



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Oklahoma Supreme Court Ruling Keeps State Question 777 on November Ballot

The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled this week that proposed Constitutional Amendment State Question 777, also known as “Right to Farm,” will stay on the November ballot. This ruling came after a legal challenge was brought by Save the Illinois River, Rep. Jason Dunnington (D-Oklahoma City), Ed Brocksmith and John Leonard, who sought to have it removed from the ballot on grounds that it was unconstitutional.

The justices wrote in reference to the ruling, “Here, the district court dismissed the petition by granting the Appellees’ motion to dismiss on the grounds that State Question 777 was not facially unconstitutional, effectively dismissing the petition. Accordingly, we affirm the district court’s dismissal of the case, but do so on the basis that the district court should have abstained from the addressing legislative referendum before voted on by the people.”

To read the full legal ruling, visit <http://tinyurl.com/OCS8-12>.

Researchers Developing Bacteria-Resistant Surface Coatings

According to a report from a recent Institute of Food Technologists symposium, researchers are investigating special coatings that can be applied to surfaces that are more resistant to bacteria than other surfaces currently being used.

“Manufacturers already work diligently to keep their facilities clean, but we are creating materials that are even less likely to harbor bad bugs,” says Julie Goddard, an associate professor in the department of food science at Cornell University. “We have designed new polymer coatings that can be applied to food processing surfaces that resist microbial adhesion and can actually inactivate any microbes that do adhere, preventing them from growing and potentially contaminating our food supply.”

Goddard says that these coatings are still in the research phase but may be commercially available within a few years. One coating being tested has been shown to inactivate 99.999 percent of *Listeria monocytogenes*.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/BRS8-12>.

USDA Confirms Countries for Negligible BSE Risk

USDA’s Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recognized this week 14 countries for their negligible risk status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in agreement with their status with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). These countries include Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, India, Korea (Republic of), Hungary, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovakia and Switzerland.

A notice has been published in the *Federal Register* for review at <http://tinyurl.com/8-12-BSER>.

Universities Partner to Create Animal Feed Database

Twenty-one land-grant universities and partner organizations are working together to create a database that will help researchers, producers and others involved with food animal production make better informed decisions on feed. Thus far, the program has collected 1.5 million feed ingredient records and sorted the into the database. This database is created in partnership with the National Animal Nutrition Program.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AFD8-12>.

Obama Administration Finalizes CEQ Guidance on the Consideration of Climate Change Impacts

According to a press release late last week, President Obama’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued final guidance on how federal agencies should consider greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the effects of climate change when reviewing Federal action projects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

While the final guidance is intended to help agencies make informed and transparent decisions about the impacts of climate change associated with their actions, it serves as another big step in the Obama Administration's effort to focus on GHG emissions from all types of operations through permits issued by federal agencies in an attempt to impact climate change

To read the full press release and the final guidance, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WH8-12>.

Texas Animal Health Commission Announces State Epidemiologist

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is proud to announce Dr. Susan Rollo as Texas State Epidemiologist. Dr. Rollo previously served as the Zoonosis Control Veterinarian for the Department of State Health Services in Houston. She attended Texas Tech University for her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in zoology and biology, respectively. She then attended Texas A&M University where she received a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and a PhD in biomedical science.

"I am confident that Dr. Rollo will provide excellent leadership as State Epidemiologist," said Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC Executive Director. "Dr. Rollo has served the agency since 2014, has a proven work ethic, and is highly respected by those in animal agriculture industries throughout Texas. We look forward to her serving in this capacity."

To read Dr. Rollo's full bio, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TAHC8-12>.

Beef Cattle Short Course Holds Record Attendance

The Texas A&M University Beef Cattle Short Course, held the first week of August, posted a record attendance this year of 1,900 producers representing 24 states and eight countries. Attendees had the opportunity to learn from experts in various different areas of the beef industry, with a major focus being markets.

To learn more about the topics covered at this year's Short Course, visit <http://tinyurl.com/BCSC8-12>.

August Food Safety Modernization Act Seminar Takes Place in Oklahoma City

The Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association and National Grain and Feed Association will host a Food Safety Modernization Act Seminar aiming to provide analysis and answer questions about the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Safety Modernizations Act (FSMA) regulations that apply to domestic and foreign facilities that manufacture, process, pack or store animal feed as well as pet food. In addition, the seminar will provide an update on the status of FDA's antimicrobial resistance policies and its impact on medicated feed manufacturers.

Note that cattle feedyards and their feedmills are not subject to FSMA unless they produce and sell feed for use outside of their operation.

The seminar will take place in Oklahoma City on Tuesday, Aug. 30. The advance registration deadline is Aug. 16. For more information or to view the registration form, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FSMA8-12>.

W.D. Farr Scholarship Accepting Applications

The National Cattlemen's Foundation is accepting applications for the W.D. Farr Scholarships for the 2016-17 school year. The scholarship was established by the National Cattlemen's Foundation to honor the successful career of the late W.D. Farr. Two annual \$12,000 grants will be awarded to outstanding graduate students that demonstrate superior achievement in academics and leadership and will allow the students to further their study in fields that benefit the cattle and beef industry.

Applications are due Aug. 31. To learn more or to apply, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2016-WDFarr>.

2016 World Steak Challenge

The 2016 World Steak Challenge contest is set up to provide a quick and easy way for countries and steak producers to benchmark their steak production on the world stage. The contest seeks to find the world's best beef steak producers. It celebrates beef as part of a healthy, balanced diet and works to highlight the producers who raise beef. The contest is open to beef producers, processors, wholesalers and others involved in the beef supply chain. This is the second year for the contest. Last year's grand prize winner was from Australia, but four U.S. entries placed at either the gold or silver levels.

Submissions are due by Sept. 2 with a video announcement of the winners on Sept. 22. To learn more about the contest, visit www.worldsteakchallenge.com/.

Labor and Employment Law Seminar

The 15th Annual Labor and Employment Law Seminar will be held at Amarillo National Bank's Plaza II Conference Room on Sept. 22, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and finishing at 3:30 p.m. Featured speakers will include Kevin Hazelwood, Vice President of Human Resources at Cactus Feeders, Inc.; Molly Manning, Partner at Mullin Hoard and Brown; Michelle Bryson, Owner of Fugua-Bryson Benefits Group; Chip McCampbell, SPHR, HR Director for Bruckner's Truck Sales; and Hillary LaManna, PHR, GPHR, HR Director for Bask Tek LLC. Topics to be covered in the program, among others, include:

- Labor and employment law updates with a focus on a variety of current topics including changes to wage and hour compliance, protecting confidential information, disability law, employee leave issues and immigration;
- Employer Provided Health Insurance and the Affordable Care Act; and
- Labor and Employment law issues and successor liability arising from mergers and acquisitions.

Program cost is \$55, and group discounts are available. Contact Lori Ingram at lingram@mhba.com for more information or to register for the event.

Sponsor Spotlight

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

This week's spotlight shines on



Capital Farm Credit is a member-owned cooperative, providing financing to cattle feeders, feed yards, agribusinesses, farm operators, rural landowners and homeowners throughout Texas. They embrace their cooperative structure and their commitment to return profits to their members. Through their patronage program, they return nearly 100 percent of their net earnings back to their members in the form of cash and allocated equities – a distinct benefit of doing business with them. Providing agricultural loans has been their specialty for 100 years. With nearly 70 office locations throughout Texas, their professional lending staff can tailor a loan package to fit your needs. Visit www.CapitalFarmCredit.com, or contact Scot Vidrine at (512) 920-6058 or Casey Cook at (806) 676-9685 for your all of your agribusiness financing needs.

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