

TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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USDA Moves Forward with Flawed GIPSA Rules

NCBA received a letter on Thursday from the USDA, acknowledging that the agency would continue the rulemaking process on the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Act (GIPSA) competition rule. The rule was originally proposed in 2010 and was strongly opposed by TCFA and other agriculture groups due to the negative effects it would have on beef, pork and poultry producers.

“While we have not had a chance to review the rules, we are unaware of any changes to competitive injury and undue preference provisions that would alleviate our concerns that producer marketing opportunities would be put at risk,” said TCFA Chairman David Baumann. “With no evidence of economic harm required to claim preference, the rules would allow bureaucrats to subjectively determine preferential treatment.”

While USDA notes they will exclude marketing arrangements from the interim final rules, these provisions are outweighed by the competitive injury provisions of the GIPSA rule that do not require a showing of injury in order to claim a violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

“TCFA, NCBA and other groups will draft comments and continue to work with Congress to block implementation of the rule,” Baumann said.

To read the full letter, visit <http://tinyurl.com/GIPSA-10-14-16>.

WTAMU Breaks Ground on Agricultural Sciences Complex

West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) broke ground Friday morning on a new 140,000 square foot Agricultural Sciences Complex. The facility will provide classrooms, labs and offices, as well as a state-of-the-art meats lab, a multi-purpose arena with seating for up to 500 people and a pavilion.

“We are excited about the addition of the new Agricultural Sciences Complex to our campus and so grateful to The Texas A&M University System, the Texas Legislature and the many industry leaders who have supported this project,” said Dr. Walter Wendler, University president. “We look forward to the many opportunities it will offer our students as well as the many collaborations for research and real-world experiences with industry professionals.”

The new complex is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2018. To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WTAMU-10-14-16>.

Brazilian Beef to Arrive in Philadelphia Port

The first 57,000 pounds of beef to arrive in the U.S. from Brazil following the Aug. 1 lift on U.S. bans of Brazilian beef are set to reach port in Philadelphia this week. Currently, eight plants in Brazil are approved to export fresh and frozen beef to the U.S. after the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service declared those plants' food safety systems were equivalent to that of the U.S. Once the beef is received, it will be stored and re-inspected by USDA.

To read the full story, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Brazil-10-14-16>.

NCBA Submits Report on Sage Grouse ESA Listing Methodology

NCBA and the Public Lands Council (PLC) submitted a report to the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service criticizing the methodologies and inaccurate science that originally landed the greater sage grouse as a listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The report highlights recent studies showing that certain requirements related to stubble height set forth by the prescribing agencies are incorrect. PLC maintains that threats to sage grouse habitat are wildfire and land development, both of which are mitigated by proper livestock grazing.

PLC is asking the aforementioned agencies to provide clear instruction at the field level that livestock grazing is not a significant threat, livestock grazing should not be held to a standard that is not ecologically possible in some sites, and reducing numbers and utilization of public lands will only increase the fuel load.

To view the report, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NCBA-10-14-16>.

FSIS to Hold Livestock Haulers Accountable for Animal Welfare at Harvest Facilities

USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) announced this week that it intends to hold livestock haulers accountable for animal welfare and proper handling prior to harvest when on the premises of a plant. The individual livestock haulers or owners will be held legally responsible for improper treatment of animals when on site at a harvest facility.

To view the announcement, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FSIS-10-14-16>.

Tyson Invests in Plant-Based Meat Substitutes

Tyson Foods announced an investment agreement this week with plant-based, alternative meat company Beyond Meat. Tyson has taken a five percent ownership stake in the company and will provide additional capital to help the company expand its product portfolio and distribution, according to a press release from Tyson.

Tyson Foods' Executive Vice President of Strategy and New Ventures & President of Foodservice Monica McGurk added, "We're enthusiastic about this investment, which gives us exposure to a fast-growing segment of the protein market. It meets our desire to offer consumers choices and to consider how we can serve an ever-growing and diverse global population, while remaining focused on our core prepared foods and animal protein businesses."

Beyond Meat has also recently secured funding from the Humane Society of the U.S. and Bill Gates. To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Tyson-10-14-16>.

