



# TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

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# NEWSLETTER

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## House Agriculture Committee Welcomes New Members

This week, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas) announced six new Republican members to serve on the Agriculture Committee.

The new House Agriculture Committee members include Reps. Jodey Arrington (R-Texas), Don Bacon (R-Neb.), James Comer (R-Ky.), Neal Dunn (R-Fla.), John Faso (R-N.Y.) and Roger Marshall (R-Kan.).

"This is a great group of incoming and returning members, both for the Agriculture Committee and the Republican conference as a whole," Chairman Conaway said in a press release. "I am confident in the team we have assembled, and I look forward to working alongside my new colleagues."

Ranking Member Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) also announced the Democrat Members of the committee, which includes Filemon Vela (D-Texas) and Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-N.M.).

Conaway also announced that Glenn 'GT' Thompson (R-Pa.), will serve as Vice Chairman of the committee. Thompson will also be chairing the Subcommittee on Nutrition. Other subcommittee chairs are as follows: David Rouzer (R-N.C.), Livestock and Foreign Agriculture; Austin Scott (R-Ga.), Commodity Exchanges, Energy and Credit; Rick Crawford (R-Ark.), General Farm Commodities and Risk Management; Rodney Davis (R-Ill.), Biotechnology, Horticulture and Research; and Frank Lucas (R-Okla.), Conservation and Forestry.

To see a complete list of Republican members, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2017-House-Ag>. To view a complete list of Democrat members, visit <http://tinyurl.com/House-Ag-2017>.

## Texas Convenes 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

The 85<sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature kicked off the second week of January with the reelection of Rep. Joe Straus (R-San Antonio) as Speaker of the House and the election of Sen. Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo) as President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Neither chamber has announced committee assignments.

Approximately 1,400 bills have been introduced so far, and TCFA staff are reviewing them. TCFA is working on legislation to create a non-possessory, priority feed and care lien for livestock feeders, to increase the axle weight tolerance for distillers grains and other livestock feeds, and to prevent unapproved drones from flying over concentrated animal feeding operations. TCFA is also working with other stakeholders on legislation to transition Texas from a direct notice state to a central filing state for purposes of clear title, strengthen private property protections, increase maximum truck weights and ensure adequate funding for the Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas Department of Agriculture and other agencies important to agriculture. Likewise, TCFA will monitor and oppose legislation that attempts to increase the tax and regulatory burden on cattle feeders.

## USTR Releases Report On China's WTO Compliance

The office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) released a 2016 report assessing China's compliance with World Trade Organization (WTO) terms in its dealings with the U.S. The report highlighted the notable increase of exported U.S. goods and services to China, reaching a combined total of 164 billion in 2015. U.S. goods exported to China totaled \$116 billion, which was up 505 percent from 2001. Services at \$48 billion were up 802 percent since 2001. Despite these factors, USTR is still calling the trade situation with China "complex" due to the Chinese government's "interventionist policies and practices and the large role of state-owned enterprises and other national champions in China's economy, which continue to generate significant trade distortions that inevitably give rise to trade frictions."

China officially opened its market to U.S. beef in September 2016 following a 13-year ban, but the details of export certificates and other export protocols are still being negotiated.

In conclusion, USTR said, "In 2017, the United States will continue to pursue vigorous and expanded bilateral engagement to resolve the serious issues that remain in these areas. The United States also will

continue to hold China accountable for adherence to WTO rules when dialogue does not resolve U.S. concerns, including through the use of the dispute settlement mechanism at the WTO.”

To read the full report from USTR, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USTR-1-13-17>.

### **Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Case on WOTUS**

The U.S. Supreme Court announced that it will hear the case in the industry coalition’s challenge of the Environmental Protection Agency’s “waters of the U.S.” rule.

“The Supreme Court’s decision to hear our appeal is a victory for America’s cattle producers and all private property owners across the country,” said Scott Yager, NCBA environmental counsel. “It shows that the Court has a continued interest in private property rights and we look forward to oral arguments this spring.”

### **Congress Begins Regulatory Action**

The U.S. House of Representatives has already begun passing new bills to get the ball rolling on regulatory reform. Last week, the House passed the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act (H.R. 26), which requires any regulation that would cost over \$100 million to be approved by Congress. Also passed last week was the Midnight Relief Act (H.R. 21), which would allow Congress to overturn in a single joint resolution any regulations made in the final year of a President’s term. On Wednesday of this week, the House passed the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017 (H.R. 5), which combines several regulatory reform initiatives intended to promote jobs, innovation and economic growth. These bills have been sent to the Senate for approval.

**The Republican-led U.S. Congress**, under pressure from President-elect Donald Trump to move quickly, took its first concrete step toward dismantling the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare. The Senate voted late Wednesday night on a bill to instruct key committees to draft legislation to repeal the ACA.

