



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Beef Industry Leaders Complete Summer Business Meeting

TCFA leaders joined over 700 cattle producers from across the nation last week in Denver for NCBA's 2016 Summer Conference. Led by TCFA Chairman David Baumann, Chairman-Elect Jim Lovell and Vice Chairman Jason Peeler, TCFA members participated in numerous committee meetings and the Saturday board meeting to create the framework for policy, as well as revisit existing policy, and checkoff efforts on behalf of U.S. cattle producers for the year ahead.

The NCBA Board of Directors adopted a policy resolution, submitted by TCFA, stating that NCBA:

- utilize all avenues to maintain beef cattle producers' ability to utilize polyether ionophores and develop strategies with input from all stakeholders;
- work to educate consumers, retailers, policy makers and other interested parties that polyether ionophores are not considered to be medically important to humans and;
- support separate reporting by FDA and other agencies of polyether ionophores and other antimicrobials that are not medically important to humans from those that are medically important to humans.

NCBA also adopted policies supporting:

- a Livestock Marketing Association effort to modernize GIPSA rules to allow for electronic payment and regulation of online auctions;
- physical delivery on the CME Live Cattle contract and efforts to improve the process, and;
- state-certified scales, owned by persons not subject to the Act, to be legal for use by cattlemen, dealers and market agencies to establish the sale weight of livestock.

In addition, the NCBA Board adopted a directive submitted by TCFA instructing staff to continue working to determine the impacts of high frequency trading of Live and Feeder Cattle futures markets and to aggressively continue efforts to work with the CFTC and others on securing a confidential review and analysis of audit trail data in 2016.

Additional priorities that were discussed include the necessary passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Environmental Protection Agency's overarching waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule.

"This week showcased how the industry comes together to tackle critical issues like market volatility, expanding international markets, and the increasing federal regulations we see out of Washington, D.C.," said Tracy Brunner, NCBA president. "It was a great week in Denver for the cattle industry."

Legislation to Change Checkoff Programs Introduced in the Senate

Last week, Sens. Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.) jointly introduced the Commodity Checkoff Program Improvement Act of 2016 (S. 3201) in the Senate. The bill proposes to:

- prohibit checkoff programs from contracting with any organization that lobbies on agricultural policy;
- prohibit employees and agents of the checkoff boards from engaging in activities that may involve a conflict of interest;
- establish uniform standards for checkoff programs that prohibit anticompetitive activity, unfair or deceptive acts, or any act or practice that may be disparaging to another agricultural commodity or product;
- require transparency through publication of checkoff program budgets and expenditures, periodic audits of compliance with the act by the USDA Inspector General, Government Accountability Office audit of checkoff board compliance, and a report with further recommendations related to checkoff programs.

In conjunction, Sen. Lee introduced a second bill, the Voluntary Checkoff Program Participation Act (S. 3200) late last week. This bill proposes to remove the current mandatory requirement for producers to participate in checkoff programs, allowing farmers and ranchers to participate at their discretion.

With a limited amount of time left during this Congress, it is highly unlikely that these bills will be considered.

Additionally, the USDA Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) has proposed changes to both the beef and soybean checkoff programs that would allow producers in certain states to send their full assessment to the national program rather than a qualified state board or council. According to an AMS news release, producers may request that their assessments be redirected from the state organization to the national program if their state law does not require assessments be submitted to a state board or council; or their state law requires assessments but allows for refunds.

Comments on the proposed rule may be submitted at www.regulations.gov no later than Sept. 13, 2016. To view the proposed rule, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AMS-7-22-16>.

TCFA is currently reviewing the proposed rule and working with other groups to determine its potential impact in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Lesser Prairie Chicken Delisted from Endangered Species Act

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has officially fulfilled a court ruling by removing the lesser prairie-chicken from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife under the Endangered Species Act. This action comes following a decision by the Fish and Wildlife Service to not appeal the decision of Judge Junell in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, who overturned the Obama administration's 2014 listing of the lesser prairie-chicken as a threatened species.

GOP Platform Addresses Agriculture Policy

The GOP platform, adopted at this week's Republican National Convention, includes a number of position statements on U.S. agriculture policy, including international trade, livestock and dairy issues, over-regulation of food production, the farm bill and crop insurance.

