



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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U.S. Cattle Report

The U.S. *Cattle* report shows all cattle and calves reported at 93.6 million head, up 2 percent from last year. The following is a breakdown of the report:

- Cattle and calves, 93.6 million up 2 percent.
- Cows and heifers that have calved, 40.6 million up 3 percent.
- Beef cows, 31.2 million up 3 percent.
- Dairy cows, 9.35 million up slightly.
- Heifers 500 pounds and over, 20.1 million up 1 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 6.42 million up 1 percent.
- Dairy replacement heifers, 4.75 million down 1 percent.
- Other heifers, 8.88 million up 1 percent.
- Steers 500 pounds and over, 16.4 million up slightly.
- Bulls 500 pounds and over, 2.23 million up 4 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 14.4 million up 2 percent.
- 2016 calf crop, 35.1 million up 3 percent from 2015.
- Cattle on small grains pasture in KS, OK and TX, 1.80 million down 5 percent.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the U.S. for all feedlots totaled 13.1 million head on Jan. 1, 2017. The inventory is down 1 percent from the Jan. 1, 2016 total of 13.2 million head. Cattle on feed, in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head, accounted for 81.2 percent of the total cattle on feed on Jan. 1, 2017. This is up 1 percent from the previous year. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds (outside of feedlots) is 26.6 million head, 2 percent above one year ago.

To view the full report, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Cattle-2-3-17>.

House Agriculture Subcommittees Announced

U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas) announced subcommittee assignments this week for the 115th Congress. Serving on the General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee are Rep. Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) and Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-Texas). Serving on the Nutrition Subcommittee and the Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research Subcommittee are Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-Texas) and Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-N.M.); Grisham also serves as Ranking Member on the latter. Rep. Filemon Vela (D-Texas) will serve on the Livestock and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee and the Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee along with Rep. Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) as Chair.

To view a full list of House Agriculture Subcommittee assignments, visit <http://agriculture.house.gov/subcommittees/>.

Online Grocery Shopping to Grow in 2017

According to a new study from NPD group, the already popular trend of online grocery shopping is expected to grow by nearly 50 percent by summer 2017. NPD reports that approximately 52 million consumers currently utilize online grocery shopping services and that 20 million current, lapsed or new shoppers will increase their online grocery purchases over the next six months.

Consumers are shifting to this method of shopping for its convenience with an overwhelming rate of user satisfaction. NPD found that 60 percent of online grocery shoppers were “completely satisfied” with the services they were using, and only 6 percent reported being either neutral or dissatisfied with the services.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NPD-02-03-17>.

Pruitt Vote Moves to Senate

The U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved President Trump's Environmental Protection Agency nominee Scott Pruitt by a vote of 11-0. Committee Republicans moved forward with a vote despite a Democrat boycott.

This result moves Pruitt to the full Senate for a confirmation vote, which will likely be held next week.

South Dakota Introduces State COOL Bill

A group of South Dakota state senators introduced a bill this week that would require mandatory country-of-origin labeling on retail beef products sold in the state with the exception of prepared, ready-to-eat foods. The South Dakota Stock Growers Association stated that they supported the bill because consumers want it.

To view the full text of the bill, visit www.sdlegislature.gov/docs/legsession/2017/Bills/SB135P.pdf.

USMEF Names New Regional Director

The U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) named Oscar Ferrara, Ph.D., as the new regional director for Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic. Ferrara is a native of Paraguay, and USMEF feels he brings an extensive educational and professional background to the position. Ferrara was previously with USDA, working first in the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration before joining the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs.

"In my position with FAS, one of the main priorities was to open markets and expand market access for U.S. pork, beef and lamb in the Western Hemisphere," Ferrara said. "So I feel this experience will serve me well at USMEF, as we look to further expand demand for these products."

To learn more about Ferrara's appointment and goals, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USMEF-2-3-17>.

HumaneWatch Exposes HSUS Motives in Super Bowl Ad

The Centers for Consumer Freedom's HumaneWatch is scheduled to run an advertisement during the Super Bowl exposing in a satirical manner the truth about the Human Society of the United States (HSUS). The ad captures the emotional style HSUS uses in their own advertisements to pull at the heartstrings of potential donors, but jokes at collecting donations to support the organization's lawyers and lobbyists. Since only 1 percent of all donations to HSUS go to funding local animal shelters, most donors don't realize their money is actually going towards lobbying against animal agriculture and not helping shelters. The ad seeks to expose this misconception in a humorous way.

"The public needs to know that they – and shelter pets – are being abused by HSUS," said Will Coggin, managing director of the Center for Consumer Freedom, in a press release. "People who are sick of the scam should send their donations to local shelters. That is where they can make a difference."

To preview the ad, visit <http://tinyurl.com/HSUS-2-3-17>.

Voting Open for 2017 Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame

Cast your vote for the 2017 Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame and Leadership Award nominees. TCFA member nominees for the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame include Johnny Trotter of Bar-G Feedyards and James Herring of Friona Industries. TCFA-area nominees for the Leadership Award are Dr. Kenneth Eng and Dr. Dee Griffin. Two Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame inductees and one Leadership Award winner will be announced at the 2017 Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

To cast your vote, visit <http://cattlefeeders.org/vote-hof/>.

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. If you have any additional questions, please contact Jayce Winters at jayce@tcfa.org.

