



TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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President Trump Orders Reconsideration of WOTUS Rule

President Trump signed an executive order this week ordering the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reconsider their “waters of the U.S.” (WOTUS) rule under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

“This extremely flawed rule would force ranchers and feedlot operators to get permits or risk excessive federal penalties despite being miles away from any navigable water,” said NCBA President Craig Uden. “It would be one of the largest federal land grabs and private-property infringements in American history, and the President should be applauded for making EPA and the Corps reconsider this debacle. Ultimately, this rule should be taken out behind the barn and put out of its misery.”

“Over the past eight years, EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have repeatedly ignored the concerns of our nation’s farmers and ranchers in their quest to implement the WOTUS rule,” said House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas). “I applaud President Trump for taking the first steps to dismantle this egregious example of regulatory overreach.”

TCFA, NCBA and many other agricultural organizations have been fighting against the implementation of the new WOTUS rule and promoting repeal since its inception. TCFA will continue to work with lawmakers to stop this rule permanently and prevent similar actions of blatant federal overreach in the future.

Thornberry Introduces WOTUS Bill

U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Clarendon) introduced legislation this week to clarify the definition of “navigable waters” under the Clean Water Act (CWA) in order to prevent future situations of government overreach that were seen in the recently rescinded “waters of the U.S.” (WOTUS) action by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Federal Regulatory Certainty for Water Act (H.R. 1261) defines “navigable waters” as waters that are navigable-in-fact or are permanently flowing bodies of water that physically connect to navigable waters.

“This week, the President signed an executive order to begin reversing the WOTUS rule as it was finalized by the Obama administration. We should also clarify the definition of ‘navigable waters’ to prevent future administrations from using the CWA in ways that are far beyond its intended scope,” Thornberry said.

To learn more about the bill, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WOTUS-3-3-17>.

House Subcommittee Evaluates Conservation Program Effectiveness

In preparation for the next farm bill, the U.S. House Agriculture Committee’s Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry held a hearing conducted by Rep. Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) to assess the effectiveness of the conservation policies in the Agricultural Act of 2014. The subcommittee heard from a panel of witnesses including Oklahoma cattleman Chuck Coffey.

“USDA’s conservation programs have been a great asset to cattle producers and it is important that these programs be implemented in a practical, producer-friendly, and voluntary manner to ensure that cattlemen can continue to responsibly produce the world’s safest, most nutritious, and affordable protein,” said Coffey.

“Those who make their living off the land understand just how crucial it is to preserve and protect our nation’s natural resources. As we begin to craft the next farm bill, it is important we recognize the environmental gains these producers continue to achieve through voluntary conservation. America’s producers are voluntarily reducing soil erosion, increasing wetlands, improving water quality, and preserving farmland and wildlife habitats. This committee is consistently reminded that locally-led, voluntary conservation practices work, and I look forward to continuing to review our nation’s conservation policies to ensure they work for rural America,” said Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas).

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NCBA-3-3-17>.

House Subcommittee Examines International Market Development

The U.S. House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture held a hearing this week to examine USDA Foreign Agriculture Service's international market development programs. Philip Seng, U.S. Meat Export Federation president and CEO, was among the witnesses testifying in the hearing.

"...the Market Access Program and the Foreign Market Development Program funding signal the commitment of the U.S. red meat industry – and U.S. agriculture overall – to being a consistent and reliable global supplier of high-quality, safe and affordable foodstuffs," Seng said. "This committee understands that U.S. agriculture and the U.S. red meat export industry have worked diligently to demonstrate to countries that are not 100 percent self-sufficient in food production that they can still be 100 percent "food secure" with dependable import sources, especially the United States. We take very seriously our responsibility, not only to the hundreds of thousands of farmers and ranchers who are now producing ever-larger quantities of products for foreign customers, but also to those foreign customers themselves, who benefit and rely on our ability to supply them."

To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USMEF-3-3-17>.

Key Trump Administration Positions Confirmed

Former Texas Governor Rick Perry was confirmed as the Secretary of energy this week. Perry served as governor of Texas from 2000-2015 and Texas Agriculture Commissioner prior to that. He holds a bachelor's degree in animal science from Texas A&M University.

Also this week, the U.S. Senate confirmed former Navy SEAL commander and U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) as U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

Ray Starling has been named to President Trump's Council of Economic Advisors in the area of agriculture, trade and food assistance. Starling is known as a friend to agriculture who grew up on a family hog farm in North Carolina that is still in operation today.

Senate Ag Committee Holds First Farm Bill Hearing

The U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry held its first hearing this week in Manhattan, Kan., to address the 2018 Farm Bill. The Committee heard testimony from producers, agricultural industries and community leaders from across Kansas.

"Our agriculture industry throughout the value chain must grow. Technology must advance to better service this growth," said Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-Kan.). "The agriculture sector enjoyed high prices during the last debate. Now, we face multiple years of low prices, across the board. I'm working to make Washington understand the differences between the economic conditions then and what you're facing now. You all understand it...Washington needs to as well."

To learn more about the hearing, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FarmBill-3-3-17>.

CattleFax Elects New Officers

CattleFax elected new officers and board of directors at its 49th annual business meeting. Dale Smith, stocker operator and TCFA member from Amarillo, is the 2017 president elect. Todd Allen of Newton, Kan., is the 2017 president.

Disaster Areas Declared in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico

The USDA Farm Service Agency in Oklahoma has designated 48 counties in Oklahoma as primary natural disaster areas due to losses and damages caused by a recent drought. In addition, 19 counties in Oklahoma, 12 counties in Texas and one county in New Mexico also qualify for natural disaster assistance due to being contiguous to the primary affected counties.

For a full list of counties eligible for assistance, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FSA-3-3-17>.

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/>.

2017 International Livestock Congress

The International Livestock Congress USA will be held March 8-9 as a part of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and is managed through a partnership with the International Stockmen's Education Foundation. This year's theme is "Balancing Livestock and Water Use for Sustainable Nutrition."

Reserve your seat by visiting www.theisef.com/registration.html.

Family Land Heritage Program Accepting Applications

The Family Land Heritage Program is a recognition program that honors families who have owned and operated a continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more. Every year Texas Department of Agriculture hosts a ceremony at the Texas State Capitol to celebrate and commemorate the families who have passed down their proud Texas legacy from generation to generation. The deadline to apply is June 1, 2017.

To learn more or apply, visit <http://tinyurl.com/FLH-3-3-17>.

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. 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.

Feeders & Feedyards in the News

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum has selected **Johnny Trotter** as the winner of the Chester A. Reynolds Memorial Award to be presented at the Western Heritage Awards in April. This award is presented to a group or individual for their unwavering commitment to the future of the American West. Please join us in congratulating Trotter on this honor.

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Texas Cattle Feeders Association

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