Feedstuffs published an analysis of the GOP platform on each of these issues as well as some statements from Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

To read the article, visit <http://tinyurl.com/RNC-7-22-16>.

FDA Addresses Food Safety in New Plan

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released its Foods and Veterinary Medicine (FVM) Program's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2016-2025, which outlines the administration's goals and objectives for the next 10 years. An article from *Drover's* analyzed the plan and summarized the strategies related to food safety.

Those specific strategies include:

- Establish and gain high rates of compliance with science-based preventive control standards across the global farm-to-table continuum.
- Improve prevention, detection and response to foodborne illness outbreaks and other food and feed safety incidents. This includes an enhanced effort to assess the root cause of outbreaks and ensure that knowledge gained from these assessments is incorporated in future prevention efforts.
- Strengthen the ability of consumers to play a proactive role in minimizing food safety risks.
- Enhance the safety of food and feed additives and dietary supplements.
- Strengthen existing partnerships with international, federal, state, local, tribal and territorial agencies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the FDA's food safety program for government and industry.

To read *Drover's* full analysis, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FDA-7-22-16>. To read the FDA's new plan, visit <http://tinyurl.com/7-22-16-FDA>.

Animal Agriculture Alliance Releases Report on HSUS Conference

The Animal Agriculture Alliance sent participants to the Taking Action for Animals conference hosted by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). There were approximately 1,000 in attendance at the conference that took place in Arlington, Va., last week.

The Alliance said that recurring themes throughout the conference included the use of religion to promote an animal rights agenda and impacting the food industry by pushing restaurants and retailers to adopt restrictive policies that ultimately do not improve animal well-being although they do raise the cost of animal care and in turn increase food prices for consumers.

To read the full news release, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AAA-7-22-16>.

Several Food Companies Announce Antibiotic-Free Claims

This week, several restaurants and food companies announced that they would begin selling certain meats exclusively from animals raised without the use of antibiotics. Campbell Soup Co. announced that it would begin transitioning to antibiotic-free chicken with the goal of completing the transition by the end of 2018. Pizza

chains Papa Murphy's and Papa John's both made announcements this week that they would begin serving chicken raised without antibiotics. Lastly, Noodles & Company has introduced a Korean beef dish with steak from cattle "never given antibiotics or hormones and fed a vegetarian diet."

VFD Webinar Archived Video Available

A webinar covering changes to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) from last week has been archived and is now available for online viewing. This webinar is intended to help producers, feed mills and veterinarians be prepared and have all the information necessary to effectively implement VFDs.

To view the archived webinar, visit <http://tinyurl.com/VFD-7-22-16>.

AVMA Launches Animal Health Database

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has launched the AVMA Animal Health Studies Database to connect veterinarians and animal owners to a database of veterinary clinical studies. The database is a free, searchable online tool.

"It will be an important tool for researchers seeking veterinary patients eligible for enrollment in their clinical studies," said AVMA president Dr. Joe Kinnarney. "Veterinarians and animal owners will find the information provided in these clinical studies helpful in exploring options for treatment."

To access the database, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AVMA-7-22-16>.

Governor Fallin Declares State of Emergency for 35 Oklahoma Counties

Due to recent severe storms, Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin has declared a state of emergency for the next 30 days to allow state agencies to make emergency purchases related to disaster relief. The following counties are covered by the declaration: Adair, Beckham, Caddo, Canadian, Cherokee, Craig, Creek, Garfield, Grady, Grant, Haskell, Kay, Kingfisher, Latimer, LeFlore, Lincoln, Logan, Mayes, McCurtain, McIntosh, Muskogee, Noble, Nowata, Okmulgee, Osage, Pawnee, Payne, Pittsburg, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa, Wagoner and Washington.

For more information, visit www.sos.ok.gov/documents/filelog/91237.pdf.

Culver's Hosts #FarmingFridays Social Media Campaign

Culver's restaurant chain, known for their "Thank You Farmers" advertisements, is hosting a social media campaign called #FarmingFridays. Each week features a different agricultural person or group to share their story. Others can join in on the conversation by asking questions or posting about their farm simply by using the hashtag. The event began June 24 and will end August 5. This week's featured farmers are Troy and Stacy Hadrick, South Dakota beef producers.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2016-FarmingFridays>.

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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Texas Cattle Feeders Association

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