



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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2016 TCFA Annual Convention – TCFA Chairman’s Address

TCFA Chairman David Baumann addressed fellow cattlemen this week in Fort Worth at the TCFA Annual Convention discussing the ever-changing dynamics of the beef industry.

Baumann opened by sharing his appreciation for the opportunity to serve and thanking TCFA members for their active involvement alongside him to help continue to make the association successful. “Far too often in the world we live in, people will run their mouth about a cause but take no action to actually support it,” Baumann said. “This is where TCFA is different, this is where you’re different. We are a boots-on-the-ground, innovative leader, fighting for this industry every single day. That’s why I’m here. It has been an honor to fight alongside the organization that has been fighting for me ever since I began my journey in cattle feeding.”

Baumann addressed the current challenges facing the industry with an emphasis on market volatility, weather and government regulations. In these factors, he highlighted the resilience of cattle feeders and their ability to continue to produce the best tasting, highest quality beef with fewer natural resources than anywhere else in the world despite the many challenges that are faced.

He reviewed a number of important issues over the past year, including the positive science-based recommendations included in the final Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the progress made by cattle feeding representatives on the U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef. He shared about the success and diversity of TCFA youth programs and community involvement activities, and he thanked members for their support of the state beef checkoff and shared about some of the recent progress it has made, especially with the MD Outreach program and overseas beef promotion activities.

Baumann shared bright spots on the horizon for U.S. beef, despite the current market situation. “China just recently lifted a 13-year ban on U.S. beef, and we are looking forward to tapping into the world’s largest market and what it has to offer,” Baumann said. “We have been working with NCBA, USMEF and others to document an animal i.d. and traceability program that will satisfy the Chinese. And Also, TCFA continues to stress the importance of the Trans Pacific Partnership to our legislators in order to level the playing field in Japan and increase access to other markets.”

He thanked members who have been part of crafting solutions and ideas to improve market situations for the future of beef production, highlighting the Fed Cattle Exchange, NCBA working groups and the leaders behind these initiatives.

Baumann left attendees with a charge to “be great” at everything they do. “Be a great leader, be a great cattle feeder, be a great advocate for beef!” Baumann encouraged the crowd. “Go be great at everything you do and we will win the day and we will be the greatest supplier of high-quality, grain-fed beef in the world.”

Watch next week’s *Newsletter* for complete Convention coverage. To view photos from Convention, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TCFA-2016-Convention-Photos>.

2016 TCFA Annual Convention – New TCFA Officers and Board Members

Jim Lovell of Canyon will serve as chairman of the board; Jason Peeler of Floresville is chairman-elect; and Levi Berry of Happy is vice chairman.

Members elected to one-year terms on the board of directors are Scott Anderson of Guymon, Okla., Jody Bellah of Throckmorton, Blain Ferris of Hereford, Jim Lovell of Canyon, Steve Olson of Hereford and Jimmy Schwertner of Schwertner.

Directors chosen for two-year terms on the board of directors are William Bransgrove of Hereford, Paul Defoor of Amarillo, Ben Fort of Dimmitt, Tyler Keeling of Amarillo, Jason Peeler of Floresville and Kynan Sturgess of Hereford.

Elected to three-year terms are Clay Allen of Amarillo, Cee Arnett of Farwell, Levi Berry of Happy, Michael Bezner of Dalhart, Joe Richards of Hereford and Dwayne Thompson of Dumas.



2016 Election Recap

Despite what the pundits and polls predicted, Donald Trump (R-New York) emerged victorious in his campaign for President of the United States, securing 290 Electoral College votes. BEEF-PAC and several TCFA members supported President-elect Trump's campaign, and we are now working with his transition team to identify qualified candidates for cabinet and subcabinet appointments within his administration.

Although the majority of the attention during the 2016 election season focused on the presidential race, there were a number of competitive U.S. House and Senate races that could have shifted the balance of power in Congress. But at the end of the day, Republicans retained their majorities in the U.S. Senate (51-48) and in the U.S. House of Representatives (239-192).

The only hotly contested congressional race in the TCFA area occurred in Texas District 23 where Rep. Will Hurd (R-San Antonio) was able to fend off a challenge from former Congressman Pete Gallego. Two other races of note also occurred in Texas. In District 19, Jodey Arrington (R-Lubbock), was elected to replace retiring Rep. Randy Neugebauer, and Vicente Gonzalez (D-McAllen) was elected to replace retiring Rep. Rubén Hinojosa in District 15. The makeup of the Texas congressional delegation will remain 25 Republicans and 11 Democrats. Both Senate seats are held by Republicans.

In New Mexico, incumbents Steve Pearce (R-Hobbs), Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-Albuquerque) and Ben Ray Lujan (D- Santa Fe) were reelected. Neither of the NM Senate seats were up for reelection and are held by Democrats.

