



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

---

# NEWSLETTER

---

5501 I-40 W. • AMARILLO, TEXAS • PHONE (806) 358-3681 • [www.tcfa.org](http://www.tcfa.org) • [info@tcfa.org](mailto:info@tcfa.org)

Volume 50, Number 36

September 9, 2016

## **TCFA Annual Convention – Register Today!**

Registration for the 2016 TCFA Annual Convention is now open! This year's Convention will be held Nov. 6-8 at the Omni Fort Worth Hotel in Fort Worth, Texas. The program will offer dynamic speakers delivering crucial information to beef producers, and as always, there will be plenty of opportunities to make memories and have a great time. Visit [www.tcfa.org/news-events/convention.html](http://www.tcfa.org/news-events/convention.html) to register.

This year's Convention has outstanding and unforgettable speakers in store. The keynote speaker is Paul DePodesta, Chief Strategy Officer for the Cleveland Browns and subject of the movie, "Moneyball." DePodesta's proven skills with data analysis and application are very relatable to the decisions made in the beef industry on a daily basis. You also won't want to miss Dr. Laura Kahn of Princeton University with her common sense approach and explanation of antimicrobial resistance and related research. Hear from Peter Zeihan with his immense knowledge of geopolitical relationships, benefiting many industries as they profit from world trade. Zeihan's experience and expertise gained by working with private industry and government agencies have led him to create his own successful company, Zeihan on Geopolitics. CattleFax CEO Randy Blach will deliver his always popular cattle and commodity market outlook to help give some insight to current market volatility.

"TCFA Convention is one of the industry's best events year in and year out. We have an incredible event planned for you this year, and I hope you will take advantage of all Convention has to offer," said TCFA Chairman David Baumann of Dawn Custom Cattle Feeders. "As TCFA's 2016 Chairman, it is my honor to invite you to join me at Convention. We need individuals from all different sectors of the beef industry, and agriculture as a whole, engaged and working together for our future."

Also, take advantage of the events and tours that Convention offers. Start off by attending a Dallas Mavericks game with your closest cattle feeding friends. Join the BEEF-PAC Feeders 500 Club for an exclusive opportunity to attend a reception at the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame. Choose from exciting tour options of visiting Ben E. Keith/Winn Meat Co. and Deen Meat Co.; historical downtown bus tour of Fort Worth/Stockyards and a stop by the Sid Richardson Museum; or tour the home of the Dallas Cowboys at AT&T Stadium. Following the tours Monday evening, enjoy a rip-roaring good time with America's favorite 80's cover band, The Spazmatics, at the Cattle Feeders Get Together and BEEF-PAC Auction.

TCFA is offering an incentive to those attendees who register early. Those registered by Sept. 28 will be entered in a drawing to win an Ozark cooler, so don't delay! Visit the TCFA website for more details on registration and the full Convention schedule at [www.tcfa.org/news-events/convention.html](http://www.tcfa.org/news-events/convention.html).

## **Agricultural Air Quality Task Force Met this Week**

The USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force (AAQTF) met this week in Sacramento to discuss issues and make recommendations to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. The task force is composed of representatives from industry, agriculture, academia, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and other agricultural and environmental experts. In January 2016, Vilsack appointed new members to the AAQTF for the 2016-2018 term, including TCFA Vice President Ben Weinheimer.

The AAQTF promotes USDA research efforts and identifies cost-effective ways the agriculture industry can improve air quality. It also helps better coordinate activities and resources among USDA agencies and other federal partners such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

At the meeting this week, the task force heard updates from EPA, NRCS, ARS, Forest Service and other federal agencies. Subcommittees were formed to continue work between meetings in the areas of air quality standards and regulations, reactive nitrogen and climate change/GHGs.

Originally established by the 1996 Farm Bill, the task force is charged with: 1) advising the Secretary of Agriculture on air quality and its relationship to agriculture based on sound scientific findings; 2) reviewing research on agricultural air quality supported by federal agencies; 3) promoting intergovernmental (federal, state, local and tribal) coordination in establishing agricultural air quality policy to avoid duplication of efforts; and 4) ensuring that air quality conservation practices supported by USDA are based on peer reviewed research and are economically feasible for agricultural producers.

