



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

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# NEWSLETTER

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## **NAMI Measures Economic Impact of U.S. Hides and Skins**

The U.S. hides and skins industry accounts for nearly \$3.4 billion in total economic output, according to a new economic impact analysis conducted by John Dunham and Associates for the North American Meat Institute (NAMI). Exports alone of U.S. hides and skins products, including cattle hides, pig skins and wet blue leather, topped \$2.3 billion in value in 2015. The entire U.S. meat and poultry industry, meanwhile, is responsible for \$1.02 trillion in total economic output, or 5.6 percent of gross domestic product.

Dunham's analysis, which uses data from 2014, is featured on [www.MeatFuelsAmerica.com](http://www.MeatFuelsAmerica.com), where users can view the summary of findings presented nationally, by state or by Congressional district.

To read the full news release from NAMI, visit [www.meat institute.org/ht/display/ReleaseDetails/i/123146](http://www.meat institute.org/ht/display/ReleaseDetails/i/123146).

## **Senate Ag Committee Announces Bipartisan GMO Labeling Proposal**

Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, announced a new bipartisan proposal to protect the use of agriculture biotechnology and to ensure consumers have access to the information they want. According to a news release from the Committee, highlights of the proposal include the following:

- **Pre-emption:** immediately prohibits states or other entities from mandating labels of food or seed that is genetically engineered.
- **National Uniform Standard:** USDA establishes through rulemaking a uniform national disclosure standard for human food that is or may be bioengineered.
- **Disclosure:** requires mandatory disclosure with several options, including text on package, a symbol, or a link to a website (QR code or similar technology); small food manufacturers will be allowed to use websites or telephone numbers to satisfy disclosure requirements; very small manufacturers and restaurants are exempted.
- **Meat:** foods where meat, poultry, and egg products are the main ingredient are exempted. The legislation prohibits the Secretary of Agriculture from considering any food product derived from an animal to be bioengineered solely because the animal may have eaten bioengineered feed.

Though a potential compromise is in reach, there is not enough time for Congress to act on it before the Vermont mandatory GMO labeling law goes into effect on July 1.

To view the full text of the proposal, visit [www.agriculture.senate.gov/ag-biotech-compromise-proposal](http://www.agriculture.senate.gov/ag-biotech-compromise-proposal).

## **New Research on Reducing Salmonella in Meat**

A research team from the University of Nevada, Reno, is studying the uses of bacteriophages to be used to reduce salmonella in meat products. Assistant professor Amilton de Mello with the university's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources recently presented the research at the international American Meat Science Assn. (AMSA) conference.

"We were able to reduce salmonella by as much as 90% in ground poultry, ground pork and ground beef," de Mello reported. "We're excited to be able to show such good results. Food safety is an important part of our work, and salmonella is one of the most prevalent bacteria in the nation's food supply."

To learn more, visit [www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2016/salmonella-reduction-research](http://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2016/salmonella-reduction-research).

## **FDA Issues VFD Transition Reminder Letter**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a letter this week to remind retail establishments that sell medically important antimicrobials for use in feed or water of food animals that the new veterinary feed directive (VFD) would take effect Jan. 1, 2017, transitioning these antimicrobials from over-the-counter status to prescription or VFD status. The letter also provided information to retailers about addressing current and future inventory issues as well as reminded of the state and federal regulations that apply to the sales.

To read the letter from FDA, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FDA-6-24-16>.

### **Subcommittee Explores Agricultural Imagery and Technology**

Rep. Frank Lucas (R-Okla.), Acting Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, held a hearing to educate members about innovations in agricultural imagery and technology. According to a news release from the House Committee on Agriculture, this is the second hearing in a series examining Big Data and its role in agriculture. The subcommittee heard from a variety of stakeholders about using satellites, manned airplanes, and Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones) as a way to collect imagery that farmers can leverage to make better business and conservation decisions for their farms.

"American farmers and ranchers are utilizing technology to produce more and better food and fiber products with fewer inputs than ever before. While the imagery and mapping technology we discussed today paves the way for additional increases in farm productivity and efficiency, it continues to be the foundation on which we administer our farm and conservation programs. I appreciate today's panel of witnesses for sharing their expertise on this important topic, and I look forward to continuing to explore the role of Big Data in agriculture," said Agriculture Committee Chairman K. Michael Conaway (R-Texas).

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/GMO-6-24-16>.

### **Voluntary Conservation Practices Create Large Impact**

The USDA along with the U.S. Geological Survey have published a new study that shows the effectiveness of agricultural voluntary conservation practices in the Upper Mississippi River watershed in reducing nitrogen inputs into area streams and rivers. These practices yielded 5 to 10 percent reductions in nitrogen and 1 to 10 percent reductions for phosphorous. The study is published in *Environmental Science & Technology*.

To read the study, visit <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.est.5b03543>.

### **Hollywood Icons Encouraging Meat Consumption Reduction in China**

Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger and director James Cameron are supporting China's new dietary guidelines, which encourage a 50 percent reduction in meat consumption. Specifically, the new guidelines recommend that each person consume fewer than three ounces of meat and poultry per day. This is being promoted as a means to curb climate change. Schwarzenegger and Cameron are participating in a campaign designed to encourage Chinese consumers to eat less meat in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To view China's latest dietary guidelines, visit <http://dq.en.cnsoc.org/>.

### **FSA County Committee Elections**

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is now accepting nominations for members to sit on FSA county committees. Nominations are open through Aug. 1, 2016. A person may nominate his or herself or anyone of legal voting age who participates or cooperates in an FSA program.

For nominations forms and other information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

### **Cattlemen's Webinar Series**

NCBA's Cattlemen's Webinar Series will feature a free webinar on bridging the generational gap among ranch families. With the future of our industry in mind and many families planning generational leadership transitions, this webinar is designed to help those seeking to ensure good opportunities for the next generation. Donnell and Kelli Brown of the R.A. Brown Ranch in Throckmorton, Texas, will discuss how they were able to successfully bridge the generational gap in their family business, which was founded in 1895.

The webinar will be held Tuesday, June 28, at 7:00 p.m. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/NCBA-6-24-16> to learn more or register.

### **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 Feedyard Members 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](http://www.usrsb.org).

### **Agriculture 40 Under 40 Awards**

Farm Journal Media is accepting nominations for its 2016 40 Under 40 Awards. These awards recognize young leaders in the agriculture industry who are instrumental in meeting the 2050 challenge of feeding our growing world population. Nominees may be submitted from the following categories: produce; production; processors; food safety and research; food transportation; organization or associations; academia; government and allied industry.

Nominees must be 40 years or younger by July 30, 2016, and deadline for nomination is July 31, 2016. To learn more or submit a nomination, visit <http://40under40ag.com/>.

### **Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course**

The 2016 Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course (BCSC) is scheduled for Aug. 1-3 on the Texas A&M University campus in College Station.

Topics to be discussed include animal health, nutrition, reproduction, breeding, genetics, selection, research, marketing and handling. Management sessions will cover business, forage, range and purebred cattle. Topics such as landowner issues and fence building will be featured at this BCSC. Sessions are designed for everyone, from the newest member of the industry to the most seasoned producer. A number of pesticide CEUs, veterinarian CECs and BQA credits are available to attendees.

Registration is \$180 per person and includes educational materials, trade show admittance, admission to the prime rib dinner, lunches, breakfasts and daily refreshments. Registration information and a schedule can be found at <http://beefcattleshortcourse.com>.

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