TCFA Annual Convention – See the Sights of Fort Worth

TCFA 2016 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 to register.

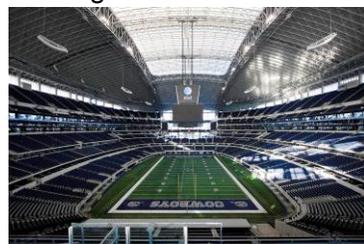
TCFA is offering some great opportunities to take in many sights and activities that Fort Worth has to offer. If you're getting into town Sunday, be sure and sign up to attend the Dallas Mavericks game with your closest cattle feeding friends. TCFA will be providing transportation to and from the game and has reserved a block of seats so that all Convention goers may sit together at the game.



Monday afternoon, TCFA has three exciting tours available to attend. Spots are filling up fast, so be sure to visit the TCFA website to sign up today. Visit the warehouse Ben E. Keith and Winn Meat Co. to learn more about beef's role in foodservice. The two companies have joined up to become the dominant force in center of the plate and protein offerings.



Experience the history and culture of Fort Worth with a bus tour through downtown and the famous stockyards. Make a stop at the Sid Richardson Museum to take in paintings by renowned Western artists, such as Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell.



Take advantage of an exclusive guided tour of the Dallas Cowboys AT&T Stadium. Beginning at the Main Club, your tour stops include a private suite, the print media press box and the Cotton Bowl office vestibule. After you've seen these areas, your guide will take you down to the event level where you'll see the field, the Miller Lite Club, the post-game interview room and both the Cowboys locker room and the Cheerleaders locker room.

If you have already registered for Convention, you can still register for additional tours and events at any time as long as spots are still available. Visit the TCFA website for more details on registration and the full Convention schedule at www.tcfa.org/news-events/convention.html.

Please Take the Texas Beef Checkoff Survey

As you may know, national and state Checkoff funds are utilized to increase domestic and/or international demand for beef through programs of promotion, research and education. In 2016, some of these funds were used to support the Beef Loving Texans advertisements on TV, radio, billboards and print. Texas Beef Council would like to get your feedback on these efforts.

Please take their brief survey at www.quicksurveys.com/s/z7PEw26.

Cattlemen's Webinar Series: Preparing for VFD

The new Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) for medically important feed-grade antibiotics will take effect on Jan. 1, 2017. NCBA is hosting a webinar Oct. 27 at 7:00 p.m. CDT to hear the latest information on how cattlemen and the cattle industry can prepare for these changing antibiotic use regulations. Mike Murphy, DVM, JD, PhD (FDA Veterinary Medical Officer, Office of the Director, Center for Veterinary Medicine) and Tom Portillo, DVM (Manager of Animal Health & Wellbeing, Friona Industries and 2016/17 President of Academy of Veterinary Consultants) will provide brief presentations followed by a Question & Answer session.

To register, visit www.beefusa.org/cattlemenswebinarseries.aspx.

NCBA National Anthem Contest

NCBA is seeking entries for its National Anthem Contest, where the winner will have the opportunity to perform the National Anthem for various events and NCBA's 2017 Cattle Industry Convention in Nashville, Tenn. Applicants must be 18 years and under and a family member of an NCBA, ANCW or CBB member.

Entries must be submitted by Oct. 21. To learn more, visit

www.beefusa.org/ncbanationalanthemcontest.aspx.

Sponsor Spotlight

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

This week's spotlight shines on



Bayer HealthCare

Bayer would like to thank TCFA members for their support of Bayer products. Bayer has been a long-standing supporter of TCFA and was one of the very first Platinum sponsors. Bayer is proud to be a Prime Sponsor at the Annual Convention and to provide support for the Manager's Roundtable meetings and the Junior Fed Beef Challenge. All of this is made possible from membership support of Bayer products such as: Baytril[®]100 (enrofloxacin), CyLence[®] Pour-On, Tempo[®] premise insecticides, Corathon and CyLence Ultra ear tags and QuickBayt[®] Fly Bait. For more information, visit www.bayerlivestock.com.

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Texas Cattle Feeders Association

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