The vote does not immediately repeal the ACA, but it does set the stage for Republicans to clear the first procedural hurdle for repeal of the massive health care law. The bill will now go to the House for a vote expected to take place on Friday, according to House Speaker Paul Ryan.

To view all legislation that has been passed by one or both houses of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Congress-1-13-17>.

### **U.S. Beef Number One in South Korea**

U.S. beef imports into South Korea in November surpassed those of Australia for the first time in 13 years, making U.S. beef number one for the growing market. The export value is the highest it has been since July 2013. According to NCBA’s *Beltway Beef* report, 2016’s export numbers (with December not yet reported) have already surpassed 2015’s numbers with a total of \$929.3 million, a 25 percent increase over 2015’s total of \$847.4 million. Once December’s numbers are calculated, South Korea will join Japan, Hong Kong, Canada and Mexico as nations to import more than \$1 billion of U.S. beef in a single year.

### **Additional Fever Tick Infestations in Live Oak County**

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) has confirmed seven new premises infested with fever ticks since the first detection in late November 2016. Wildlife and livestock inspections were conducted within the original Control Purpose Quarantine Area (CPQA), which led to these latest locations being identified. Due to this development, TAHC has expanded the CPQA from 12,587 acres on Nov. 30 to 57,541 acres currently. Premises located within the CPQA are subject to movement restrictions, systematic inspections and potential treatment.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2017-FeverTick>.

### **New World Screwworm Confirmed on Mainland Florida**

The presence of New World screwworm was confirmed this week in a stray dog in Homestead, Fla. This follows a confirmed case in the Florida Keys in October 2016; however, this is the first case of screwworm making it to the mainland in decades.

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) would like to remind all veterinarians, producers and stakeholders to report any animal suspected to be infested with screwworm larvae by calling the TAHC at 1-800-550-8242 or contacting the nearest TAHC Region Office.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2017-Screwworm>.

### **Texas A&M Agrilife Research and Extension Center Announces New Director**

Dr. Brent Auvermann has been selected as the new center director at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Amarillo, following the retirement of longtime director Dr. John Sweeten. Auvermann is a professor in Texas A&M University's department of biological and agricultural engineering, with a dual-appointment in both the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas A&M AgriLife Research. Auvermann is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in environmental systems engineering applied to concentrated animal feeding operations. He has published research and consulted in several states and foreign countries on air emissions from agricultural operations and abatement, nutrient management, evaluating biofuel feedstocks, carcass disposal and agricultural water use.

TCFA welcomes Brent to his new role beginning Feb. 1. To read the full press release from the Amarillo Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AgriLife-1-13-17>.

### **TCFA Launches Member Feedyard Job Openings Web Page**

As recommended by the TCFA Human Resources and Industry Relations Committees, TCFA has launched a web page on the TCFA website to host feedyard job openings as a service to TCFA member feedyards.

TCFA member feedyards are eligible to post jobs to the site. However, anyone in search of a job may view and access the site. The website is not designed for direct communication between job seekers and feedyards, so applicants should contact the feedyard via information listed on the posting. Job postings will expire after one month and will be removed unless extended by the feedyard.

To view the web page and current listings, visit [www.tcfa.org/news-events/jobs.html](http://www.tcfa.org/news-events/jobs.html).

TCFA seeks to provide a valuable service both to member feedyards as well as to the general public in helping to connect job seekers with careers in the fed beef industry of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Jayce Winters at [jayce@tcfa.org](mailto:jayce@tcfa.org).

### **NAMI Annual Meat Conference**

The North American Meat Institute's 2017 Annual Meat Conference will be held Feb. 19-21 at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas. Event speakers include Damian Mason, CSP, Business and Agriculture Speaker; Jim Hunter, J.D. Hunter Associates, LLC; Ron Elving, Senior Washington Editor and Correspondent, National Public Radio; Paul Aho, Economist and Consultant, Poultry Perspective; Randy Blach, CattleFax CEO; Steve Meyer, Vice President, Pork Analysis, EMI Analytics; Anne-Marie Roerink, Principal, 210 Analytics, LLC; and Danette Amstein and Michael Uetz, Principals, Midan Marketing.

To learn more or to register, visit [www.meatconference.com](http://www.meatconference.com).

### **TCFA Staff Changes**

Lauren Heinrich has accepted an opportunity to serve as District Representative for Congressman Jodey Arrington in the 19<sup>th</sup> District of Texas. Lauren has served in various capacities in the communications and legislative departments during her time at TCFA. Please join us in congratulating Lauren on this new opportunity and thanking her for her excellent service to the members of TCFA.

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