



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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WTAMU Cattle Cloning Research Results Released

Scientists at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) announced this week the results of a collaborative research project on cattle cloning and beef efficiency that has been in the works since 2012. Researchers successfully cloned a bull (Alpha) from the carcass of a steer that graded Prime, Yield Grade 1, as well as three heifers (Gammas 1, 2 and 3) from one heifer carcass that graded the same. According to the scientists, such a rating is only achieved by about 0.03 percent of all beef carcasses.

Scientists bred the clones through embryo transfer, and the 13 resulting offspring are the first bovine offspring ever produced by cattle from two cloned carcasses. The results of the study analyzed the carcasses of seven of these offspring that were harvested. All seven steers produced a yield grade of 1 or 2 and all had a quality grade of Choice or higher. Collectively compared to the industry average, the clones' offspring have 16 percent less trim fat, 9 percent more ribeye area and 45 percent more marbling. The next step for WTAMU is to compare the Alpha bull to top AI sires from the Angus, Simmental and Charolais breeds. They've exposed 1,300 cows and expect for the calves to be treated generically, right through the feedyard.

To read the full news release from WTAMU, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WTAMU-7-1-16>.

GMO Labeling Bill Set for Senate Vote

The U.S. Senate voted this week 68-29 in favor of voting on the GMO labeling compromise made by Sens. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) and Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) last week. Both Senators are optimistic that the bill will pass the Senate.

"I'm pleased with the outcome of tonight's procedural vote," said Roberts. "The Senate stood up for America's farmers, ranchers, consumers and sound science. I look forward to the Senate acting next week."

To read the proposal being considered, visit <http://tinyurl.com/GMO1-7-1-16>.

House Ag Committee Releases CFTC Literature Review

The House Agriculture Committee released a literature review authored by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's (CFTC) Office of the Chief Economist. According to a news release from the Committee, the review provides an analysis of the current state of economic research on position limits and was never finalized nor circulated to the full Commission, because CFTC Chairman Timothy Massad said the document was never intended for public consumption.

Upon making the literature review publicly available through the Congressional Record, Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas) said, "Having reviewed the literature review, I respectfully disagree with Chairman Massad's characterization of it. This document is much more than a summary of studies submitted during the comment period; it also is a wide-ranging examination of how to define excessive speculation, how to measure it, and how it may impact markets."

This information will now be available for public and policy consideration of CFTC position limits prior to the closure of the comment period on July 13. To view the letters exchanged between CFTC and the Committee, the cover memo and the full literature review, visit <http://tinyurl.com/CFTC-7-1-16>.

Beef Loving Texans Advertising Launch

The Texas Beef Council (TBC) is seeking producer support in the launch of its consumer-facing advertising campaign for Beef Loving Texans. The campaign consists of billboards across the state, a two-page spread in *Texas Monthly*, television commercial and Pandora radio ad. TBC is asking producers to post their "sightings" of Beef Loving Texans advertising on social media using the hashtags #BeefLovingTexans and #TxBeefCheckoff. Of those who do this, TBC will select a prize winner every Friday throughout the month of July to win a Beef Loving Texans 24 ounce Yeti® tumbler.

To view the television commercial, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TBC-7-1-16>.

2016 Junior Fed Beef Career & Leadership Program

The 2016 Junior Fed Beef Career and Leadership Program was held June 27-29. Hosted with Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension and West Texas A&M University, the Junior Fed Beef Career and Leadership Program, also known as Feedyard Camp, is designed for high school juniors and seniors with an interest in pursuing a career in the fed beef industry. Students must go through an application process to be selected to participate in the program. This year's program consisted of 22 total students – 19 from across the state of Texas and one student each from Alabama, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Throughout the three-day program, students observed a necropsy, visited a feedyard, toured a beef processing facility, received media training, fabricated their own steaks, toured the WTAMU Research Feedlot and Nance Ranch, gained knowledge from a feedyard industry professional panel, visited the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory and more.

