD diagnostics; and nutrition and BRD.

The seminar will be held on Saturday, June 18, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Registration is \$50. This seminar offers attendees 7.5 CEUs. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/BRD-5-27-16>.

Sponsor Spotlight

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

This week's spotlight shines on

Bank of America
Merrill Lynch



Bank of America Merrill Lynch has been a long time sponsor of TCFA and the cattle feeding industry. In fact, the bank in Amarillo has been loaning money to the cattle industry for over 100 years. If you want a bank who understands the cattle business and who has a long standing commitment to the industry, Bank of America is the bank for you. B of A has an expedient approval process and a wide range of financial products that allow them to arrange tailored banking solutions at competitive rates. To see how they can add real value to your business, call one of their agri-business specialists at (806) 463-3911.

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