



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Trump Withdraws U.S. from TPP, Plans Action on NAFTA

President Donald Trump signed an executive order this week withdrawing the U.S. from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The Trump Administration released a statement following the signing announcing that President Trump also would be renegotiating NAFTA. The statement went on to say, "If our partners refuse a renegotiation that gives American workers a fair deal, then the President will give notice of the United States' intent to withdraw from NAFTA."

U.S. meat industry groups, including TCFA and NCBA, advocated for the passage of TPP in late 2016 due to the benefits the trade deal would bring to U.S. producers with increased access to Asian markets.

A coalition of agriculture groups, including U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF), sent a letter to President Trump requesting that negotiations be made in a way that ensures the benefits of NAFTA are preserved. "With the productivity of U.S. agriculture growing faster than domestic demand, the U.S. food and agriculture industry – and the rural communities that depend on it – relies heavily on export markets to sustain prices and revenues," the letter said. "Therefore, the U.S. food and agriculture industry looks forward to working with the new Administration in preserving and expanding upon the gains our sector has achieved within the North American market and strengthening our competitiveness around the globe."

"Sparking a trade war with Canada, Mexico, and Asia will only lead to higher prices for American-produced beef in those markets and put our American producers at a much steeper competitive disadvantage," said NCBA President Tracy Brunner. "The fact remains that 96 percent of the world's consumers live outside the United States, and expanding access to those consumers is the single best thing we can do to help American cattle-producing families be more successful."

To read the agriculture organization letter, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NAFTA-1-27-17>. To read the press release from NCBA, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NCBA-1-27-17>.

GIPSA Rule Implementation Postponed

The Trump Administration announced this week that it would postpone, for a period of 60 days, implementation of new regulations that have been posted in the *Federal Register* but have not yet taken effect. This includes delayed implementation of the Obama Administration's GIPSA rules and potentially other rules affecting cattle feeders. The GIPSA rules consist of an interim final rule on competitive injury, which perpetuates USDA's position "that it is not necessary to demonstrate that an unfair practice harms the entire market in order to prove a violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act," and two proposed rules concerning unfair practices/undue preferences and the poultry grower ranking system.

To allow review of these rules by the Trump Administration, further action has been postponed until at least March 21. TCFA and NCBA will continue to work with U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway, other Members of Congress and the Trump Administration to rescind or repeal these rules.

To read the scope of sections 202(a) and (b) PSA interim final rule, visit <http://tinyurl.com/GIPSA1-12-16>. To read the Unfair Practices and Undue Preferences Violation PSA proposed rule, visit <http://tinyurl.com/GIPSA2-12-16>.

Landowner Wins Property Rights Case Over Army Corps of Engineers

A federal district court ruled this week against the Army Corps of Engineers for incorrectly claiming jurisdiction over private property owned by Hawkes Company that the Corps claimed qualified as a "waters of the U.S." under the Clean Water Act.

This case hit another major milestone for private property owners in March 2016 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that jurisdictional determination is a final agency action subject to challenge in court. This decision was a big win for property owners across the country who are now free to challenge a jurisdictional determination in court.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Hawkes-1-27-17>.

FWS to Move Forward with Lesser Prairie Chicken Listing

Despite many early actions by the Trump Administration to pause progress on new regulations to leave time for evaluation by the new Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will not extend its 90-day comment period for reevaluating the status of the Lesser Prairie Chicken under the Endangered Species Act.

“The incoming Trump administration acted immediately to freeze just this kind of exclusionary regulatory process. We believe FWS is violating the spirit of that presidential order to placate radical environmental groups bent on listing the Lesser Prairie Chicken,” said NCBA President Tracy Brunner.

Brunner also says the decision denies stakeholders the opportunity to weigh in with thoughtful comments and the most up-to-date science, and places political pressure ahead of what’s best for the species.

To read the full press release from NCBA, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FWS-1-27-17>.

Animal Welfare Report Ranks Major Food Brands

The Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare was released this week by three animal welfare groups who analyzed 99 major brands and published their assessment in this report. Food companies are increasingly becoming more involved with animal welfare programs and policies as consumers express a growing interest in how their food is raised. According to the report, 73 percent of companies have published farm animal welfare policies, which is up from 46 percent in the 2012 report.