In Oklahoma, James Lankford (R-Edmond) was reelected to the U.S. Senate, and incumbents Jim Bridenstine (R-Tulsa), Markwayne Mullin (R-Claremore), Frank Lucas (R- Enid), Tom Cole (R- Norman) and Steve Russell (R-Oklahoma City) were reelected to Congress. The other Oklahoma Senate seat was not up for reelection and is also held by a Republican.

The Texas State Elections resulted in little change to the partisan makeup of the Legislature, with Republicans retaining their majorities in the Texas Senate (20-11) and in the Texas House (95-55).

Only three of the 108 candidates supported by BEEF-PAC in the 2016 General Elections failed to achieve victory. To view a list of BEEF-PAC supported candidates and how they fared, as well as detailed federal and state election results, visit <http://tinyurl.com/TCFA-Election-Results>.

Agriculturally significant State Questions were on the ballot in both Oklahoma and Massachusetts. In Oklahoma, voters rejected State Question 777, which would have established farming and ranching as constitutional rights, therefore giving additional rights and added protections to farmers and ranchers in the state.

In Massachusetts, voters decided in favor of Ballot Question 3, which will prohibit farms in Massachusetts from confining breeding pigs, veal calves or egg-laying hens in cages that prevent the animals from lying down, standing up, fully extending their limbs or turning around. The measure also prohibits the sale of out-of-state products derived from animals raised in these types of facilities. The law is projected to take effect Jan. 1, 2022.

HSUS and other animal activist groups provided significant financial support to oppose the Oklahoma Question and to support the Massachusetts ballot initiative.

AMS to Host Livestock Mandatory Reporting Meetings

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will conduct a series of structured stakeholder meetings to seek feedback on current livestock and meat marketing methods and the Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) program. According to AMS, the purpose of these meetings is to openly discuss marketing methods, current challenges with reporting livestock and meat market information, and needs of the industry regarding future revisions to LMR. TCFA, NCBA and several other industry groups will be involved in this process.

The first stakeholder meeting will be held Nov. 15-16, 2016, in Washington D.C. To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AMS-11-11-16>.

FSA County Committee Elections Begin

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) sent out ballots to eligible farmers and ranchers this week for the 2016 FSA County Committee elections. Producers must return ballots to their local FSA offices by Dec. 5, 2016. Each committee has three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms with one-third of the committee seats up for election each year. Producers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program to be eligible to vote in the county committee election.

To learn more, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Understanding the Ag Exemption: DOL Overtime Law Seminar

Shawn Twing, Labor Law Attorney with Mullin Hoard Brown, will be presenting a seminar for TCFA members on upcoming changes to the Department of Labor's overtime regulations, taking effect Dec. 1, 2016, and information on the Agriculture Overtime Exemption. Join us Tuesday, Nov. 22, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at AgTexas Farm Credit Services, 2001 S. Soncy Rd. in Amarillo to learn more about this important issue to ag employers.

Topics will include when and how the new DOL overtime law will apply to ag workers; how the current ag overtime exemption applies to different ag operations and to specific job descriptions within those operations; Decision Tree analysis of who does and does not qualify for the exemption; other labor exemptions related to agriculture and how those can be utilized by an ag business; and any other questions related to overtime exemptions and the new DOL overtime law.

To register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2016-DOL-Seminar> or contact Christie Culp at christie@tcfa.org.

Advertise in the 2017 *Cattle Feeders Resource Guide* Celebrating TCFA's 50th Anniversary!

TCFA is now accepting advertising contracts for the 2017 *Cattle Feeders Resource Guide*. Take advantage of this unique advertising opportunity by celebrating TCFA's 50th anniversary in this special edition. This publication will highlight the history of the industry as well as celebrate the future. Feel free to tailor your advertisement to reflect TCFA's 50th anniversary.

Advertisers who purchase a full-page, four-color ad in the *Cattle Feeders Resource Guide* receive a free bonus web ad on TCFA's website, a great value in which advertisers have the opportunity to target potential buyers more precisely with ads that may reflect seasonal or market-focused messages.

The deadline to advertise is Nov. 18. You certainly do not want to miss this rare advertising opportunity! View the rate card at <http://tinyurl.com/2017-TCFA-RateCard>, or contact Scena Snider for more details at (806) 358-3681 or scena@tcfa.org.

Sponsor Spotlight

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

This week's spotlight shines on



Micro Technologies, an AmerisourceBergen Company, is a proud and long-time sponsor of TCFA! Since 1971, Micro has supplied the beef industry with innovative solutions that improve animal value and productivity while also providing process verification of management, food safety and traceability requirements. They accomplish this by uniquely integrating advanced health, feed, animal and information management systems with consumable products technologies such as animal health and micro feed ingredient products. In addition to its track record of cutting-edge innovation, Micro is best known for its unparalleled commitment to customer service. Please contact your Micro representative by calling (800) 858-4330 or visit them online at www.microtechnologies.com or www.mwivet.com.

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Texas Cattle Feeders Association

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