### **Industry Groups File WOTUS Petition**

NCBA and several other agriculture groups have filed a petition with the U.S. Supreme Court in an effort to encourage a decision on which court will be the first to hear the waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule lawsuit, specifically noting that the District Court option is the legally correct choice as opposed to the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit court of Appeals. However, recently the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit claimed jurisdiction in the case based on a fractured (1-1-1) decision. According to NCBA, the law clearly supports the WOTUS lawsuit starting at the District Court, which the referenced petition strongly notes.

### **Beef Checkoff Updates Education Resources**

The beef checkoff has launched an updated beef resources web page dedicated to sharing nationally focused beef-education tools with teachers, volunteers, farmers and ranchers. The site also features a new video highlighting the checkoff-funded 2016 On the Farm STEM event and its impact on STEM coordinators across all levels of education. The site offers information on the STEM event as well as everyday resources for teachers interested in integrating beef education into their curriculums.

Visit the site at <http://agfoundation.org/on-the-farm>.

### **OSU Extension Releases SQ777 Fact Sheet**

Dr. Shannon Ferrell and Dr. Larry Sanders of Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service released a fact sheet on the proposed State Question 777 (SQ777), or Oklahoma's Right to Farm, to help voters make an informed decision on Election Day. The Extension Service has researched the potential outcomes of SQ777, and those are included in the fact sheet, as well as answering several legal questions that could be associated with the outcome of the vote.

To view the document, visit <http://tinyurl.com/OSU-9-9-16>.

### **USDA Announces Agricultural Innovation Investment**

USDA announced this week that it would be investing \$26.6 million into 45 projects intended to spur innovative conservation initiatives on both rural and urban farms across the country. The funded projects focus on water quality, conservation finance and assistance to historically underserved USDA customers.

"The Conservation Innovation Grant program is a highly competitive conservation grant program that helps put the very best conservation tools to work on privately held farms and forests, for maximum environmental impact," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USDA-9-9-16>.

### **NIFA/ARS to Host Animal Health Webinar Series**

USDA's National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA) and Agricultural Research Service (ARS) are hosting a webinar series to identify, discuss and prioritize the most pressing research, education and extension needs of animal health stakeholders. There will be 13 total webinars available beginning Oct. 20 and ending Nov. 15. These will cover various food animal species including a beef-specific webinar, which will take place Oct. 25 and will feature Daniel Grooms, DVM, PhD, DACVM.

To learn more or to register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NIFA-9-9-16>.

### **FAO Launches Tool to Calculate GHG Emissions**

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released a tool to help farmers calculate greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions in food animal production to help increase efficiency and environmental friendliness. The tool is the Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model Interactive (GLEAM-i). The program includes variables related to geographic regions, quantity and species of livestock, feed ingredients, environmental management practices and animal housing type.

To learn more about GLEAM-i, visit [www.fao.org/gleam/en/](http://www.fao.org/gleam/en/).

## Sponsor Spotlight

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

This week's spotlight shines on



Elanco's comprehensive food animal product and service offering enables them to partner with customers to help them solve their greatest business challenges in the following key areas: **Health Management** offers a holistic approach to preventing and managing disease, and reducing future threats to food safety; **Feed Management** ensures animals receive the nutrients they need to grow to their full potential, while managing resource inputs efficiently; **Output Management** powered by Elanco Knowledge Solutions data, monitors and optimizes animal health and productivity, and drives business success; and **Access** powered by *Elanco Global Market Access/Elanco Pulse Institute*, enables confident business decision-making as customers seek to expand their businesses to markets around the world.

This comprehensive set of animal health products and knowledge services empowers food producers, veterinarians and all food chain customers to advance their business and help address the demand for a safe, affordable, abundant food supply.

In the beef industry, Elanco works to demonstrate what they call Full Value Beef™ – partnering with their customers to better understand their businesses and provide meaningful solutions. Elanco delivers value in this health management space through vaccines, antibiotics, implants, analytics and technical support. For more information, visit [www.elanco.us/why](http://www.elanco.us/why).

This copyrighted material is the property of TCFA and is intended for the use of TCFA members only. It may not be redistributed, transmitted, stored or reproduced, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of TCFA. The information contained in this material is believed to be reliable and correct, and the views expressed reflect judgments at this time and are subject to change without notice. TCFA does not warrant or guarantee that the information is complete, comprehensive or accurate and it should not be relied upon as such.

**Texas Cattle Feeders Association**

**September 9, 2016**