



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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EPA Releases Annual RFS Requirements

Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of its annual rulemaking, finalized increases in the renewable fuel volume requirements on all categories of biofuels in the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Total renewable fuels volume levels were increased by 1.2 billion gallons to 19.28 billion gallons for 2017. The 2017 volume requirement for feed-grain-based ethanol was set at 15 billion gallons, an increase of 500 million gallons over the 2016 level and equal to the level set in statute.

To view the latest RFS information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/RFS-12-2-16>.

FDA Extends Comment Period on Continuously Fed Antimicrobials

Responding to a request from NCBA, the Academy of Veterinary Consultants and the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced this week that it is extending the comment period on the latest of its efforts to mitigate antimicrobial resistance by focusing on medically important antimicrobials used in animal feed or water that have at least one therapeutic indication without a defined duration of use.

If fully implemented as currently proposed, FDA's Guidance for Industry (GFI) #213 will limit the use of low-level, continuously fed antimicrobials to therapeutic use only under the oversight of a veterinarian and prohibit preventative uses. FDA is now looking at additionally addressing antimicrobials that may currently be used in food animal production for no defined length of time.

FDA has extended the public comment period until March 13, 2017. To submit comments, visit www.regulations.gov, and to learn more about this proposal, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FDA-9-16>.

Texas Court Blocks Overtime Law Implementation

Last week, a Texas federal judge entered a nationwide injunction blocking the U.S. Department of Labor from implementing a controversial rule that would have expanded overtime protections, saying the rule improperly created a de facto salary test for determining which workers fall under the Fair Labor Standards Act's so-called "white collar" exemption.

The rule attempted to increase the salary and compensation levels needed for executive, administrative and professional workers to be exempt from overtime. Specifically, the final rule would have raised the standard salary level from \$455 per week (\$23,660 annually) to \$913 per week (\$47,476 annually) and established a mechanism for automatically updating the salary and compensation levels every three years.

TCFA recently held a seminar for feedyard members addressing the implications of this new law on feedyard employees. As a result of the injunction, feedyards will not be required to make changes to comply with the rule. Likewise, the next Congress is likely to fully repeal the rule.

To read the rule and accompanying fact sheets, visit www.dol.gov/whd/overtime/final2016/.

Journal Article Highlights Red Meat Importance in Healthy Diet

Dr. Guoyao Wu, distinguished professor of animal science at Texas A&M University, co-authored a recent article in the *Journal of Animal Science* examining different properties of red meat that make it important to a healthy diet. The paper addressed the importance of amino acids, antioxidants and other nutritional components that are key to muscular and cardiac health as well as child development.

"Children especially need meat to build skeletal muscle," Wu said. "They are at a critical stage in their lives as their bodies continue to develop and mature. Animal protein is generally more balanced in amino acid composition than plant protein, especially for children."

To view the paper, visit www.animalsciencepublications.org/publications/jas/articles/94/6/2603.

Lesser Prairie Chicken Takes First Step Toward New ESA Listing

Earlier this week, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) agreed with a petition filed in September by WildEarth Guardians, Center for Biological Diversity and Defenders of Wildlife seeking to relist the lesser prairie chicken (LPC) as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The FWS cited habitat loss, a lack of adequate regulations and “other natural or manmade factors” as reasons for issuing a status review, which is due in nine months. At that time, FWS will decide whether LPC deserves to be listed under the ESA.

A previous attempt by FWS to list the LPC as endangered was blocked by a U.S. District Judge in the Western District of Texas. TCFA will work with the next Congress and the Trump Administration to ensure that decisions regarding the listing of the LPC and other species under the ESA are based on sound science.

Texas Beef Council Elects New Board

The Texas Beef Council (TBC) announced its newly elected board of directors as TBC began its new fiscal year. The TBC board of directors consists entirely of beef producers providing representation of the state through organization affiliation.

Jason Beyer of Stephenville is the newly elected chairman of the TBC board representing the packers. Ryan Moorhouse of Hartley will represent TCFA on the board as vice chairman. Additional executive committee members include Bryan Forester, Dan Shelton and Austin Brown III. In addition to Moorhouse, directors representing TCFA include Brad Hastings and Brandi Richards.

To view the full TBC board, visit www.beeflovingtexas.com/about-us/board-of-directors/.

Judge Rules Hawaii Counties Cannot Regulate GMOs

Circuit Judge Consuelo M. Callahan upheld a lower court’s ruling recently in deciding that Hawaii counties can’t enact individual bans or regulations on the growth or use of genetically modified crops, because Hawaii law prohibits counties from regulating agricultural issues.

According to the *Associated Press*, however, those opposed to the growth of genetically modified crops and use of related pesticides in Hawaii have vowed to introduce new legislation to address their concerns in the state’s upcoming legislative session.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/GMO-12-2-16>.

Southwest Beef Symposium

Registration is open for the Southwest Beef Symposium to be held in Roswell, N.M., Jan. 11-12, 2017. The event, which is co-hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service, will feature topics such as global factors affecting U.S. beef demand, sustainability, performance indicators, feed efficiency, improving through technology and more.

Registration is \$75 per person if registered by Jan. 2 and \$95 thereafter. Register at <http://swbs.nmsu.edu/>.

2017 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show

Registration for the 2017 Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show is now open. The 120th annual convention will be held in Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 1-3, 2017. Advanced registration is open until Jan. 4, 2017. Convention participants will hear from industry leaders, gather insight on industry trends, and enjoy an evening of stars and guitars at the Country Music Hall of Fame as well as an exclusive event at the Grand Ole Opry.

To learn more or to register, visit <http://convention.beefusa.org/registration-hotels>.

FSA County Committee Elections Close Next Week

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) has sent ballots to eligible farmers and ranchers 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.

Advertise in the 2017 *Cattle Feeders Resource Guide* – Deadline Extended!

TCFA is 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 has been extended to Dec. 16. 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



MEXICAN CATTLE
VAQUERO TRADING

Vaquero Trading is one of the top providers and sources in the U.S. of Mexican cattle to farmers, ranchers and feedlots. They buy high volumes of cattle from producers in Mexico that export them to the U.S. through the 11 ports of crossing, source them by quality and sizes and resell them. The business created another two companies that provide service to Vaquero Trading and are vertically integrated. One of them provides all the logistical transportation for all the cattle crossing from Mexico to the U.S. that have to be delivered to several states. The other one provides competitive Mexican pesos exchange rates to the same producers that sell U.S. cattle. Visit www.vaquero trading.com or call (915) 585-0797 for more information.

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