Cattle feeders have recognized the importance of animal welfare in a proper animal care program since long before it became a consumer or marketing topic. “Proper care of cattle is not a new concept for TCFA members. For more than 30 years, TCFA members have led the development and adoption of Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) principles,” stated TCFA Chairman Jim Lovell. “The implementation of BQA Best Management Practices for animal health, nutrition, care and handling, as well as employee training, have and will continue to provide assurances to packers, retailers and beef consumers that all animals produced for food have been raised in accordance with the best science and animal husbandry practices.”

To view the full findings of the report, visit www.bbfaw.com/media/1450/bbfaw-2016-report.pdf.

First Farm Bill Field Hearing Scheduled

The Senate Agriculture Committee has planned its first field hearing to discuss and begin work on the 2018 farm bill. The hearing will take place at McCain Auditorium on the campus of Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan., on Feb. 23.

Attendees will hear testimonies from agricultural producers whose names have yet to be announced. “Our producers have had time to employ the programs in the current Farm Bill, and they have a lot to say. We need clear direction on what is working and what is not working in farm country, and we will be listening to see what needs to be adjusted,” said Senate Ag Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-Kan.).

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FarmBill-1-27-17>.

NAMI Launches Meat Shopping App

The North American Meat Institute introduced a mobile application to help consumers at the meat counter. The MyMeatUp app is free and offers a full guide to beef, pork, lamb and veal retail cuts. When consumers select a cut on the app, they can view additional information about that cut of meat as well as recipe ideas and proper cooking methods. The app offers a glossary that helps consumers understand different labeling claims that might be made on the meat they are purchasing, such as natural or grass-fed. In addition, the app provides helpful information to address common questions about the meat and poultry industries in regards to animal welfare, environmental concerns, nutrition, etc.

To learn more about the app, visit <http://mymeatup.org/>.

Millennials Care About Livestock Feeds

A recent consumer survey conducted by Cargill Animal Nutrition found that millennial consumers’ pork-buying habits are strongly influenced by what the pigs are fed while they are being raised. Forty-three percent of U.S. millennial consumers said a pig’s diet strongly influences their purchasing decisions, compared to 32 percent of overall U.S. consumers. Millennials also have a low trust that pigs are being fed a healthy diet with 42 percent of U.S. millennials distrusting the healthfulness of pigs’ diets. Millennial consumer perception is way off in terms of sustainability. Thirty-seven percent of U.S. millennial consumers think it takes more natural resources such as land and water to raise pigs than it did 50 years ago, when in reality, farmers actually use 78 percent less land and 41 percent less water.

To learn more about the survey, visit www.cargill.com/2017/what-pigs-eat-matters-to-millennials.

2017 Alltech Global Feed Survey

Alltech released its sixth annual Global Feed Survey this week, which collected data from more than 30,000 feed mills in 141 countries. According to the survey, the world produced more than 1 billion metric tons of feed in a single year, which was done with a seven percent reduction in feed mills. Alltech outlined 16 major takeaways from the results of the survey including continued consolidation of feed production and growing world beef demand and production.

To view the full survey results and information, visit <http://go.alltech.com/alltech-feed-survey>.

Oklahoma CSP Application Deadline Approaching

Applications for participation in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) in Oklahoma are due Feb. 3 to local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service field offices.

To learn more about CSP, visit <http://tinyurl.com/CSP-1-20-17>.

Visit TCFA Member Feedyards 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.

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.

50 Years of Memories

TCFA is celebrating 50 years of service to the cattle industry this year. We want to hear from you! Please contact us at info@tcfa.org to share your most memorable moments in the cattle feeding industry that have occurred over the last 50 years. Your submission may be shared in our upcoming 50th Anniversary 2017 *Cattle Feeders Resource Guide*.

Join in on more 50th Anniversary fun by following TCFA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to learn about upcoming events and enjoy memories and milestones from throughout the years.

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Texas Cattle Feeders Association

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