



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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U.S. House Passes Red River Bill

The U.S. House of Representatives passed this week by a vote of 250-171 the Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act (H.R. 428). The bill was introduced by Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) and seeks to settle all federal ownership claims by providing legal certainty to landowners along the Red River. Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) has proposed companion legislation (S. 90), which TCFA and NCBA urge the U.S. Senate to approve without delay.

“This bill essentially requires the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to do what they should have done all along. Its passage in the House is an important step toward providing these landowners with the legal certainty they deserve. I hope we can use this momentum to get the bill passed in the Senate and then signed into law by the President,” Thornberry said. “I will continue working with the landowners, local and state officials, and Sen. Cornyn (R-Texas) until this issue is resolved once and for all.”

“Private landowners have owned and successfully managed lands along the Red River for quite some time, some for over 100 years,” said Joe Guild, NCBA policy division chairman. “These landowners hold deeds to the land and have regularly paid property taxes. We remain opposed to the taking of private property through federal usurpation and applaud the House for taking affirmative action to fix this problem.”

To learn more about the bill, visit <http://tinyurl.com/RedRiver-2-17-17>.

Senate Confirms Scott Pruitt as EPA Secretary

The Senate voted today to confirm Scott Pruitt as the new Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As Oklahoma’s Attorney General, Pruitt was a vocal opponent of the Obama Administration’s overreaching regulations, specifically the Clean Power Plan and the Waters of the U.S. rule. Before he was elected as Oklahoma’s Attorney General in 2010, Pruitt spent eight years in the state Senate.

TCFA Sponsors Amarillo Go Red for Women Luncheon

In an initiative led by the TCFA Industry Relations Committee, TCFA is proud to sponsor the American Heart Association’s annual Go Red for Women luncheon in Amarillo. As a sponsor of this event, TCFA has the opportunity to educate attendees about beef’s heart health benefits and promote beef as a part of a healthy and active lifestyle. This year, Jennifer Leheska, Ph.D., R.D., L.D., shared her dietetic expertise and cooking tips with attendees to encourage them to find easy ways to make beef a part of their everyday diets.

TCFA has also worked with the event organizers to ensure that beef is the main course of the luncheon. This year’s beef donation was provided by National Beef Packing Co., LLC, which donated 150 lbs. of beef tenderloin to be enjoyed by attendees.



Dr. Jennifer Leheska interacts with attendees at the Amarillo Go Red for Women luncheon.

House Ag Committee Begins Work on 2018 Farm Bill

The House Agriculture Committee had its first hearing this week to begin addressing the 2018 Farm Bill. The hearing featured a panel of economists who provided information on the challenges currently facing farmers and ranchers, including low farm commodity prices, declining net farm income, tightening credit conditions, a strong dollar and unfair trade practices by foreign competitors.

“USDA reported this week that net farm income fell 45 percent from 2013 to 2016, the largest three-year percentage drop since the Great Depression,” said Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas). “As we begin the farm bill process, these economic realities must be front and center. The farm bill serves as a safety

net for producers, helping manage risk in difficult times. We are in those times now, and we must deliver solutions that work for our nation's farmers and ranchers."

The Senate will hold its first field hearing for the 2018 Farm Bill in Manhattan, Kan., on Feb. 23.

CFI Releases New Consumer Trust Research

The Center for Food Integrity (CFI) has released new consumer trust research, "Inside the Minds of Influencers: The Truth About Trust." This latest research indicates that food producers may be gaining more consumer trust.

Up 15 percent from last year, 55 percent of consumers said they felt "the food system is headed in the right direction." Forty percent of respondents agreed with the statement, "I have access to all of the information I want about where my food comes from, how it's produced and its safety." Nearly half said they were confident in the safety of their food. A majority of people said they trust food produced in the U.S. more than food produced outside the U.S., and 44 percent strongly agree that U.S. food is the most affordable in the world.

To learn more about the results of this research, visit <http://tinyurl.com/CFI-2-17-17>.

Beef Checkoff Launches Revamped Beef University Online

The beef checkoff launched a revamped version of its online training program, Beef University. According to the beef checkoff, "This tool serves as a complement to supply chain staff training aimed at helping capitalize on beef's profit potential."

The revamped version addresses the latest data and industry insights on hot topics in a more condensed, user-friendly format. The program is free and covers topics such as raising beef, nutrition and health, beef basics and cuts, and information on the modern consumer.

To learn more about the program, visit www.beefu.org.

Grandin Inducted into Women's Hall of Fame

Temple Grandin, Ph.D., Colorado State University animal science professor and animal welfare researcher has been named as one of only 10 inductees to the National Women's Hall of Fame this year. Grandin's research and teaching on animal behavior and handling as well as her work on advancing quality standards and assurance in the meat and livestock industries were highlighted in the announcement.

She joins the ranks of past inductees including Maya Angelou, Susan B. Anthony, Georgia O'Keefe, Rosa Parks, Sally Ride and Eleanor Roosevelt, just to name a few.

To view the list of new inductees, visit www.womenofthehall.org/introducing-2017-nwhf-inductees/.

Activist Groups Sue USDA Over Animal Welfare Documents

A group of animal activist organizations, including HSUS and PETA, has sued USDA over the removal of animal welfare documents from its Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service website, demanding the documents be reposted. The lawsuit has been filed in the Washington D.C. District Court.

Also this week, 18 Senate Democrats sent a letter to acting USDA Deputy Secretary Mike Young asking USDA to repost the information.

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

2017 Fed Beef Challenge

The best cattle in Cattle Feeding Country will make their way to the historic Amarillo Livestock Auction on Wednesday, April 12 for the 2017 TCFA Fed Beef Challenge. Feedyards from throughout the TCFA area will bring their top quality steers, heifers, Holstein steers and new this year, a category for Mexican steers to compete for awards, cash and bragging rights. In addition to the carcass contest to determine the best beef, there will be a live evaluation contest, steak feed and special activities benefiting the TCFA Education Foundation. Visit www.tcfa.org/news-events/fbc.html for contest rules and the printable entry form. Contact Brady Miller at (806) 358-3681 or brady@tcfa.org for more information.

2017 Junior Fed Beef Challenge

The start of the 2017 Junior Fed Beef Challenge is just around the corner. Junior cattle feeders from all across Cattle Feeding Country will compete for scholarships, cash and prizes by participating in four phases of the event, including carcass merit, record keeping, a written exam and oral presentation or interview. Steers can be validated anytime from March 1 to March 27. Find all contest details at www.tcfa.org/news-events/jfbc.html, or contact Brady Miller at (806) 358-3681 or brady@tcfa.org.

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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