



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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NCBA Elects New Leadership, Adopts New Policy

On the last day of the Cattle Industry Convention in Nashville, NCBA passed the reins from outgoing President Tracy Brunner of Kansas to new President Craig Uden of Nebraska. The new NCBA president-elect is Kevin Kester of California. Jennifer Houston of Tennessee is the new vice president. Jerry Effertz of North Dakota was elected chairman of the NCBA Federation Division with Dawn Caldwell of Nebraska as vice chair, and Joe Guild of Nevada is the new NCBA Policy Division chairman with Jerry Bohn of Kansas as vice chair.

In addition, the NCBA Board of Directors adopted several new and amended market policy resolutions including 1) several issues related to the CME Live Cattle contract such as opposing changes creating a cash settlement process in place of physical delivery, completing a study identifying the best physical delivery methodology and implementing regularly scheduled review of contract specifications with the CME; 2) leading industry efforts to increase negotiated trade of fed cattle to a regionally appropriate level in all major cattle feeding regions; 3) appointing a working group to recommended changes to USDA Mandatory Price Reporting; and 4) creating an exception for livestock haulers from the Department of Transportation "Hours of Service" requirements.

The board also approved tax policy to 1) exempt livestock disaster assistance from federal income tax reporting; 2) support unlimited expensing of capital purchases and expand Section 179 expensing and bonus depreciation; 3) support retaining and expanding business expense deductions; 4) support full repeal of the federal estate and gift tax, while continuing stepped-up basis and modification of 2032(A) Special Use Valuation to encourage family estates to keep land in agriculture production; and 5) oppose any effort to replace the estate tax with a capital gains tax on assets at death.

The board also approved policy to ensure producers are eligible to receive 100 percent benefit from the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Program so long as it is not for the same crop loss.

Cattlemen's Beef Board Announces New Leadership

Cattle producers Brett Morris of Oklahoma, Joan Ruskamp of Nebraska, and Chuck Coffey of Texas are the new leadership team for the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB), elected unanimously by fellow Beef Board members during the 2017 Cattle Industry Convention in Nashville on Feb. 3, 2017. Morris will serve as chairman, Ruskamp as vice chairman and Coffey as secretary/treasurer of the Cattlemen's Beef Board to lead the national Beef Checkoff Program for the coming year.

The Board also elected members to serve on the CBB Executive Committee and CBB seats on the Beef Promotion Operating Committee (BPOC). The 12-member CBB Executive Committee includes the Board's three officers and eight members elected at large. The CBB elected the following members to its 2017 Executive committee: Vice Chairman Joan Ruskamp, who will serve as chair of the Executive Committee; and members Brett Morris (CBB chairman); Chuck Coffey (CBB secretary/treasurer); Richard Winter of Texas; Bill King of New Mexico; Barbara Jacques of Oklahoma; Don Smith of Texas; Jared Brackett of Idaho; Amelia Kent of Louisiana; Paul Moss of Tennessee; and Gary Sharp of South Dakota. Past CBB chair Anne Anderson of Texas will serve as an advisor to the committee.

The BPOC was created by the Beef Promotion Research Act to help coordinate state and national beef checkoff programs. The 20-person committee includes 10 members of the Cattlemen's Beef Board, among them the Board's three officers and seven others elected directly by Beef Board members. The other 10 members are appointed from the Federation of State Beef Councils.

CBB members elected to the 2017 BPOC during the annual meeting in Nashville include: Chairman Brett Morris of Oklahoma; Tammy Basel of South Dakota; Sarah Childs of Florida; Chuck Coffey of Texas; Stacy McClintock of Kansas; Robert Mitchell of Wisconsin; Joan Ruskamp of Nebraska; Hugh Sanburg of Colorado; Michael Smith of California; and Janna Stubbs of Texas.

The **2016 Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) Annual Report** is now available at <http://2016annualreport.beefboard.org/>, and the 2016 Evaluation of Beef Checkoff Programs from the checkoff's Joint Evaluation Advisory Committee is available at <http://2016evalreport.beefboard.org/>.