TCFA sponsors help make this event possible by providing the meals for students during camp. Thank you to the following companies for your support of Feedyard Camp: Animal Health International; Bayer HealthCare; Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.; Capital Farm Credit; Elanco Animal Health; Merial, Ltd.; Micro Technologies; Norbrook, Inc.; and Sweet Bran.



Attendees are pictured at Dawn Custom Cattle Feeders with TCFA Chairman David Baumann. Left to right: Ben Burandt, Perryton; Madi Merydith, Booker; Wilsey Wendler, College Station; Delynne Freelove, Booker; Shay Hess, Stratford; Kaden Anthony, Satanta, Kan.; Weston Hollowell, Booker; Tyler Schuster, Brakettville; Lane Gaston, Saint Jo; Lauren Lee, Hamilton; Hadley White, Friona; Sheridan Shallene, Paradise; Hunter Robinson, Five Points, Ala.; Abby Homeyer, Caldwell; J. Burns Cowley, Meyersville; Jett Cabler, Spur; Garrett Fry, Spur; Garrett Pearce, Gatesville; Dylan Staerke, Enid, Okla.; Stephen Sell, Booker; and Kye Miller, Booker. Not pictured: Braden Hillery, Wichita Falls.

TCFA Summer Meeting

TCFA's Board of Directors and committee members met last week at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso, N.M., to evaluate progress on committee goals and discuss industry issues. Featured speakers included Laura Kahn, M.D., from Princeton University, who discussed antimicrobial resistance, and Richard Wortham, Executive Vice President of the Texas Beef Council, who updated the group on the state beef checkoff. TCFA thanks all members who took time to attend the meetings.

Saudi Arabia Reportedly to Lift Ban on U.S. Beef

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) has reportedly lifted the temporary ban on import of beef and beef products from the U.S. and Poland as well as beef and mutton imports from Spain, according to an article from the *Saudi Gazette*. The U.S. has been in discussions with the Saudi government since 2012 to end the ban, and in 2015, a royal decree outlined the conditions to move toward that goal. According the U.S. Meat Export Federation, this move could restore beef trade relations worth \$30 million annually to U.S. producers.

Nobel Laureates Urge Greenpeace to End GMO Opposition

This week over 100 Nobel laureates signed a letter to Greenpeace, urging the organization to end its opposition toward genetically modified organisms (GMO). The primary crop in question was "Golden Rice," which Greenpeace has actively worked to oppose and keep from being commercialized. This crop has the capability to reduce Vitamin-A deficiencies (VAD) for malnourished children in the developing world. According to the World Health Organization, 250 million people suffer from VAD, including 40 percent of children under five in the developing world. VAD is the leading cause of childhood blindness affecting 250,000-500,000 children annually. Of those, 50 percent die within 12 months of losing their eyesight.

An excerpt from the letter reads, "We call upon Greenpeace to cease and desist in its campaign against Golden Rice specifically, and crops and foods improved through biotechnology in general."

To read the full article from the *Washington Post*, visit <http://tinyurl.com/GMO2-7-1-16>. To read the letter and learn more about the Nobel laureates' campaign, visit <http://tinyurl.com/SPA-7-1-16>.

OSU Extension Cattle Conference

The Merck Animal Health and Oklahoma State University (OSU) Cooperative Extension Cattle Conference will be held on July 16 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Grady County Fairgrounds and Event Center in Chickasha, Okla. International cattle handling and stockmanship expert Tom Noffsinger, DVM, will headline the event. Other speakers include Gant Mourer, OSU Extension Beef Cattle Value Enhancement Specialist and Tim Parks, DVM, Merck Animal Health Tech Service.

RSVP is required by July 11. To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/7-1-16-OSU>.

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.

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 nomination forms and other information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

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>.

Independence Day Holiday

The TCFA office will be closed Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. We wish you a safe and happy holiday with your families.

