



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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TCFA Members Participate in Palo Duro II Exercise

TCFA partnered with other agriculture associations, government officials, regulatory agencies, public safety officials, agricultural producers and many others to test the Panhandle area's preparedness for a potential future foreign animal disease outbreak. The exercise focused on 10 key objectives, some of which included coordination of command and control, cleaning and disinfection of vehicles, stopping movement of livestock, permitted movement of livestock, administration of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine to impacted livestock, impact on domestic and international beef demand, lack of access to international markets and economic consequences for the livestock industry, communities, the Texas Panhandle, the State of Texas and the U.S.

"The exercise successfully evaluated current foreign animal disease response plans that have been developed by federal, state and local government agencies, as well as biosecurity and business continuity plans for livestock operations and supporting industries," said TCFA Vice President Ben Weinheimer. "The outcomes of the exercise demonstrated that significant progress in planning and preparedness has been made since the first Palo Duro Exercise was held in 2007."

Several of the agencies and organizations that participated in the exercise along with TCFA members and staff included: the Federal Emergency Management Agency, USDA APHIS Veterinary Services, Texas Animal Health Commission, Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, Panhandle Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee, City of Amarillo, Texas Pork Producers Association, Texas Association of Dairymen, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and West Texas A&M University.

TCFA will continue to be actively engaged on this issue and work to improve preparedness and biosecurity measures alongside other stakeholders.

Trump Announces Agricultural Advisory Committee

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump announced his agricultural advisory committee this week, comprised of 64 individuals representing various sectors of the agriculture industry. Among those appointed are Bar-G Feedyard CEO Johnny Trotter, rancher Helen Groves of the King Ranch, former NCBA President Steve Foglesong, U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway, U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin, former Texas Governor Rick Perry, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller, Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese and Oklahoma Senate Ag and Rural Development Subcommittee Chairman Eddie Fields.

To view Trump's full list, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Trump-8-19-16>.

EPA Has Not Met Certain Statutory Requirements to Identify Environmental Impacts of RFS

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Research and Development has not complied with the requirement to provide a report every three years to Congress on the impacts of biofuels, according to EPA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG). The EPA provided a report to Congress in 2011, but has not provided subsequent reports as required. The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) requires reporting an objective analysis on the environmental impacts and unintended consequences of U.S. biofuel policy. According to the OIG, the EPA does not have an assessment that meets the requirement to identify what impacts RFS creates.

To read more from the OIG, visit <http://tinyurl.com/RFS-8-19-16>.

Fed Cattle Exchange to Resume

Superior Livestock Auction announced that the return of web-based fed cattle trading platform, Fed Cattle Exchange, will be Wednesday, Sept. 14 at 10:00 a.m. According to Superior, this brief suspension of internet trading allowed program developers to work with buyers and sellers ensuring the most effective and dependable format of market trading available. The goal of the Fed Cattle Exchange is to provide the industry with more transactions to consider when determining the average cash price of market-ready fed cattle.

To learn more, visit <http://fedcattleexchange.com/>.

Study Analyzes Farm-Use Antibiotics and Resistant Bacteria Relationship

A recent study published in *Critical Reviews in Food Science & Nutrition* reviewed 195 articles from the last five years from the U.S., Canada and Denmark that analyzed the effects of antimicrobial use in farm animals on campylobacteriosis in humans. The researchers found no conclusive evidence of a definitive link between the use of antibiotics in food producing animals and the emergence of antibiotic-resistant campylobacter.

“There is still much more research to be done. The agriculture and health care industries, along with the scientific community and government regulatory agencies, must work collaboratively with the human health community in order to ensure safe, humane and affordable food sources to the public,” lead scientist Dr. M.A. McCrackin said.

To view the study, visit <http://tinyurl.com/CRFSN-8-19-16>.

Exporters Encourage Proactive West Coast Port Negotiations

Due to delayed contract negotiations causing a gridlock on the West Coast ports in 2015, slowing and disrupting trade of major U.S. commodities, 125 organizations have signed a letter urging the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association to begin early contract discussions to prevent such an event from occurring again. The current contract doesn't expire for three more years, but the signing organizations hope that early action will help to avoid the delays that occurred in 2015. Signers of the letter include the U.S. Meat Export Federation, North American Meat Institute and the Meat Importers Council of America.

To read the full letter, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NAMI-8-19-16>.

USMEF Hosts Event Showcasing U.S. Beef in South Africa

The U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) hosted its first South Africa Seminary and Buyers Reception this week to meet and network with beef and pork importers. Earlier this year, South Africa reopened its market to accept U.S. beef for the first time since 2003, so this event gave U.S. exporters the opportunity to showcase the features of high-quality U.S. beef. According to USMEF Senior Vice President Dan Halstrom, the interest level among buyers in the region is very high.

OIE Introduces One Health Web Portal

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has launched a new online portal as a part of its One Health concept that features tools for stakeholders to utilize in controlling worldwide animal health risks. One Health works to connect human and animal health professionals and stresses their interdependence in tackling many health issues. The portal will host fact sheets, explanatory tools, videos, press releases and information on events related to One Health.

To visit the portal, visit www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/onehealth/.

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 Fuqua-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.

Farmers' Almanac Farmer of the Year Contest

Farmers' Almanac, along with the American Farm Bureau Federation, has announced its search for three farmers or ranchers to be recognized as "Farmer of the Year." The contest is seeking farmers and ranchers of all kinds who work to bring food to America's tables.

Nominations will be accepted through Jan. 31, 2017, and will be announced in the *2018 Farmers' Almanac*. To learn more or submit a nomination, visit <http://farmersalmanac.com/FarmeroftheYear/>.

Feeders and Feedyards in the News

Wesley and Susie Spurlock of the **Early Settlers Farm** hosted a Field to Fork dinner at their farm in Sherman County, Texas. This dinner aimed to bridge the gap between agricultural producers and consumers. Attendees feasted on a meal of all Texas grown foods as they learned how those foods were produced.

To learn more about the event, visit <http://texascorn.org/2016/08/field-to-fork-food/>.

Sponsor Spotlight

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

This week's spotlight shines on



Boehringer Ingelheim

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For more information, contact your local Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica cattle representative or visit www.bi-vetmedica.com/.

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Texas Cattle Feeders Association

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