Cattlemen at the Capitol

TCFA and TSCRA board members were in Austin this week meeting with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Joe Straus and members of the 85th Texas Legislature to discuss efforts to strengthen private property rights and secure additional funding for the Texas Animal Health Commission to address cattle fever ticks and other livestock disease issues. The group also discussed water issues, tax policies, transportation issues and efforts to strengthen career and technical education.

TCFA board members participating were Chairman Jim Lovell, Chairman-Elect Jason Peeler, David Baumann, Kynan Sturgess and Jimmy Schwertner.



Committee Assignments Announced for 85th Texas Legislature

On Thursday, Texas House Speaker Joe Straus (R-San Antonio) announced committee assignments for the 85th Session of the Legislature. Rep. Tracy King (D-Uvalde) was named chairman of the Agriculture and Livestock Committee and Rep. Lyle Larson (R-San Antonio) was named chairman of the Natural Resources Committee. Membership rosters for the various House committees are available at www.house.state.tx.us/committees/.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick (R-Houston) announced the Senate committee assignments last month. Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) was named chairman of the Agriculture, Water and Rural Affairs Committee. Membership rosters for the various Senate committees are available at www.senate.state.tx.us/committees.php.

NCBA, NPPC Urge Trade Talks with Japan

NCBA and the National Pork Producers Council sent a letter to President Trump urging him to begin negotiations with Japan on a free and fair trade agreement ahead of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Washington, D.C.

The letter asked President Trump "to initiate free trade agreement negotiations with nations in the Asia-Pacific region beginning with Japan. ... As you continue to lead America forward, we want to be a resource for your administration for possible strategies in improving existing and future trade agreements for the benefit of our producers."

President Trump and Prime Minister Abe are scheduled to meet today on a number of matters, including security challenges and bilateral trade.

To read the full letter, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NCBA-2-10-17>.

USDA Extends GIPSA Rule Comment Period

The Trump Administration announced two weeks ago 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 week, USDA confirmed that the GIPSA rules are included in this delay. In addition, USDA is extending the comment period for these same regulations for a period of 30 days. 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.

"This is a positive sign and we are hopeful that this action indicates that President Trump and his staff are listening to their constituents and are keenly in tune with the needs of the U.S. cattle industry," said NCBA Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Colin Woodall. "For years we have called on the administration to reconsider the proposed rules, which would have a devastating impact on the U.S. livestock industry. By allowing additional time for substantive comments, we believe the agency intends to give this proposal the necessary analysis and consideration that was so lacking in the previous administration."

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>.

U.S. House Votes to Repeal BLM Rule

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution this week that would repeal the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Planning 2.0 Rule. This rule would prioritize social and environmental change over ensuring multiple use of public lands and eliminate stakeholder and local input into planning processes. The rule was finalized in December, after which the U.S. House and Senate have 60 days to approve a joint resolution of disapproval to fully repeal the rule before it becomes law.

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/BLM-2-10-17>.

Wyoming Proposes State COOL Law

Wyoming is the second state to propose a country-of-origin labeling law for beef products sold within the state, following South Dakota's similar announcement last week. The Wyoming House Agriculture Committee voted to send H.B. 198 to the full House for a vote. The bill has the support of the Wyoming Farm Bureau; however, the Wyoming Department of Agriculture has expressed that such a statute would be difficult to enforce.

To view the bill, visit <https://openstates.org/wy/bills/2017/HB198/>.

Texas Beef Council Seeks Best Butcher in Texas

The Texas Beef Council announced this week its search for the Beef Loving Texans' Best Butcher in Texas. Applications for the contest will be accepted through Feb. 12, 2017, and a grand prize of \$5,000 will be awarded to the winner. Semifinalists will be notified by Feb. 17, 2017, and those selected will compete in regional semifinal round in Houston, Dallas and San Antonio. The final competition consisting of the winners of the semi-final rounds will be held on April 29, 2017, at the Austin Food + Wine Festival in Austin, Texas.

To learn more or to enter, visit <http://beeflovingtexans.com/best-butcher-in-texas/>.

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 Feedyard 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.

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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